

Modern Chinese through Film

Place: Cornwall Public Library www.cornwallpubliclibrary.org ♦ 845-534-8282

Speaker: Dr. Lan Jiang, Vice President of OCCA

Description This seminar will explore 20th century China through its cinematic representation by Chinese who lived through or reflected back on the tumultuous and tragic events of their revolutionary history. The century will be divided into three basic periods, and look at the May Fourth and Republican era (1919-1949), the Maoist era (1949-1978), and the Reform era (1979-present), with prominent films and short literary works keyed to each era. Audience discussions will focus on cultural aspects of dialogue in the film, and the Chinese representations of cultural, social, and political change.

The seminar objectives are:

- 1) To acquaint audience with real-life communication of modern China.
- 2) To enhance understanding of the dramatic impact of 20th century Chinese history on people's lives, thinking, modes of expression, and artistic conceptualization.
- 3) To enrich appreciation and critical understanding of the place of modern Chinese history and cultural expression in modern global history and culture.

** The seminars will be conducted in English. All movies have English subtitles.

A War-torn China Film Date: 11-Nov-2015 Wednesday @ 5:30pm

Film: ["the Children of Huang Shi" \(黄石的孩子\)](#), dir. Roger Spottiswoode, 2009

Topics: [catastrophic, surviving and the way humans are meant to live: 1931-1945](#)

History and Identity as Image Film Date: 09-Dec-2015 Wednesday @ 5:30pm

Film: ["To Live" \(活着\)](#), dir. Zhang Yimou, 1994

Topics: [Social Class, Gender and Vitality: 1946-1974](#)

The Mao's Cultural Revolution Film Date: 27-Jan-2016 Wednesday @ 5:30pm

Film: ["Balzac and the Little Chinese Seamstress" \(巴尔扎克和小裁缝\)](#) Dir. Sijie Dai, 2005

Topics: [Class Struggle, Gender, and the State: 1966-1976](#)

Deng's China Film Date: 24-Feb-2016 Wednesday @ 5:30pm

Film: ["Everlasting Regret" \(长恨歌\)](#), Dir. Stanley Kwan, 2006

Topics: [Critiquing Modernity and the Notion of Post-Socialism: 1947-1982](#)

Deng's China Film Date: 23-Mar-2016 Wednesday @ 5:30pm

Film: ["Chinese Box" \(情人匣子\)](#), Dir. Wayne Wang, 1997

Topics: [Hong Kong: the 1997 Handover](#)

Chinese-American Film Date: 20-Apr-2016 Wednesday @ 5:30pm

Film: ["The Joy Luck Club" \(喜福会\)](#), Dir. Wayne Wang, 2002

Topics: [Chinese Americans: Cultural Transplant and Identity Search](#)