

KU Center for East Asian Studies

NewsNotes

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Not Your Mother's Asia! The East Asian Film Festival 2005

by Randi Hacker, Outreach Coordinator & Film Festival Coordinator

The films offered at this year's East Asian Film Festival present a view of Asia that reflects that of a new generation of filmmakers, a generation that has brought Asian cinema to the cutting edge of moviemaking.

Rather than assign an overall theme, the festival has three mini-themes, one for each of the countries represented by this Center: Japan, China and Korea.

The festival kicks off with Japan. The theme: Starring Tokyo, the Eastern Capital. We are showing three films – two Japanese and one American: **Tokyo Godfathers**, an anime tale of loss and redemption in which three homeless people try to find the mother of an abandoned child, **Bright Future**, a horror film of a new genre that exploits the creepiness of the commonplace, and **Lost in Translation** (Yes, that one!). They all take place in the contemporary Eastern Capital. The mini-theme will be further explored in a pre-film discussion led by Michael Baskett, Assistant Professor of Film here at KU. He will talk about the portrayal of Tokyo in Japanese film and point out some sights to look for while watching. The films of "Starring: Tokyo" are shown in conjunction with the Spencer Museum of Art exhibit "*Tokyo: The Imperial Capital, Woodblock prints by Koizumi Koisho, 1928-1940*" which begins on February 5.

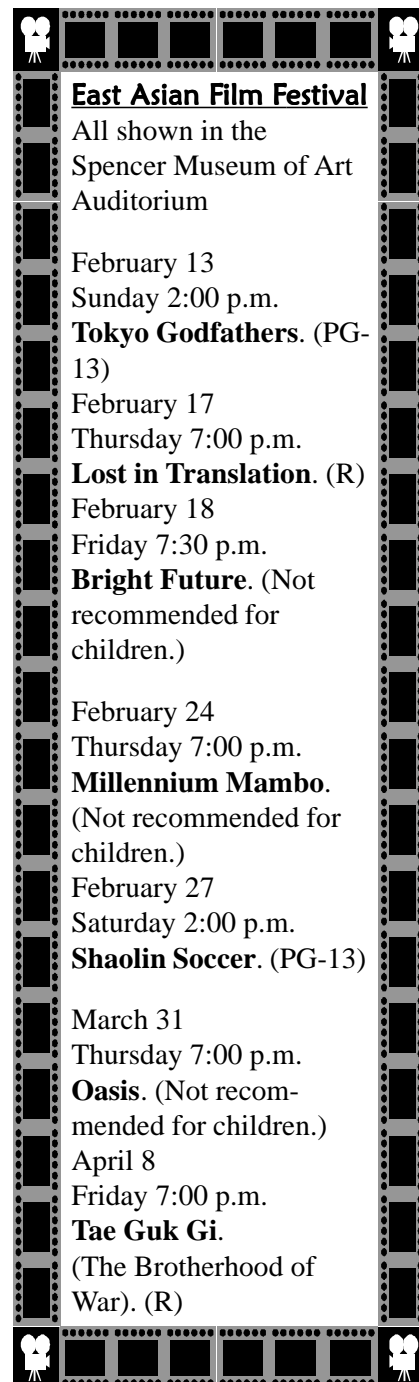
Two films from China and Taiwan are linked by the theme "Generation X." **Millennium Mambo** tells the story of a Taiwanese party girl, the clubs she attends, and the music she lives by. In the Chinese film **Shaolin Soccer**, martial arts meet football.

And finally, from Korea, we have two very different and provocative films, **Oasis** and **Tae Guk Gi**, *The Brotherhood of War*, that explore two timeless human passions: love and war: sometimes they're more alike than we might like to admit. **Oasis** is a love story unlike any you've ever seen: a man falls in love with a woman who is the daughter of a man he killed some years earlier. The second film, **Tae Guk Gi**, is a tale of brotherly devotion and sacrifice set during the Korean War and is shown in conjunction with the dedication of the Korean War Memorial here at KU on April 16.

All films are FREE and shown in the Spencer Museum of Art Auditorium. Check our website for dates and times.

If you would like to read reviews of these movies, please visit www.metacritic.com where you can type in the name of the movie you would like to read about.

Hope to see you at some if not all of the movies.



East Asian Film Festival
All shown in the Spencer Museum of Art Auditorium

February 13
Sunday 2:00 p.m.
Tokyo Godfathers. (PG-13)

February 17
Thursday 7:00 p.m.
Lost in Translation. (R)

February 18
Friday 7:30 p.m.
Bright Future. (Not recommended for children.)

February 24
Thursday 7:00 p.m.
Millennium Mambo. (Not recommended for children.)

February 27
Saturday 2:00 p.m.
Shaolin Soccer. (PG-13)

March 31
Thursday 7:00 p.m.
Oasis. (Not recommended for children.)

April 8
Friday 7:00 p.m.
Tae Guk Gi. (The Brotherhood of War). (R)



Exciting New Website From CEAS:

The Center for East Asian Studies, together with the Center for Russian and East European Studies, have launched a website about Silk Road resources at KU. This website provides information about KU courses, library resources, faculty, and other information to help you if you are seeking information from China, Central Asia, or the Caucasus. It is all available at www.silkroad.ku.edu.

Two Japanese Art Exhibits To Open at the Spencer Museum of Art

Tokyo: The Imperial Capital Woodblock prints by Koizumi Kishio, 1928-1940

February 5—March 20, 2005

Kress Gallery

The exhibition, organized by The Wolfsonian-Florida International University in Miami Beach, Florida, depicts a period in Japanese art history that has received little scholarly attention. Consisting of sixty-four prints from Koizumi Kishio's (1893-1945) series *One Hundred Pictures of Great Tokyo in the Showa Era* (Showa Dai Tokyo Hyakuzue), it provides audiences with an opportunity to explore the rebirth of Tokyo in the years following the Great Kanto Earthquake of 1923.

Koizumi was involved in a new printmaking movement that emerged in the early years of the twentieth century. The movement was known as *sosaku-hanga*, or

“creative printmaking.” It was unlike the classic ukiyo-e prints of earlier times, which were produced by a team of specialists - designers, engravers, printers, etc.

The artists in this movement conceived and produced their own prints, from initial sketches to block carving to impressing paper onto the pigment-loaded blocks. Emulating contemporary European artist-printmakers, they understood the entire process as a means of individual expression.

The SMA will contribute with some prints in its collection to follow on the topic of series of the capital, former Edo, as well as of other contemporary printmakers.

Tradition and Modernity: Japanese Art of the Early Twentieth Century

January 22—May 22, 2005

Asian Gallery

In the early decades of the twentieth

century, Japan experienced many changes. During the first decades of the century, in the Meiji period (1868-1912), the country rapidly adopted Western models of education, politics and industrialization, and emerged as a more modern society after a long period of international isolation. Later, in the Taisho (1912- 26) and early Showa (1926-1989) periods, modernization was no longer simply the product of Western imitation, as the country rapidly became an international, industrial and urban society in its own right. Throughout these decades, complex tensions emerged between the desire to retain traditional cultural values and the desire to be a modern society. The complexity of early twentieth century Japanese society is revealed in its art, which selectively incorporates traditional and more modern modes of creation in a variety of formats, mediums, themes, and styles. Western art techniques, a flourishing export market, and a search for a new national identity that combined both tradition and modernity were some of the factors that shaped early twentieth century Japanese art.

This selection of works from the Spencer's collection broadly illustrates Japan's changing social climate of the early twentieth century and hopes to reveal the dynamic character of this period.



You Look Mah-velous! Accessorizing in Asia and Eastern Europe

From headwear to footgear, bones to beads, silk to leather, earrings to piercings, accessorizing is as universal as language.

Visit the exhibit sponsored by the Center for East Asian Studies and the Center for Russian and Eastern European Studies.

Watson Library, Third Floor
January 18 - February 14, 2005.

New Faculty Profile: Anne Choi

Ann Soon Choi is a new Assistant Professor of American Studies at KU. She received her Ph.D. in history from the University of Southern California and recently was the Mellon Post-doctoral Fellow in the Department of History at Swarthmore College. She also holds an M.A. in history from the University of Massachusetts and a B.A. in American History and East Asian Studies from Indiana University. She speaks Korean.

Choi's research centers on Koreans and Korean Americans in the early 20th century, and more broadly includes explorations of American empire, the global circulation of political ideology, transnational cultural and political formations, Asian American history, comparative U.S. ethnic history, and diaspora studies. Choi's dissertation focused on Korean nationalism in the United States from 1919 to 1945. She has written about the Korean Independence movement in Los Angeles, and about Korean immigrants before and during World War II.

Here at KU, Choi teaches courses on the United States in global context, American peoples, and research methods. She plans to teach courses on Asian diaspora, the Asian-American experience in the 20th century, and on kung fu movies.

Choi enjoys working with undergraduates, particularly freshmen, and lives in Ellsworth Hall among the students as a faculty partner. She enjoys kung fu films, is a potter, and plays badminton.



Jie Han and Yong Bai join CEAS from the Civil, Environmental, & Architectural Engineering Department

The Civil, Environmental, & Architectural Engineering Department is home to two new CEAS affiliates.

Jie Han joined the department this year as an Associate Professor. He does research on soil improvement and use of stone columns. Much of his research has centered on these issues in China, and he was a member of the Chinese Ground Improvement Committee from 1989-1997. Currently, Han is collaborating with Saga University in Japan on a project about reinforcement-drainage synthetics. This project has been funded by the National Science Foundation.

Han holds a B.S. and M.S. in Civil Engineering from Tongji University, Shanghai, and a Ph.D. and

M.S. in Civil Engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology.

Yong Bai joined the CEAE department as an Assistant Professor in 2003, but is a new member of the Center for East Asian Studies. His expertise is in highway construction safety. Bai holds a B. Eng. from Tsinghua University, Beijing, an M.S. CE from Clemson, and a Ph.D. in Civil Engineering from North Carolina State University. At right, Jie Han (top) and Yong Bai, civil engineering professors new to CEAS



Summer Opportunity in Japan: Japan - America Student Conference

The JASC is open to undergraduate and graduate students. This opportunity to travel to Japan from July 23 – August 23, 2005 will include visits to Tokyo, Okinawa, Hiroshima, and Kyoto. The JASC is an excellent opportunity for a KU student to learn more about Japan and to interact with students from Japan. The cost is \$2,000, but that includes airfare from San Francisco to Japan, and all travel, housing, and food for the entire conference. Information about the conference is available at www.jasc.org. You can get an application from the web, or pick one up at 201 Bailey Hall. We are asking that applications be turned in to CEAS by **February 4, 2005**. KU will nominate a student to attend. We will assist that student in finding partial internal financial support for the JASC participation fee.



Join us as we celebrate the Lunar New Year!

We invite all of you to share in the fun as we celebrate Chinese and Korean New Year traditions!

We start the year of the rooster with dumpling making from

2:00 - 4:00.

Come and learn

how to make

Chinese dumplings!

From 4:00 - 6:00,

we will have entertainment, food and fun!

All of the events take place at Ecumenical Christian Ministries, 1204 Oread.

Everyone is welcome to come and to enjoy the festivities!

Happy New Year!



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