

## Document Citation

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TAIWAN, CHINA 1984

## Taipei Story

*Qingmei zhuma*

8.45 ICA

also Sun 17 Nov 6.15 ICA

**Director: Edward Yang (Yang Te-ch'ang)**

*Production Company:* Evergreen Films

*Producer:* T'an Yi-hua

*Screenplay:* Edward Yang, Chu T'ien-wen, Hou Hsiao-hsien

*Photography (Colour):* Yang Wei-han

*Export Agent:* Evergreen Films, 69 Tsi-nan Rd, Section 2, Taipei

*Leading Players:* Ts'ai Ch'in, Hou Hsiao-hsien, Wu Nien-chen, Lin Hsiu-ling

*Running Time:* 115 mins

Since his striking *début* with the episode *Desires* in the portmanteau film *In Our Time* (seen at the 1983 LFF), Edward Yang has become one of the most controversial directors of the Taiwan New Wave. Following his ambitious first feature *That Day, on the Beach* (to be shown next year at the NFT), *Taipei Story* is a quieter, more intimate work, focusing on the shattered dreams of a young upper-middle-class couple in modern Taipei. Ah-lung (played by Hou Hsiao-hsien, the director of last year's *The Boys from Fengkuei*) is a businessman with financial problems and a lingering relationship with another woman; Ah-chen (played by the popular singer Ts'ai Ch'in) is a minor executive recently made redundant following a takeover. There is little storyline: the characters reflect facets of modern-day Taipei life – the urge for escape, the demands of family ties, the loss of an earlier innocence (referred to in the film's Chinese title, 'Green Plums and Toy Horses'). Visually arresting and elegantly shot, the film offers no pat solutions, no panaceas. Even by the ambitious standards of New Taiwan Cinema, *Taipei Story* is in a league of its own.

–Derek Elley.

**LFF**