

BETWEEN DISORDER AND UNEXPECTED PLEASURES: TALES FROM THE NEW CHINESE CINEMA

APRIL 6 – 9, 2011

presented by

REDCAT

Roy and Edna Disney/CalArts Theater

California Institute of the Arts

CaLARTS



BETWEEN DISORDER AND UNEXPECTED PLEASURES: TALES FROM THE NEW CHINESE CINEMA

Wed–Sat Apr 6–9

Jack H. Skirball Series

In recent years, independent Chinese cinema has experienced a virtual explosion. Digital media have allowed filmmakers to be bolder, more daring and to explore hybrid forms of documentary and fiction, or mix found and live footage while playing with novel formal strategies. Independent Chinese cinema has also come of age. Reaching beyond nostalgia and social protest, it plumbs surprising corners of Chinese reality with humor that is at times light, dark, saucy, dry, raunchy or conceptual. Expect the unexpected.

Wed Apr 6 | 8:30 pm

Zhu Wen: *Thomas Mao (Xiao dongxi)*

Los Angeles premiere | 2010, 80 min., DigiBeta

One of the most original voices of post-socialist China, novelist/filmmaker Zhu Wen has crafted, for his third feature, a droll, surreal and ironic tale in which East meets West... or does it? Thomas is a painter trekking through the grasslands of Inner Mongolia, and Mao the scruffy “inkeeper” who lodges him. Gradually, what appears to be “reality” shifts. Who is the butterfly, who is the philosopher?

“An intellectually teasing absurdist comedy with a touch of Zen, *Thomas Mao* ostensibly dramatizes the culture shock between a Chinese hillbilly and an American backpacker but goes beyond that to smudge the boundaries between art and life, dream and reality.” – *Hollywood Reporter*

After working five years as an engineer, **Zhu Wen** (born 1967) became one of the figureheads of the “newly-born generation” (*xinshengdai*) literary movement with his first novella, *I Love Dollars (Wo ai meiyuan)*, 1996). One of his short stories was turned into a feature, *In Expectation (Wushan yun yu)*, 1995, by Zhang Ming. He collaborated with Zhang Yuan on the screenplay of *Seventeen Years (Guonian hui jia)*, 1999). He wrote and directed *Seafood (Haixian)*, 2001, the first narrative digital feature produced in China (Grand Jury Prize in Venice). His second film, *South of the Clouds (Yun de nanfang)*, 2003, won the NETPAC Award in Berlin.

In person: Zhu Wen

Preceded by: **Sun Xun: *21G (Ershiyi ke)***

Animation | 2010, 27 min., DVD

A disturbing and enchanted voyage through a “world without specific time... in which we live in vanity... There is no law, no rule... lying and being lied to only...” (SX)

The first Chinese animation film premiered at the Venice Film Festival.

After studying printmaking at the Academy of Fine Arts in Hangzhou, **Sun Xun** (born 1980) founded π Animation Studio in 2006. His meticulous animations have been shown in festivals in China, France, Germany, The Netherlands, Italy, and media art centers in the US. His drawings and installations have been exhibited in galleries and museums in China, Europe and the U.S.

Thur Apr 7 | 8:30 pm

Li Hongqi: *Winter Vacation (Hanjia)*

Los Angeles premiere | 2010, 91 min., HDCAM

Fri Apr 8 | 8:30 pm

Liu Jiayin: *Oxhide II (Niupi er)*

Los Angeles premiere | 2009, 133 min., DigiBeta

In person: Liu Jiayin

A special screening of *Oxhide I (Niupi)* will be held at the California Institute of the Arts, Bijou Theater, 24700 McBean Parkway, Valencia, CA, on Friday April 8, at 4:00 pm, followed by a Q&A with Liu Jiayin –
Directions: (661)255-1050

Sat Apr 9 | 3:00 pm

Hao Jie: *Single Man (Guanggun'er)*

US premiere | 2010, 95 min., HDCAM

Sat Apr 9 | 7:00 pm

Huang Weikai: *Disorder (Xianshi shi guoqu de weilai)*

Los Angeles premiere | 2009, 58 min., DVCAM

Preceded by: **Ying Liang: *Condolences (Weiwen)***

2009, 20 min., MiniDV

Sat Apr 9 | 9:30 pm

Jia Zhangke: *I Wish I Knew (Hai shang chuanqi)*

Los Angeles premiere | 2010, 138 min., HDCAM

Curated by Cheng-Sim Lim and Bérénice Reynaud.

Funded in part with generous support from Wendy Keys and Donald Pels.

Additional funding provided by the UCLA Confucius Institute



Between Disorder and Unexpected Pleasures: Tales from the New Chinese Cinema is presented in collaboration with the following institutions, that will hold additional screenings throughout the greater Los Angeles area.

Los Angeles Filmforum – www.lafilmforum.org

Sun Apr 10 | 7:30 pm

Wu Wenguang: *Treating (Zhiliao)*

US premiere | 2010, 80 min., Beta SP

Preceded by: **Sun Xun: *Beyond-ism (Zhuyi zhi wai)***

Animation | 2010, 8.8 min., DVD

*

Echo Park Film Center – www.echoparkfilmcenter.org

Mon Apr 11 | 8:00 pm

Sheng Zhimin: *Night of an Era (Zaijian Wutuobang)*

Los Angeles premiere | 2009, 89 min., DVD

*

Pomona College Museum of Art / Media Studies

www.pomona.edu/museum

Mon Apr 11 | 7:30 pm

Liu Jiayin: *Oxhide II (Niupi er)*

In person: Liu Jiayin

Tue Apr 12 | 7:30 pm

Zhu Wen: *Thomas Mao (Xiao dongxi)*

Preceded by: **Sun Xun: *21G (Ershiyi ke)***

In person: Zhu Wen

Wed Apr 13 | 7:30 pm

Jia Zhangke: *I Wish I Knew (Hai shang chuanqi)*

Thu Apr 14 | 7:30 pm

Huang Weikai: *Disorder (Xianshi shi guoqu de weilai)*

Preceded by: **Ying Liang: *Condolences (Weiwen)***

*

UCLA Film & Television Archive – www.cinema.ucla.edu

Sun Apr 17 | 7:00 pm

Olivier Meys and Zhang Yaxuan: *A Disappearance Foretold (Qianmen qian)*

North American premiere | 2008, 86 min., DigiBeta

Fri Apr 22 | 7:30 pm

Zhao Ye: *Jalainur (Zhalai nur)*

US premiere | 2008, 92 min., HDCAM

Zhu Wen's and Liu Jiayin's trips to the US have been collaboratively organized by REDCAT, Pomona College Museum of Art/Media Studies and the University of Oregon's Cinema Pacific.

REDCAT is located at 631 West 2nd St., Los Angeles, CA 90012 – in downtown Los Angeles at the corner of 2nd and Hope Streets, inside the Walt Disney Concert Hall complex. Parking is available in the Walt Disney Concert Hall parking structure and in adjacent lots.

Tickets are \$9 for the general public, \$7 for students with valid ID. Tickets may be purchased by calling **213.237.2800**, at www.redcat.org, or in person at the REDCAT Box Office at the corner of 2nd and Hope Streets (30 minutes free parking with validation). Box Office Hours: Tue-Sat | noon–6 pm and two hours prior to curtain.

UPCOMING FILM/VIDEO PROGRAMS AT REDCAT SPRING 2011

Mon Apr 18: Eija-Liisa Ahtila: *Where is Where?*

Mon May 2: Specks of Existence: Hartmut Bitomsky's *Dust*

Wed-Sat May 4–7: CalArts Film/Video Showcase

WE WANT TO HEAR ABOUT YOUR REDCAT EXPERIENCE!

Post a comment on our wall @ [facebook.com/calartsredcat](https://www.facebook.com/calartsredcat)

... or send a tweet to us @ twitter.com/calartsredcat

... or send an old-fashioned email to info.redcat@calarts.edu

... or, if you want to contact the curators of the Film/Video series and/or get on "Film at REDCAT" mailing list please send an e-mail to redcatfilm@earthlink.net