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Grace, Anthony; Jamieson, Gill; Kosmala, Katarzyna

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***The Tomb of Yasujiro Ozu:
A Journey***
**Enacted homage through
'architectural-filmic wandering'**

Tony Grace, Gill Jamieson, Katarzyna Kosmala
School of Media, Culture & Society
University of the West of Scotland



Why Ozu?

Our aim was to produce a film, documenting a journey to acclaimed Japanese director Yasujiro Ozu's final resting place, his grave ('tomb') located in the Tokyo suburb Kita-Kamakura

One of the most celebrated Japanese film directors with an unsurpassed reputation

Many acclaimed directors have acknowledged Ozu's influence on their own film style: for example Jim Jarmusch, Wim Wenders, Claire Denis, Kyoshi Kurosawa, Hirozaku Koreeda, Hou Hsueh Hsien, among others.

Influence, legacy, impact: all ensure connectivity between the past – body of work, artistic practice and ethos – and the present – the traces of an artistic vision that can be traced back to a particular artistic movement or canon. An 'inter-cinematic' gap is bridged, a gap which is opened with the passing of one master – in this case Ozu – and the beginnings of a new generation of filmmakers and artists.





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Performative turn

The rationale for the film was **to explore both the place itself and the act of journeying to that place**. These are the two aspects forming the structure for the film script.

We also sought to examine the experience of being at the grave

‘Journeying’ or travelling to a final resting place is a not uncommon practice

- Japanese culture (and other cultures) stress the importance of familial visits to graves. See for example Koreeda’s film *Still Walking*, a paratext of *Tokyo Story* that culminates in a visit to the parent’s graves
- For the fans or aficionados the visit can have special significance, it can be invested with notions of constructed spirituality, devotion-type ritual around the ‘venerated’ persona and so on.
- Homage *vis a vis* a broader interest in celebrity graves – for instance Heddy Honigmann’s 2006 documentary film *Forever about Pere Lachaise* noted the transnational nature of the cemetery in this context, given the number of foreign cultural celebrities and political heroes buried there (Frideric Chopin, Oscar Wilde, Jim Morrison’s ‘shrine’).



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