

# Asian Pacific Heritage Month 2006

## Adult Film List



This select list was compiled by:

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Boston Regional Library System

## TAIWAN

### **Café Lumière**

(Hou Hsiao-hsien) - Studies the natural, unflashy rhythms of day-to-day Japanese life, subtly revealing beauty and grace in something as mundane as a storefront sign.

### **Millennium Mambo**

(Hou Hsiao-hsien) - A coming-of-age story, told in a melancholy mood from a future perspective, mourning and accepting all the hardships it took to reach adulthood. (Other films by Hou Hsiao-hsien – Flowers of Shanghai, Goodbye South Goodbye, Good Men Good Women, Puppetmaster)

### **Goodbye Dragon Inn**

(Tsai Ming-liang) - On a dark, wet night a historic and regal Chinese cinema sees its final film. Together with a small handful of souls they bid "Goodbye, Dragon Inn."

### **What Time Is It There?**

(Tsai Ming-liang) - When a young street vendor with a grim home life meets a girl on her way to Paris, they forge an instant connection in this homage to the film The 400 Blows. (Other films by Tsai Ming-liang – The Hole, The River, Vive L'Amour, Rebels of the Neon God)

### **Yi Yi**

(Edward Yang) - Each member of a family in Taipei asks hard questions about life's meaning as they live through every-day quandaries.

## THAILAND

### **Last Life in the Universe**

(Pen-ek Ratanaruang) - A suicidal, obsessive-compulsive Japanese librarian is forced to hide out with a pot-smoking Thai woman at her shabby beachside home.

### **Ong Bak: The Thai Warrior**

(Prachya Pinkaew) - When the head of a statue sacred to a village is stolen, a young martial artist goes to the big city and finds himself taking on the underworld to retrieve it.

### **Tropical Malady**

(Apichatpong Weerasethakul) - A romance between a soldier and a country boy, wrapped around a Thai folk legend involving a shaman with shapeshifting abilities.

## VIETNAM

### **The Vertical Ray of the Sun**

(Anh Hung Tran) – This charming, slow-paced, family saga revolves around the lives and loves of three beautiful sisters. (Other films by Anh Hung Tran – Cyclo, The Scent of Green Papaya)

## ANIME

### **Appleseed**

(Shinji Aramaki) - In a utopian society created at the end of the third world war, a female warrior who has been plucked from the badlands begins to see cracks in this new facade. And what does this community have planned for the rest of humankind?

### **Howl's Moving Castle**

(Hayao Miyazaki) - When an unconfident young woman is cursed with an old body by a spiteful witch, her only chance of breaking the spell lies with a self-indulgent yet insecure young wizard and his companions in his legged, walking home.

### **Millennium Actress**

(Satoshi Kon) – The history of Japan as reflected through the career of its most famous star

### **Spirited Away**

(Hayao Miyazaki) - In the middle of her family's move to the suburbs, a sullen 10-year-old girl wanders into a world ruled by witches and monsters, where humans are changed into animals. (Other films by Hayao Miyazaki – Princess Mononoke, Kiki's Delivery Service, My Neighbor Totoro, Castle in the Sky, Nausicaä of the Valley of the Winds)



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## ASIAN-AMERICAN

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### *Better Luck Tomorrow*

(Justin Lin) - A group of over-achieving Asian-American high school seniors enjoy a power trip when they dip into extra-curricular criminal activities.

### *Notorious C.H.O.*

(Lorene Machado) - A film of Margaret Cho's stand-up show, in which she presents her take on modern sexual topics and minority issues. (See other Margaret Cho films including I'm the One That I Want and Margaret Cho: Assassin)

### *Saving Face*

(Alice Wu) - A Chinese-American lesbian and her traditionalist mother are reluctant to go public with secret loves that clash against cultural expectations.

## CHINA

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### *Beijing Bicycle*

(Xiaoshuai Wang) - Guei arrives from the country to Beijing where toothbrushes, hotel foyers, and Qin, a rich neighbor in high heels, dazzle him.

### *Hero*

(Zhang Yimou) - A series of flashbacks shape the story of how one man defeated three assassins who sought to murder the most powerful warlord in pre-unified China.

### *House of Flying Daggers*

(Zhang Yimou) - A romantic warrior breaks a beautiful member of a rebel army out of prison to help her rejoin the Flying Daggers, but things are not what they seem. (Other films by Zhang Yimou – The Turandot Project, Happy Times, The Road Home, Shanghai Triad, The Story of Qiu Ju, Raise the Red Lantern)

### *Quitting*

(Zhang Yang) - An actor becomes increasingly introverted and psychotic and his entire family attempts to intervene. It stars the family upon whom the story is based. (Other films by Zhang Yang – Shower)

### *World*

(Zhang Ke Zia) - An exploration of the impact of urbanization and globalization on a traditional culture. (Other films by Zhang Ke Zia – Unknown Pleasures)

## HONG KONG

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### *2046*

(Wong Kar Wai) - He was a writer who thought he wrote about the future but it really was the past.

### *In the Mood for Love*

(Wong Kar Wai) - A man and a woman move in to neighboring Hong Kong apartments and form a bond when they suspect their spouses of extramarital activities. (Other films by Wong Kar Wai – Happy Together, Fallen Angels, Ashes of Time, Chungking Express, Days of Being Wild)

### *Infernal Affairs*

(Wai Keung Lau; Siu Fai Mak) - A story of a mole in the police department and an undercover cop. Their objectives are the same: to find out who is the mole, and who is the cop.

### *Kung Fu Hustle*

(Stephen Chow) - In Shanghai, China in the 1940s, a wannabe aspires to join the notorious "Axe Gang" while residents of a housing complex exhibit extraordinary powers in defending their turf.

### *Shaolin Soccer*

(Stephen Chow) – A young Shaolin follower and a washed-up soccer star form a team using their martial art skills to their advantage.

## JAPAN

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### *After Life*

(Hirokazu Koreeda) - After people die, they spend a week with counselors, also dead, who help them pick the only memory they can take to eternity.

### *Nobody Knows*

(Hirokazu Koreeda) - Four children are forced to rely on one another after they are abandoned by their mother.

### *Bright Future*

(Kiyoshi Kurosawa) - Two young guys work in a plant that manufactures oshibori (those moist hand-towels found in some Japanese restaurants). Their weird bond is based on uncontrollable rage and the strange jellyfish that they keep as a pet. (Other films by Kiyoshi Kurosawa – Pulse, The Cure)

### *Dolls*

(Takeshi Kitano) - Three interwoven stories about never-ending love.

### *Zatôichi*

(Takeshi Kitano) - The blind masseur/swordsman comes to a town with warring gangs. While bunking with a farming family, he meets two women with their own agendas. (Other films by Takeshi Kitano – Battle Royale, Brother, Taboo, Kikujiro, Fireworks)

### *Godzilla: Final Wars*

(Ryuhei Kitamura) - Godzilla's 50th Anniversary project, in which the King of Monsters travels around the world to fight his old foes plus a new, mysterious monster named Monster X.

### *Ju-On*

(Takashi Shimizu) – Residents of a house with a dark past are plagued by the ghosts that haunt it.

### *Tony Takitani*

(Jun Ichikawa) - Technical illustrator Tony Takitani asks his wife to resist her all-consuming obsession for designer clothes, with tragic consequences. Based on a short story by Haruki Murakami.

### *Twilight Samurai*

(Yôji Yamada) - A 19th-century samurai tries to protect a battered wife.

### *Warm Water Under a Red Bridge*

(Shohei Imamura) - A down-and-out businessman travels to a seaside town, where he meets a woman with unusual sexual powers.

## SOUTH KOREA

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### *3-Iron*

(Kim Ki-duk) - A transient young man breaks into empty homes to partake of the vacationing residents' lives for a few days.

### *Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter... and Spring*

(Kim Ki-duk) - A Buddhist meditation on life and death, and what surrounds us.

### *Memories of Murder*

(Bong Joon-ho) - Two rural cops and a detective from the capital investigate a series of brutal rapes and murders. Their measures become more desperate with each corpse found. Based on a case from 1986.

### *Oldboy*

(Park Chan-wook) - After being kidnapped and imprisoned for 15 years, Oh Dae-Su is released, only to find that he must find his captor in five days.

### *Take Care of My Cat*

(Jeong Jae-eun) - In the port city of Icheon, five female friends struggle to stay close while forging a life for themselves after high school.

### *A Tale of Two Sisters*

(Kim Ji-woon) - Dark and authentic film of the world of the imagination's ability to distort and frighten.

### *Untold Scandal*

(Lee Je-yong) - Based on the novel Les Liaisons Dangereuses, this film is set in aristocratic 18th-century Korea at the end of the Chosun Dynasty.