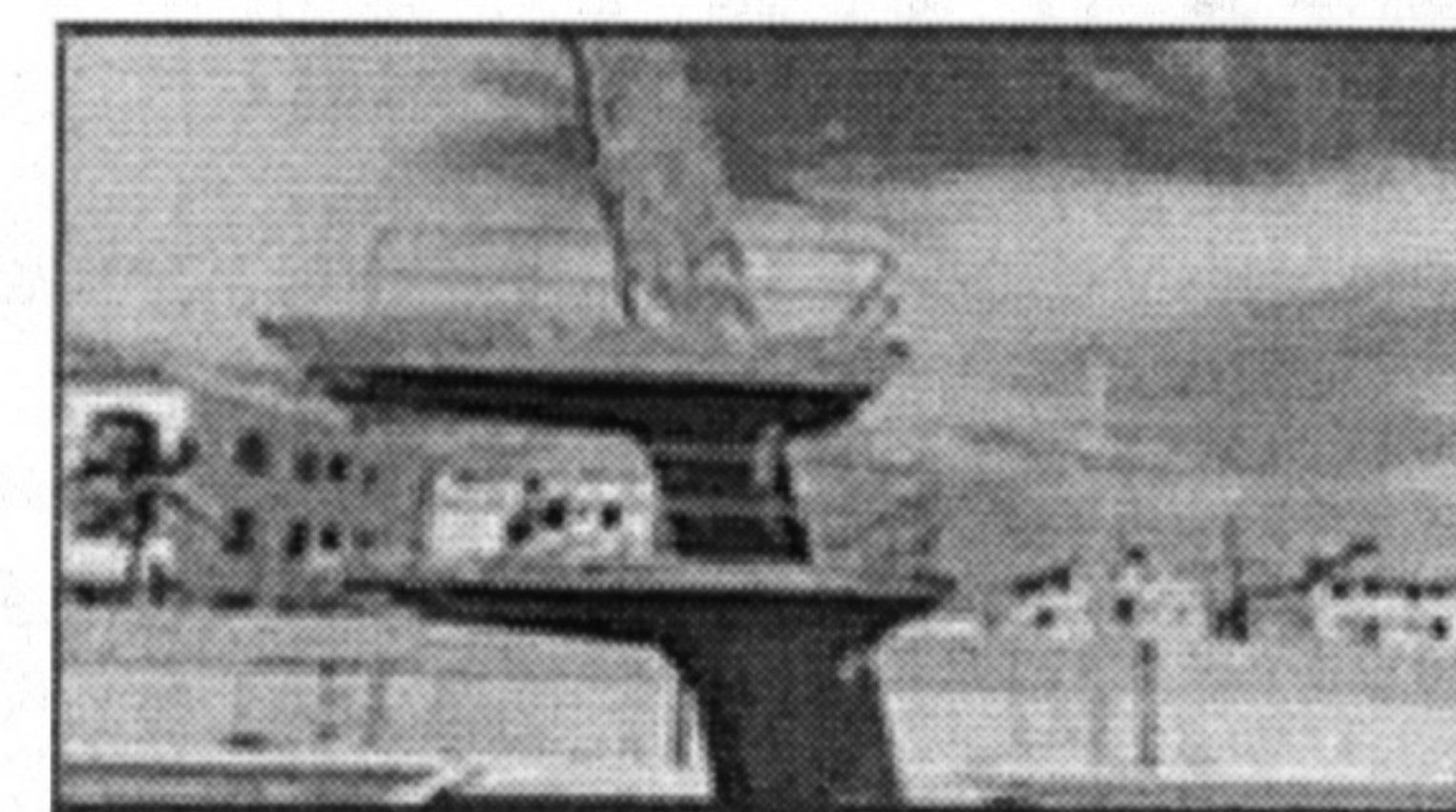


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## Unknown Pleasures [Renxiao Yao]



**China/Japan/South Korea, 2002, 113 min**

**Director** Jia Zhangke

**Producers** Ichiyama Shozo, Li Kit-Ming

**Screenwriter** Jia Zhangke

**Cinematographer** Yu Lik-Wai

**Editor** Chow Keung

**Music** Xiao Chong, Ren Xianqi

**Cast** Zhao Tao, Zhao Weiwei, Wu Qiong, Zhou Qingfeng, Wang Hongwei, Bai Ru

**Print Source:** Seville Pictures

**Sales Agent:** Celluloid Dreams

*Xiao Wu*, winner of our Dragons & Tigers Award, has turned out to be a flagship film for China's current generation of "underground" indie directors, but director Jia Zhangke has stayed one step ahead of the pack. First with his epic social history *Platform* and now with this sequel-of-sorts to *Xiao Wu*. It's the first film he's shot on DV, and its loose, improvisational style allows free rein to his eye for visual incongruities and his sly, absurdist sense of humour.

His central characters are Xiao Ji and Binbin, jobless 19-year-olds in Datong, once an industrial hub. Xiao Ji (Wu Qiong) makes a shy play for the dancer Qiao Qiao (Zhao Tao, from *Platform*), undaunted by the fact that she's a gangster's mistress; Binbin (Zhao Weiwei) chastely dates a girl who's about to leave to study marketing in Beijing. Xiao Wu himself (the inimitable Wang Hongwei) puts in a couple of appearances, latterly back on the streets as a loan shark. Eventually the boys come up with their grand, romantic gesture: robbing a bank. Jia integrates fact (the upcoming Beijing Olympics, ads for the provincial lottery) and references to news events (the detonation of a block of flats by a laid-off worker) to build up a credible sense of the fast-changing present, but he's interested in a lot more than social reportage. As in the other films, his perspective is essentially spiritual: this touches the qi of contemporary China, like a doctor taking a pulse.  
- Tony Rayns

**Programme Code:** UNKNO

**Thu Oct 3, 9:00pm**  
**Granville 7 Cinema 2**  
**\$8.50**

**Sun Oct 6, 12:30pm**  
**Granville 7 Cinema 4**  
**\$6.50**

### Selected Filmography

**Xiao Wu (97), Platform (00)**

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