

(THIS SCREENING WAS SNOWED OUT)

THE BUFFALO FILM SEMINARS

CONVERSATIONS ABOUT GREAT FILMS WITH BRUCE JACKSON & DIANE CHRISTIAN

PRESENTED BY THE UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO AND THE MARKET ARCADE FILM AND ARTS CENTER

6 DECEMBER 2000 (II:14): XIU-XIU THE SENT-DOWN GIRL

JOAN CHEN (26 April 1961, Shanghai) has directed only one other film, the \$50 million gooey weeparino *Autumn In New York* 2000, starring Richard Gere and Winona Ryder. According to her IMDB bio, Chen was “born into a family of doctors. Educated in China at the Shanghai Film Academy and the Shanghai Institute of Foreign Languages. Discovered by veteran Chinese director Xie Jin while observing a filming with a school group. Her performance in *Little Flower* won China's Best Actress award, and resulted in the Chinese press dubbing her ‘The Elizabeth Taylor of China’ for having achieved top stardom while still a teenager. Came to US to attend college in 1981, first at the State University of New York at New Paltz, later at California State University at Northridge. Had a succession of small parts in movies and TV, with first break coming in 1986 when, in the true tradition of Hollywood legend, Dino DiLaurentis discovered her in the Lorimar parking lot and cast her in *Tai-pan*. The film bombed, but led to Chen being cast as the ill-fated Empress in Bertolucci's *The Last Emperor*, which won critical acclaim. This, and her role as enigmatic mill owner Josie Packard in the cult TV series ‘Twin Peaks’, are her best-known roles in the West. However, Hollywood's practice of type-casting Asians has led to a dearth of major roles for Chen since then, and in recent roles, she has often been cast as a villainess.”

Wena Poon, *Film Quarterly* 2000:

“‘Power kills, and absolute power kills absolutely,’ quotes Iris Chang in her 1997 work, *The Rape of Nanking*, when discussing the dynamics of war and oppression. The phrase came from R. J. Rummel's book, *Death by Government*, a study of genocide and government-motivated mass murder, and could easily have served as a sound bite for *Xiu Xiu*. Like *The Rape of Nanking*, Joan Chen's film testifies to the effects of absolute power when pursued to its logical conclusion. Chang, however, was writing about the genocidal horrors that Japanese troops had visited upon the Chinese during World War II. The fact that postwar China could revisit such rapes upon its own children during peace time makes Chen's indictment all the more scorching.”

THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION

“1966–76, mass mobilization of urban Chinese youth inaugurated by Mao Zedong, attempting to prevent development of a bureaucratized Soviet style of communism. Mao closed schools and encouraged students to join Red Guard units, which persecuted Chinese teachers and intellectuals and enforced Mao's cult of personality. The movement for criticism of party officials, intellectuals, and “bourgeois values” turned violent, and the Red Guard split into factions. Many people died in the ensuing purges. The Cultural Revolution also caused economic disruption; industrial production dropped by 12% from 1966 to 1968. In 1967, Mao ordered the Army to stem Red Guard factionalism but promote the Guard's radical goals. When the military itself threatened to factionalize, Mao dispersed the Red Guards, and began to rebuild the Party. The Ninth Party Congress (1969), which named Marshal Lin Biao as Mao's successor, led to a struggle between the military and Premier Zhou Enlai. After Lin's mysterious death (1971), Mao expressed regrets for the excesses of the Cultural Revolution. However, the Gang of Four, led by Jiang Qing, continued to restrict the arts and enforce ideology, even purging Deng Xiaoping a second time only months before Mao's death (Sept., 1976). The Gang of Four was imprisoned in Oct., 1976, bringing the movement to a close.” *The Columbia Encyclopedia*, Sixth Edition. Copyright © 2000 Columbia University Press.

XIU-XIU THE SENT-DOWN GIRL

(Tian yu) 1998, 99

Director Joan Chen

Writers Joan Chen and Geling Yan (based on Geling Yan's novel *Tian Yu*)

Producers Alice Chan and Joan Chen

Music Johnny Chen

Cinematographer Yue Lu

Editor Ruby Yang

Production Companies Good Machine & Whispering Steppes L.P.

Lu Lu Wenxiu (Xiu Xiu)

Lopsang Lao Jin

Zheng Qian Li Chuanbei

Jie Gao Mother

Qianqian Li Sister

Wenqiang Wang Headquarters Chief

Jiangchi Min Peddler

Qin Lao Motorcycle Man

BUFFALO FILM SEMINARS SPRING 2001 SCHEDULE

(N.B.: The spring screenings and discussions will be *Tuesday* nights)

Jan 16 Vidor, **THE BIG PARADE** '26 (This screening will be accompanied on electronic organ by the legendary Philip Carli.)

Jan 23 LeRoy, **GOLD DIGGERS OF 1933** '33

Jan 30 Whale, **BRIDE OF FRANKENSTEIN** '35

Feb 6* Buñuel, **EXTERMINATING ANGEL** '62

Feb 13 Eisenstein, **IVAN THE TERRIBLE** parts I & II '44 & '48

Feb 20 De Sica, **THE BICYCLE THIEVES** '47

Feb 27* Carné, **CHILDREN OF PARADISE** '45

[March 6 no screening--UB spring break]

March 13 Aldrich **KISS ME DEADLY** '54

March 20 Leone, **ONCE UPON A TIME IN THE WEST** '68

March 27 Bogdanovich, **THE LAST PICTURE SHOW** '71

April 3 Friedkin, **THE FRENCH CONNECTION** '71

April 10 Huston, **THE MAN WHO WOULD BE KING** '75

April 17 Johnson, **KILLER OF SHEEP** '77

April 24 Kurosawa, **RAN** '85

*We try to do the films in chronological order, but because of limited print availability we are showing *Exterminating Angel* and *Children of Paradise* out of sequence..

IDA LUPINO MINI-FESTIVAL

This weekend Hallwalls presents "Queen of the B's - The Films of Ida Lupino". With the exception of Dorothy Arzner, Ida Lupino was the only significant woman director during Hollywood's male-dominated golden period and the only woman to direct in the genre of film noir. They're showing three of her films at three locations:

The Bigamist: Friday Dec 8, 8:00 pm, Hallwalls' Paul Sharitts Cinema

Not Wanted: Saturday Dec 9, 8:00 pm, Hamlin House, upstairs

The Hitch-Hiker: Sunday Dec 10, 7:00 pm, Voelker's Bowling Center

...for cast and crew info on almost any film: imdb.com/search.html or allmovie.com...for information on major American films, including detailed plot summaries: www.filmsite.org... email Bruce Jackson: bjackson@buffalo.edu...email Diane Christian: engdc@acsu.buffalo.edu...for the series schedule, links and updates: www.buffalofilmseminars.com... for the weekly email informational notes, send an email to either of us.

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