

# CHELMSFORD FILM CLUB

An Independent film society based in Chelmsford

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## **Like Someone In Love**      2012

**Japan 109 minutes**

**Director: Abbas Kiarostami**

**Writer: Abbas Kiarostami**

**Cast:**

Rin Takanashi (Akiko), Tadashi Okuno ( Takashi Watanabe) and Ryo Kase (Noriaki)

Iranian director Abbas Kiarostami's follow-up to 2010's "Certified Copy" is his first film set in Japan and filmed entirely in Japanese. "Like Someone In Love" takes its name from the Ella Fitzgerald song of the same name and focuses on 24 hours in the lives of the three protagonists.

Akiko (Rin Takanashi) is a sociology student who is earning her tuition fees as an escort in Tokyo. Watanabe san ( Tadashi Okuno) is the elderly, retired sociology professor living in the suburbs who requests her company for the evening and Noriaki ( Ryo Kase) is Akiko's angry and jealous boyfriend.



At the core of the film are a number of themes focused on love, identity and role playing. Are Akiko, Watanabe san and Noriaki "like" people in love? Are they exactly who they say they are? What exactly is the relationship between Akiko and Watanabe san? What are the shadowy details of Watanabe san's past that his shrill neighbour hints at behind her grilled window?

Described by Mark Kermode in The Guardian as "a modern Tokyo Story" there are clearly allusions to Ozu in the detailed study of roles and manners. However, the film has an oblique approach to storytelling – perhaps best summed up in the opening scene in the escort bar in downtown Tokyo where it's hard to know who is talking, about what and to whom!

As the film unfolds and the roles of three protagonists get tested and their relationships intertwine the film becomes an engrossing study of love and need across the ages and sexes.

What will remain long in the memory is the rich combination of colour and sound that Kiarostami uses throughout the film, from the constant hum of traffic throughout to the richly layered colours of

Akiko's drive through Tokyo and the search for her grandmother who exists in a series of fragmented voicemail messages and a shadowy outline at the train station.

At a preview screening earlier this year what was interesting was that four CFC members saw the film, each had a different take on the film and a different understanding of the story being told.

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### **Club notices:**

Tonight's film will be preceded by the Club AGM meeting

### **Our previous presentation:**

Based on the feedback slips returned on the night, you rated **Spirit of 45**, screened on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2013 3.66 stars out of 5. Please visit the current season page at <http://www.chelmsford-filmclub.co.uk> to read all the feedback comments.

You can still provide feedback on this, or any other film, by visiting the Discussions page (<http://www.chelmsford-filmclub.co.uk/discussion/>).

### **Our next presentation:**

**In the House** will be shown on Monday, 14 October, starting at 8:00pm.