

May 14, 2006

To: Jim Swartz, Dean of the College
From: Jin Feng, Chair,
Cultural Film Committee
Re: Annual Report (2005-06)

The Cultural Film Committee, consisting of Matthew Kluber, Mark Levandoski, and myself, has co-sponsored various activities in addition to our regular screenings of a wide variety of films this year.

During the fall semester, we screened the Japanese film *Taboo* in conjunction with Pride Week, and collaborated with the Department of Chinese and Japanese, the Freeman Committee, and the East Asian Studies Concentration to fund for a talk on the representation of homosexuality in Japanese films, given by Keith Vincent, Associate Professor of Film Studies from NYU. The audience, including faculty and students of Grinnell and community members, all found the talk very well delivered and thought-provoking. In the spring semester, we co-sponsored two events coordinated by the Department of Chinese and Japanese. In February we screened *Thirty Years of Sisterhood*, a documentary that describes the history of Japanese Women's Liberation Movement, and collaborated with the Freeman Committee and the East Asian Studies Concentration to fund for a campus tour, talks, and workshops of a group of Japanese feminist scholars, activists, and filmmakers. In April we showed *Devils on the Doorstep*, a Chinese film that portrays the experience of Chinese peasants during the Sino-Japanese war in the 1940s. We also worked with Freeman Committee and the East Asian Studies Concentration to invite Gary G. Xu, Associate Professor of Chinese Literature and Film from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, to give a talk on this film. Although the visit of the Japanese atomic bomb survivors, originally planned for the spring, did not come to fruition due to budget and time constraints, the screening of this Chinese film and the talk still stimulated much discussion among faculty and students. Marnie Jorenby's class on War and Japanese Comics especially found the events intellectually engaging.

Before the spring semester started, we sent out a call for film titles to all faculty, asking them to suggest films "that can serve your curricular needs, enhance major campus events, internationalize or diversify the film offerings on campus, or are just classic must-sees," and received enthusiastic responses. I am enclosing at the end of this report the films we have screened for this academic year for your reference.

I would like to take a moment to thank my two colleagues working on the committee, Matthew and Mark, for their diligence and support. I would also like to thank Jan Graham, who took care of all the administrative details such as keeping track of the films that we ordered, reserving room, notifying the Campus Memo, and designing posters for each film. Thanks to her meticulous attention and tireless work, we managed to avoid serious mishaps this year. Our main source of film distributor, Facets, unfortunately made quite a few mistakes. Not only did they sometimes delay mailings of our orders, but, in one case, they also sent us the wrong film. I also like to express my appreciation of the AV Center staff who helped us greatly with our film screening, and indeed showed a remarkable improvement in organization from two years ago.

Below are the two charts for the films we have shown this school year:
Fall 2005:

Date	Title	Country/Year	Distributor
8/26-8/28	Talk to Her	Spain/2002	Facets/DVD
9/2-9/4	The Battleship Potemkin (Silent Film)	USSR/1925	Facets/DVD
9/9-9/11	The Fog of War	USA/2003	Facets/DVD
9/16-9/18	Touching the Void (Documentary)	Great Britain/2003	Facets/DVD
9/23-9/25	Silences of the Palace	Tunisia/1996	Facets/VHS
9/30-10/2	Basquiat	USA/1996	Facets/DVD
10/7-10/9	Field of Dreams	USA/1989	Facets/DVD
10/28-10/30	Taboo	Japan/2000	Facets/DVD
11/4-11/6	Godzilla (Science Fiction)	Japan/1954	Facets/DVD
11/11-11/13	Not One Less	China/1999	Facets/DVD
11/18-11/20	Bend it Like Beckham	Great Britain/2002	Facets/DVD
12/2-12/4	Vodka Lemon	France/Armenia/Italy /2004	New Yorker Films/VHS

Spring 2006:

Date	Title	Country	Distributor
1/27-29	The Rosa Parks Story	USA, 2002	Facets, DVD
2/3-5	My Left Foot	Ireland/Great Britain, 1989	Facets VHS
2/10-12	Thirty Years of Sisterhood: Women in the 1970's Women's Liberation Movement in Japan	Japan, 2004	Donated to the college by the visiting Japanese filmmakers
2/17-19	Alexander Nevsky	USSR, 1938	Facets DVD
2/24-26	Real Women Have Curves	USA, 2002	Facets DVD
3/3-5	Blue	Great Britain, 1993	Facets, VHS

3/10-12	The Magic Flute	Sweden, 1973	Facets, DVD
4/7-9	Gone with the Wind	USA, 1939	Facets, DVD
4/14-16	Radiation: A Slow Death:	Japan	<i>Facets, DVD</i>
4/21-23	Devils on the Doorstep	China, 2000	Facets, DVD
4/25-30	The Red Violin	Canada, 1998	Facets, DVD
5/5-7	Eyes Without a Face	France, 1959	Facets, DVD
5/12-14	Paint your Wagon	USA, 1969	Facets, DVD

Respectfully,
Jin Feng