

international film series

Yamada Language Center

Fall 1997



October 7

On the Beat

China

Not your quintessential “cop” movie, this film shows real policeman going about their real routine. Instead of an explosion that destroys a city block, the movie opens with a long shot of two cops -- a veteran and a rookie -- bicycling through the city streets, while the veteran tells the rookie about his new beat. **Ning Ying, dir. 1995.**

October 14

Burnt by the Sun

Russia

This brilliant film describes one day in the life of a privileged family in the new Soviet Russia on a lazy Sunday in the summer of 1936, just weeks before the first of the infamous Moscow Trials broke on a stunned world. Sergei Kotov, a Red Army officer, hero of the Civil War and a pillar of the Soviet regime, is the central character. **Nikita Mikhalkov, dir. 1995**

October 21

Akira Kurosawa's Dreams

Japan

DODES'KA-DEN is based on The Town Without Seasons, a collection of short stories by Shugoro Yamamoto. Kurosawa illuminates the grim world of Tokyo slum dwellers who, to escape their painful, poverty-filled lives, escape into illusions. **Akira Kurosawa, dir. 1990.**

October 28

Indochine

France

Set in French-occupied Vietnam, *Indochine* is a historically accurate chronicle of the Communist uprising which led to France's withdrawal and eventually the United States' involvement in the region. Stars Catherine Deneuve. **Regis Wargnier, dir. 1992.**

November 4

The Return

Vietnam

This Vietnamese film depicts a triangular relationship between two Vietnamese men and a woman. The central theme of the film is the disastrous impact the market economy can have on human relationships. **Dang Nhat Minh, dir.**

November 11

Dragon Chow

Germany

Dragon Chow tells the story of Asian political refugees living on the edge of deportation in the land of economic miracles, West Germany. The film's hero Shezad, a gentle but resourceful Pakistani, lands a job at a second-rate Chinese restaurant, where he befriends an Oriental waiter named Xiao. Together they attempt to storm the citadel of Western capitalism by opening a restaurant of their own. In German, Urdu and Mandarin. **Jan Schutte, dir. 1987**

November 18

The Elephant Keeper

Thailand

The Elephant Keeper is a popular Thai feature film which deals with the complex interface among the issues of deforestation and environmental degradation; the relationship between animals and tropical forests; and bureaucratic pathology. The film provides a caustic critique of development gone astray. In Thai.

All films shown Tuesday evenings from 7:00 to 9:00 pm in the Yamada Language Center Lounge (PAC 122).

Films are in the native language with English subtitles.

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