Akira Kurosawa (黒澤 明 or 黒沢 明, Kurosawa Akira, 23 March 1910 - 6 September 1998) was a Japanese film director, producer, screenwriter and editor. In a career that spanned 50 years, Kurosawa directed 30 films. He is widely regarded as one of the most important and influential filmmakers in film history.