

The Museum of Modern Art Department of Film

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MoMA TO PRESENT THE PREMIERES OF FIVE FEATURE-LENGTH FILMS FROM THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA IN CHINA FILM WEEK II

From April 19 through April 23, The Museum of Modern Art will present the New York premieres of five melodramas made in the People's Republic of China. The films--one from the 1950s, the others from 1981-84--are the selections in CHINA FILM WEEK II, a nationally touring exhibition programmed by the Department of Film of The Museum of Modern Art and organized and co-ordinated by The American Film Institute. All New York screenings will take place in the Museum's Roy and Niuta Titus Theater 1.

CHINA FILM WEEK II originated under the terms of a 1979 cultural accord between the United States and the People's Republic of China. The first CHINA FILM WEEK opened in Washington and New York in October 1981. As part of the bilateral program for CHINA FILM WEEK II, five members of the U.S. film community will tour China with five recent American feature films, while a Chinese delegation conducts a similar tour in America. The films to be shown in China are Star Wars, The Turning Point, On Golden Pond, Coal Miner's Daughter, and Kramer vs. Kramer; the U.S. delegation consists of Sissy Spacek; Jean Firstenberg, Director of The American Film Institute; Gene Allen, President of The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences; Leo Jaffe, former Chairman of Columbia Pictures Industries; and director Franklin Schaffner. The Chinese delegation to the U.S. will be Mr. Chen Huangmei, Advisor to the Ministry of Culture and Director of the China Film Arts Research Center; Mr. Chi Xidao, Deputy Director, Shanghai Film Studio; Mr. Xie Fei, Vice-President, Beijing Film College; Mr. Zhang Xingyuan, Deputy Director, Foreign Affairs Office, Ministry of Culture; and Gong Xue, the actress who is the star of the first evening's presentation at the Museum, Under the Bridge (1984).

Set in Shanghai in the present, Under the Bridge focuses on a woman who has returned from the country with an illegitimate child, arousing rumors and painful prejudices. The work received the Ministry of Culture's best film award. Also on the first day's program will be Family (1957). Adapted from a semi-autobiographical novel by the distinguished author Ba Jin, it is the story of the dissolution of a wealthy, extended family under a tyrannical patriarch.

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Another winner of the Ministry of Culture's best film award, The In-Laws (1983), is set in a rural village in the north, where a family's harmony is shattered by a daughter-in-law's jealousy of her prerogatives and a grandfather's decision to move out of the communal home; Variety commented that "in theme and even style, the film could almost have been made at MGM in the 1930s." Regret for the Past (Remorse) (1981), based on a short story by Lu Xun and directed by the veteran Zhang Shuihua, is set in the early 1920s in the wake of the May 4th revolutionary movement; it tells the story of two young intellectuals who try to live together in defiance of social conventions and discover that love does not conquer all. Finally, there is a Chinese Western, Adventures of a Wanderer (Strange Encounters), the tale of a penniless, wandering student in the 1920s who stumbles into a nest of bandits and must join their gang.

Selections for CHINA FILM WEEK II were made by Laurence Kardish, Curator in the Museum's Department of Film, in consultation with Ken Wlaschin, Director, Programming, of The American Film Institute, and Tony Safford, former Program Associate of the AFI. Particular thanks go to Ray Barry, Director, Exhibition, who has been liaison between the American and Chinese organizers.

CHINA FILM WEEK II was made possible through the generous support and assistance of the United States Information Agency and the co-operation of the government and Embassy of the People's Republic of China. Also participating is H.S.F. Restaurant, Incorporated, of New York.

For further information, the public may call (212) 708-9500.

COMPLETE SCHEDULE IS ATTACHED

March 1985

 For further PRESS information, please contact Stuart Klawans, Film Press Representative,
 The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York, NY 10019 (212) 708-9752.

SCHEDULE--CHINA FILM WEEK II

April 19 - 23, 1985

- April 19 2:30 Family. 1957. Chen Xihe and Ye Ming. With Wei Heling, Fu Huizhen, Jiang Rui. c. 111 min.
- 6:00 Under the Bridge. 1984. Bai Chen. With Gong Xue, Zhang Tielin, Yin Xin. 117 min.
- April 20 2:00 Under the Bridge.
- 5:00 Family.
- April 21 2:00 The In-Laws. 1983. Zhao Huanzhang. With Wang Shuquin, Wang Yumei, Wen Yujuan. 103 min.
- 5:00 Regret for the Past. (Remorse) 1981. Zhang Shuihua. With Wang Xingang, Lin Ying. 107 min.
- April 22 2:30 Adventures of a Wanderer (Strange Encounters). 1984. Yu Benzhen. With Wang Shihuai, Xue Shujie, Li Wei. 90 min.
- 6:00 The In-Laws.
- April 23 2:30 Regret for the Past.
- 6:00 Adventures of a Wanderer.

All screenings will be held in the Roy and Niuta Titus Theater 1.

Tickets are given out on a first-come, first-served basis and are free with Museum admission: \$4.50 for adults, \$3.00 for students, \$2.00 for senior citizens. For daily program information, please call (212) 708-9752.

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