Please note: Additional in-person filmmaker appearances to be announced.

Saturday, October 13   7:30 pm  @ UCLA FTV Archive
North American Premiere
LACUNA  2012
醉后一夜

A Hong Kong boy and a Mainland girl wake up in each other’s arms in the bedding section of a Beijing department store – without any idea of how they got there. Snatches of a night of drunken revelry and missing money propel them on a mad dash all around town to try to reconstruct what happened. Will romance blossom while they chase down clues and juggle flashbacks, menacing strangers and an unexpected “pet”?
HDCAM, color, Putonghua w/ English s/t, 96 min.

Preceded by
West Coast Premiere
SHANGHAI STRANGERS  2012
非典情人

Christmas eve. A woman meets a foreigner. Memories spark of love born of another brief encounter – between a recent Shanghai riven by SARS and the city’s forgotten Jewish past.
HDCAM, color, Putonghua and English w/ English s/t, 24 min.

Sunday, October 14   7:00 pm @ UCLA FTV Archive
North American Premiere
ALL APOLOGIES  2012
爱的替身

The death of a child tragically binds two couples in its wake: construction foreman Yonggui and his wife Yun Zhen, and Yonggui’s former driver who runs a tiny grocery with his wife, Qiaoyu. Convinced that a life is “owed” to him, Yonggui feels entitled to take what he wants, while Qiaoyu believes it is her duty to “pay” for her husband’s mistake.
HDCAM, color, Putonghua w/ English s/t, 90 min.

Monday, October 15   8:00 pm @ Pomona
International Premiere (TBC)
LAST DAYS  2012
DIR/SCR: Cui Zi’en.

Longtime Chinese queer film director Cui Zi’en returns to his narrative and lyrical roots in LAST DAYS, a surreal tale of love, lust and transformation.
Digital video, Putonghua w/ English s/t, 90 min.
Preceded by
North American Premiere (TBC)
OUR STORY: 10 YEARS OF GUERRILLA WARFARE OF THE BEIJING QUEER FILM FESTIVAL
2012
我们的故事
DIR: Yang Yang. PROD: Beijing Queer Film Festival Organizing Committee.
Female documentarian and festival organizer Yang Yang’s film follows the peregrinations of the Beijing Queer Film Festival, unable across a decade to find a regular home. An atlas of Beijing alternative screening venues, OUR STORY is a document of homophobia and of queer maneuvering against normative power.
Digital video, Putonghua w/ English s/t, 42 min.
In person: director Cui Zi’en

Wednesday, October 17   7:30 pm @ the Academy
West Coast Premiere
THE MONKEY KING: UPROAR IN HEAVEN 3D  2012 / 1961-1964
大闹天宫 3D
A beloved classic of Chinese animation, Wan Laiming and Tang Cheng’s 1960’s animated feature returns to theaters after a painstaking and dazzling 3D makeover led by experts at Los Angeles-based Technicolor (Pierre Routhier and Tom Burton). One of the most famous characters in Chinese mythology, the mischievous Monkey King leaves chaos in his wake from the Dragon King’s palace to the heavenly halls of the Celestial Emperor. Set to a blended Beijing opera-orchestral soundtrack, the film casts an enchanting spell.
3D DCP, color, Putonghua w/ English s/t, 92 min.
Preceded by
Presentation on the digital restoration and 3D conversion of THE MONKEY KING by Tom Burton and Pierre Routhier of Technicolor.

Friday, October 19   7:30 pm @ UCLA FTV Archive
THE RED DETACHMENT OF WOMEN  1970
红色娘子军
DIR: Fu Jie, Pan Wenzhan. CAST: Liu Qingtang, Xue Jinghua, Song Chen.
The tumultuous Cultural Revolution, remembered now as a dark period of political violence in China, also saw the creation of of the yangbanxi (revolutionary model dramas). In this iconic ballet film, the heroine escapes from an evil landlord and becomes the leader of a women’s militia – while guided by a Communist Party cadre. Courtesy of the China Film Archive, this is the first officially approved screening of the film in the US. The presentation also marks the 40th anniversary of President Nixon’s visit to China in 1972.
35mm, color, 105 min.
Post-screening panel discussion moderated by UCLA professor Robert Chi; with Beijing opera master and former yangbanxi performer Qi Shufang, theater director Peter Sellars, and Director of UCLA’s
BEIJING FLICKERS POP-UP EXHIBITION

In 2010, a photography commission prompted filmmaker Zhang Yuan to tweet a casting call to young Beijingers for a new work that would be an update on BEIJING BASTARDS (1993), his landmark Sixth Generation film about the artistic underground in 1990s China. Of the 200 people who responded, 11 were chosen. The still and video portraits of the chosen 11, photographed over a Beijing winter, debuted in an exhibition called Unspoiled Brats later that year. The stories these young people told of their struggles and dreams, and life in the margins of China’s mega-capital subsequently became the basis for Zhang Yuan’s new film.

The COB is proud to present for the first time anywhere the complete new work by Zhang Yuan that he has since renamed BEIJING FLICKERS. The Chinatown Business Improvement District has converted two storefronts in Chinatown’s Mandarin Plaza into a pop-up gallery just for the exhibition. Los Angeles gallerist Lois Lambert guest curates the pop-up exhibition. The namesake film will screen on October 23 at REDCAT (see program listing below).

Opening reception with filmmaker Zhang Yuan starts at 4:00 pm on Saturday, October 20.

Pop-up gallery hours: Tuesday-Saturday 10:00 am-6:00 pm, Sunday 12:00-5:00 pm; closed on Monday.

Saturday, October 20   7:30 pm @ UCLA FTV Archive
US Premiere
SAUNA ON MOON  2011
嫦娥

Zou Peng’s captivating second feature witnesses several years in the life of a boisterous sauna/brothel in the Southern Chinese province of Guangdong. The film is fascinating in its kaleidoscopic intricacy, but never sensational in its matter-of-fact rehearsal of power relations between the women who populate the brothel and the brothel manager, who pursues a dream of creating an unrivaled pleasure palace for local “special guests.”
35mm, color, Putonghua w/ English s/t, 93 min.

Preceded by
North American Premiere
THE PEOPLE’S SECRETARY  2010

Installation artist Zhang Qing employs the ubiquity of CCTV cameras to amplify a cheeky satire, with multiple video feeds bearing witness to the super-human good works of a party secretary, recounted in a style that echoes Chinese TV of the 1980s.
DVD, color, 18 min.

Sunday, October 21   4:00 pm @ UCLA FTV Archive
US Premiere
ARE WE REALLY SO FAR FROM THE MADHOUSE?  2010
我们离疯人院有多远
Li Hongqi followed his critically acclaimed fiction feature WINTER VACATION (2010) with this, his first documentary, a film as mesmerizing and unsettling as his fiction work – even as it’s harder to pin down. Joining China’s art rockers P.K. 14 on their first national tour, Li renders standard concert film footage utterly absorbing through rigorous formal experimentation, including an asynchronous soundtrack.

HDCAM, color, Putonghua w/ English s/t, 87 min.

Monday, October 22   8:30 pm @ REDCAT
International Restoration Premiere
ANIMATED, GOLDEN AND RESTORED   1934-1980
黄金时代的修复版动画片

This selection of animated shorts digitally restored by the China Film Archive offers a rare glimpse of the luminous output of Shanghai animators during the 1950s-'60s and late 1970s-'80s, often considered the twin Golden Ages of Chinese animation. Featured are vibrant paper-cut animation by one of the pioneering Wan brothers, ink-wash masterpieces by ASIFA lifetime achievement honoree Te Wei, A Da’s playful modernism, and as a bonus, China’s earliest extant animation (showing Disney and Fleischer influences to boot).

THE MOUSE AND THE FROG   1934
鼠与蛙
PROD: Wan Brothers
HDCAM, b/w, silent w/ English s/t, 15 min.

PIGSY EATS WATERMELON   1958
猪八戒吃西瓜
DIR: Wan Guchan
HDCAM, color, Putonghua w/ English s/t, 20 min.

LITTLE TADPOLES LOOK FOR THEIR MOTHER   1960
小蝌蚪找妈妈
DIR: Te Wei, Tang Cheng / Shanghai Animation Film Studio
HDCAM, color, Putonghua w/ English s/t, 10 min.

THE COWHERD'S FLUTE   1963
牧笛
DIR: Te Wei, Qian Jiajun
HDCAM, color, 20 min.

THREE MONKS   1980
三个和尚
DIR: A Da
HDCAM, color, 20 min.

TRT: 85 min.
Tuesday, October 23  8:30 pm @ REDCAT

US Premiere

BEIJING FLICKERS  2012

有种

DIR/PROD: Zhang Yuan. SCR: Zhang Yuan, Kong Ergou, Li Xinyun, Yang Yishu. CAST: Duan Bowen, Lv Yulai, Shi Shi, Li Xinyun, Han Wenwen.

With BEIJING FLICKERS, Sixth Generation auteur Zhang Yuan artfully mixes documentary and fiction to delve into youth subculture in a society changing at full blast. Zhang captures the vulnerability, but also the energy and romanticism of the new “lost generation” bypassed by China’s entry into the globalized market economy. (A pop-up exhibition of the photography that inspired the film runs October 20-28 at Chinatown’s Mandarin Plaza; see the program listing above.)

HDCAM, color, Putonghua w/ English s/t, 96 min.

Preceded by

West Coast Premiere

SOME ACTIONS WHICH HAVEN'T BEEN DEFINED YET IN THE REVOLUTION  2011

一场革命中还未来得及定义的行为

DIR/PROD/SCR: Sun Xun.

Animated using woodblock prints, SOME ACTIONS uses pulsating, hallucinatory imagery to evoke a Kafkaesque atmosphere of grotesquery, anxiety and vague ideological constrictions.

HDCAM, color, 13 min.

In person: Zhang Yuan, Li Xinyun (schedules permitting)

Friday, October 26   7:30 pm @ UCLA FTV Archive

North American Premiere

DOUBLE XPOSURE  2012

二次曝光


This stylish and briskly paced psychological thriller by one of China’s leading female directors plumbs thriller staples of dualities and doubling to a clincher of an ending. Chinese superstar Fan Bingbing impresses as a young urbanite whose façade of certainties and comforts violently splinters when she succumbs to an act of voyeurism. Joan Chen in a supporting role adds a delicious frisson to the mix.

35mm, color, Putonghua w/ English s/t, 105 min.

In person: Li Yu and Fang Li (schedules permitting)

Saturday, October 27   4:00 pm @ UCLA FTV Archive

US Premiere

THREE SISTERS  2012

三姊妹


Acclaimed documentarian Wang Bing observes the lives of three young sisters (aged ten, six and four), left to fend for themselves in a remote village in the Yunnan highlands. Their mother is gone, and their father works in a town far away. Despite their hard life and constant toil, the little girls are playful and affectionate towards each other… until one day when their father comes home.

Blu-Ray, color, Yunnan dialect w/ English s/t, 153 min.
Saturday, October 27  7:30 pm @ UCLA FTV Archive
US Premiere
THE DITCH  2010
夹边沟

In his first dramatic feature, director Wang Bing vividly recreates the brutal conditions at a Gobi Desert labor camp where some 3,000 intellectuals were sent in the late 1950s. Digging the eponymous ditch, the prisoners seem resigned to death until a woman appears, searching for her husband, inspiring some to plot an escape. Emphasizing sensory details, THE DITCH is a visceral experience about a rarely discussed period of Chinese history.
35mm, color, Putonghua w/ English s/t, 109 min.

Sunday, October 28  4:00 pm @ UCLA FTV Archive
US Premiere
THE CREMATOR  2012
焚尸人

Director Peng Tao achieves soaring humanism and lyricism in this portrait of life among the lonely. Cremator Cao makes a living incinerating the dead, and secretly sells “ghost wives” to bereaved families seeking companions for their recently deceased, single sons. Unwell, he makes similar plans for himself, but his plot is upended by an encounter with a young woman who affords him unexpected dignity and grace.
HDCAM, color, Putonghua w/ English s/t, 90 min.

Preceded by
West Coast Premiere
SOME ACTIONS WHICH HAVEN’T BEEN DEFINED YET IN THE REVOLUTION  2011
一场革命中还未来得及定义的行为
DIR/PROD/SCR: Sun Xun.

Animated using woodblock prints, SOME ACTIONS uses pulsating, hallucinatory imagery to evoke a Kafkaesque atmosphere of grotesquery, anxiety and vague ideological constrictions.
HDCAM, color, 13 min.

Sunday, October 28  7:00 pm @ UCLA FTV Archive
North American Premiere
FENG SHUI  2012
万箭穿心

Li Baoli appears to have a secure, working-class family with bright prospects for upward mobility, but the Wuhan shopkeeper’s helper seems incapable of inner peace. Viewed with grave concern by family and friends, she harasses and belittles her husband until he is driven to extremes, whereupon life takes a drastic turn. Veteran actor Yan Bingyan delivers a knockout performance as Li Baoli, a woman perpetually clouded with confusion as to why her life is in such disarray.
HDCAM, color, Putonghua w/ English s/t, 120 min.
Wednesday, October 31  7:30 pm @ UCLA FTV Archive
Los Angeles Premiere / Special Halloween Screening!
PAINTED SKIN: THE RESURRECTION  2012

画皮 II
CAST: Zhou Xun, Vicki Zhao, Chen Kun, Mini Yang, William Feng.

The highest-grossing Chinese film ever, this visually sumptuous take on one of the Qing-era Pu Songling tales of the fantastic, pairs humans and demons haunted by romantic longings. After being imprisoned under a frozen lake for centuries, fox spirit Xiaowei meets Princess Jing, who hides her disfigured face under a mask. If they exchange identities, however, Jing could be beautiful again, and Xiaowei could become a woman…
Blu-Ray, color, Putonghua w/ English s/t, 131 min.

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Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences

Linwood Dunn Theater
Academy’s Pickford Center for Motion Picture Study
1313 Vine Street
Hollywood
CA 90028

Tickets: $5 general admission. $3 Academy members and students with valid ID. On sale beginning October 1 at www.oscars.org, or at the Academy Box Office located at 8949 Wilshire Boulevard, Beverly Hills, CA 90211.

Parking: Complimentary in the Academy’s lot adjacent to the Pickford Center; enter off Homewood, one block north of Fountain. Parking facilities close 30 minutes after the conclusion of an event.

Information: www.oscars.org

Film at REDCAT (Jack H. Skirball Series)

REDCAT
Walt Disney Concert Hall Complex
631 West 2nd Street (at the corner of 2nd and Hope Streets)
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Tickets: $10 general admission. $8 for REDCAT members and non-CalArts students. $5 for CalArts students, faculty and staff. Online tickets available at www.redcat.org; click on the individual program.

Parking: Walt Disney Concert Hall parking garage; enter from 2nd Street and proceed to level P3 for direct access to REDCAT. $9 after 4:00 pm on Mondays-Fridays / $5 after 8:00 pm. $9 flat rate on weekends.

Information: www.redcat.org, 213.237.2800

Pomona College

Rose Hill Theatre
Smith Campus Center
170 East 6th Street
Claremont, CA 91711

Free admission

Information: mediastudies.pomona.edu

Pop-Up Gallery, Chinatown

Mandarin Plaza, Suites 109-110
970 North Broadway
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Opening reception with filmmaker Zhang Yuan starts at 4:00 pm on Saturday, October 20

Free admission. Gallery opens Tuesday-Saturday 10:00 am-6:00 pm, Sunday 12:00-5:00 pm. Closed on Monday.

Parking: $3 flat rate in lot on north side of Mandarin Plaza; enter from Broadway. Metered street parking.

Information: www.chinatownla.com, 213.680.0243

UCLA Film & Television Archive

Billy Wilder Theater
Courtyard Level, Hammer Museum
10899 Wilshire Boulevard (at the intersection of Wilshire and Westwood Boulevards)
Los Angeles, CA 90024

Tickets: $10 online. $9 general admission, $8 for non-UCLA students, seniors and UCLA Alumni Association members (ID required) if purchased at the box office only. Free admission for UCLA students (current ID required); free tickets available on a first-come, first-served basis at the box office until 15 minutes before showtime, or the rush line afterwards. Online tickets available at www.cinema.ucla.edu/calendar; click on the individual program.

Parking: Museum parking lot; enter from Westwood Blvd, just north of Wilshire. $3 flat rate after 6:00 pm on Mondays-Fridays and all day on weekends.

Information: www.cinema.ucla.edu, 310.206.8013