



SPRING 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.

January 31

***Hero* 7:00 pm, Woodburn 101, 99 min.**

In ancient China the King of Qin is waging a bloody campaign to conquer the entire land. He has been the target of three dangerous assassins: "Broken Sword," "Flying Snow," and "Sky." One day word comes that he has nothing left to fear: a prefect known only as Nameless has killed all three of the emperor's adversaries. Nameless is called to the palace and asked to recount the tale of how he accomplished this amazing feat. After he tells his story, however, the King notices some flaws in it. . . . Zhang Yimou's first martial arts film is memorable for its ensemble performances (Tony Leung, Maggie Cheung, and Jet Li), superlative sound design, and breathtaking visual compositions shot by renowned cinematographer Chris Doyle. **Dir. Zhang Yimou, 2004. In Mandarin with English subtitles.**

February 7

***Three Times* 7:00 pm, Woodburn 101, 135 min.**

*Three Times* follows a timeless couple in love as, enacted by the same performers, they take on different identities through three separate time periods. In "A Time for Love," Chen (Chang Chen) meets May (Shu Qi) at his favorite pool hall. It is 1966, and their fleeting, dreamy romance is not defined as much by words as by the smoky atmosphere and the radio hits of the time. Then, the film flows smoothly into "A Time for Freedom," a solemn drama of a concubine and her master in 1911. The man is obsessed with his nation's freedom yet incapable of giving freedom or emotional security to his beloved. The third segment, "A Time for Youth," shifts from an era of stately quiet to chaotic, contemporary Taipei. Jing, an epileptic singer, lives through the emotional chaos of her youth, sharing her love with a woman and a man. Weaving contrasting cinematic syntaxes and poignant fragments of time into a highly evocative narrative, Hou plays with the idea of reincarnation—the characters bear not only a consistent physical appearance but also the memories of other lives. **Dir. Hou Hsiao Hsien. In Mandarin with English subtitles.**

February 28

***The Birth of Family* 7:00 pm, Woodburn 101, 113 min.**

When her brother Hyung-chul walks out of her life, Mi-ra was left trying to figure out whether the family she knew ever really existed. Five years later when he shows up on her doorstep with a bouquet, a grin, and a new wife who's 20 years older than he, Mi-ra is forced to come to grips with a new family in this affectionate domestic farce. Kim Tae-Yong presents a delicately constructed, cross-generational look at the emotional consequences of broken families, its careful observations captured in a beautifully written script and universally strong performances through a truly artful lens. **Dir. Kim Tae-yong. In Korean with English subtitles.**

March 7

***Toni Takitani* 7:00 pm, Woodburn 101, 75 min.**

Due to his Western name, Tony was shunned by other kids and had a solitary childhood. Although gifted as an artist, his drawings lacked feeling, and so as an adult he carved out a career as a technical illustrator. One day he becomes fascinated by Eiko, a client who visits him on business. Eiko is like an angel in Tony's daily existence, and, for the first time in his life, he feels connected to the outside world. Eiko, however, does have one fault: she is obsessed with designer clothes. Ichikawa Jun brings writer Murakami Haruki's short story to the screen with a sense of restraint, apparent in every aspect of the process (storytelling, acting, music, cinematography), that transforms the usual cinematic experience into something much closer to a prolonged meditation. **Dir. Ishikawa Jun. In Japanese with English subtitles.**

March 28

***Infernal Affairs* 7:00 pm, Woodburn 101, 101 min.**

Yan (Tony Leung) is a cop who has been assigned to undercover work inside the Triads for so long that he has been able to rise through the ranks to a position of some authority. Ming (Andy Lau), meanwhile, is a secret member of the Triads who has infiltrated the police force with an equal level of success. They both begin to feel the stresses of their double lives and become torn between the oppressive obligations they owe to their superiors and the growing camaraderie they share with the foot soldiers around them. As the two organizations become increasingly aware of the moles in their midst, the race is on for Yan and Ming to try to get out of the game alive. This top-notch Hong Kong thriller was a huge box-office hit in 2002, and its fame led to an American remake by Martin Scorsese, *The Departed* (2006). **Dir. Andrew Lau and Alan Mak. In Cantonese with English subtitles.**

April 11

***Le Grand Chef* 7:00 pm, Woodburn 101, 113 min.**

Based on the bestselling comic by Huh Young-man, this film provides a warm and fascinating story about a cooking contest between rival chef families both related to former royal chefs. At stake is a legendary historical cooking knife, once used by the last Korean royal chef in the Chosun dynasty, who cut his arms with the knife to show his loyalty to king and country. A Japanese bureaucrat at the time was deeply moved by his conviction and took the knife with him when he returned to Japan. Now his son has come to Korea to return the precious knife to someone who really deserves to own it and announces a cooking contest to find the best cook for the knife. Thus, the fated match-off between the grandsons of the two apprentices of the royal chef begins. . . . **Dir. Jeon Yun-su. In Korean with English subtitles.**

April 25

***Early Summer* 7:00 pm, Woodburn 101, 125 min.**

In postwar Tokyo the Mamiya household is loving and serene: older parents, their 28-year-old daughter Noriko, their married son, his devoted wife, and two rascally sons. The parents' only source of discontent is Noriko's unmarried state, and they are actively seeking a husband for her. Noriko, however, has ideas of her own. Played by the extraordinary Hara Setsuko, Noriko impulsively chooses her childhood friend, at once fulfilling her family's desires and tearing them apart. A seemingly simple story, *Early Summer* is one of Ozu Yasujiro's most complex works—a nuanced examination of life's changes across three generations. **Dir. Ozu Yasujiro. In Japanese with English subtitles.**