

Husband and Wife

Fufu

Japan/1953/B&W/Standard/87'/Toho

Direction: Mikio Naruse

Producer: Fujimoto Sanezumi

Screenplay: Mizuki Yoko, Ide Toshiro

Cinematography: Nakai Asakazu

Music: Saito Ichiro

Cast: Uehara Ken, Sugi Yoko, Fujiwara Kamatari, Takihana Hisako, Kobayashi Keiju, Okada Mariko, Toyoshima Michiko, Mikuni Rentaro

Awards/Festivals

Mainichi Film Concours, Best Actor 1954

The depiction of the fateful state of women has been a common thread throughout Naruse's works just as in the case of 'Husband and Wife' that focuses on the trapped existence of urban, lower middle-class women. Kikuko and her businessman husband Isaku shares an apartment in Tokyo with Ryota, a widowed colleague of the latter. Kikuko develops a curious relation with Ryota well enough to make her husband jealous. A cold chasm soon begins to develop between the young husband and wife. Soon Kikuko's brother would move in to a new apartment and invite the couple to join them. Things seem to change for good until Kikuko is discovered pregnant. With little money and an apartment that prohibits children, she decides to go for an abortion.

