

Records of War and Melodramatic Pleasures: The Battle of Hong Kong in Wartime Japanese Cinema and Theater

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In this paper, I use wartime primary materials such as articles in movie magazines and theater pamphlets to examine two dramatic representations of the Battle of Hong Kong that appeared during World War II, one on film and one on stage as a *shinkokugeki* (New National Drama) production. Although there is no clear connection between these two examples, they were created just a few months apart. As wartime productions, both sought to uncritically record and glorify the war, and yet both also incorporated melodramatic pleasures into their texts. Ultimately, however, both works reveal the dire conditions facing the Japanese wartime film and theater industries.