

Spring 2005

# EAST ASIAN FILM SERIES



SATURDAY EVENINGS ON THE INDIANA UNIVERSITY CAMPUS.  
FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

NOTE: THESE FILMS ARE NOT GENERALLY SUITABLE FOR A YOUNG AUDIENCE

**January 15**

***Shower* 7:30 pm, Woodburn 101**

PRC, 2000. Directed by Zhang Wang, 94min. When a successful businessman, Da Ming, is summoned by his younger brother to come to his father's old style bathhouse in Beijing, he cannot wait to return to his fast-paced modern life. But time amongst the crazy cast of characters that frequent the bathhouse gives him a new appreciation for traditional old ways. When a tragic event causes sudden change, Da Ming must choose between the prosperous life he has made for himself and his responsibilities to his family and his heritage. In Mandarin with English subtitles.

**January 29**

***Sweet Paradise of Ours* 7:30 pm, Woodburn 101**

Korea, 1987. Directed by Su-woo Wan, 90min. An innocent country boy goes to Seoul to earn money to buy a cow. Naive and unfamiliar with the surroundings, he falls into many traps of the big city, the biggest being a young attractive girl who is able to take all the money the boys makes. In Korean with English subtitles.

**February 12**

***The Funeral* 7:30 pm, Woodburn 101**

Japan, 1987. Directed by Juzo Itami. There are times when death is appropriate and hilarious material for comedy. In this film, Itami shows a family trying to struggle through an appropriate funeral for the deceased father. They rent videos on appropriate greetings and responses, they hire experts to tell them what direction the coffin should face, and how many sticks of incense to light. While rough in nature, Itami manages to artfully wrap various elements together, without stating the message directly. In Japanese with English subtitles.

**February 26**

***The Story of the Weeping Camel* 7:30 pm, Woodburn 101**

Mongolia, 2003. Directed by Byambasuren Davaa and Luigi Faloni, 87 min. This story follows the adventures of a family of herders in Mongolia's Gobi desert who face a crisis when a mother camel rejects her newborn calf after a difficult birth. In accordance with an ancient tradition a musician is summoned to perform a ceremony to coax the mother into nursing the baby. Exploring a distant and exotic culture in which tradition, myth, and family unite (both human and animal), offering us a window into a different way of life and the universal terrain of the heart. In Mongolian with English subtitles.

**March 26**

***The Happiness of Katakuris* 7:30 pm, Woodburn 101**

Japan, 2001. Directed by Takashi Miike, 90 min. This film is a remake of the Korean film "Choyonghan Kajok," and tells the story of a family who opens a bad-luck inn, where all the guests keep passing away, whether by suicide or accident. Stylistically, the film follows no conventions, and slips into claymation at whim. In Japanese with English subtitles.

**April 2**

***Yellow Earth* 7:30 pm, Woodburn 101**

Chinese, 1984. Directed by Kaige Chen, 89 min. This film focuses on the story of a Communist soldier who is sent to the countryside to collect folk songs for the Communist Revolution. There he stays with a peasant family and learns that the happy songs he was sent to collect do not exist; the songs he finds are about hardship and suffering. He returns to the army, but promises to come back for the young girl, Cuiqiao, who has been spellbound by his talk of the freedom women have under Communist rule and who wants to join the Communist Army. In Mandarin with English subtitles.

**April 16**

***Barking Dogs Never Bite* 7:30 pm, Woodburn 101**

Korea, 2000. Directed by Joon-ho Bong, 106 min. This film tells the tale of a would-be professor, currently laid off until he can bribe his way into a permanent appointment. He then grows increasingly fed up with the yippy dogs downstairs in his rather down-scale apartment. He decides to do something about the noise, and this is what leads to a chain of increasingly disastrous events. The direction and cinematography are as superb as the comic acting, story, and dialog. Surprisingly, the film ends on a morally uplifting note, as forgiveness is delivered with a lost shoe. In Korean with English subtitles.

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For further information: East Asian Studies Center, Memorial Hall West 207; 855-3765; [jmixell@indiana.edu](mailto:jmixell@indiana.edu)