



CONFUCIUS
INSTITUTE
FOR SCOTLAND



FILM SEASON

JIANG WEN: A RETROSPECTIVE

FILMHOUSE, EDINBURGH: 11 MARCH - 1 APRIL 2019



THE UNIVERSITY
of EDINBURGH

THE PROGRAMME

FILMHOUSE, EDINBURGH: 11 MARCH - 1 APRIL 2019

FOR DIRECTIONS AND
CONTACT DETAILS, PLEASE
SEE THE INSIDE BACK COVER.



Mon 11 March

17:50

**In the Heat
of the Sun**

Introduced by
Prof Natascha Gentz



Wed 13 March

18:15

Red Sorghum

Introduced by
Dr Huang Xuelei



Mon 18 March

20:30

Black Snow

Introduced by
Prof Natascha Gentz



Thu 21 March

18:05

Keep Cool

Introduced by Noemi
Lemoine-Blanchard



Mon 25 March

17:45

**Devils on the
Doorstep**

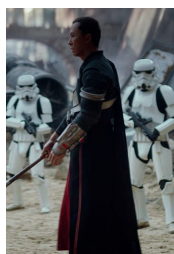
Introduced by
Dr Julian Ward



Wed 27 March

18:00

The Missing Gun



Mon 1 April

17:45

**Rogue One:
A Star Wars Story**



TO FIND OUT MORE, VISIT OUR
SPECIAL JIANG WEN MINI-SITE
confuciusinstitute.ac.uk/film

WELCOME

'THIS IS NOT SO MUCH ABOUT CHINA ONLY, IT IS ABOUT WORLD-CLASS FILMMAKING AT ITS BEST.'

NATASCHA GENTZ



We are delighted to bring to you a retrospective of Jiang Wen, one of the most well-known, popular and loved film actors and directors in

China. We very much hope you share our passion for this internationally acclaimed Chinese film artist.

For over a decade, we have enjoyed a partnership with the Filmhouse in Edinburgh, Beijing Film Academy and China Film Archive introducing Chinese cinema to Scottish and wider British audiences. In 2007, we were honoured to work with Mark Cousins, Director of the Edinburgh International Film Festival, who organised the first UK-wide China Film Festival CinemaChina2007, with famous actress Maggie Cheung and leading director Xie Fei as honorary guests to host Gala shows and give master classes at the Filmhouse. The fully packed cinemas and enthusiastic feedback greatly inspired us to take this initiative further.

In 2009, we presented an award-winning Fringe Show by the Beijing Film Academy in the University's iconic McEwan Hall, producing a novel version of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* involving cutting-edge computer animation technology. Over the years, we have invited China's foremost directors of independent documentary films, including the doyen of Chinese documentary films, Wu Wenguang, and acclaimed writer-turned-filmmaker Xu Xing.

We invited one of China's most popular independent writers, Xu Zechen to present his book at the Edinburgh International Book Festival and the film version at the International Film Festival, again to packed audiences in the Filmhouse. In addition, in the summer of 2018 we presented the Chinese Visual Festival there.

This year's full retrospective of one of China's best actors and directors is again a first of its kind. Jiang Wen is one of China's most celebrated actor-directors and screenwriters. His career has ranged from debuting as the child Emperor Pu Yi to collaborating with the well-known director Zhang Yimou in *Red Sorghum* and *Keep Cool*, before going on to direct a number of well-received films. He even found time to take a starring role in *Rogue One: A Star Wars Story*. In this selection of films, we aim to reflect his diverse and inspiring portfolio, and hope you will see, this is not so much about China only, it is about world-class filmmaking at its best.

We wish to thank our partners, in particular the China Film Archive, but also Golden Harvest Distribution and Emperor Motion Pictures for their great support in bringing these films to Edinburgh.

I hope you enjoy this season.



Professor Natascha Gentz

Director

Confucius Institute for Scotland



**'JIANG IS AN INSTITUTION, A POWERFUL
NATIONAL FIGURE WITH A STRONG SENSE
OF HIS OWN CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE.'**

SHELLY KRAICER, CINEMA SCOPE, 2011

Above

Jiang Wen as former convict,
Li Huiqian in Xie Fei's *Black Snow*.

JIANG WEN

ACTOR, SCREENWRITER & FILM DIRECTOR

‘WHEN I MEET A GOOD ACTOR, I WOULD LIKE TO BE A DIRECTOR. WHEN I MEET A GOOD DIRECTOR, I WOULD LIKE TO BE AN ACTOR. WHEN THERE IS A GOOD SCRIPT, I WOULD LIKE TO BE BOTH A DIRECTOR AND AN ACTOR. THE SWITCH IS VERY NATURAL, NOT INTENTIONAL.’

JIANG WEN, HOLLYWOOD REPORTER

Born in 1963, Jiang Wen graduated from the renowned Beijing Central Academy of Drama in acting in 1984.

He started his career with outstanding performances in lead roles such as in Xie Jin’s *Hibiscus Town* (1987), Zhang Yimou’s *Red Sorghum* (1988) and Xie Fei’s *Black Snow* (1990). *Red Sorghum* was a Golden Bear Winner at the Berlinale and Jiang Wen was nominated twice at the Chinese Golden Rooster Awards for his role.

In this first period of his career, he built a strong acting reputation at home and abroad as Chinese cinema was making its entry into the European film festival scene with a number of acclaimed films post-Cultural Revolution.

Jiang Wen then started venturing into directing with two films which established him as a serious director. *In the Heat of the Sun* (1994) was nominated at the Venice Film Festival and awarded best director at the Golden Horse Film Festival in Taiwan. *Devils on the Doorstep* (2000) was awarded the ‘Grand Prix’ by the jury at Cannes Festival, but this film also cost him a seven-year ban from film-making for its portrayal of the sensitive topic of the Sino-Japanese war.

In these two canons of Chinese cinema, he skilfully explores the unreliability of historical memory, narrativising the Cultural Revolution through the perspective of a young adolescent, and the Sino-Japanese

war through the absurd interrogation of a Japanese soldier in a Chinese village.

During this period, he kept his acting career up, often playing sympathetic outcasts or gauche characters. Under the direction of Zhang Yimou for the second time in the urban comedy *Keep Cool* (1997), he plays a bashful lover with a stutter, and in the debut black comedy of Lu Chuan *The Missing Gun* (2002), he portrays a policeman desperately trying to track down the gun that he has lost.

In 2007, he set up his own film company and returned to directing with critically acclaimed *The Sun Also Rises*, nominated at Venice. Hereafter he developed his signature style with more commercial, action-comedy films. In his trilogy *Let the Bullets Fly* (2010), *Gone with the Bullets* (2014) and *Hidden Man* (2018), he sets Western-style intrigues of bandits and schemers against the tumultuous backdrop of the Republican era (1920s-1930s) in which he also stars in central roles.

With his celebrity status in China, he was cast in the Hollywood production *Rogue One* (2016) alongside Hong Kong actor Donnie Yen.

The collection of films in this retrospective offers an overview of his oeuvre’s milestones and a glimpse of his genius shortly after his latest *Hidden Man* featured at the Toronto International Film Festival.

IN THE HEAT OF THE SUN

阳光灿烂的日子 YANGGUANGCANLAN DE RIZI

MONDAY 11 MARCH 17:50

SUGGESTED AGE CERTIFICATE: 12

Tickets £8 / Concessions £6

Director: Jiang Wen

China, 1994

Fiction, 134 minutes

Mandarin with English subtitles

Format: DCP

Cast

Xia Yu, Ning Jing, Geng Le.

*Preceded by an introduction by
Professor Natascha Gentz*

For his directorial debut, Jiang Wen made a dramatic entrance into film. Adapted from *Wild Beasts* a novella written by Wang Shuo, a Beijing writer renowned for so-called 'hoodlum literature', *In the Heat of the Sun* recounts the story of teenager, Ma Xiaojun, growing up during the Cultural Revolution.

Sheltered from the turmoil raging throughout the country, Ma and his gang are locked within the military compound of their parents in the army. Free of parental supervision, the teenagers pursue their own revolution involving competing for girls and flexing their muscles.



RED SORGHUM

红高粱 HONG GAOLIANG

WEDNESDAY 13 MARCH 18:15

AGE CERTIFICATE: 15

Tickets £8 / Concessions £6

Director: Zhang Yimou

China, 1988

Fiction, 91 minutes

Mandarin with English subtitles

Format: DCP

Cast

Jiang Wen, Gong Li.

*Preceded by an introduction by
Dr Huang Xuelei, University of Edinburgh*

Projecting Zhang Yimou on the international festival stage, his directorial debut, adapted from a novel by Nobel Prize-winning author Mo Yan, features Jiang Wen's early remarkable performance.

In the Shandong countryside of the 1930s, Jiu'er (Gong Li) becomes the wife of a wine distillery owner through an arranged marriage. After her husband's death, she takes over the business and has to protect the distillery from local bandits amidst the threat of Japanese troops. Meanwhile she is 'reclaimed' by a man she had an encounter with some time ago.



BLACK SNOW

本命年 BENMINGNIAN

MONDAY 18 MARCH 20:30

AGE CERTIFICATE: 15

Tickets £8 / Concessions £6

Director: Xie Fei

China, 1990

Fiction, 107 minutes

Mandarin with English subtitles

Format: DCP

Cast

Jiang Wen, Cai Hongxiang, Cheng Li,
Li Geng.

*Preceded by an introduction by
Professor Natascha Gentz*

Famous director Xie Fei's dark fiction sets the stage for a dramatic performance from Jiang Wen, acting as an uneducated yet well-intentioned convict. The film was awarded a Silver Bear at the 40th Berlin International Film Festival in 1990.

After his release from labour camp, Li Huiqian (Jiang Wen) returns home to live with distant relatives. He tries to start his new life by setting up a business in Beijing, but struggles to adapt to a city that has changed enormously during his absence.



KEEP COOL

有话好好说 YOUHUA HAOHAO SHUO

THURSDAY 21 MARCH 18:05
SUGGESTED AGE CERTIFICATE: 12
Tickets £8 / Concessions £6

Director: Zhang Yimou

China, 1997
Fiction, 90 minutes
Mandarin with English subtitles
Format: DCP

Cast

Jiang Wen, Li Baotian, Qu Ying.

*Preceded by an introduction by
Noemi Lemoine-Blanchard,
Confucius Institute for Scotland*

Zhang Yimou's *Keep Cool* is set in modern day 1990s Beijing, in stark contrast to his previous allegorical period films that were emblematic of the Fifth Generation of Chinese filmmakers.

Discussing the film after its completion, Zhang Yimou expressed his satisfaction with Jiang Wen's acting, describing him as 'the best actor in China today' (New York Times).

In this comedy, the hand-held camera follows bookseller Xiaoshuai (Jiang Wen) in his attempt to reconquer his ex-girlfriend An Hong.



DEVILS ON THE DOORSTEP

鬼子来了 GUIZI LAILE

MONDAY 25 MARCH 17:45

SUGGESTED AGE CERTIFICATE: 15

Tickets £8 / Concessions £6

Director: Jiang Wen

China, 2000

Fiction, 139 minutes

Mandarin with English subtitles

Format: DCP

Cast

Jiang Wen, Teruyuki Kagawa,
Jiang Hongbo.

*Preceded by an introduction by
Dr Julian Ward, University of Edinburgh*

Based on an adaptation of the novella *Shengcun* by You Fengwei, *Devils on the Doorstep* is Jiang Wen's second feature. This black comedy set during the Japanese occupation represents his satirical and fast-paced style.

Village peasant Ma Dasan (Jiang Wen) is put in the dangerous position of guarding and interrogating two Japanese prisoners in his home until the New Year by an anonymous gunman. When the gunman does not return, the townspeople are faced with a dilemma.



THE MISSING GUN

寻枪 XUN QIANG

WEDNESDAY 27 MARCH 18:00

AGE CERTIFICATE: 12

Tickets £8 / Concessions £6

Director: Lu Chuan

China, 2002

Fiction, 90 minutes

Mandarin with English subtitles

Format: DCP

Cast

Jiang Wen, Ning Jing, Liu Xiaoning.

This debut feature by director Lu Chuan was also the first digital screening in China upon its release in Shanghai in 2002.

After a night's drinking at his sister's wedding, policeman Ma Shan (Jiang Wen) wakes up to find out his gun has been stolen. He then sets out on a quest to recover it, retracing his steps on the night and interrogating guests.

Along the way, Ma meets his former girlfriend, Li Xiaomeng, played by Ning Jing who starred as the mysterious Milan in Jiang Wen's directorial debut *In the Heat of the Sun*.



ROGUE ONE: A STAR WARS STORY

MONDAY 1 APRIL 17:45

AGE CERTIFICATE: 12A

Tickets £8 / Concessions £6

Director: Gareth Edwards

USA, 2016

Action, Science-fiction, 133 minutes

English

Cast

Felicity Jones, Diego Luna, Jiang Wen.

In this *Star Wars* episode situated between the original 1980s trilogy and newest sequels, Jiang Wen embodies Baze Malbus, a Guardian of the Whills who accompanies Jyn, the daughter of the master engineer of the Death Star, in her quest to steal the blueprint of this intergalactic weapon.

Next to his companion, the poised and spiritual Chirrut Imwe (Donnie Yen), he is a hard-boiled character quick to reach for his machine gun.



THE PRESENTERS

Curated by Noemi Lemoine-Blanchard, Dr Julian Ward, Dr Xuelei Huang and Prof Natascha Gentz, this season is organised and supported by the Confucius Institute for Scotland in the University of Edinburgh.

Prof Natascha Gentz is Assistant Principal China, Director of the Confucius Institute for Scotland and Chair of Chinese Studies at the University of Edinburgh. She has been involved in curating or overseeing events related to Chinese film, facilitating partnerships with the Beijing Film Academy, China Film Archive, Edinburgh Festivals, Hippodrome Silent Film Festival in Bo'ness (HippFest) and the Filmhouse and independent filmmakers in China.

Dr Julian Ward is Senior Lecturer in Chinese Studies at the University of Edinburgh. He co-founded *The Journal of Chinese Cinemas*, the first international journal on Chinese film studies, and co-edited, with Professor Song Hwee Lim, the prestigious *Chinese Cinema Book*, published by the British Film Institute in 2011. He has worked closely with the Filmhouse for many years.

Dr Xuelei Huang is Lecturer in Chinese Studies at the University of Edinburgh. She has written an award-winning book on early Chinese cinema entitled *Shanghai Filmmaking: Crossing Borders and Connecting to the Globe, 1922-1938*. She has been proactively engaged in promoting Chinese silent films at the HippFest in Bo'ness.

She also leads a course on Chinese silent cinema during which students have to produce original Chinese silent movies and compete for the Golden Chopstick Awards judged by an expert panel. For further information see www.ed.ac.uk/literatures-languages-cultures/asian-studies/activities/chinese-silent-film.

Noemi Lemoine-Blanchard is freelance film programmer and Film Projects Manager at the Confucius Institute for Scotland. She has obtained a degree in Chinese Studies and a Masters degree in Film Exhibition & Curation at the University of Edinburgh and has studied at the prestigious Chinese Film Academy. She organised the tour of the Chinese Visual Festival in Edinburgh in 2018 and is now consultant for the CVF in London.

Below

Asian Studies at the University of Edinburgh hosts a team of experts on Chinese, Japanese and Korean Cinema.



THANKS

We would like to thank our friends, supporters and providers:

★
FILMHOUSE

China Film Archive

Emperor Motion Pictures

Orange Sky Golden Harvest
Entertainment Group 橙天嘉禾娛樂集團

THE CONFUCIUS INSTITUTE

The Confucius Institute for Scotland in the University of Edinburgh is a national centre that promotes educational, cultural and economic ties between Scotland and China.

We have developed an excellent reputation for our:

- Extensive programme of Chinese language classes and cultural training.
- Unique, inspiring educational, cultural and business events.

To find out more about this retrospective, please contact:

Noemi Lemoine-Blanchard

E: noemi.blemoine@gmail.com

Xin Zhang

E: Xin.Zhang@ed.ac.uk

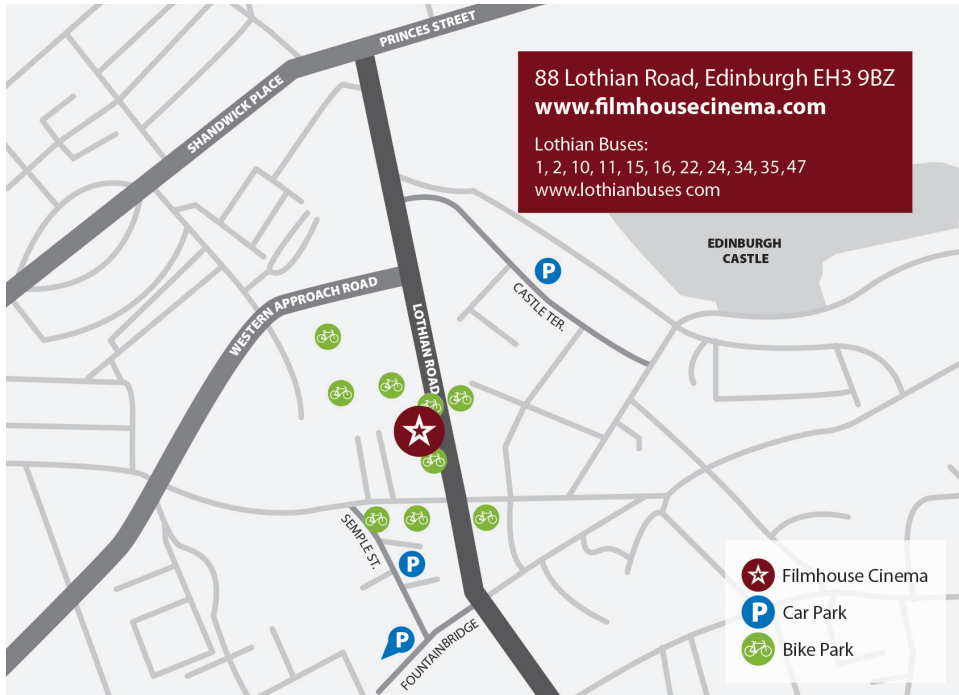
T: +44 (0) 131 662 2180

Visit our website at:

www.confuciusinstitute.ac.uk



DIRECTIONS & CONTACT DETAILS



Filmhouse

88 Lothian Road, Edinburgh EH3 9BZ, Scotland, UK

T: +44 (0) 131 228 2688

E: admin@filmhousecinema.com



TO FIND OUT MORE, VISIT OUR
SPECIAL JIANG WEN MINI-SITE
confuciusinstitute.ac.uk/film



CONFUCIUS INSTITUTE FOR SCOTLAND



TO FIND OUT MORE, VISIT OUR
SPECIAL JIANG WEN MINI-SITE
confuciusinstitute.ac.uk/film

CONFUCIUS INSTITUTE FOR SCOTLAND

Abden House
1 Marchhall Crescent
Edinburgh EH16 5HP

T: 0131 662 2180

E: info@confuciusinstitute.ac.uk

www.confuciusinstitute.ac.uk

 www.facebook.com/CIScotland

 www.twitter.com/CI4Scotland

