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| Uchida, Tomu (1898-1970) |
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| Uchida Tomu (born Uchida Tsunejirō) was a Japanese film director who had a long and prolific career that lasted for more than five decades. His body of work encompasses many films of various genres and styles, including silent comedies, social dramas, detective films, and numerous *jidaigeki*, or period films. Uchida began his career as an actor for both stage and film before he took a directorial position at Nikkatsu studios in the late 1920s. His 1939 film, *Tsuchi* [*Earth*], an innovative drama depicting the lives of peasants, is considered a pre-war realist masterpiece.  In the last days of WWII, Uchida went to Manchuria to work for the Manchukuo Film Association, where he remained until 1953. A year later in 1954, he was hired by Tōei, the most successful film studio of the time. Until his death in 1970, he directed numerous films for Tōei, including such acclaimed works as *Yōtō monogatari hana no Yoshiwara hyakuningiri* [*Killing in Yoshiwara*] (1960) and *Kiga kaigyō* [*A Fugitive from the Past*] (1965). Although his films used a wide variety of different styles, many were centred on humanistic themes and showcased various experimentations with cinematic form. |
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| Further reading:  (Jacoby)  (Suzuki) |