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THE WORLD The latest triumph from Jia Zhangke (*Platform*, *Unknown Pleasures*) is about people who aren't sure where they belong in the new, globalized world order. The story focuses on a young dancer and her security-guard boyfriend who work at a Beijing theme park, a weird cross between Las Vegas and the Epcot Center that offers scaled-down versions of famous landmarks—the Pyramids, the Eiffel Tower, even the twin towers of the World Trade Center. Rather than dwell on the kitsch, Jia casts a compassionate eye on the daily loves, friendships, and desperate dreams of the provincial workers at World Park. They've come to the capital to get ahead in the big glamorous world but end up offering tourists surreal simulacra of the real thing. Sly, poetic, and pulsing with life, this funny, touching work confirms, yet again, that Jia is one of the new millennium's most inventive cinematic talents.

143 min. China, 2004

11C Mon. Oct. 11, 6:00 pm

12B Tue. Oct. 12, 9:00 pm

NYT, 9/12/04, p. A12 64