

The Museum of Modern Art Department of Film

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRESS SCREENINGS:
May 13, 15, 16.
Please see below.

MoMA TO OFFER XIE JIN, FIRST U.S. RETRO-
SPECTIVE OF A CHINESE DIRECTOR

Beginning May 31, the Department of Film will present an exhibition devoted to the work of Xie Jin, ranging from films made before the Cultural Revolution to his most recent motion pictures. The series, which will run through June 16 in the Museum's Roy and Niuta Titus Theater 2, is the first retrospective ever mounted in the United States of a director from the People's Republic of China.

Born in Shaoxing in 1923, Xie Jin was deeply influenced by the work of the Shanghai Studio filmmakers of the 1930s, especially Yuan Muzhi and Cai Chusheng. He entered the Jiang'an School of Dramatic Arts in Szechuan; one of his teachers, Zhang Junxiang, later brought him along when he went to work at the Datong Studios right before the final victory of the People's Liberation Army.

From his very first films, Xie Jin established the major themes and cinematic style that would distinguish his work. The tragedy--or the glory--of an individual is always presented within the context of the victories or defeats of a group or the nation as a whole. The silent suffering of the basketball coach in Woman Basketball Player No. 5 takes on a remarkable poignancy when juxtaposed with his dedication to his young players; the underlying selfishness of the protagonist's thirst for revenge in The Red Detachment of Women is exposed when it puts the women's unit in jeopardy. Yet Xie Jin's films have little in common with the socialist realism that pervaded so much of the post-1949 Chinese cinema. Xie's negative characters are sensitively depicted and richly nuanced; their "villainy" usually is attributed to some all-too-human frailty rather than ideological subversion.

Partly because of his sympathetic portrayals of even negative characters, Xie Jin was denounced soon after the start of the Cultural Revolution, and several of his films were banned. He was allowed to resume work in the early 1970s. Several of his films since his rehabilitation, such as The Legend of Tianyun Mountain and The Herdsman, speak directly to the experience of being purged, yet the films go

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beyond unalloyed bitterness. Rather, they celebrate the traditional communitarian values of the Chinese, which have allowed them to bear even the most oppressive hardships; this theme is even given historical focus in Xie's stirring portrait of an important Chinese feminist, Qiu Jin.

With the current discovery of his work by Western critics and historians, Xie Jin also should take his place among the cinema's greatest directors of actresses. Many of his films have female protagonists or specifically address women's issues. There is also an emphasis on showing women working--as actresses in Two Stage Sisters, in the military in Ah, Cradle, in medicine in Youth.

XIE JIN was organized by The Film Center of the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, in collaboration with the Film Bureau of the Ministry of Culture in Beijing. The Department of Film expresses its thanks to Richard Peña of The Film Center, Chicago, Li Weihe of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Washington, D.C., Janet Yang of World Entertainment, and Dr. Leo Ou-Fan Lee for their help in arranging this series.

For further information, the public may call (212) 708-9500. For a recorded announcement of the day's screenings: (212) 708-9490.

COMPLETE SCHEDULE IS ATTACHED

May 1985

SCHEDULE OF PRESS SCREENINGS:

Mon. 5/13	10:00 a.m.	<u>Big Li, Young Li and Old Li.</u>	1962.	87 min.
Wed. 5/15	10:00 a.m.	<u>The Herdsman.</u>	1982.	106 min.
Thu. 5/16	10:00 a.m.	<u>The Wreaths at the Foot of the Mountain.</u>	1984.	158 min.

Press screenings will be held in the Museum's 5th Floor Screening Room.
R.S.V.P.: Stuart Klawans (212) 708-9752

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--XIE JIN

May 31 - June 16, 1985

The Roy and Niuta Titus Theater 2

- Fri. 5/31
 - 3:00 Woman Basketball Player No. 5 (Nulan Wuhao). 1957. Xie Jin. With Liu Qiong, Cao Qiwei, Qin Yi. In Mandarin with English subtitles. 93 min.
 - 6:30 The Red Detachment of Women (Hongse Niangzijun). 1960. Xie Jin. With Zhu Xijuan, Wang Xingang. In Mandarin with English subtitles. 115 min.
- Sat. 6/1
 - 2:30 Big Li, Young Li and Old Li (Da Li, Xiao Li he Lao Li). 1962. Xie Jin. With Liu Xiasheng, Yao Debing, Fan Haha. In Mandarin with English subtitles. 87 min.
 - 5:30 Two Stage Sisters (Wutai Jiemei). 1964. Xie Jin. With Xie Fang, Cao Yindi, Feng Ji. In Mandarin with English subtitles. 114 min.
- Sun. 6/2
 - 2:30 Qiu Jin: A Revolutionary. 1983. Xie Jin. With Li Xiuming, Li Zhiyu, Chen Xiguang, Zhang Chao. In Mandarin with English subtitles. 144 min.
 - 5:30 The Red Detachment of Women.
- Fri. 6/7
 - 3:00 Youth (Qingchun). 1977. Xie Jin. With Chen Chung, Yu Ping. In Mandarin with English subtitles. 113 min.
 - 6:30 Qiu Jin: A Revolutionary.
- Sat. 6/8
 - 2:30 The Legend of Tianyun Mountain (Tianyunshan Chuangqi). 1981. Xie Jin. With Shi Weijian, Wang Fuli, Shi Jianlan. In Mandarin with English subtitles. 127 min.
 - 5:30 Woman Basketball Player No. 5.
- Sun. 6/9
 - 2:30 Two Stage Sisters.
 - 5:30 The Herdsman (Mumaren). 1982. Xie Jin. With Cong Shan. In Mandarin with English subtitles. 106 min.
- Mon. 6/10
 - 3:00 Ah, Cradle (A, Yaolan). 1980. Xie Jin. With Zhu Xijuan, Zhang Yongshou, Yang La. In Mandarin with English subtitles. 95 min.
 - 6:30 Big Li, Young Li and Old Li.
- Fri. 6/14
 - 3:00 The Wreaths at the Foot of the Mountain (Gao Shan Xia de Hua Huan). 1984. Xie Jin. With Lu Xiaohe, Tang Quoqiang, He Wei. In Mandarin with English subtitles. 158 min.

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Fri. 6/14 6:30 Ah, Cradle.
Sat. 6/15 2:30 The Herdsman.
 5:30 Youth.
Sun. 6/16 2:30 The Legend of Tianyun Mountain.
 5:30 The Wreaths at the Foot of the Mountain.

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