

The Museum of Modern Art

For Immediate Release
August 1989

TWO FROM TAIWAN: HOU HSIAO-HSIEN AND EDWARD YANG

September 8 - 16, 1989

The works of Taiwanese filmmakers Hou Hsiao-hsien and Edward Yang are the focus of an eight-day program at The Museum of Modern Art. Opening on September 8, 1989, TWO FROM TAIWAN: HOU HSIAO-HSIEN AND EDWARD YANG presents seven feature films made between 1982 and 1987. Hou and Yang helped found a Taiwanese New Wave in the early eighties, a movement which offers an alternative to a stagnant national cinema closely linked to the film industries of Hong Kong and the United States.

As opposed to the costly escapist comedies, romances, and propaganda films of Taiwanese cinema, the New Wave works of Hou and Yang are intimate, realistic, and low budget. Part of the "Chinese baby-boomer" generation, these filmmakers are among the first to grow up in an industrialized Taiwan. Hou and Yang have developed their own cinematic expression and, unlike their predecessors, tackle social issues such as the effects of industrialization and westernization of Taiwan and nostalgia for the values of a traditional lifestyle.

Hou Hsiao-hsien (pronounce: ho shiow-shin) is an intuitive, lyrical artist whose humanistic films strike a balance between sentiment and detachment. Often semi-autobiographical, Hou's films are moving and intimate pictures of young people growing up in Taiwan in the fifties and sixties. The series includes The Boys From Fengkuei (1983), the adventures of an unruly group of high-school students waiting for their military papers; A Summer at Grandpa's (1985), the story of a sister and brother sent to the country while their mother is hospitalized; and Daughter of the Nile (1987), a portrait of a teenage girl whose uprooted family is living in contemporary Taipei. Also included is Hou's third

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feature film, Green, Green Grass of Home (1982), a light comedy centering on a group of schoolchildren in a small town.

Born on mainland China in 1947, Hou moved with his family to Taiwan in 1948. The filmmaker's father died when he was twelve years old, his mother died six years later. He graduated from the Taiwan National Academy of Arts in 1972 and directed his first film in 1979. His most recent film, Sorrowful City (1989), is in competition in the 1989 Venice Film Festival.

Edward Yang's films are cool sophisticated tales set in contemporary Taipei. The notion of alienation and isolation as a result of an urban lifestyle are integral to Yang's films; his characters often suffer from problems of identity. This program features three films directed by Yang including That Day on the Beach (1983), the story of a young woman torn between the demands of her family and her own identity; and Taipei Story (1985), an exploration of a young man's growing dissatisfaction with his life.

Like Hou, Yang was born in 1947 on mainland China, and his family moved to Taiwan in 1949. In 1972 Yang completed a masters program in computer science at the University of Florida. In 1974 he enrolled in a film program at the University of Southern California and in 1980 returned to Taiwan to direct television films. Yang was one of four directors to contribute a segment to the film In Our Times (1982), which is considered to be the first New Wave film in Taiwan.

TWO FROM TAIWAN was organized by Adrienne Mancia, curator, Department of Film, in cooperation with The American Film Institute and The Coordination Council for North American Affairs. This exhibition has been made possible by a grant from General Dynamics Corporation.

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For further information or film stills, contact Sarah Eaton, film press representative, Department of Public Information, 212/708-9750.

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“台灣來的兩位導演：侯孝賢與楊德昌”
一九八九年九月八日至十六日

——一九八九年八月新聞稿

“台灣來的兩位導演：侯孝賢與楊德昌”的影展將在

九月八日起在紐約現代美術館（Museum of Modern Art）展出八天。

此影展將展出侯孝賢在二九八二年至一九八七年間拍的七部劇情片。

侯孝賢與楊德昌是推動八十年代台灣新潮電影的

功臣。他們的作品使得落後不振的台灣電影有了新的

生機。相對於大製作的喜劇、愛情片和政宣電影。

這些新潮電影多是低成本又親切實實的作品。

這些新一代的電影工作者成長在二次大戰後的台灣——

一個由農業社會急速轉型為工商業社會的島嶼。社會

與人文景觀的變遷往往是他們電影的焦點；一方面

審視周遭工業化而西化的生活環境，一方面又對過往的

歲月充滿緬懷。

侯孝賢是個抒情型的導演。他的電影既是溫情、感傷，且又冷靜客觀。他片中的主人翁常是成長在五、六〇年代的年青人。拍來親切動人，有半自傳體的傾向。這系列包括「風櫃裏的人」描述一群行節不駒等待入伍的高中生。「冬冬的假期」拍的是「一對兄妹在鄉下祖父家的情景」。尼羅河的女兒「描寫一個在台北長大的十幾歲女孩在她生活周遭發生的情事。

一九四七年生在大陸的侯孝賢於一九四八年舉家遷往台灣。他的父母親相繼在他十二歲及十八歲時過世。

一九七二年畢業於國立藝專。一九七九年導他的第一部電影。他最近的作品「悲情城市」（一九八九）正在威尼斯電影節（Venice Film Festival）參加角逐。

楊德昌的電影冷靜世故；疏離孤絕的都市生活型態是楊的電影主題。他的電影人物常有無以歸屬的失落感。這次節目有楊的三部電影。「海灘的一天」描述

一個年青的女人介於理想及家庭衝突的痛苦。

《北故事》探究一個年青人逐漸對生活產生不滿的問題。楊也在一九四七年生於中國大陸，全家在一九四九年遷往台灣。一九七二年在佛州大學完成了電腦碩士學位。一九七四年進入南加州大學的電影科系。一九八〇年回台灣為電視劇集拍片。

楊亦侯同樣是在我們的年代，這部被認為是《台灣第一部新潮電影》的四位導演中的兩位。

這次影展是由紐約現代美術館電影部門的 Audience Council 策劃，美國影藝學院與北美事務協調會協助。

General Dynamic 基金會贊助。

* 細節或劇照請向公共諮詢部門，電影新聞媒體代表 Sarah Latos 接洽
212/708-9750

The Museum of Modern Art

TWO FROM TAIWAN: HOU HSIAO-HSIEN AND EDWARD YANG

September 8 - 16, 1989

Friday, September 8

- 3:00 p.m. Green, Green Grass of Home (Tsai na ho-pan ch'ing-ts'ao-ch-ing) (1982). Hou Hsiao-hsien. 89 minutes. In Mandarin, Chinese and English subtitles.
- 6:00 p.m. That Day on the Beach (Hai-t'an-te yi-t'ien) (1983). Edward Yang. 164 minutes. In Mandarin, Chinese and English subtitles.

Saturday, September 9

- 2:30 p.m. The Boys from Fengkuei (Feng-kuei-lai-te jen) (1984). Hou Hsiao-hsien. 101 minutes. In Hokkien and Mandarin, Chinese and English subtitles.
- 5:30 p.m. Taipei Story (Ch'ing-mei chu-ma) (1984). Edward Yang. 115 minutes. In Hokkien and Mandarin, Chinese and English subtitles.

Sunday, September 10

- 2:30 p.m. A Summer at Grandpa's (Tung-tung-te chia-ch'i) (1984). Hou Hsiao-hsien. 102 minutes. In Hokkien and Mandarin, Chinese and English subtitles.
- 5:30 p.m. The Terrorizer (K'ung-pu fen-tzu) (1986). Edward Yang. 103 minutes. In Mandarin, Chinese and English subtitles.

Monday, September 11

- 3:00 p.m. Daughter of the Nile (Ni-lo-ho nu-erh) (1987). Hou Hsiao-hsien. 90 minutes. In Hokkien and Mandarin, Chinese and English subtitles.
- 6:00 p.m. Green, Green Grass of Home (Tsai na ho-pan ch'ing-ts'ao-ch-ing) (1982). 89 minutes. Hou Hsiao-hsien. In Mandarin, Chinese and English subtitles.

Tuesday, September 12

- 2:00 p.m. That Day on the Beach (Hai-t'an-te yi-t'ien) (1983). Edward Yang. 164 minutes. In Mandarin, Chinese and English subtitles.
- 6:00 p.m. The Boys from Fengkuei (Feng-kuei-lai-te jen) (1984). Hou Hsiao-hsien. 101 minutes. In Hokkien and Mandarin, Chinese and English subtitles.

Friday, September 15

- 3:00 p.m. Taipei Story (Ch'ing-mei chu-ma) (1984). Edward Yang. 115 minutes. In Hokkien and Mandarin, Chinese and English subtitles.
- 6:00 p.m. A Summer at Grandpa's (Tung-tung-te chia-ch'i) (1984). Hou Hsiao-hsien. 102 minutes. In Hokkien and Mandarin, Chinese and English subtitles.

Saturday, September 16

- 2:30 p.m. The Terrorizer (K'ung-pu fen-tzu) (1986). Edward Yang. 103 minutes. In Mandarin, Chinese and English subtitles.
- 5:30 p.m. Daughter of the Nile (Ni-lo-ho nu-erh) (1987). Hou Hsiao-hsien. 90 minutes. In Hokkien and Mandarin, Chinese and English subtitles.

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