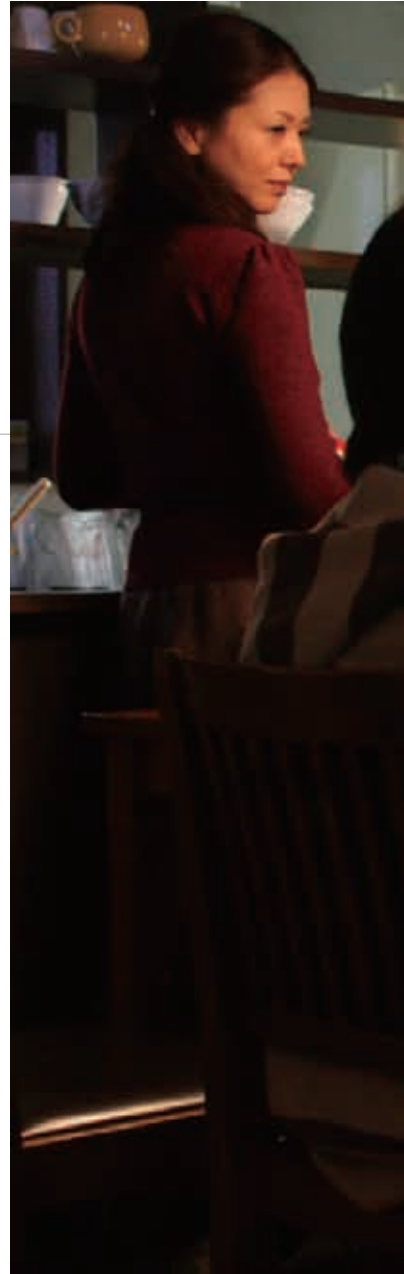


# Kiyoshi Kurosawa — Master Moviemaker



**ABOVE:** Leading Japanese Film director Kiyoshi Kurosawa.

**RIGHT:** The cast of *Tokyo Sonata* won wide acclaim for their acting abilities.



A father who is unable to tell his family that he has lost his job; a mother who always feels alone despite being at the heart of the family; an older brother who joins the US Army; and a younger brother who takes piano lessons in secret. The four members of what appears to be a normal Tokyo family each struggle with their own internal conflict. *Tokyo Sonata*, directed by Kiyoshi Kurosawa, relates the story of a family that finds hope and moves towards recovery when apparently on the verge of disintegration, and this May the film won one of the Un Certain Regard prizes awarded by the jury at the Cannes Film Festival. The Un Certain Regard



section of the Cannes Film Festival is second only in prestige to the Competition, and this is the first time that a Japanese movie has won this award. Overseas media was lavish in its praise of the movie; Screen Magazine commented, "An accurate and perfect shot ... the acting of the cast was superb." When asked how he felt about the prize, Kurosawa responded: "I was surprised to find that the seemingly minor problems encountered in Japanese families also resonate in the wider world."

This is not the first time that Kurosawa was won accolades in an international film festival. In 1997, his film *Cure* was shown at the Rotterdam Film

Festival. Since then, he has also entered works in the Berlin Film Festival and the Venice Film Festival. In 2001, his movie *Kairo* (Pulse) won the International Federation of Film Critics Prize at the Cannes Film Festival. Kurosawa has now left his mark at the world's three biggest film festivals. After introducing his work to the world in a range of genre such as horror and love stories, in *Tokyo Sonata*, Kurosawa turns his attention to such issues as identity and isolation within the framework of the family. Already this movie is scheduled to be shown in France, Britain and Taiwan. Kurosawa looks set to win even more fans around the world.