

A project of the Taipei Liaison Office and the Rhodes University International Office

TAIWAN FILM WEEK

11 – 15 August 2008
Rhodes University
Grahamstown

Free Entrance

Time: 20h00
Monday 11th
CROUCHING TIGER, HIDDEN DRAGON

Tuesday 12th
THE SONG OF CHATAIN MOUNTAIN

Wednesday 13th
GOD MAN DOG

Thursday 14th
JUMP! BOYS

Friday 15th
SPIDER LILIES



Programme

MONDAY
11 AUGUST

LAUNCH
**Crouching Tiger,
Hidden Dragon**

19h00

Barratt 3

**Refreshments
will be served**

TUESDAY
12 AUGUST

**The Song of Chatain
Mountain**

20h00

Eden Grove Red

WEDNESDAY
13 AUGUST

God Man Dog

20h00

Barratt 3

THURSDAY
14 AUGUST

Jump! Boys

20h00

Barratt 3

FRIDAY
15 AUGUST

Spider Lillies

20h00

Barratt 3

All welcome! Free entrance

● **CROUCHING TIGER, HIDDEN DRAGON**

YEAR: 2000 RUNNING TIME: 120 minutes
CAST: Chow Yun-Fat, Michelle Yeoh, Cheng Pei-Pei, Zhang Ziyi, Chang Chen, Sihung Lung
DIRECTOR: Ang Lee
PRODUCTION COMPANIES: Asia Union Film & Entertainment Ltd, China Film Co-Production Corp, Columbia Pictures Film Production Asia, EDKO Films, Good Machine International, Sony Pictures Classics, United China Vision, Zoom Hunt International Productions Company Ltd
GENRE: Martial Arts Drama

Based on a series of books by 20th century author Wang Du-Lu, "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon" is an epic martial arts tale set in China's Qing dynasty.

Two experienced warriors Li Mu-Bai (Chow Yun-Fat) and Yu Shu-Lien (Michelle Yeoh) are faced with their greatest challenge when the treasured Green Destiny sword is stolen.

Matters are complicated by the appearance of Mu-Bai's sworn enemy, Jade Fox (Cheng Pei-Pei), the vicious kung fu mistress who killed Mu-Bai's revered master. Jade Fox has taken on the identity of governess of an aristocrat's daughter, Yu Jen (Zhang Ziyi). Yu Jen has been trained in kung fu by Jade Fox and displays considerable talent in the martial art. Yu Jen is preparing for an arranged marriage, but secretly loves a dashing bandit named Lo (Chang Chen) who lives in a remote desert hideaway.

As each warrior battles for justice, they come face to face with their worst enemy - and the inescapable, enduring power of love.

The film is set against 19th-century China's breathtaking landscape, and features stunning martial arts choreography.

● **THE SONG OF CHATAIN MOUNTAIN**

YEAR: 2007 RUNNING TIME: 107 Minutes
CAST: Zhuang Kai-Huang, Mei-Fang...
DIRECTOR: Yu-Shan Huang
PRODUCTION COMPANY: B & W Film Studio
GENRE: Drama

Adapted from Chung Chao-Cheng's novel of the same title, "The Song of Chatain Mountain" depicts

the intellectual tyranny of Taiwan's Japanese occupiers at the end of the Second World War and the way that educated people resisted it. The story begins with a Taiwanese man, Lu Zhixiang, educated in Japan and a judo master, who returns to Taiwan to live up to his high ideals. He plans to join an anti-Japanese organization on his return, but his ship is sunk on the voyage back, and he must struggle with the ocean for his life. He survives, barely, but the Japanese police are pursuing him, and he flees to the mountains. There he lives a long time, leading a lonely life, wood-cutting, catching eels, and fishing to support himself. He wins the admiration of the local peasants and aboriginal people, and also the love of Benmei, a strongly maternal figure, who decides she wishes to become his wife. The film shows the more intimate side of human nature with great subtlety, emotionally understated but full of spirit.

● **GOD MAN DOG**

YEAR: 2007 RUNNING TIME: 119 Minutes
CAST: Tarcy Su, Han Chang, Ulau Ugan, Hsiao-han Tu, Jack Kao, Jonathan Chang
DIRECTOR: Singing Chen
PRODUCTION COMPANIES: The 3rd Vision Films, Sharpshoot China, Ocean Deep Films, UES Cinetech
GENRE: Drama / Tragicomedy

God Man Dog portrays the lives of Taiwanese people of different backgrounds whose lives converge due to an accident.

Ching (Tarcy Su) is a hand model who becomes estranged from her husband Hsuing (Han Chang) after their baby's cot death.

Aboriginal Biung (Ulau Ugan) tries to overcome alcoholism by trusting in God and his paternalistic pastor. His teenage daughter Savi (Hsiao-han Tu) aspires to a career in freestyle boxing. However, she gets roped into her bosom friend Xiao Han's wildly hilarious schemes to scam clients of S/M call-girl services.

Yellow Bull (Jack Kao) is an amputee who drives a giant illuminated Buddha to various temple festivals. On the Festival of Hungry Ghosts, he picks up Xian (Jonathan Chang), a truant boy who hides inside the luggage compartments of coaches.

Perpetually famished, could Xian be a hungry ghost?

Taiwan's religious festivals and spectacular coastal scenery form the backdrop of a film that explores a range of social issues.

● **JUMP! BOYS**

YEAR: 2005 RUNNING TIME: 85 Minutes
DIRECTOR: Yu-Hsien Lin
PRODUCTION COMPANY: Jumpboys Films
GENRE: Documentary

Seven boys attend an elementary school in Ilan, Taiwan. Their personalities are very different but they have one thing in common - gymnastics. In contrast to most boys their age, they don't play online computer games nor do they hang around shopping malls. Their goal is to become the best in gymnastics, no matter what it takes, no matter how much it hurts and no matter how difficult it is. Their passion for gymnastics takes them to Taiwan's national championship competition.

● **SPIDER LILIES**

YEAR: 2007 RUNNING TIME: 94 minutes
CAST: Rainie Yang, Isabella Leong, Kris Shie
DIRECTOR: Zero Chou
PRODUCTION COMPANY: 3rd Vision Films
GENRE: Lesbian Drama

"Spider Lilies" portrays the story of two young lesbians who reawaken a dormant love for each other.

Jade (Rainie Yang) is a cybersex webcam girl, who broadcasts herself nightly on the internet to anonymous users. She seeks a tattoo, which leads her to the studio of tattoo artist Takeko (Isabella Leong), who also happens to be Jade's childhood crush.

A shy police officer (Kris Shie) is supposed to be investigating Jade's website, but instead befriends her, listening to her childhood stories.

On the surface this film seems light and colourful, but is really an intense story about the impact of trauma on the lives of two women and their families. The film is a deft mix of innocence, sexuality and flashbacks to the countryside.