The film that introduced the most famous of samurai heroes, the nameless rōnin played by Mifune Toshiro, and which influenced many from John Belushi to Sergio Leone. This samurai inserts himself into a war between two rival gangs and, à la Red Harvest, prompts their mutual destruction.

Okamoto’s masterful adaptation of Nakazato Kaizan’s epic novel, The Great Bodhisattva Pass, which features the most nihilistic samurai of all time, Tsukue Ryūnosuke (here marvelously played by Nakadai Tatsuya), descending into madness.

Kumokiri Nizaemon is a former samurai who leads a band of thieves to attack the castle of his former clan in Gosha Hideo’s powerful adaptation of Ikenami Shōtarō’s novel. Nakadai Tatsuya again stars as Kumokiri in an all-star cast.