

Chinese Opera Films after 1949: Music, Theatre, and Cinematic Arts

April 17-18, 2009



Film adaptations of regional operas were among the most popular genres in China from the 1950s to the 1970s. By examining Chinese opera films from various disciplinary approaches, this two-day symposium aims to expand understanding of the genre and rethink the interactions of Chinese cinema and theatre in a historical and comparative perspective.

Friday, April 17, 2009

8:30am: Registration and breakfast

9:00am-10:45am: Panel I. The Magic Stage on Screen

Weihong Bao, "Mise-en-scene and the Subjunctive body of Opera Film"
Judith Zeitlin, "The Theatrical Supernatural and the Cinematic Fantastic in 1950's PRC Opera Films"
Discussant: Tom Gunning

11:00am-12:45pm: Panel II. Operatic and Cinematic Performance

Xinyu Dong, "Why *The Peony Pavilion*? Mei Lanfang's Last Opera Film"
Peng Xu, "Virtuosity or Virtue? The 'New' Style of Music and Performance in the Opera Film *Third Sister Yóu*"
Discussant: Yuri Tsivian

2:00pm-4:15pm: Panel III. Politics of Remakes and Remodels

Kwok-wai Hui, "Promoting Traditional Culture in a Communist Revolution: Xiqu Film *The Romance of Liang and Zhu*"
Xiangyang Chen, "Woman and the Vernacular in Huangmei Opera Film"
Kristine Harris, "Re-makes/Re-models: *The Red Detachment of Women* between Stage and Screen"
Discussant: Wenchi Lin

7:30pm Screening: *Chasing the Fish Spirit (Zhui yu)*

Directed by Ying Yunwei, 1959, 35mm, 106 min.
Chinese with English Subtitles

Saturday, April 18, 2009

8:30am: Registration and breakfast

9:00am-10:45am: Panel IV. Soundscapes

Barbara Mittler, "Between Censorship and Propaganda: The Cultural Experience of Cultural Revolution China"
Nicole Huang, "*Azalea Mountain* and the Soundscape of Late Mao Culture"
Discussant: Paola Iovene

11:00am-12:45pm: Panel V. Picture, Page, and Screen

Ling Zhang, "Spatial Depth and Pictorial Flatness in Two Filmic Versions of Kun Opera *Peony Pavilion*"
Ling Hon Lam, "Reading off the Screen: Turning the Virtual Page of Chinese Opera Film"
Discussant: Wu Hung

2:00pm-3:45pm: Panel VI. Narrative Conventions and Revolutionary Passions

Xiaomei Chen, "From a Traitor's 'Confession' to Women's Predicaments: Operatic Drama and Films in Turbulent Times"
Jason McGrath, "Cultural Revolution Model Opera Films and the Realist Tradition in Chinese Cinema"
Discussants: David Levin and Michael Raine

7:30pm Screening: *Third Sister Yóu (You Sanjie)*

Directed by Wu Yonggang, 1963, 35mm, 155 min.
Chinese with English Subtitles

Film Studies Center | 5811 S. Ellis Ave. Cobb Hall 307 | Chicago IL 60637

All events are free and open to the public. To view the full schedule and abstracts of papers, visit <http://lucian.uchicago.edu/blogs/chineseopera/>
Persons requiring assistance to fully participate, contact Xu Peng at xupeng@uchicago.edu or Anne Rebull at anner@uchicago.edu.

