



FALL 2009

East Asian Film Series



EAST ASIAN
STUDIES CENTER

INDIANA UNIVERSITY

Saturday evenings on the Indiana University campus
free and open to the public

Note: These films are generally not suitable for a young audience.

This semester, we are featuring a selection of "Award Winning Films" that have impacted the international visibility of East Asian cinema. Opening with the most recent Academy Award winner for Foreign Language Film, we will also feature a few older films that were pivotal in the success of East Asian cinema at international film festivals from the 1950s to the present. Most of the films this semester, however, are from recent years, in an effort to increase awareness of contemporary critically-acclaimed East Asian films.

September 12

Departures 7:00 pm, Woodburn 101

2009 Academy Award Winner for Best Foreign Language Film, *Departures* is a delightful and sensitive journey into the heartland of Japan and an astonishingly beautiful look at a sacred part of Japan's cultural heritage. Suffering from an innate sense that he is a mediocre musician, out-of-work cellist Daigo Kobayashi (Masahiro Motoki) finds his calling via an unexpected funeral parlor job. Set around the Japanese tradition of "encoffination," *Departures* is very much a global celebration of life, family, and new beginnings. Winner of numerous awards including 10 Japan Academy Awards (Best Picture) and the Grand Prix de Ameriques at the Montreal World Film Festival. **Dir. Takita Yojiro, 2008. In Japanese with English subtitles. 130 mins.**

October 3

Boat People 7:00 pm, Woodburn 101

A Japanese photojournalist revisits Vietnam after the Liberation and learns harsh truths about its regime and its "New Economic Zones." Hoping to capture the essence of the society under the rule of the Communist Party, a Vietnamese girl helps him to eventually open his eyes to the painful truth of postwar Vietnam. An important film that signaled the beginning of Hong Kong new wave cinema, *Boat People* offers a counterpoint to the canon of "Vietnam films" U.S. audiences are familiar with. Winner of five Hong Kong Film Awards, including Best Director and Best Picture. **Dir. Ann Hui, 1982. In Cantonese with English subtitles. 109 mins.**

October 10

Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter...and Spring 7:00pm, Woodburn 101

A tiny Buddhist monastery floats on a raft amidst a breathtaking landscape, tended to by a solitary monk. Into this serene setting comes a young child, who will become the old monk's protégé. And so begins a lifelong journey of hope, despair, passion, and redemption. Winner of 10 awards, including the San Sebastian International Film Festival Audience Award, Best Film at the Locarno International Film Festival, and Best Foreign Language Film at the Argentinean Film Critics' Awards. **Dir. Kim Ki-duk, 2003. In Korean with English subtitles. 102 mins.**

October 24

The World 7:00 pm, Woodburn 101

"The World" is a theme park on the outskirts of Beijing, designed around scaled representations of world-famous landmarks such as the Eiffel Tower and the Leaning Tower of Pisa. The site is seen here not from the visitors' point of view but through the eyes of a few of its staff, lonely people, communicating poorly, disillusioned with life, glittering for the tourists but dull and restricted as far as they themselves are concerned. Winner of major awards at the Venice, Toronto, Sao Paulo, and Las Palmas international film festivals. **Dir. Zhang Ke Jia, 2004. In Mandarin with English subtitles. 140 mins.**

November 7

Rashomon 7:00 pm, Woodburn 101

The now-classic Japanese crime drama, produced with philosophical and psychological overtones. In ancient Japan, a woman is raped and her husband killed. The film gives us four viewpoints of the incident, one for each defendant, each revealing a little more detail. Who is telling the truth? What is truth? *Rashomon's* winning of the Golden Lion at the Venice International Film Festival in 1951 worked to introduce Kurosawa, and arguably Japanese film itself, to Europe and the international film festival circuit. **Dir. Akira Kurosawa, 1950. In Japanese with English subtitles. 88 mins.**

November 21

Cape No. 7 7:00 pm, Woodburn 101

The seaside town of Hengchun holds an open audition to find a local band to play at a beach concert featuring a Japanese superstar. Among the disparate locals who join up are a traffic cop, his father, the teen church pianist, and a dorky mechanic. Their nominal leader is Aga, a former rocker who's bitter from his failure to make it on the Taipei music scene. The highest grossing local film in Taiwan's history, *Cape No. 7* is now a cultural phenomenon, having won six awards at Taipei's Golden Horse Awards and best Feature Film at the Hawai'i International Film Festival. **Dir. Wei Te-sheng, 2008. In Mandarin with English subtitles. 129 mins.**

December 5

Secret Sunshine 7:00 pm, Woodburn 101

After losing her husband, a woman relocates to a small town for a new start. When tragedy strikes, one local man stands by her through all of her struggles and tries to offer her hope. Winner of awards for Best Film, Best Director, and Best Actress at the Asian Film Awards. With this role, the leading actress, Jeon do-youn, became the first Korean to ever win an acting award at the Cannes Film Festival. **Dir. Lee Chang-dong, 2007. In Korean with English subtitles. 141 mins.**