

# Shoplifters

Cert 15 Japan 2018 121 mins

## Crew

Director Hirokazu Kore-eda  
/ Screenplay  
Cinematography Kondo Ryuto  
Film Editing Hirokazu Kore-eda  
Original music Haruomi Hosono

## Cast

Lily Franky Osamu Shibata  
Sakura Ando Nobuyo Shibata  
Mayu Matsuoka Aki Shibata  
Kairi Jō Shota Shibata  
Kirin Kiki Hatsue Shibata  
Miyu Sasaki Yuri Hojo/Juri/Lin

## Synopsis

*Tokyo, the present. Osamu Shibata and his son are on a shoplifting mission in a smart part of town when they come across a little girl, Yuri, shivering in the freezing cold. They bring her home for a meal.*

*Noboyu, Osamu's wife, is horrified about the prospect of having another mouth to feed, but she warms to the child after realising how vulnerable she is.*

*Although the family is poor, barely making enough money to survive through petty crime, they seem to live happily together. Then an unforeseen incident reveals hidden secrets, testing the bonds that unite them...*



## Booking Information

**Distributor:** Thunderbird Releasing

**DVD bookings:**

via **Filmbank**  
0207 984 5957/8  
info@filmbank.co.uk  
www.filmbank.co.uk

**Available:** now



## Reviews

Japanese auteur Hirokazu Kore-eda has spent over a decade examining the dynamics of family life, and he deservedly won the Palme d'Or at Cannes for this intricately scripted and impeccably played saga, which centres on an even more unconventional unit than the one depicted in the masterly *Nobody Knows*. As usual, the influence of Yasujiro Ozu and Mikio Naruse can be felt in Kore-eda's flintily compassionate humanism. But, with its focus on female sacrifice and suffering, this also recalls the heartbreaking 1930s melodramas of Kenji Mizoguchi, in which women on the margins did whatever it took to provide for their loved ones.

...Thanks to the brilliance of the cast (with Franky and Ando excelling in a poignant love-making sequence), careless words, small gestures and tell-tale expressions acquire enormous emotional power, as Ryuto Kondo's camera insinuates itself into every nook and cranny of Keiko Mitsumatsu's cosily cluttered interiors. Yet there's never a hint of contrivance or cheap sentiment, as Kore-eda challenges societal convention and questions the priorities of those who wield power while being detached from reality.

*David Parkinson, Empire Magazine, November 2018*

....This is a director who can infuse the tiniest of details - the rolling of a marble in a torchbeam, the swinging of a pigtail - with a hungry, evocative loveliness so ephemeral and yet so acute it can feel like pain. And his skill is that, for a lot of its running time, you may not even notice those muscles being engaged; while there's never a dull moment, in its early stages *Shoplifters* can feel aimless. But beware - this is the aimlessness of the practised shoplifter, nonchalantly whistling while ambling down the aisles of our emotions, examining labels and replacing goods on the shelves, the better to make off with half the store.

....*Shoplifters* interrogates the idea of family, which is so central to Kore-eda's body of work, in as furiously humane a manner as he ever has, and perhaps embodies his eternal conclusion with more power than we've seen in quite some time. If society truly arranged itself for the happiness of its citizens, family would be a thing you choose and not an accident of birth, but the low-key, lovely lament of *Shoplifters* is that that is not the way this broken world works.

*Jessica Kiang, Sight and Sound, December 2018*

## Film Facts

- ★ The film premiered at the 2018 Cannes Film Festival, where it won the Palme d'Or. It later won the Asia Pacific Screen Award for Best Feature Film, and was nominated for the Golden Globe, Oscar and BAFTA for Best Foreign Language Film awards.
- ★ Hatsue was one of the last roles played by veteran actor Kirin Kiki before her death in September 2018. She appeared in many of Kore-eda's films.

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