

Takashi Shimura



Actor

Date of birth:

March 12th, 1905

Ikuno, Hyogo Prefecture, Japan

Date of death:

February 11th, 1982

Tokyo, Japan

Biography

Sometimes credited as Shoji Shimazaki, which was his birth name, Takashi Shimura is often hailed as one of Japan's all-time greatest actors. Most famous for his roles as Kanji Watanabe in *Ikiru* (1952), Kyohei Yamane in *Godzilla* (1954) and Kambei Shimada in *Seven Samurai* (1954), Shimura started his film career in 1934. The actor was first signed on by the Kinema Shinko studio, which had him playing samurai characters in several films up to 1943 when Toho approached the actor with a long term contract to work in Toho films. Shimura appeared often as the lead actor in his films until the late 1950's, when he shifted to playing supporting roles. Shimura was a favorite of both of Toho's best known directors, Akira Kurosawa and Ishiro Honda, due to his range as an actor and his tendency to turn out solid performances, even when given small roles. Shimura was an active actor, even into his 70's when his contract with Toho had long ended, and his last role was in Kurosawa's *Kagemusha the Shadow Warrior* (1980), two years before his death.

Acting Toho Filmography

Judo Saga (1943) - Hansuke Murai, Sayo's Father

Most Beautifully (1944) - Goro Ishida, Chief

Colonel Kato's Flying Squadron (1944)

The Daily Battle (1944)

The Men Who Tread On the Tiger's Tail (1945) - Kataoka

Those Who Make Tomorrow (1946) - Theatre Manager

No Regrets for My Youth (1946) - Dokuichigo, Police Commissioner 'Poison Strawberry'

Eleven Girl Students (1946)

Four Love Stories (1947) - Masao's Father
Snow Trail (1947) - Nojiro
24 Hours of a Secret Life (1947)
Spring Awakens (1947)
Drunken Angel (1948) - Sanada, Doctor
Lady from Hell (1949) - Chief of Police
Stray Dog (1949) - Sato, Detective
Angry Street (1950)
Elegy (1951)
The Idiot (1951) - Ono, Ayako's Father
The Blue Pearl (1951)
The Den of Beasts (1951)
Vendetta of a Samurai (1951)
Foghorn (1952)
Sword for Hire (1952)
Ikiru (1952) - Kanji Watanabe
The Man Who Came to Port (1952)
Eagle of the Pacific (1953) - Colonel A
Last Embrace (1953) - Watanabe
Seven Samurai (1954) - Kambei Shimada
Godzilla (1954) - Kyohei Yamane, Doctor
Godzilla Raids Again (1955) - Kyohei Yamane, Doctor
I Live in Fear: Record of a Living Being (1955) - Harada
Love Never Fails (1955) - Nobuo's Father
No Time for Tears (1955) - Shimamura, 'Sparrows' Coach
No Response From Car 33 (1955)
The Tears of Geisha Konatsu (1955)
Samurai 3: Duel at Ganryu Island (1956) - Nagaoka Sado
The Underworld (1956) - Tsunejiro Furuya
I Saw the Killer (1956) - Nagasawa
Throne of Blood (1957) - Noriyasu Odagura
Hokyaku lost petals (1957)
Hokyaku lost petals: Conclusion (1957)
A Dangerous Hero (1957)
The Mysterians (1957) - Tanjiro Adachi, Doctor
The Hidden Fortress (1958) - Izumi Nagakura, Old General
Inao: Story of an Iron Arm (1959)
Samurai Saga (1959)
The Three Treasures (1959) - Elder of the Kumaso Brothers
Saga of the Vagabonds (1959) - Saemon Toki
Whistling in Kotan (1959)
The Bad Sleep Well (1960) - Moriyama, Administrative Officer
Evening Stream (1960)
Man Against Man (1960) - Chotaro Masue
Master Fencer Sees the World (1960)
I Bombed Pearl Harbor (1960) - Tosaku

The Masterless 47 (1960) - Honzo Kadokawa
Daredevil in the Castle (1961) - Katagiri
Yojimbo (1961) - Tokuemon
Challenge to Live (1961) - Yoshii
Mothra (1961) - News Editor
Reflux of Black Elegance (1961)
The Masterless 47: Part II (1961) - Honzo Kadokawa
Kuroi Gashu Dainibu: Kanryu (1961)
I Bombed Pearl Harbor (1961) - Tosaku
Sanjuro (1962) - Kurofuji
Gorath (1962) - Kesuke Sonoda
The Crimson Sky (1962)
Long Way to Okinawa (1962)
Two Sons (1962)
47 Ronin (1962) - Hyobe Chishaka
Heaven and Hell (1963) - Chief of Investigation Section
Samurai Pirate (1963) - Raksha, King
Attack Squadron! (1963) - Admiral
Tasaka Wa Yondeiru (1963)
Ghidorah, The Three-Headed Monster (1964) - Tsukamoto, Doctor
Kwaidan (1964) - Head Priest
Blood and Diamonds (1964)
Red Beard (1965) - Tokubei Izumiya
Judo Saga (1965) - Mishima
Retreat From Kiska (1965) - Military Command President
Frankenstein vs. Baragon (1965) - Axis Scientist
Samurai Assassin (1965) - Narihisa Ichijo
Night in Bangkok (1965)
The Emperor and the General (1967) - Information Chief
Under the Banner of the Samurai (1969)
The Militarists (1970) - Editor
Prophecies of Nostradamus (1974) - Doctor
Zoku Ningen Kakumei (1976)
Lady Ogin (1978) - Sen Rikyu
Kagemusha the Shadow Warrior (1980) - Gyobu Taguchi

Acting Toho (Distributed) Filmography

Sanshiro at Ginza (1950)
Beyond Love and Hate (1951)
Diary of Oharu (1952) - Old Man
Brand of Evil (1964) - Tsukamoto, Manager
Festival of Gion (1968) - Kakiemon
Tunnel to the Sun (1968) - Ashimura
Zatoichi's Conspiracy (1973)