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Dragons and Tigers

The World

[WORLD]

China, 2004, 138 min , Color , 35mm

Directed By: Jia Zhangke

PRODS: Ichiyama Shozo, Chow Keung

SCR: Jia Zhanke

CAM: Yu Lik-Wai

ED: Kong Jinlei

MUS: Lim Giong

Cast: Zhao Tao, Cheng Taisheng, Wang Xiaoshuai, Liu Xiaodong




Film Resources

China's headlong rush to modernize continues to throw up endless problems and contradictions, not least the awkward gap between the country's image of itself as a sophisticated "developed nation" and the widespread desire among Chinese people to travel abroad or, preferably, emigrate. Jia Zhangke addresses that gap head on in his first non-underground feature, set in and around a "World" theme park which contains scale replicas of the Eiffel Tower, the pyramids, Tower Bridge, the Taj Mahal and so on.

Tao (Zhao Tao, now established as Jia's constant muse) is a singer and dancer in the park's shows; her boyfriend Taisheng is one of the security guards. Their more or less chaste romance, ultimately strained by his attempted infidelity, gives the movie its core. Around them are assorted go-getters, gangsters, social climbers and sleazeballs (director Wang Xiaoshuai contributes a fine cameo as a lecherous businessman in a karaoke lounge), all of them as emblematic of "New China" as the villagers who flock to Beijing to earn big money doing dangerous jobs in the construction industry. As a snapshot of China at a particular moment, this is in sharp focus. As a movie, it's highly original and brilliantly achieved. And as for the musical and animation sequences...

Screening Schedule

Date	Time	Venue	Tickets
Mon, Sep 27	6:45 pm	Visa Screening Room @the Vogue	\$9.00 <input type="button" value="Past"/>
Wed, Sep 29	11:30 am	Granville 7 Cinema 3	\$7.00 <input type="button" value="Past"/>

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Dragons and Tigers

**Resources for
The World**

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