

TAIWANESE CINEMA REDISCOVERED

NOVEMBER
14-30



文化部

MINISTRY OF CULTURE
REPUBLIC OF CHINA (TAIWAN)

臺灣書院
TAIWAN ACADEMY

AFI Silver
THEATRE and CULTURAL CENTER

Taiwanese Cinema Rediscovered aims to explore the multitude of contributions that Taiwanese voices have made to the global art of film, curated in an annual selection of films ranging from classic genre cinema to the critically acclaimed auteur works of the New Cinema and Second New Wave movements, through to the exciting new works of today. This series of classic and contemporary Taiwanese films aims to provide a wide-ranging sampling of Taiwanese film and culture and to serve as both as an introduction to the cinema of Taiwan for the newcomer, and an invitation to further explore or revisit classic Taiwanese cinema for all film lovers.

This series is made possible by the support of the Ministry of Culture, Republic of China (Taiwan), and Taiwan Academy of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States.



4K Restoration!

DRAGON INN (1967) [龍門客棧]

Sun, Nov. 14, 1:20 p.m.; Mon, Nov. 15, 2:30 p.m., 9:30 p.m.; Tue, Nov. 16, 2:30 p.m., 9:45 p.m.;
Wed, Nov. 17, 2:30 p.m.; Thurs, Nov. 18, 2:30 p.m.

The Chinese wuxia (martial arts) picture was never the same after King Hu's legendary DRAGON INN. During the Ming dynasty, the emperor's minister of defense is framed by a powerful court eunuch and executed, and his family is pursued by the secret police. In the ensuing chase, a mysterious band of strangers begins to gather at the remote Dragon Gate Inn, where paths (and swords) will cross. This thrilling landmark of film history returns to the screen in a new, beautifully restored 4K digital transfer, created from the original negative. DIR/SCR King Hu; PROD L. S. Chang. Taiwan, 1967, color, 111 min. In Mandarin with English subtitles. NOT RATED



DAYS (2020) [日子]

Sun, Nov. 14, 6:45 p.m.

The great Taiwanese filmmaker Tsai Ming-liang has been directing exquisite examinations of alienation, isolation and the fleeting beauty of human connection featuring his muse Lee Kang-sheng for decades. His latest film, DAYS, will undoubtedly stand as one of his best, sparest and most intimate works. Lee once again stars as a variation on himself, wandering through a lonely urban landscape and seeking treatment in Hong Kong for a chronic illness; at the same time, a young Laotian immigrant working in Bangkok goes about his daily routine. These two solitary men eventually come together in a moment of healing, tenderness and sexual release. Among the most cathartic entries in Tsai's filmography, DAYS is a work of longing, constructed with the director's customary brilliance at visual composition and shot through with profound empathy. DIR/SCR Tsai Ming-liang; PROD Claude Wang. Taiwan/France, 2020, color, 127 min. In Mandarin. NOT RATED. NOTE: DAYS features only minimal dialogue, and the filmmaker intentionally chose not to include any subtitles.



DETENTION (2019) [返校] [FǎN XIÀO]

Mon, Nov. 15, 7:10 p.m.; Wed, Nov. 17, 7:10 p.m.

Taiwan, 1962. Martial law in full force on the island. Despite close surveillance by the military police, teacher Mr. Chang runs an underground literary club. One of his club members, Fang, is madly in love with him. Then Chang disappears. One night, Fang wakes up at her desk, but the school has changed. As she wanders through the sinister corridors in search of her teacher, she meets Wei. Together, they must confront the ghosts and deformed monsters that have taken over to find out what happened there. Adapted from the eponymous video game, this masterful debut from John Hsu creates at once a shocking historical drama, a melancholy coming-of-age tale and a nightmarish horror film. DIR/SCR John Hsu; SCR Fu Kai-ling, Chien Shi-keng, based on the video game by Red Candle Games; PROD Lee Lieh, Lee Yao-hua. Taiwan, 2019, color, 105 min. In Mandarin with English subtitles. NOT RATED

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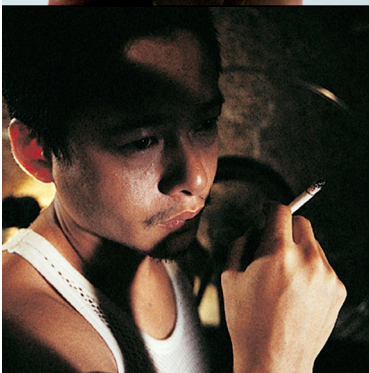


REBELS OF THE NEON GOD

[青少年哪吒] [QING SHAO NIAN NUO ZHA] [GŪLǐNG JĪ SHÀONIÁN SHĀRÉN SHĪJIÀN]

Mon, Nov. 22, 6:45 p.m.; Tue, Nov. 23, 6:45 p.m.

Tsai Ming-liang emerged on the world cinema scene in 1992 with this groundbreaking first feature. The loosely structured plot involves Hsiao-kang, a despondent student, who becomes obsessed with young petty thief Ah-tze, after Ah-tze smashes the side mirror of a taxi driven by Hsiao-kang's father. Hsiao-kang stalks Ah-tze and his buddy Ah-ping as they hang out in the film's iconic arcade and other locales around Taipei, and ultimately takes his revenge. Though showing such diverse influences as the French New Wave, Wong Kar-wai's early films and, yes, *REBEL WITHOUT A CAUSE*, Tsai's film is most remarkable for introducing his startlingly unique vision to world cinema. DIR/SCR Tsai Ming-liang; PROD Jiang Feng-Chyt, Hsu Li-kong. Taiwan, 1992, color, 106 min. In Mandarin and Taiwanese with English subtitles. NOT RATED



GOODBYE, DRAGON INN [不散] [BÚ SÀN]

Tue, Nov. 23, 9:45 p.m.; Wed, Nov. 24, 3:15 p.m., 7:10 p.m.; Thurs, Nov. 25, 9:15 p.m.

The Fu-Ho is shutting down for good and its valedictory screening is King Hu's 1967 wuxia epic *DRAGON INN*. The standard grievances persist: patrons snack noisily and remove their shoes, treating this temple of cinema like their living room. A minimalist where King Hu was a maximalist, preferring long, static shots and sparse use of dialogue, Tsai rises to the narrative challenges he sets for himself and offers the slyest, most delicate of character arcs (the manager, a woman with an iron brace on her leg, embarks on a torturous odyssey to deliver food to the projectionist, played by Lee Kang-sheng). By the time the possibility arises that the theater is haunted, we've already identified it as a space outside of time — indeed, two stars of Hu's original opus, watch their younger selves on screen with tears in their eyes, past and present commingling harmoniously and poignantly. DIR/SCR Tsai Ming-liang; PROD Hung-Chih Liang, Vincent Wang. Taiwan, 2003, color, 82 min. In Mandarin and Taiwanese with English subtitles. NOT RATED



TAIPEI STORY [青梅竹馬] [QNG MÉI ZHÚ Mǎ]

Thurs, Nov. 25, 4:20 p.m.; Mon, Nov. 29, 6:45 p.m.; Tue, Nov. 30, 6:45 p.m.

Edward Yang's second feature is a mournful anatomy of a city caught between the past and the present. Made in collaboration with New Taiwan Cinema master Hou Hsiao-hsien, *TAIPEI STORY* chronicles the growing estrangement between a washed-up baseball player (Hou, in a rare on-screen performance) working in his family's textile business and his girlfriend (pop star Tsai Chin), who clings to the upward mobility of her career in property development. As the couple's dreams of marriage and emigration begin to unravel, Yang's gaze illuminates the precariousness of domestic life and the desperation of Taiwan's globalized modernity. DIR/SCR Edward Yang; SCR Chu T'ien-wen, Hou Hsiao-hsien; PROD Huang Yung, Lin Jung-feng, Liu Sheng-chung. Taiwan, 1985, color, 119 min. In Mandarin and Hokkien with English subtitles. NOT RATED



30th Anniversary! 4K Restoration!

A BRIGHTER SUMMER DAY [牯嶺街少年殺人事件] [GŪLǐNG JĪ SHÀONIÁN SHĀRÉN SHĪJIÀN]

Fri, Nov. 26, 1:15 p.m.; Sun, Nov. 28, 1:15 p.m.

Among the most praised and sought-after titles in all contemporary film is this singular masterpiece of Taiwanese cinema, directed by Edward Yang. Set in early '60s in Taiwan, *A BRIGHTER SUMMER DAY* is based on the true story of a crime that rocked the nation. A film of both sprawling scope and tender intimacy, this novelistic, patiently observed epic centers on the gradual, inexorable fall of a young teenager (Chang Chen, in his first role) from innocence to juvenile delinquency, and is set against a simmering backdrop of restless youth, rock 'n' roll and political turmoil. DIR/SCR Edward Yang; SCR Hung Hung, Lai Ming-tang, Alex Yang; PROD Yu Wei-yen. Taiwan, 1991, color, 237 min. In Mandarin, Shanghaiese and Taiwanese with English subtitles. NOT RATED



YI YI (A ONE AND A TWO . . .) [一一]

Sat, Nov. 27, 2:00 p.m.

The extraordinary, internationally embraced *YI YI*, directed by the late Taiwanese master Edward Yang (*TAIPEI STORY*), follows a middleclass family in Taipei over the course of one year, beginning with a wedding and ending with a funeral. Whether chronicling middleaged father N.J.'s tentative flirtations with an old flame or precocious young son Yang-Yang's attempts at capturing reality with his beloved camera, the filmmaker deftly imbues every gorgeous frame with a compassionate clarity. Warm, sprawling and dazzling, this intimate epic is one of the undisputed masterworks of the new century. DIR/SCR Edward Yang; PROD Shin'ya Kawai. Taiwan/Japan, 2000, color, 173 min. In English, Mandarin, Taiwanese and Japanese with English subtitles. NOT RATED