

[The easternKicks Podcast](#)

Episode 38 – Spotlight on... Zatoichi

[Tuesday, 3 May, 2022 Andrew Heskins](#)

[Zatoichi](#)

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This time Jonathan Wroot, senior lecturer in film studies, joins James and Andy to chat in detail about the topic of his new book, [Zatoichi!](#) As well as the various influences and successors. And yes, we chat Kitano and Hauer too!

This episode's handy timecodes

00:00:44 – Episode introduction

00:02:12 – Before we start, how did our guest get into Asian film?

00:06:05 – Kitano's [Zatoichi](#), was it a remake?

00:13:10 – Let's go back to the start

00:17:08 – How star [Shintaro Katsu](#)'s previous work fed into the film series

00:20:22 – Zatoichi begins

00:25:05 – A minor diversion on Shintaro Katsu's brother

00:29:09 – Something for everyone, the Daiei way

00:30:23 – How wacky did the films get?

00:32:46 – Are there roots to disabled swordsmen?

00:38:14 – The Marvel connection

00:40:45 – Good ol' Westerns

00:45:34 – Zatoichi The Last

00:47:54 – The female versions

00:52:13 – Let's talk about Rutger (and other influences)

01:07:26 – Recommendations on where to start

01:15:43 – Outro

Music played on the show:

- *Zatoichi's Lullaby*, sung by Shintaro Katsu. The most commonly known version of the Zatoichi theme song, which first turned up in Zatoichi and the Fugitives (#18).

- *Festivo* – the musical number from the end of Zatoichi 2003, written and composed by Keiichi Suzuki.