



Spring 2010 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 “East Asian Co-Productions,” films that have been jointly produced with resources from two or more East Asian (and other) locations. The trend of co-production in East Asia speaks to both the trend towards East Asian regionalism and the global popularity of East Asian film. Whether co-productions in the true sense of the word, in terms of funding and production itself, or films involving substantial cultural crossover, most of these films are multi-lingual and multi-cultural.

January 23

Kekexili: Mountain Patrol 7:00 pm, Woodburn 101

Inspired by a people's remarkable mission surrounding the illegal poaching of the Tibetan antelope in the largest animal reserve in China, this is a powerful story of a journalist who travels with a small mountain patrol group as they track a band of poachers across the unforgiving lands of Kekexili. Set against the exquisite backdrop of the Qinghai-Tibetan Plateau, *Kekexili* tells the tale of brave local Tibetans who face death and starvation to save the endangered antelope herds from a band of ruthless hunters. **Dir. Chuan Lu, 2004. In Mandarin and Tibetan with English subtitles. 90 minutes.**

February 6

Zatoichi Meets the One-Armed Swordsman 7:00 pm, Woodburn 101

Japan's top action character meets Hong Kong's top action character! Zatoichi, a blind masseur and swordsman, was a well-known character in one of Japan's longest running series of samurai films. *Zatoichi Meets the One-Armed Swordsman* is a 1971 Japan-Hong Kong co-production featuring Zatoichi together with the popular Hong Kong swordplay (*wuxia*) character, the One-Armed Swordsman. The film appeared at a crucial moment in the history of both genres, as Japan's *chambara* genre would soon die out while Hong Kong's *wuxia* genre was about to morph into the soon-to-explode kung fu genre. **Dir. Yasuda Kimiyoshi, 1971. In Japanese and Mandarin with English subtitles. 94 mins.**

February 20

2009 Lost Memories 7:00 pm, Woodburn 101

This South Korean science fiction/action-thriller film presents an alternative future where the Korean peninsula is still a part of the Japanese empire. A failed assassination attempt in Harbin, China in 1909 changed the course of history. Now, in 2009, Korea is just another state of the Japanese Empire. A Korean resistance group is formed to fight for liberty and independence. When the group tries to steal an ancient Korean artifact, two cops, one Japanese and one Korean, discover that reality isn't how it should be. It then becomes their mission to restore history to its rightful path. **Dir. Lee Si-myung, 2002. In Korean and Japanese with English subtitles. 136 mins.**

March 6

Last Life in the Universe 7:00 pm, Woodburn 101

A mysterious, suicidal Japanese man living in Bangkok is thrown together with a Thai woman through a tragic chain of events. The woman is everything he is not. He is obsessively neat, keeping his books neatly stacked and categorized. She lives in a disastrously unkempt beachside home. It's a match that somehow works, though, and the couple learns that in some ways they are mirror-images of each other. As they form a semi-romantic relationship, we begin to learn more about the Japanese man and why he is living in Bangkok. **Dir. Pen-Ek Ratanaruang, 2003. In Thai, Japanese, and English with English subtitles. 112 mins.**

March 27

Tokyo Drifter 7:00 pm, Woodburn 101

Being shown in conjunction with EALC E110, Popular Culture in East Asia.

This 1966 yakuza action film follows a reformed yakuza hitman who is forced to roam Japan to avoid execution by rival gangs. When he is betrayed, he returns to Tokyo to resolve his situation. Forced to work within a restricted budget on *Tokyo Drifter*, director Suzuki Seijin used this as an opportunity to explore new heights of surrealism and absurdity. **Dir. Suzuki Seijin, 1966. In Japanese with English subtitles. 89 mins. Note: Tokyo Drifter is not part of the series on co-productions.**

April 10

Café Lumière 7:00 pm, Woodburn 101

This is Taiwanese director Hou Hsiao-Hsien's homage to Japanese director Yasujiro Ozu (1903-1963), in commemoration of the centenary of Ozu's birth. With direct reference to the late master's *Tokyo Story* (1953), *Café Lumière* tells the story of a young Japanese woman doing research on a Taiwanese composer. **Dir. Hou Hsiao-Hsien, 2003. In Japanese with English subtitles. 103 mins.**

April 24

Three Extremes 2 7:00 pm, Woodburn 101

A trilogy of terrifying tales, *Three Extremes 2* is an omnibus horror film consisting of three shorts: "Memories," by South Korean director Kim Ji-woon, "The Wheel" from Thailand's Nonzee Nimibutr, and "Going Home," by Hong Kong's Peter Chan. Taken together, these three shorts cover the gamut of contemporary Asian horror. **2002. In Korean, English, Mandarin, Thai, and Cantonese with English subtitles. 140 mins.**