



EAST ASIAN
STUDIES CENTER
INDIANA UNIVERSITY

Fall 2008

EAST ASIAN FILM SERIES

Special Series: East Asian Documentary Films

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 20

***Tokyo Olympiad* 7:00 pm, Woodburn 101, 170 min.**

A spectacle of magnificent proportions, Ichikawa Kon's *Tokyo Olympiad* ranks among the greatest documents of sport ever committed to film. Utilizing glorious widescreen cinematography, Ichikawa examines the beauty and rich drama on display at the 1964 Summer Games in Tokyo, creating a catalogue of extraordinary observations that range from the expansive to the intimate. The glory, despair, passion, and suffering of Olympic competition are rendered with lyricism and technical mastery, culminating in an inspiring testament to the beauty of the human body and the strength of the human spirit. **Dir. Ichikawa Kon, 1964. In Japanese with English subtitles.**

October 11

***Repatriation* 7:00 pm, Woodburn 101, 148 min.**

Of the thousands of spies sent between North and South Korea since their separation at the end of the Korean War in 1953, many of those captured in the South remained long-term "unconverted" prisoners, serving some 30-40 years. *Repatriation* presents a multi-layered story of the prisoners by approaching it from a myriad of angles, while also capturing a 12-year relationship between the director and the prisoners. Winner of the Freedom of Expression Award at the 2004 Sundance Film Festival, the film takes a humanitarian, rather than political, perspective in order to portray the harsh lives and the long process of their journey home. **Dir. Kim Dong-won, 2003. In Korean with English subtitles.**

October 25

***The Blood of Yingzhou District* 7:00 pm, Woodburn 101, 40 min.**

2007 Academy Award winner for Best Documentary Short Subject, *The Blood of Yingzhou District* is a groundbreaking documentary film that exposes the hidden AIDS epidemic in China, a country not commonly associated with this disease. It tracks a year in the life of children in the remote villages of Anhui Province who have lost their parents to AIDS and observes how traditional obligations to family and village collide with terror of the disease. **Dir. Ruby Yang, 2006. In Mandarin with English subtitles.**

***Please Vote for Me* Woodburn 101, 55 min.**

Following the elections for class monitor in a 3rd-grade class of eight-year-old children in the Evergreen Primary School in Wuhan, China, Chen Weijun's film observes how the class learns what democracy is. Three children are chosen by the teacher as candidates, and they have a few days to campaign and convince their classmates to vote for them. The little candidates are seen at school and at home, where their parents do their best to make sure their child wins the election. **Dir. Chen Weijun, 2007. In Mandarin with English subtitles.**

November 8

***New Woman: Her First Song* 7:00 pm, Woodburn 101, 51 min.**

New Woman: Her First Song explores the political, historical, and cultural constructions, achievements and contradictions of the 1920s "New Woman" phenomena in Korea. While focusing on the life and work of the Korean painter and writer Na Haesuk, this film also prompts an open-ended dialogue across the histories of the New Woman of Korea, Japan, and China. **Dir. Kim So-young, 2004. In Korean with English subtitles.**

***A bonus short film: *Smoke-flavored Life* Woodburn 101, 21 min.**

After getting badly beaten by her cheating husband, a mother and her 7-year-old daughter exchange a smoke, comforting each other over the unbearable physical and emotional abuse they have just endured. Gradually, a faint but bright light of hope glimmers. **Dir. Yoo Eun-jung, 2004. In Korean with English subtitles.**

November 15

***Jump! Boys* 7:00 pm, Woodburn 101, 85 min.**

This charming documentary follows a group of boys from different backgrounds and with different personalities who were brought together by an unusual passion for gymnastics and are coached by a has-been, hoping they will become national champions. The film offers a humorous observation of the relationship between the coach and the players, while also contemplating the world of sports in Taiwan. Using techniques from commercial mainstream cinema and driven by a clear narrative, *Jump! Boys* exemplifies diversified documentary filmmaking. It became an instant hit in Taiwan when it was released in 2005. **Dir. Lin Yu-Hsien, 2005. In Mandarin with English subtitles.**

December 6

***Hiroshima no pika* 7:00 pm, Woodburn 101, 25 min.**

Narrated by Susan Sarandon, *Hiroshima no pika* is an animated film based on the award-winning children's book by the Japanese artist Toshi Maruki. Through Maruki's heart-rending but beautiful water color illustrations, the film tells the story of a young girl and her family who live through the horrific bombing of Hiroshima. While the horror lies in the reality of the story, the beauty of the film's articulation creates a sensitive and affecting movie, inspiring children to remember Hiroshima in the hope that it will never be repeated. **Dir. Noriaki Tsuchimoto, 2005.**

***Hellfire: A Journey from Hiroshima* Woodburn 101, 58 min.**

Nominated for an Academy Award, *Hellfire: A Journey from Hiroshima* captures the artists Iri and Toshi Maruki in action as they create "one of the world's most powerful and sustained expressions of the effect of the atomic bomb" (*New York Times*)—the Hiroshima Murals. With engaging interviews and extended sequences of the Marukis at work, *Hellfire* reveals a message of hope in our nuclear age and is a reminder of art's power to render visible and meaningful what still seems unimaginable. **Dir. John Junkerman, 1986.**