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

October 28  Indochine  France

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.