

# BERLIN DRIFTERS (伯林漂流)

2017 / Japan / Colour / 123min. / Stereo / HDV / Japanese, English



## SYNOPSIS

Koichi is a Japanese man living alone in Berlin. He has no job and hardly any friends. One night Koichi meets Ryota at a bar which is also a sex club. Ryota came to Berlin to visit a German guy whom he had “met” on a dating app. His high hopes for romance (and marriage?) were quickly crushed since the German was only interested in sex, not even letting Ryota stay for the night. That is why Ryota ended up spending the night in the dark room of the sex club. Koichi for some reason lets Ryota stay at his apartment. They have sex. Ryota goes out almost everyday to get laid by various local men and comes home to Koichi’s. Increasingly caught up with a strange feeling that is akin to but not quite frustration or curiosity (needless to say, it is not even close to love), Koichi gradually gives himself up to sex with Ryota.

Eight years since *Hatsu-koi (First Love)* was screened at the Panorama Section of the Berlin International Film Festival in 2008, filmmaker Koichi Imaizumi was back in Berlin to shoot his latest feature *Berlin Drifters* in 2016. Unlike *Hatsu-koi* that portrays a process in which a Japanese high school student gains a gay identity, his new film depicts a story of grown-up men who drift from Tokyo to Berlin. Gengoroh Tagame, the internationally renowned gay erotic artist from Japan, has written a screenplay for the first time. How have the conditions surrounding male gay love and sex in Japan changed over the past ten years? What conditions have remained unchanged? Using “Berlin” as a reflecting mirror and a medium, *Berlin Drifters* addresses such issues. This is the 21<sup>st</sup> –century version of “a (gay) ‘*Last Tango in Paris*,’” danced by the men who continue drifting.

## **STAFF**

Produced by habakari-cinema+records, Jürgen Brüning Filmproduktion & Claus Matthes

Screenplay: Gengoroh Tagame

Cinematography: Hiroki Taguchi & Hiroki Iwasa

Sound Recording: Hiroki Iwasa

Editing: Hiroki Iwasa & Koichi Imaizumi

Music and Sound Design: PEixe-elétrico

Vocalist: Masaki Kanamaru

Still Photography: Hiroki Taguchi

Title Calligraphy: Yasumoto Akaiwa

Papercutting: Xiyadie

English Subtitles: Takao Kawaguchi, Jonathan M. Hall

Directed by Koichi Imaizumi

## **CAST**

Ryota: Lyota Majima

Michael: Michael Selvaggio

German man A: Claude Kolz

German man B: Jochen Werner

German man C: Toby Ashraf

German man D: Christian Slaughter

German man E: Lupus

German man F: Bishop Black

Men who fuck Ryota in the sex club: Florian Hagen, Mark Bates, Col Daniels

Men in the sex club(Bar): Lorenz Michel, John Silver

Men in the sex club(Darkroom): Mischka Kral, Petting Schmid, Ben König

Bartender in the sex club: Chrissy

Xiaogang: Xiaogang Wei

Xiaogang's friends: Wieland Speck, Jürgen Brüning, Uwe Röttgen, Katharina Zettl

Waitress: Sophie Lindenau

Mioo: Mioo Sato

Men who Mioo has affair with: Masaaki Shiozawa, Mitsuaki Kishida, Fumio Sasaki, Ning Yu, Hiroshi Murakami, Arnold Wu, Samson Takahashi, Hiro Kitagawa, Ikko Masuda, Hiroki Iwasa, Kimihiko Abe, Ucchy, Teppen Matsunoki, Shinji Horie, Atsushi Matsuda

Doctor: Yuzuru Ikushima

Koichi: Koichi Imaizumi

Koichi's Father: Tokio Imaizumi

Koichi's Mother: Hiromi Imaizumi

**Koichi Imaizumi**, the director of this film, began his career in 1990 as an actor in the pink film (Japanese romantic porn film) industry. Imaizumi made his first gay film in 1999, and since then, has been consistently making gay films on an independent basis. In Japan where there are very few filmmakers dealing with the issues of sexual minorities, Imaizumi has a unique position in the independent film scenes in Japan, continuously producing a series of films with dramatic contents (as opposed to the vast number of gay-sex-video titles that are produced even now). His works, mostly very small budget productions, however, are highly appreciated in overseas rather than domestically. His previous films have extensively toured internationally, and are invited to many renowned film festivals, including the Berlin International Film Festival.

### [Filmography]

1999: *Angel in the Toilet* - short

2002: *NAUGHTY BOYS* - feature

2004: *I Want You to Kiss Me* - short

(a part of an omnibus *Queer Boys and Girls on the SHINKANSEN [Bullet Train]*)

2007: *Hatsu-koi (First Love)* - feature

2010: *The Family Complete* - feature

2013: *The Secret to My Silky Skin* – feature

2016: *TOUCH OF THE OTHER* – short

### [Contact]

habakari-cinema+records <[www.shiroari.com/habakari/](http://www.shiroari.com/habakari/)>

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