

Miss Nippon: The Life and Career of Takako Irie during the Japanese Silent Film Era

Actress Takako Irie (1911–1995) remains one of the Japanese film industry's most important figures. In a career which spanned over fifty years she performed in over one-hundred films, and starred in some of the best-known works by renown directors such as Uchida, Mizoguchi, Murata and Kurosawa. Compared to Mae West by women's magazine *Fujin Koron*, Irie stood out from her peers. She was markedly different in both look and performance style, and is regarded as Japan's first true 'film-star'. Most importantly however, in a film industry dominated by men, she became the first woman to become the head of her own production company, Irie Productions, which was formed in 1932.

Although still regarded as one of 'Japan's film greats', very little has been written about Irie (in English or Japanese), and she is usually referenced in more dedicated works focusing on her collaborators, or broader studies of Japanese film history.

This paper forms a small but important part of a much larger research project which focuses on Irie's life and career, but also explores her 'star-status' which fell dramatically during the 1930s. This will be achieved by utilising archival resources such as contemporary reviews, documentaries, magazine features and articles. The study will also incorporate original interview material with Japanese silent film historians, and members of Irie's family.

Although the project is in its very early stages, initial research has revealed some extremely interesting material, particularly regarding the period surrounding the formation of Irie Productions (1931-1934), which will form the focus of this presentation.

スターとしての影響力を用い女性初のプロダクション会社を設立した女優入江たか子をケーススタディとして取り上げ分析。日本映画史を通して日本における女性の地位について考察した。