



presents

**VIOLENT COP**  
**(SONO OTOKO, KYÔBÔ NI TSUKI)**  
A film by Takeshi Kitano

*"VIOLENT COP," a yakuza melodrama so astonishing it went global.* – Stephen Hunter,  
**The Washington Post**

*"With deadpan wit, moral ambiguity and flashes of extreme violence, it signaled the arrival of a major and new talent."* – David Wood, **BBC**



**Japan / 1989 / Action, Crime, Drama / Japanese with English subtitles**  
**103 min / 1.85 : 1 / Stereo and 5.1 Surround Sound**

Film Movement Press Contact:

Genevieve Villaflor | (212) 941-7744 x215 | [genevieve@filmmovement.com](mailto:genevieve@filmmovement.com)

Film Movement Theatrical Contact:

Clemence Taillandier | (212) 941-7744 x301 | [theatrical@filmmovement.com](mailto:theatrical@filmmovement.com)

## SYNOPSIS

In his explosive directorial debut Japanese renaissance man – and comedian-extraordinaire – “Beat” Takeshi Kitano plays vicious rogue homicide Detective Azuma who takes on a sadistic crime syndicate only to discover widespread internal corruption in the police force. Facing criminal charges for his unorthodox “Dirty Harry” type methods, Azuma finds himself caught in a web of betrayal and intrigue that sends him on a bloody trail of vengeance. But when his sister is kidnapped by a sadistic drug lord, Azuma’s tactics escalate towards an apocalyptic climax.

## LOGLINE

In his explosive directorial debut, comedian Takeshi "Beat" Kitano also stars as a poker-faced "Dirty Harry" type cop, Detective Azuma, who relentlessly chases down and beats all adversaries. An essential genre-bending classic.

## ASSETS

Official Trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OdyEmKsIf6c>

Downloadable hi-res images:

<http://www.filmmovement.com/filmcatalog/index.asp?MerchandiseID=483>



## CREDITS

### CAST

<b>Takeshi Kitano</b>	Azuma (as Beat Takeshi)
<b>Maiko Kawakami</b>	Akari
<b>Makoto Ashikawa</b>	Kikuchi
<b>Shirô Sano</b>	Yoshinari
<b>Sei Hiraizumi</b>	Iwaki (as Shigeru Hiraizumi)
<b>Mikiko Otonashi</b>	Iwaki's Wife
<b>Hakuryû</b>	Kiyohiro
<b>Ittoku Kishibe</b>	Nito
<b>Ken Yoshizawa</b>	Shinkai
<b>Hiroyuki Katsube</b>	Deputy Police Chief Higuchi
<b>Noboru Hamada</b>	Chief Detective Araki
<b>Yuuki Kawai</b>	Detective Honma
<b>Ritsuko Amano</b>	Honma's Fiancee
<b>Tarô Ishida</b>	Detective Tashiro
<b>Katsuki Muramatsu</b>	Deputy Commissioner Anan
<b>Ken'ichi Endô</b>	Emoto
<b>Ei Kawakami</b>	Hashizume
<b>Kiminari Matsumoto</b>	Sakai
<b>Zhao Fanghao</b>	Psychiatrist Izumi



## **CREW**

**Director** - Takeshi Kitano  
**Screenplay** - Hisashi Nozawa  
**Producer** - Hisao Nabeshima  
**Producer** - Takio Yoshida  
**Producer** - Shozo Ichiyama  
**Executive Producer** - Kazuyoshi Okuyama  
**Production Supervisor** - Kazuo Kuroi  
**Production Supervisor** - Masayuki Kaihara  
**Line Producer** - Akinori Kuroda  
**Assistant Director** - Yoshihiro Tenma  
**Assistant Director** - Takashi Tsukinogi  
**Director of Photography** - Yasushi Sasaki  
**Editor** - Nobutake Kamiya  
**Music** - Daisake Kume  
**Music Producer** - Mamiko Sasaki  
**Art Direction** - Masuteru Mochizuki  
**Art Direction** - Kazuyoshi Sawaji  
**Casting** - Takefumi Yoshikawa  
**Sound** - Senji Horiuchi  
**Dolby Sound Recordist** - Senji Horiuchi  
**Fight Choreographer** - Tatsushi Kikuchi  
**Fight Choreographer** - Makato Tsugawa  
**Car Stunts** - Masahige Takeuchi  
**Special Effects** - Hisao Notoki  
**Special Effects** - Yuichi Karasawa  
**Effects** - Yukio Hokari

## **FESTIVALS AND AWARDS**

**1989 Winner – Best New Talent – Nikkan Sports Film Awards**  
**1990 Winner – Most Popular Performer - Awards of the Japanese Academy**  
**1990 Nominated – Best Actor - Awards of the Japanese Academy**  
**1990 Winner – Best Director – Yokohama Film Festival**

## BIOGRAPHY

“Beat” Takeshi Kitano’s directorial debut was the crime drama *VIOLENT COP* in 1989 – but it was not until the success of *Sonatine* at Cannes in 1993 that he became known widely outside of his home of Japan. Yet, well before his film *Fireworks* was a sensational cult success, and



before Kitano would continue on as a legend of action, making appearances in films like *Battle Royal*, he honed his action-auteur skills, notably with his debut and with his subsequent comedic effort *Boiling Point*. Distinguished for his use genre blend of crime, action and comedy, Kitano has carved out a brand of his own in the world of cinema. The director recently released a successful duo of his *Outrage* films, as well as continuing to make appearances in not only his own work, but other titles such as *Ghost in the Shell*, released in 2017.

## FILMMOGRAPHY

1989 - VIOLENT COP

1990 - BOILING POINT

1991 - A SCENE AT THE SEA

1993 - SONATINE

1994 - GETTING ANY?

1996 - KIDS RETURN

1997 - FIREWORKS

1999 - KIKUJIRO

2000/I - BROTHER

2002 - DOLLS

2003 - THE BLIND SWORDSMAN: ZATOICHI

2005 - TAKESHIS'

2007 - GLORY TO THE FILMMAKER!

2007 - TO EACH HIS OWN CINEMA (segment "*SUBARASHIKI KYÛJITSU*")

2008 - ACHILLES AND THE TORTOISE

2010 - OUTRAGE

2012 - BEYOND OUTRAGE

2015 - *RYÛZÔ TO 7 NIN NO KOBUN TACHI*

## **VIOLENT COP – Excerpt from Essay**

By Tom Vick, Curator of Film, Freer and Sackler Galleries, Smithsonian Institution

Takeshi Kitano, filmmaker, and his alter ego, Beat Takeshi, movie star, only became known widely outside of Japan in the mid-1990s, first when *Sonatine* debuted at Cannes to rave reviews in 1993, and especially when *Fireworks* won the Golden Lion in Venice in 1997 and became a cult hit in the US. But Kitano already had three films under his belt as a director when *Sonatine* made its international debut, as well as a long career as a comedian, actor and television host.

Kitano's transformation from motor mouth comedic star of stage and screen to art house *auteur* was a complicated process, with Kitano consciously playing with the schizophrenic nature of his public persona, both in his films and in the way he presents and markets himself in general. All of this begins with this, his debut feature, *VIOLENT COP*.

It's hard to come up with an American equivalent to Kitano's status in Japan at the time *VIOLENT COP* was released in 1989. He was already both famous and somewhat notorious, having begun his show business career in the 1970s as Beat Takeshi, half of the comedy duo The Two Beats, along with his childhood friend Beat Kiyoshi (aka Kiyoshi Kaneko). Their style of stand up double act, known as *manzai* in Japan, is similar to the American model typified by Martin and Lewis or the Smothers Brothers, with fast-talking funnyman Takeshi exchanging verbal gags, puns, chuckleheaded misunderstandings, and other forms of rapid-fire nonsense with his straight man sidekick Kiyoshi. The Two Beats soon made the leap to television, where Kitano earned a reputation as a sometimes shockingly confrontational comic, unafraid of insulting his audience or joking about taboo topics. By the late 80s, the Two Beats had broken up, and Kitano had become what's known in Japan as a *tarento* (a variation on the English word "talent"). Where American television personalities tend to specialize, starring in or hosting only one kind of show at a time, a *tarento* such as Kitano was expected to appear on at least half a dozen different TV shows a week, on any given day hosting or showing up on daytime talk shows, late night talk shows, talent competitions, game shows, reality shows or shouting head political roundtables

With this in mind, one might expect Kitano's directorial debut to reflect his talents as a versatile, quick-witted comic, but *VIOLENT COP* is, instead, a stark, bloody portrait of corruption and violence, starring its director not as a bumbling comic hero, but as a stone-faced, hard-boiled cop who is first seen beating up a terrified teenager in his bedroom, and will spend the rest of the movie dispassionately roughing up gangsters in a variety of settings as he tries to get to the bottom of a colleague's suicide and rescue his sister from kidnappers...



### Select Press for VIOLENT COP:

“Kitano does more than play this role. He embodies it.”- Bob Graham, *San Francisco Chronicle*

“In VIOLENT COP, Kitano directs with the confidence of an amateur with years of experience as a comedian and with a simple aesthetic strategy.” – Bob Davis, *Sense of Cinema*

"VIOLENT COP, a yakuza melodrama so astonishing it went global." – Stephen Hunter, *The Washington Post*

“With deadpan wit, moral ambiguity and flashes of extreme violence, it signaled the arrival of a major and new talent.” – David Wood, *BBC*

“Kitano has a menacing screen presence, and from behind the camera a brilliant sense of composition.” – Jack Mathews, *NY Daily News*

### About the Poster

Created exclusively for re-issue, the VIOLENT COP poster features a colorful, stylized illustration by Benjamin Marra, the influential comic creator of the comic books NIGHT BUSINESS, GANGSTA RAP POSSE, THE INCREDIBLY FANTASTIC ADVENTURES OF MAUREEN DOWD (A WORK OF SATIRE AND FICTION) and LINCOLN WASHINGTON: FREE MAN! Marra, who is the founder and publisher of “Traditional Comics” and co-founder of the underground illustration and design journal “Mammal,” has been compared to mainstream masters like Paul Gulacy and Jim Steranko, as well as underground comix legends like R. Crumb and Spain Rodriguez. His work has appeared in Playboy, Rolling Stone, The New York Times, Marvel Comics, Vice, Radar, Paper, Nylon, Widen+Kennedy, Doubleday & Cartwright, and McCann-Erickson.

### About Film Movement

Launched in 2002, Film Movement is a North American distributor of award-winning independent and foreign films based in New York City. Film Movement has released more than 250 feature films and shorts culled from prestigious film festivals worldwide, and this year it had its first Academy Award-nominated film, THEEB. Film Movement’s theatrical distribution strategy has evolved to include promising American independent films, documentaries, and an even stronger slate of foreign art house titles. In 2015, Film Movement launched its reissue label Film Movement Classics, featuring new restorations released theatrically as well as on Blu-ray and DVD, including films by such noted directors including Eric Rohmer, Peter Greenaway, Bille August, Marleen Gorris and Takeshi Kitano. For more information, please visit [www.filmmovement.com](http://www.filmmovement.com).