



**AFI Silver Theatre - China Film Festival**  
**May 3 - 7, 2007**

China is the world's third largest producer of feature films, after India and the United States. An industry of this size would be enough to ensure recognition beyond East Asian markets, but China has also produced a significant number of influential and celebrated filmmakers and performers. Directors like Chen Kaige and Zhang Yimou have regularly had their films exhibited in North America, while John Woo and Wong Kar-Wai are influential stylists who have branched out to US production. Actors ranging from Jackie Chan and Chow Yun-Fat to Gong Li and Ziyi Zhang have international fan bases the world over. This year's Academy Award for Best Picture went to Martin Scorsese's THE DEPARTED, a remake of Andrew Lau's 2002 Hong Kong hit INFERNAL AFFAIRS.

While US movie lovers may be familiar with the work of these established stars, there are still many important films made by and starring emerging talents that have yet to be introduced to American viewers. AFI Silver's 1st China Film Festival, set for May 2007, will highlight outstanding works of contemporary Chinese cinema, including both the work of the brightest new talents and the latest films by recognized masters.

The AFI Silver Theatre welcomes over 200,000 visitors annually to a variety of festivals and retrospectives, showcasing both new films and beloved classics, from all over the world. AFI Silver's China Film Festival will add a unique and vibrant cultural event to the theatre's established yearly calendar, which include SILVERDOCS, the Washington Latin American Film Festival, and the European Union Film Showcase.

From May 3 to 7, AFI Silver will screen a first-class selection of new films from China, including US and Washington, DC premieres, international film festival award winners, and box-office hits. These screenings, along with related events, will provide US audiences a better understanding and appreciation of contemporary China, its rich cultural heritage, and its current creative trends through the universal language of cinema.

Now in its 40<sup>th</sup> year, AFI offers the finest in exhibition, innovative screen education programs and the ongoing celebration of excellence in film, television and digital media, connecting audiences with the best the art form has to offer. With the AFI Silver's location and prominence as a signal cultural institution in the Washington area, the Festival will reach wide audiences, including media, government and other influential communities in the Nation's Capital.

The AFI Silver is seeking sponsorship of the China Film Festival, which is essential to its building a strong financial base. It is worth noting that AFI Silver's other international festivals are accomplished with the support of governments, international corporations, foundations, individuals and NGOs. The Latin American Film Festival is presented in collaboration with the Inter-American Development Bank's Cultural Center and the Association of Ibero-American Cultural Attaches. The EU Film Showcase enjoys the participation of the Delegation of the

European Commission and the Cultural Counselors of the EU member states.

AFI Silver is enthusiastic about working with the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Washington, DC and the State Administration of Radio, Film & TV, to present the AFI Silver's first China Film Festival in May 2007.

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