

FALL 2007 EAST ASIAN FILM SERIES



SATURDAY EVENINGS ON THE INDIANA UNIVERSITY CAMPUS

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

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

September 22

***Hotel Hibiscus* 7:00 pm, Woodburn 101, 92 min.**

Based on a popular manga, *Hotel Hibiscus* depicts a summer at a small run-down hotel in Okinawa through the eyes of Mieko, youngest daughter of the hotel's extraordinarily international family. On her way home from school, Mieko saves a teenage boy named Notojima, and he becomes the hotel's sole guest. Along with her classmates, Mieko spends her days trying to find "Kijimuna," the Forest Fairy. One day, her mother and half sister depart for the States to meet her sister's real father, leaving Mieko very busy with all the cooking and cleaning chores at the hotel. She delivers a letter to her father, who is working at a pineapple orchard and meets a strange old man who calls himself Old Man Kijimuna. She also runs into a girl who is a dead ringer for herself. Mieko's summer holiday is filled with all sorts of adventures. . . . **Directed by Yuji Nakae in 2002. In Japanese with English subtitles.**

October 6

***Welcome to Dongmakgol* 7:00 pm, Woodburn 101, 133 min.**

This 2005 box office and critical success is a fantasy drama set during the Korean War. Dongmakgol is an isolated village hidden so far up in the mountains that its inhabitants have no idea that Korea is being torn apart by a war just a few miles from their front doors. A band of North Korean ambush survivors, lost South Korean soldiers, and a downed American pilot all stumble across the village at the same time and have to put aside their differences in order to survive. Based on a successful local play by talented stage/film writer/director Jang Jin, the film recalls the best of Kurosawa, Miyazaki, and even Stephen Chow but still provides enough of its own identity to succeed as a film in its own right. **Directed by Park Kwang-hyun in 2005. In Korean with English subtitles.**

October 27

***Confession of Pain* 7:00 pm, Woodburn 101, 110 min.**

Directors Andrew Lau and Alan Mak and producer Felix Chong, the team behind the remarkably popular *Infernal Affairs* and *Initial D*, re-unite to offer this new crime drama. The story starts in 2003 when inspector Bong (Takeshi Kaneshiro) discovers that his girlfriend (Emme Wong) has committed suicide. He turns to alcohol for relief and resigns from his job to work as a private detective. Three years later, his old partner Hei (Tony Leung), now a rising star in the police force, learns that his billionaire father-in-law has been ruthlessly murdered. Hei's wife Susan (Xu Jinglei), refusing to believe in the police's version of her father's case, enlists Bong's support to uncover the truth. Although a crime drama, the film devoted more efforts to articulating a Hong Kong story than to merely creating suspense, which is abundant in Hong Kong's recent wave of cop thrillers. **Directed by Andrew Lau and Alan Mak in 2006. In Cantonese with English subtitles.**

November 3

***Someone Special* 7:00 pm, Woodburn 101, 106 min.**

Dong Chi-seong (Jung Jae-young) used to be a popular pitcher but is now an outfielder in the minor leagues. His girlfriend suddenly breaks up with him and then, what is worse, he hears from his doctor that he has only three months to live due to a malignant tumor in his lung. With a shattered heart he gets drunk at his favorite bar and wakes up in a motel room. The bartender (Lee Na-young), an unusual girl, tells Chi-seong that he did not make any mistakes while drunk and that she brought him to the motel "folded in a paper bag." The next day on his way back from practice, he hears a story on the radio, and it sounds familiar. . . . Ridiculing sports movies, clichéd romantic comedies, and Korean melodrama, *Someone Special* is the least fuzzy, least optimistic, least insulting romantic comedy to come out of Korea in a long time. **Directed by Jang Jin in 2004. In Korean with English subtitles.**

November 17

***Udon* 7:00 pm, Woodburn 101, 134 min.**

From the creators of the blockbuster *Bayside Shakedown* franchise comes a hilarious and heartwarming comedy about family, life, and that perfect bowl of udon. Kosuke (Yusuke Santamaria), the son of an udon shop owner, is from a tiny rural town in Kagawa prefecture known for its udon noodles. Kosuke, however, is sick of his hometown and even more sick of udon. He decides to try his luck in New York, only to return six years later, disappointed and in debt. Back at home, he meets flighty food column editor Kyoko (Konishi Manami, *Orange Days*), and the two happen upon a bowl of delicious udon noodles that will change their lives. **Directed by Katsuyuki Motohiro in 2006. In Japanese with English subtitles.**

December 1

***Riding Alone for Thousands of Miles* 7:00 pm, Woodburn 101, 107 min.**

Gou-ichi Takada (Ken Takakura), an aging Japanese fisherman visits his estranged and now gravely ill son, a filmmaker with a keen interest in Chinese opera and the legendary folk opera master Li Jianmin. Disturbed by his son's enduring hatred for him and his son's approaching death, Takada decides to travel China's Yunnan Province to film Li Jianmin performing *Riding Alone for Thousands of Miles* and complete his son's unfinished work. Once in China, a series of obstacles and relationships brings him unexpectedly closer to an understanding of both himself and his son. As before, Zhang Yimou (*The Road Home*, *Not One Less*) deftly directs his mixed cast of professionals and amateurs, framing the scenes and landscapes with such painterly mastery that a constant sense of life's beauty heightens the story's mood. **Directed by Zhang Yimou in 2005. In Mandarin with English subtitles.**

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For further information: East Asian Studies Center, Memorial Hall West 207; 855-3765; easc@indiana.edu