

The Museum of Modern Art

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NO. 78
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MUSEUM TO PRESENT FIRST CYCLE OF FILMS FROM THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

Nine films from the People's Republic of China will be shown, starting Thursday, June 15, 8:00 p.m., at the Museum of Modern Art. The pictures, all made between 1970 and 1972, afford a rare look at mainland China, as well as insight into the aesthetic aims of that country since the Cultural Revolution. The program has been organized by Dohald Richie, Curator of Film, with the cooperation of the U.S. - China People's Friendship Association.

Two modes of filmmaking have prevailed in the People's Republic of China: documentaries on various aspects of Chinese life, and filmed versions of opera and ballet. Examples of both are included in the Museum program.

Among the documentaries are "Canton Fair," the enormous Canton Trade Fair, held twice a year, to provide a center at which foreign traders can purchase Chinese products; "Sha Shi Iu" a study of one of China's commune brigades; "Acupunctural Anaesthesia" concerning the remarkable method of anaesthesia which has recently drawn world-wide attention; "Flowers of Friendship Blossom at Table Tennis Matches," a film of the 1971 World Table Tennis Championships held in Japan, after which the U.S. team visited mainland China.

Three filmed operas will be shown. "Schachiapang" is set in the War of Resistance against Japan; so, too, is "The Red Lantern" "Taking Tiger Mountain by Strategy" develops from a small but important episode in the Chinese Revolution which takes place in 1946 in Northeast China. "Red Detachment of Women" is a ballet set in the Second Revolutionary Civil War Period (1927-1937).

Among those qualities which characterize post-Cultural Revolution's artistic trends are the collective nature of any artistic enterprise—an entire opera or ballet troupe written and designed collectively, with no attention focused on any individual personalities

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or "stars." The de-emphasis on the written word as artistic expression and the emphasis on more visual forms is a means of reaching the huge population. The importance of the "amateur" in artistic activity is evident in the numerous neophyte artistic troupes springing up throughout China.

The schedule follows:

- NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATION. 1971 40 min. (Thursday, June 15, 8:00; Friday, June 16, 2:00; Saturday, June 24, 5:30)
- THE RED LANTERN. The May 1970 script, revised collectively by the China Peking Opera Troupe. No English titles. 90 min. (Thursday, June 15, 8:00; Friday, June 16, 2:00; Saturday, June 24, 5:30.)
- TAKING TIGER MOUNTAIN BY STRATEGY. 1970. The July 1970 script, revised collectively by the Peking Opera Troupe of Shanghai. In Chinese; English subtitles. (Sunday, June 18, 5:30; Saturday, June 24, 5:30; Wednesday, June 28, 2:00; Friday, June 30, 2:00)
- CANTON FAIR. 1971. In Chinese; no English subtitles. 40 min. (Monday, June 19, 5:30; Monday, June 26, 2:00; Tuesday, June 27, 5:30.)
- SHA SHI IU. 1972. In Chinese; no English titles. 30 min. (Monday, June 19, 5:30; Monday, June 26, 2:00; Tuesday, June 27, 5:30.)
- ACUPUNCTURAL ANAESTHESIA. In Chinese; English titles. 30 min. (Monday, June 19 5:30; Monday, June 26, 2:00; Tuesday, June 27, 5:30.)
- FLOWERS OF FRIENDSHIP BLOSSOM IN TABLE TENNIS MATCHES. In Chinese; no English titles. 90 min. (Monday, June 19, 5:30; Monday, June 26, 2:00; Tuesday June 27, 5:30)
- SCHACHIAPANG. 1970 In Chinese; no English titles. Model Peking Opera on a contemporary Revolutionary Theme. 90 min. (Saturday, June 17, 3:00, 5:30; Thursday, June 29, 5:30, 8:00.)
- RED DETACHMENT OF WOMEN. 1970. May 1970 script, revised collectively by the China Ballet Troupe. Chinese credit titles; no English titles. 100 min. (Wednesday, June 21, 2:00; Thursday, June 22, 5:30, 8:00; Sunday, June 25, 5:30)