

The Museum of Modern Art Department of Film

11 West 53 Street, New York, N. Y. 10019 Tel. 956-6100 Cable: Modernart

No. 62

For Immediate Release

September 18, 1981

WEEK OF FILMS FROM THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA AT MoMA

In January of 1979, The United States and The People's Republic of China signed a Cultural Agreement, under which both nations agreed to exchanges in dance, art, literature, film, sports, education and other cultural activities. During the summer of 1981, five American films toured five Chinese cities, accompanied by a delegation of American film industry leaders.

In reciprocation, five films from The People's Republic, selected by The Museum of Modern Art and The American Film Institute, will tour seven American cities with a delegation from China. CHINA FILM WEEK will be screened in The Museum of Modern Art's Roy and Niuta Titus Auditorium from October 22 through 29. The American Film Institute in Washington, D.C., which is coordinating the national tour, will be the site of CHINA FILM WEEK's premiere run, from October 15 to October 21.

The five films in CHINA FILM WEEK span a period from 1959 to 1980; three were produced before the Cultural Revolution called a halt to the making of films with all but the most strictly coded 'model revolutionary' themes; two were made after the Gang of Four's fall from power.

The earliest selection in CHINA FILM WEEK is the epic Song of Youth, made by the Beijing Film Studio in 1959 and directed by Chi Wei and Chen Huaiai. Made to celebrate the tenth anniversary of The People's Republic, Song of Youth features a strong female protagonist in a dramatic story of revolutionary struggle; the heroine quotes from Ibsen's "A Doll's House" in a confrontation with her reactionary husband. Third Sister Liu (1961) is a period folk opera, freed from its theatrical conventions, shot entirely on location in Giulin Province. Adapted from a popular legend, it also focuses on a resourceful and courageous heroine -- the title character, a lovely young singer who rouses her people against feudalism. Su Li is the film's director.

Two Stage Sisters, made in Shanghai and directed by Xie Jin in 1964, is a stylish melodrama highlighting the rise of the title characters' fortunes in the Shanghai opera milieu of the turbulent 1940's. Made immediately before the Cultural Revolution, it was never released in China

until after the Cultural Revolution's demise. When Two Stage Sisters opened theatrically in London in October 1980, the London critics voted it the best new release of the year..

Second Spring Mirroring the Moon (1979), directed by Yen Jizhou for the August First Film Studio, is the atmospheric biography of a beloved Southern Chinese hero, the blind musician Abing, whose songs are performed on traditional instruments.

The most recent film in CHINA FILM WEEK is Bus Number 3, a contemporary urban comedy, directed by Wang Jiayi and Luo Tai in 1980, which treats the life, love and work of Chinese youth with a light, deft, and idiosyncratic touch -- its main characters are two young bus conductors, a man and a woman.

From the 1959 epic to the 1980 comedy, a profile of a distinctive national cinema emerges. Despite two long interruptions to the development of film in China -- the late 30s and 40s, which encompassed the Japanese invasion, WWII, and the formation of The People's Republic, and, later, the Cultural Revolution -- a sophisticated film culture has continued to create new work.

After its run in Washington and New York, CHINA FILM WEEK will be seen in five other American cities. Those already confirmed are: 11/5 - 11/11, Los Angeles, at the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences and the Los Angeles County Museum; 11/13 - 11/17, the Pacific Film Archive in Berkeley; and 12/2 - 12/6, Chicago Art Institute. The five-person delegation of Chinese film representatives will visit Washington, New York and Los Angeles. CHINA FILM WEEK is administered in the U.S. by the International Communication Agency.

PRESS SCREENINGS:

*Screening in Auditorium.

Mon. 10/5/2:00 pm	SONG OF YOUTH (1959) 3 hours
Tue. 10/6/1:30 pm	BUS NUMBER 3 (1980) 90 mins.
3:15 pm	THIRD SISTER LIU (1961) 90 mins.
*Wed. 10/7/10:30 am	SECOND SPRING MIRRORING THE MOON (1979) 110 mins.
1:30 pm	TWO STAGE SISTERS (1964) 114 mins.
Tue. 10/13/1:30 pm	THIRD SISTER LIU
3:40 pm	TWO STAGE SISTERS
*Wed. 10/14/10:30 am	BUS NUMBER 3
1:30 pm	SONG OF YOUTH

 For information, the public may call 956-6100. For further press information, please call Alicia Springer, Film Press Representative, 956-7289.

The Museum of Modern Art Department of Film

11 West 53 Street, New York, N. Y. 10019 Tel. 956-6100 Cable: Modernart

CHINA FILM WEEK

October 22 - 29, 1981

As part of the 1979 cultural agreement between the People's Republic of China and the United States five American films were recently screened under the auspices of the Ministry of Culture in a number of Chinese cities.

In reciprocation five films made in the People's Republic between 1959 and 1980 have been chosen by the Department of Film of The Museum of Modern Art and the American Film Institute to be shown in Washington, New York, Los Angeles, Berkeley, Chicago, St Louis and Houston. The films selected include: a contemporary comedy, BUS NO. 3 (1980); an atmospheric biography of the musician Ahbing, SECOND SPRING MIRRORING THE MOON (1979); a stylish melodrama, TWO STAGE SISTERS (1964); a modern folk opera shot on location in Giulin Province, THIRD SISTER LIU (1961); and a popular epic, SONG OF YOUTH (1959).

CHINA FILM WEEK is being administered in the U.S. by the International Communication Agency and coordinated by the American Film Institute.

A delegation will accompany the film program to Washington, New York and Los Angeles.

*

Thursday, October 22	6:00	TWO STAGE SISTERS. (WUTAI JIEMEI). 1964. Tianma Film Studio, Shanghai. Directed by Xie Jin. With Xie Fang, Cao Yindi. 114 mins.
	8:30	BUS NO. 3. 1980. Changchun Film Studio. Directed by Wang Jiayi & Luo Tai. apx 85 mins.
Friday, October 23	2:30	SONG OF YOUTH. (QINGCHUN ZHI GE). 1959. Beijing Film Studio. Directed by Cui Wei & Chen Huaiai. With Xie Fang. 175 mins.
	6:00	THIRD SISTER LIU. (LIU SANJIE). 1961. Changchun Film Studio. Directed by Su Li. With Huang Wanqiu, Liu Shilong. 130 mins.
Saturday, October 24	2:30	BUS NO. 3 see Thurs Oct 22, 8:30
	5:00	TWO STAGE SISTERS see Thurs Oct 22, 6:00
Sunday, October 25	2:30	SECOND SPRING MIRRORING THE MOON. (aka MOONLIGHT ON SECOND SPRING). 1979. August First Film Studio. Directed by Yen Jizhou. With Zeng Songmao. apx 110 mins.
Monday, October 26	2:30	THIRD SISTER LIU see Fri Oct 23, 6:00
Thursday, October 29	2:30	SECOND SPRING MIRRORING THE MOON see Sun Oct 25 2:30
Thursday, October 29	6:00	SONG OF YOUTH see Fri Oct 23, 2:30

The Museum's film program is made possible with public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts and a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts.