

Tokyo Story

This 1953 Japanese film by director Yasujiro Ozu regularly appears in critics lists of the top 100 films of all time. It is atmospheric (slow, if you don't like it), and beautifully shot (or boring, if you don't like it).

Essentially a story of inter generational differences, it follows an elderly couple on a trip from the provincial home they share with their youngest daughter, to Tokyo, to see their older children and daughter-in-law (who was married to their second son, who died in the war). They aren't really made welcome by their children, who send them off to an inappropriate spa for a few days, the only person who is genuinely interested and nice to them is their widowed daughter-in-law.

When returning home, the elderly wife falls critically ill and the family rush to see her. She dies with them all present except their youngest son. The children from Tokyo then act selfishly, leaving the grieving father with his youngest daughter and his daughter-in-law.

This was a difficult watch for some, being about family relations and the somewhat unexpected death of a loved one, but it is obvious why critics generally love it. On a personal note, I am glad I saw it, but it won't make a list of my 100 favourite films.