FOCUS ASIA

Documentary Film Festival 8-9 December 2010

Urban Docs Asia: Identities, Memories, and Struggles in Asian Cities

8 December
9.30-10.30
Invisible City (Singapore)
Directed by Tan Pin Pin

10.30-10.40 Break

10.40-11.45
Happy Together (China)
Directed by Zhu Yingwen

11.45-13.00 Lunch break

13.00-14.35
Yokohama Mary (Japan)
Directed by Takayuki Nakamura

14.35-14.45 Break

14.45-15.35
Saacha (India)
Directed by KP Jayasankar and Anjali Monteiro
Q&A with director 20 min

16.00-16.30
Neighbourhood Tokyo (Japan)
Directed by Theodore C. Bestor

16.30-16.50 Break

16.50-18.15
MeiShi Street (China)
Directed by Ou Ning

Evening programme
20.30-22.30
Diminishing Memories I and II (Singapore)
Directed by Eng Yee Peng
Q&A with director 20 min.

9 December
9.30-10.40
Public Blue (Japan)
Directed by Anke Haarmann

10.40-10.50 Break

10.50-11.35
Naata (The Bond), (India)
Directed by KP Jayasankar and Anjali Monteiro
Q&A with director 20 min

12.00-13.00 Lunch break

13.00-13.35
Side Effects: Portrait of a Young Artist in Lahore (Pakistan)
Directed by Mashhood Ahmed Sheikh

13.35-13.45 Break

13.45-15.25
Street Life (Nanjing Lu) (China)
Directed by Zhao Dayong

15.25-16.00 Break

16.00-17.30
Beijing is Coming (China)
Directed by Li Zhaoxing

Organized by the Centre for East and South-East Asian Studies
Venue: Kino, Kyrkogatan 3, Lund

For more information please see www.ace.lu.se
Urban Docs Asia: Identities, Memories, and Struggles in Asian Cities

8 December

9.30-10.00: Invisible City (Singapore), Directed by Tan Pin Pin

Invisible City is a documentary about documentarians. The director interviews photographers, journalists, anthropologists, people propelled by curiosity to find a City for themselves. The documentary conveys how deeply personal their search is and how fragile histories are, hanging on only through their memories and artifacts. Interwoven with the interviews is a journey with me, the filmmaker, to recollect my childhood memories of village life in Singapore. What is at stake now is the living memories of villages left in Singapore. What is at stake now is the living memories of villages eventually replaced by tall buildings. Today, there are no more villages in Singapore. This film takes you on a personal and political journey. A young woman decides to leave the city she grew up in.

10.40-11.45: Happy Together (China), Directed by Zhu Yinwen

Yee Peng
20.30-22.30: Diminishing Memories I and II (Singapore), Directed by Eng Tan Peng

Singapore's economy is one of the strongest in Asia. However, has anyone contemplated what Singapore's prosperity has been built on? Since 1960, the government started resettling people from all over the country to make way for industrialization. Villages have been demolished and replaced with new buildings. This in turn is changing the composition of the population. Against his background, residents strive to maintain the social fabrics, symbols of local identity, and community rituals that keep the city vibrant. The film attempts to delve into the life of a struggling young middle-class student in Lahore.

12.00-13.00: Yokohama Mary (Japan), Directed by Taiyu Nishiura

Naata is about Thau Koris and Wagner Khan, two activists and friends who have been involved in conflict resolution, working with neighborhood peace committees in Dharravi, Mumbai, reputedly the largest 'slum' in Asia. This film explores their work, which has included the collective production and use of visual media for ethnic unity. Wagner and Thau's work raises several uncomfortable questions for the filmmakers, so-called modern, middle-class, secular urban beings. Naata juxtaposes the multi-layered narrative on Dharravi and the 'stories' of the filmmaker, thereby attempting to foreground a critical and active viewership. Naata is the second in a series on the people and the city of Mumbai. It is a sequel to Satcha (The Loon), 2001.

13.00-13.35: Side Effects: Portrait of a Young Artist in Lahore (Pakistan), Directed by Hashshash Ahmed Sheikh

Lahore is the second largest city of Pakistan with a population of more than 10 million. It is famous for exquisite food, rich culture, as an education capital and as the core of Pakistan's media and arts scene. The film tells us how society in Lahore has evolved through the years. Lahore is the second largest city of Pakistan with a population of more than 10 million. It is famous for exquisite food, rich culture, as an education capital and as the core of Pakistan's media and arts scene. The film tells us how society in Lahore has evolved through the years.

13.00-14.35: Meishi Street (China), Directed by Ou Ning

Meishi Street shows ordinary citizens taking a stand against the planned demolition of their homes. The story takes place in Shanghai, one of the world's most vibrant cities, with hopes of earning a decent living. Some end up in the dark alleys of Nanking Road, Shanghai's largest shopping street, where they hustle and scrape together any kind of living they can use. They are forced to keep their heads down, keeping quiet, as they try to make ends meet. The film takes us deep into the life of a struggling young middle-class student in Lahore.

16.00-16.30: Neighbourhood Tokyo (Japan), Directed by Theodor C. Restor

Kiyama Masao, the film speculates on conceptions of 'the park,' 'public,' 'conflict,' 'social order,' and 'freedom' in Japan, by attempting to define the 'hokkaido' living under blue plastic Sheet in public space. It questions the government's actions in its own unique way. The well-thought-out, playful framing offers excellent analysis of a very 'Japanese' issue, and reminds us of various other cases of exclusion imposed by the authorities in Japan today.

16.30-17.00: Street Life (Nanjing, Lui) (China), Directed by Zhao Haoyang

17.30-18.15: Invisible City (Singapore), Directed by Tan Pin Pin

The film documents the transformation of Beijing, and the changing values of its inhabitants. A young woman decides to leave the city she grew up in.

18.15-19.30: Side Effects: Portrait of a Young Artist in Lahore (Pakistan), Directed by Hashshash Ahmed Sheikh

19.30-20.30: Public Blue (Japan), Directed by Anke Haarmann

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