

Spring 2007

EAST ASIAN FILM SERIES



Special Series: Monsters and the Monstrous

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 20

***Great Yokai War (Yokai Daisenso)* 7:00 pm, Woodburn 101, 123 min.**

A group of grotesque supernatural creatures from Japanese folklore enlists the aid of a young boy, Takashi, in defeating a powerful, dark overlord who preys on humans and monsters alike in this kid-friendly fantasy. As a series of bizarre supernatural incidents plagues the Japanese countryside and scores of children go missing, a mysterious series of mechanical monster attacks led by a dark mistress sends the country into a panicked frenzy. Takashi pledges to save his new Yokai friends and put an end to the apocalyptic plot set into motion by an evil entity determined to destroy mankind.

Directed by Miike Takashi in 2005. In Japanese with English subtitles.

February 3

***The Heirloom (Zhaibian)* 7:00 pm, Woodburn 101, 96 min.**

Twenty years ago, an inexplicable mass suicide occurred in the millionaire Yang household. Only one member survived. To this day, the case remains unsolved. Twenty years later, distant relative James inherits the Yang house, moving in with his girlfriend Yo. As supernatural events begin to take place, James and Yo discover the eccentricities of the house, including a mysterious fourth floor. James and Yo find out that the Yang fortune was built with the aid of "child ghosts," dead babies fed on blood and refused the opportunity to reincarnate. Raising child ghosts may bring great fortune, but at the same time great doom. From here on, James and Yo will unearth more secrets about the Yang family - and even about James himself - until they must confront the evil dwelling on the fourth floor.

Directed by Leste Chen in 2005. In Mandarin with English subtitles.

February 17

***Spider Forest (Geomisoop)* 7:00 pm, Woodburn 101, 118 min.**

Kang Min wakes up in the middle of a forest and wanders toward a nearby cabin, where he's shocked to find the scene of a brutal, bloody crime. A man lies hacked to death, and Kang Min's girlfriend, Su-young lies dying of stab wounds nearby. Kang Min sees a dark figure fleeing the cabin and gives chase. Eventually he winds up in a tunnel, where he is struck down by a speeding SUV. In the hospital with a head injury and suspected of murder, Kang tries to recall what happened for his policeman friend, Choi. When Kang is assigned to investigate rumors that Spider Forest, the remote wood where the murder took place, is haunted, he asks a girl from the region, Su-in, to tell him all about the local legend. As it turns out, Kang has his own mysterious connection to the ghost story.

Directed by Song Il-Gon in 2004. In Korean with English subtitles.

March 30

***Funky Forest (Nice no Mori)* 7:00 pm, Woodburn 101, 150 min.**

This may well be the strangest, most memorable film you'll ever see. Based on a popular series of canned coffee TV ads, this geniusly nonsensical film stretches the cinematic boundaries with an open narrative, outlandish characters, unpredictable stories, and a massive dose of surreal wackiness that defies all conventions. Asano Tadanobu and Terajima Susumu reprise their coffee ad roles as the Guitar Brothers, two geeky brothers trying to find girlfriends. Instead, they encounter an endless line-up of peculiar characters and off-the-wall situations. Their experiences are divided into a series of short stories and skits with just about everything you can think of thrown in - stand-up comedy, animation, music and dance sequences, commercials, an intermission, and, of course, some little aliens.

Directed by Ishii Katsuhito, Miki Shunichiro, and Aniki in 2005. In Japanese with English subtitles.

This showing takes place on a Friday.

April 14

***The Eye (Jian gui)* 7:00 pm, Woodburn 101, 98 min.**

Blind from the age of two, 20-year-old Mann now has a chance to reclaim her sense of sight thanks to recent breakthroughs in technology. At first elated to have her vision restored, Mann's joy soon turns to paralyzing fear when she begins to see mysterious dark figures that foreshadow sudden, shocking deaths. Subsequently distraught over seeing Ling, the previous owner of her corneas, when she peers into the mirror, Mann's disturbing images slowly begin to chip away at her sanity until she has no choice but to track Ling's past and solve the horrifying mystery that plagues her.

Directed by the Pang Brothers in 2002. In Cantonese with English subtitles.

April 21

***The Host (Goemul)* 7:00 pm, Woodburn 101, 119 min.**

When a young girl is snatched away from her father by a horrifying giant monster that emerges from the River Han to wreak havoc on Seoul, her entire family sets out to locate the beast and bring their little girl back home to safety. Hee-bong is a man of modest means who runs a snack bar on the banks of the River Han. Along with his slow-witted eldest son Gang-du, Gang-du's daughters, and unemployed son Nam-il, Hee-Bong has managed to maintain a close relationship with his family despite the hardships that come with being a single father. When a rampaging fiend erupts from the Han and throws the city of Seoul into a state of emergency, Gang-du is heartbroken to see his precious little girl scooped up by the scaly creature and spirited away to an unknown destination. This is one family that always sticks together, though, and as the rest of the city denizens scramble to take cover, Hee-bong, Gang-du, Nam-joo, and Nam-il set out to prove that they're not letting their little girl go without a fight.

Directed by Bong Joon-ho in 2006. In Korean with English subtitles.

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