

**Rickshaw Boy** (DVD-foreign-MAN-R)

Zifeng Ling, Director, China, 1982, Mandarin, 123 min.

Based on the famous novel by Lao She, Rickshaw Boy tells of a hard-working peasant who tries to make his way in the city. He struggles to establish a business and falls in love.

**Suzhou River** (DVD-foreign-MAN-S)

Ye Lou, Director, Germany/China, 2000, Mandarin, 83 min.

This film noir is a tragic love story set in contemporary Shanghai. The film, though distinct, is typical of “6<sup>th</sup> generation” Chinese filmmakers in its subject matter of contemporary China’s gritty urban lifestyle.

**To Live** (DVD-foreign-MAN-T)

Yimou Zhang, Director, Hong Kong, 1994, Mandarin, 125 min.

A Chinese couple endure tumultuous events as their personal fortunes move from wealthy landownership to peasantry. The husband loses everything and is pressed into Army service while his wife is forced into menial labor. They raise a family and survive from the 40’s through the 70’s.

**The Wooden Man’s Bride** (DVD-foreign-MAN-W)

Jianxin Huang, Director, China, 1994, Mandarin, 113 min.

A woman is compelled to marry a wooden image of her dead fiance while carrying on a forbidden affair with a young peasant.

**The World** (DVD-foreign-MAN-W)

Zhang Ke Jia, Director, China, 2004, Mandarin, 143 min.

“The World” is a theme park on the outskirts of Beijing, designed around scaled representations of the world’s famous landmarks such as the Eiffel Tower and the Leaning Tower of Pisa. The site is seen here not from the visitors’ point of view but through the eyes of a few of its staff who perform beautifully for the tourists even though they are lonely and disillusioned and living lives that are dull and restricted.

**Yi Yi (A One and a Two)** (DVD-foreign-MAN-Y)

Edward Yang, Director, Taiwan, 2000, Mandarin, 173 min.

This story follows the individual lives of the Jian family. Due to many circumstances, the entire family will have to re-evaluate who they are and what their lives have become.

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# COMMON GROUND: Movies from China

**Russell Library**  
Middletown, Connecticut

**Autumn Moon** (DVD-foreign-CAN-A)

Clara Law, Director, Hong Kong, 1992, Cantonese, 108 min.

A Chinese teenager invites a young man for a home cooked meal prepared by her grandmother. As their friendship develops, so do the relationships between generations and traditional Hong Kong society.

**Exiled** (DVD-foreign-CAN-E)

Johnnie To, Director, Hong Kong, 2006, Cantonese, 110 min.

Every person in Macau in 1998 is anxious to make easy money before the Portuguese colony ushers in a new era of Chinese rule. A relationship is formed between an ex-gangster trying to turn over a new leaf and two groups of hitmen: those who want to protect him and those who are sent to kill him.

**Happy Together** (DVD-foreign-CAN-H)

Kar Wai Wong, Director, Hong Kong, 1997, Cantonese/Mandarin, 96 min.

A gay couple leaves Hong Kong for a great waterfall in South America, but are stuck on the streets of Buenos Aires. One life takes on a new spin, while the other life continually shatters.

**Chungking Express** (DVD-foreign-CHI-C)

Kar Wai Wong, Director, Hong Kong, 1994, Cantonese, 102 min.

The movie comprises two different stories, each about a romance involving a policeman. The stories do not interconnect, but the three main characters from the second story appear briefly in the first.

**Devils on the Doorstep** (DVD-foreign-CHI-D)

Wen Jiang, Director, China, 2000, Chinese, 139 min.

Banned in China, this beautifully filmed anti-war epic is set in Japanese-occupied China. A peasant is forced to shelter two prisoners: one who wants to die and his interpreter who wants to live.

**Farewell My Concubine** (DVD-foreign-CHI-F)

Kaige Chen, Director, Hong Kong, 1993, Mandarin, 171 min.

A story that spans more than 50 years in the lives of two men at the Peking Opera, friends since childhood, and the woman who comes between them. The film is an absorbing drama of the period in Chinese history from the warlord era through the Cultural Revolution.

**House of Flying Daggers** (DVD-foreign-CHI-H)

Yimou Zhang, Director, Hong Kong, 2004, Mandarin, 119 min.

During the Tang Dynasty, an army of rebels called "The House of the Flying Daggers" fights against the government military forces. Two captains of the government army plot a scheme against the rebels using a blind dancer to approach their leaders, but their love for her leads them to a tragedy.

**Hero** (DVD-foreign-CHI-H)

Yimou Zhang, Director, Hong Kong, 2002, Mandarin, 99 min.

In ancient China, before the reign of the first emperor, warring factions throughout the Six Kingdoms plot to assassinate the most powerful ruler.

**Mountain Patrol** (DVD-foreign-CHI-M)

Chuan Lu, Director, Hong Kong, 2004, Mandarin, 90 min.

When a Beijing journalist arrives in a remote Tibetan village, he immediately finds himself embedded in a relentless manhunt to capture those responsible for decimating the sacred antelope.

**Shaolin Soccer** (DVD-foreign-CHI-S)

Stephen Chow, Director, Hong Kong, 2001, Mandarin, 87 min.

A Shaolin Kung Fu expert unites with a washed up soccer star to build the ultimate team, combining sportsmanship with martial arts.

**Blue Gate Crossing** (DVD-foreign-CHI-B)

Chih-yen Yee, Director, Taiwan, 2002, Mandarin, 85 min.

This film is an is-she-or-isn't-she gay comedy focused on a Taiwanese teen, the boy she might like, and the girl she may love.

**The Blue Kite** (DVD-foreign-CHI-B)

Zhuangzhuang Tian, Director, Hong Kong, 1993, Mandarin, 140 min.

A young boy observes the difficulties suffered by family and friends during the political and social repression in China in the 1950s and 1960s.

**Curse of the Golden Flower** (DVD-foreign-MAN-C)

Yimou Zhang, Director, Hong Kong, 2006, Mandarin, 114 min.

Set during the late Tang dynasty in the tenth century. This film tells the tale of revenge, redemption, and strife within the Chinese royal family behind the walls of the Forbidden City.

**Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon** (DVD-foreign-MAN-C)

Ang Lee, Director, Taiwan, 2000, Mandarin, 120 min.

In 19<sup>th</sup> century China, two warriors are faced with their greatest challenge when a treasured sword is stolen. A young female aristocrat prepares for an arranged marriage, but soon reveals her superior fighting talents and her past. Each warrior battles justice, facing their worst enemy and enduring love.

**Ju Dou** (DVD-foreign-MAN-J)

Yimou Zhang & Fengliang Yang, Directors, Japan/China, 1990, Mandarin, 95 min.

A woman married to a cruel and infertile mill owner in rural China conceives a boy with her husband's nephew. She is forced to raise and not reveal her son as her husband's heir. This tale of romantic and familial love in the face of unbreakable tradition is more universal than its setting.

**Lust, Caution** (DVD-foreign-MAN-L)

Ang Lee, Director, USA/China, 2007, Mandarin, 157 min.

In Japanese-occupied Shanghai during World War II, a students' drama troupe plans to kill a Japanese-supported official. The shy leading lady of the group, who has the power to convulse the audience, is chosen for the job.

**Platform** (DVD-foreign-MAN-P)

Zhang Ke Jia, Director, Hong Kong, 2000, Mandarin, 154 min.

Set in Shanxi Province, the film is about a group of amateur theatre troupe performers. Beginning in 1979, they perform numbers idolizing Mao Zedong. Ending in the 80's, their show reflects the strong western influences pervading China.

**Please Vote for Me** (Documentary) (DVD-foreign-MAN-P)

Weijun Chen, Director, S. Africa/Denmark, 2007, Mandarin, 58 min.

This film follows the elections for class monitor at a Chinese grammar school and examines how the children take to this exercise in democracy.

**Red Cherry** (DVD-foreign-MAN-R)

Daying Ye, Director, China, 1995, Mandarin, 120 min.

Two children of Communists executed by nationalists in China are sent to a school near Moscow for sanctuary. It is the winter of 1940 and the two are separated by the invading German army.