

Fall 2010 China Film Series



Sponsored by the Council on East Asian Studies at Yale University

**FEATURING FILMS FROM REC FOUNDATION'S
5TH REEL CHINA DOCUMENTARY BIENNIAL
AND A SPECIAL SCREENING/DIRECTOR'S VISIT FOR "1428"
CO-SPONSORED BY CEAS AND
THE FILM STUDY CENTER AT YALE UNIVERSITY**

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Wednesday, October 6

7:00 PM, Auditorium (Room 101), Henry R. Luce Hall, 34 Hillhouse Avenue

Xinjiang, Xinjiang! / 新疆，新疆！

Dir. Zhang Zhi-tuo, 73 minutes, 2008, English Subtitles

In western China, every year in late August, millions of migrant workers flood into Xinjiang, where they are known as a single name – agricultural laborers. This film follows a group of them from the capital of Ning County, Gansu. It offers a group portrait of the seasonally flowing narrative, showing a large labor force unprecedented in human history. In the process, it also displays the living conditions and a means of survival for contemporary Chinese farmers and a series of associated social problems.

在中国的西部，每年都会有上百万的农民工在8月下旬一齐涌入新疆，在这里他们由一个统一的名字——棉农。本片跟踪拍摄了一群来自甘肃省会宁县的农民工，以这群农民工为主要线索，从启程前一直到最终返乡的过程，中间穿插了其他地方的农民工。影片以群像的叙事方式，展示了一场人类史上绝无仅有的劳动力大迁徙，通过这一过程，表现中国当代农民的生存现状及一些列与之相关的社会问题。

Wednesday, October 13

7:00 PM, Auditorium (Room 101), Henry R. Luce Hall, 34 Hillhouse Avenue

I Will Survive / 生者.绵竹

Dir. Jia Ding, 46 minutes, 2008, English Subtitles

Yang Tingquan, more than 70 years old, is a survivor from the major Wenchuan Earthquake. After the earthquake, Qingping County, his homeland, became a isolated island completely cut off from the outside world. The barrier lake on the top of the hill is very unstable and may be about to collapse. Here, our story begins.

70 多岁的杨庭全是 2008 年四川汶川大地震的幸存者，他的家乡绵竹市清平乡在地震中成了与世隔绝的孤岛，堰塞湖随时可能把清平乡吞没，大家劝说杨庭全离开家乡，杨庭全却执意留下，于是，一个劝说与反劝说故事开始了。

Survivors, One Year Later / 生者一年间.绵竹

Dir. Jia Ding, 50 minutes, 2009, English Subtitles

Yang Xiaoling lost her fiancé in the major Wenchuan Earthquake. Half a year after the earthquake, her parents hoped she would have recovered from the pain and found new boyfriend. Then, Xiaoling began to try arranged blind dating, which she had never experienced. In spite of feigned happiness, the pain of losing her fiancé has never passed.

杨晓玲在四川汶川大地震中失去了未婚夫，地震后半年多，杨晓玲的家人非常希望杨晓玲找到新的男朋友组成家庭，杨晓玲开始和各种男人相亲，直到有一天，她吐露了心声。

Wednesday, October 20

*** PLEASE NOTE LOCATION ***

7:00 PM, Auditorium, Whitney Humanities Center, 53 Wall Street

Special Introduction and Audience Q&A with Director Du Haibin ***Co-sponsored with the Film Study Center at Yale University***

1428

Dir. Du Haibin, 121 minutes, 2009, English Subtitles

The "Great Sichuan Earthquake" took place at **14:28** on May 12, 2008. **10 days after:** Scenes not seen on official TV, "survival" is the keyword. Ordinary people are salvaging destroyed pig farms in the mountains, recuperating cents-worth scrapped metals, or pillaging victims' homes. Behind the highly-mediatized official visits, inconsolable grief of families searching for loved ones. **210 days after:** Harsh winter, villagers preparing for Lunar New Year, a vagabond and his family are detailing grievances about the ill-handling of rebuilding schemes and relief funds. Gearing up for a high official's visit, a thorough clean-up of the villages and tent-resettlement for refugees comes through. The promise made for all to live in houses in winter seems tough to keep. Fake components in the community transformer cause an electricity blackout for New Year's Eve reunion dinners. New Year Day starts as never-ending parade of tourists buying DVDs of the most horrific scenes, souvenir albums of corpses being pulled out of the ruins, and photo shooting in front of Beichuan, the town most severely hit, where over 70,000 people perished in seconds.

第一部分：地震后 10 天。公众的悲痛欲绝、救灾的十万火急，在铺天盖地的报道和施救之中，“生存”成为最重要的一个词：竭力寻找搜救亲人的个人、痛彻心扉的家庭，救出山里受灾养猪场的牲畜，在倒塌的瓦砾间收集价值菲薄的报废金属……废墟之上，衣衫褴褛的流浪汉在游荡，就像塔罗牌中的“愚人”，冷眼旁观近乎荒谬的厄运突如其来降临的悲惨世界；一位和尚与一位道士这样总结了地震：“天摇地动，就是因为庙里的土地爷很久没有人认真上供了。”第二部分：地震后 210 天。四川的这个严酷隆冬，村民正在准备农历新年的庆祝活动。重建计划和救灾资金落实中的问题，让流浪汉和他的亲人颇为不满。为了迎接中央领导的到访，彻底的村庄清理和帐篷难民安置正在进行（显然每个人都将在冬天到来前住进新安置房的诺言还没法完全兑现）。简易安置房区，质量低劣的变压器造成停电，中断了大家的晚餐。新年的早晨，俯瞰北川-受灾最为严重的县城：游客们络绎不绝地到来，不时与兜售最悲惨场景 DVD 光盘、纪念相册的摊贩讨价还价，在 7 万人顷刻丧生的废墟前带着观光意味拍照留念。

Wednesday, November 3

7:00 PM, Auditorium (Room 101), Henry R. Luce Hall, 34 Hillhouse Avenue

The Fall of Womenland / 迷失的摩梭

Dir. He Xiaodan, 46 minutes, 2009, English Subtitles

A documentary on the unique sexual culture of the Mosuo people – a small minority situated in the South-West of China, and one of the last remaining matriarchal societies in the world. Without a formal marriage contract, the Mosuo traditionally build relationships based on free love. But can the sexual liberty and power of the Mosuo women survive as modern Chinese society encroaches their ancestral land? Follow Bima, a young Mosuo woman, and learn of her reality and of the dangers that threaten her inherited way of life.

《迷失的摩梭》是一部关于摩梭人独特的性文化的纪录片。摩梭人是位于中国西南的纳西族的一个支系，是世界上现存的母系社会之一。没有正式的婚姻合同，摩梭人传统上将两性关系建立在自由的爱与和谐的性生活的基础之上。但是摩梭女性这样的性自由和权利能够在当今中国汉族社会的强势同化下得以幸存吗？导演跟随缤玛，一个年轻的摩梭女性，记录下她的现实以及那些威胁她的古老生活方式的危险。

Wheat Harvest / 麦收

Dir. Xu Tong, 98 minutes, 2008, English Subtitles

In June, the wheat tips are beginning to turn yellow. A young woman comes back from Beijing to her hometown in Hebei, to find her father lying in bed with an IV and her mother out at the market. It appears that this is the way life always is; this is normal, nothing is out of the ordinary. Going back a few months, we see a filthy and chaotic side street in Beijing's eastern suburbs. In a nameless, unlit 'beauty parlor', this country girl of barely 20 years shows us a corner of her life as a prostitute. The film revolves around the time of the harvest, documenting one person's dual lives and struggles, how one person copes on her own troubles in the face of it all.

时值六月，麦尖已经泛黄。她从北京回到河北老家。她爹趴在炕上输液；她娘出门赶集了……生活好像从来就是这样，平常，没有意外。早先一段日子，在北京东郊，一个叫高西店的混乱肮脏的街边，在一个没有名字没有转灯的昏暗的小发廊里，这个才满二十岁的农村丫头的妓女生活便露出一角……本片围绕麦收的前后，记录了一个人的两种处境，两种生活；一个人又是怎么去应付招架这一切的。

Wednesday, November 10

7:00 PM, Auditorium (Room 101), Henry R. Luce Hall, 34 Hillhouse Avenue

Wrecked Cities in China / 被破坏的城市

Dir. Zhang Haiying, 30 minutes, 2010, English Subtitles

All the cities can't escape destruction. They are now of a single type, becoming a new Manhattan, or the next Singapore. None of them become their own. The new cities are changing into standardized ones, just like products off an assembly line. Old houses with unique characteristics have disappeared. The warm friendship and cosy atmosphere of the old days between people in the neighborhood are gone forever. What we see now are just tall buildings, like a forest made of cement.

所有的城市都在拆除 所有的城市都在变得一模一样 ;成为下一个曼 哈顿 或者 下一个新加坡 从来没有一个城市需要成为自己所有的城市都在成为标准化的城市 就像流水线的产品。拆除的是老的房子 人际关系 人的疏离 , 这个城市丢失了老的房子 老的味道 老的文化 留下的只是 城市森林的丛林法则 。

The Last Great Dongba / 最后的大东巴

Dir. Gu Xue-er, 60 minutes, 2010, English Subtitles

Dongbas were ritualists of the Naxi people. Filmed over a period of six years, this documentary introduces seven culture-bearers of the Naxi. Three great Dongbas passed away in recent years, and a "King of Songs" passed away in 2008. This film includes rare scenes of them while alive, and records their mourning rites. On a high-altitude plateau at 7500 feet, the Naxi have preserved elements of their ancient culture: pictographic writing, mysterious rituals, and unique marriage customs. This is a rare cinematic document of cultural anthropology presents a precious, genuine folk culture at the verge of losing continuity.

东巴是纳西族东巴教的祭祀，掌管象形文字，所以象形文也叫东巴文。大东巴，一般年事已高，东巴文化的传承人，有智者和能人的美誉，是小东巴的师父。该片历经六年拍摄，跨越滇川两省，徒步茶马古道，翻越横断山脉，跨过无量河。寻找纳西族古老的东巴仪式文化，探访世袭东巴的传人，找寻濒危的东巴文化仪式。本片以一个盲人大东巴、达祖古老仪式、俄亚两位世袭大东巴三条线为主线，记录那些不为人知繁琐神秘的仪式。是一部绝无仅有的影像文化人类学的纪录片，它陈述一个民族濒临失传的真实、珍贵、罕见的特有的文化。采用田野调查实录的形式，深度挖掘纳西族掌管象形文的东巴们与生产生活间的相息关系、东巴濒危仪式、祭司东巴的神秘智慧、以及东巴在仪式过程中罕见的现象等。

Wednesday, December 1

7:00 PM, Auditorium (Room 101), Henry R. Luce Hall, 34 Hillhouse Avenue

Ancient Species / 红谷子

Dir. Lin Zhi-zhan, 86 minutes, 2008, English Subtitles

Dong Chao-qing, a Baomo (*flamen*), found the red grains of an ancient species in Pingzhai Village. Under his proposal, three farmers started to plant the red grains in the traditional way. From the last century, Chinese government has been waving the banner of scientific farming, and promotes that "modern farmers should know about scientific farming." Although the farmers were not wanting to, they still started to use fertilizers and pesticides, which severely damaged their soil. Not to mention, the new breeding technologies also rendered the traditional grain species near extinction. Organic farming actually originates from China and is based on the farming skills passed down from one generation to another, which consequently forms the strong historical and emotional bonding between farmers and their land. Ironically, the parents who work in the fields would rather "exodus" their children from agriculture through education. The economic growth in China has increased people's income, but not their confidence. The urban people, who despise their rural countrymen, are in fact looking down on themselves with the poisonous thinking of "whatever is exotic is good, whereas home-made stuff is worthless." When people try to help farmlands and farmers to regain their land and agricultural confidence, is that not also a process for Chinese people to find their own confidence?

董朝清，一位宗教祭师，在 2007 年初于平寨村发现了老品种的红谷子，在他的倡议下有三户农户开始了以传统的方法种植红谷子。中国自上个世纪以来，在高举着科学种田的旗帜下，政府提出“现代农民要懂得科学种田”，农民虽不情愿，仍开始大量使用化学肥料与农药，对土地造成极大的破坏，而育种技术的出现也使得传统老品种的谷种濒临灭绝的边缘。有机种植本源自中国，种植的技术全凭先祖们一代代的传承，农民与土地一直有一份怎么也说不清的历史渊源与情感牵绊；而讽刺的是，在农村种田的父母却希望小孩子通过教育逃离农村。中国的经济发展带来了人民经济能力的提高，却没能带来更多的自信，城里人瞧不起农村人，其实就是瞧不起自己，举凡外来的东西就是好，自己的东西便一文不值，而农村找回土地与种植的信心，不也是一个中国人找回自信心的过程？



ABOUT REEL CHINA

The Reel China Documentary Festival is an independent film festival that presents the most outstanding contemporary documentaries produced in China. Sponsored by the REC Foundation, a leading media agency and multi-cultural non-profit organization with the primary goal to help launch the best Chinese documentaries into the world and enhance worldwide understanding, appreciation and research of these artworks and cultural products, the festival takes place every two years. Since its establishment in 1997, Reel China has hosted four documentary film festivals in 2001, 2004, 2006 and 2008, with the 5th grand exhibition in 2010. Unlike most other film festivals, Reel China simultaneously takes place in a number of venues. The first major screening season runs from October through November, and after that, the documentaries will be on screening tours for a year. With the rapid and profound changes in China's society, Chinese documentaries have never been as dynamic and full of vitality as they are today. Contemporary Chinese documentaries have gained worldwide acclaims for their realism, depth, and artistry. Presently, Reel China has become an important window for the world to understand and study contemporary China. It has also become one of the most influential film festivals and biggest archival centers specializing in contemporary Chinese documentaries. About ninety percent of China's best documentary filmmakers have established contacts with Reel China. Through the biennial film selecting activities, Reel China has been discovering and promoting young and newly rising filmmakers as well. The REC Foundation can be contacted at reelchina@yahoo.com. For more information, please visit www.reelchina.net.