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26TH VANCOUVER INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

SEPTEMBER 27 - OCTOBER 12, 2007

[Summary](#)
[Director Bio](#)
[Film Contacts](#)

Useless

Wuyong

[USELE] *Dragons and Tigers*

China, 2007, 80 min, Sony HD Cam

Directed By: Jia Zhangke

EXEC PRODS: Chow Keung, Mao Jihong, Kang Jianmin

PRODS: Yu Lik-wai, Zhao Tao, Youyishanren

CAM: Yu Lik-wai, Jia Zhangke

ED: Zhang Jia

MUS: Lim Giong

Last year's Venice Golden Lion winner Jia Zhangke is concentrating on documentaries this year. *Useless* deploys his perfectly distanced camera eye and analytical intelligence in the service of a uniquely conceived examination of clothing. In particular, Jia focuses on the design and production of clothing in three places, via three modes of production. The film begins with large scale industrial manufacture, in a clothing factory in Zhuhai city, Guangdong. It then moves to Guangzhou and Paris, focusing on Ma Ke, an artist who rejects "fashion" in her pursuit of high-concept clothing design. The final section returns to Jia's hometown Fenyang (the setting of *Xiao Wu* and *Platform*), and looks at an almost obsolete small-town tailor shop functioning in a landscape being devoured by 19th century-style coal mining.

Jia juxtaposes three places, three modes, and three eras, all coexisting in contemporary China. The title, *Wuyong* (i.e. "Useless") comes from Ma Ke's creative clothing label, but the film is not merely about the usefulness of labour, but about its existential necessity. With an astonishing eye for detail, Jia teases out individual characters at their factory sewing machines, a loving couple of small town ex-tailors, three impassively beautiful miners on an eerie crepuscular smoking break...

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Chinese Canadian Times

Preceded By:

Our Ten Years

China, 2006, 9 min

Wo Men De Shi Nian

[USELE]

Directed By: Jia Zhangke



SCREENING SCHEDULE

Saturday, Sep 29th 12:30pm	\$7.50
Empire Granville 7 Theatre 2	<input type="button" value="BUY"/>
Monday, Oct 1st 9:45pm	\$9.50
Empire Granville 7 Theatre 2	<input type="button" value="BUY"/>
Thursday, Oct 4th 3:30pm	\$7.50
Empire Granville 7 Theatre 2	<input type="button" value="BUY"/>

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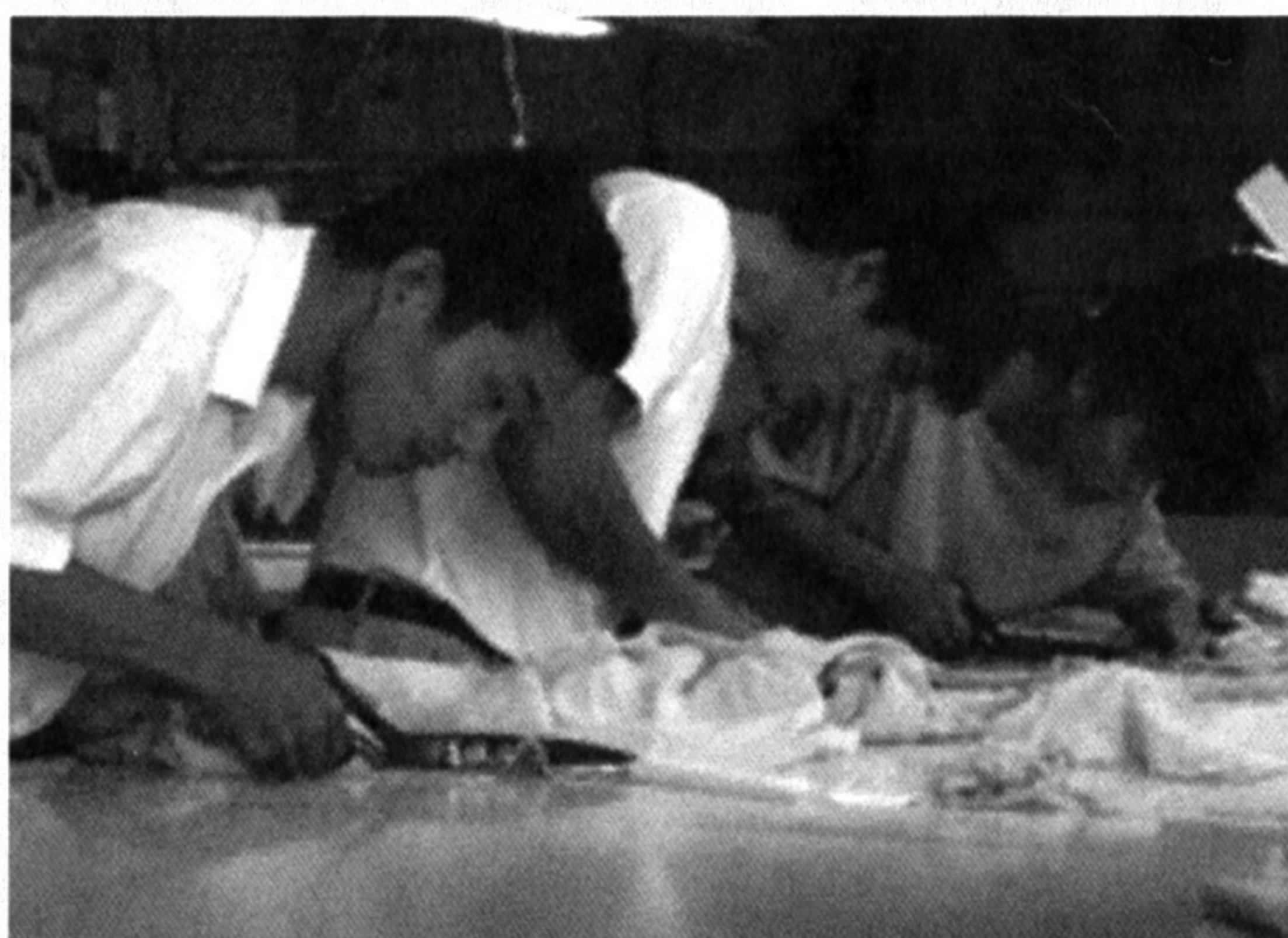
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Resources for Useless Wuyong

Print Source

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Our Ten Years

Wo Men De Shi Nian

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China , 2006 , 9 min

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