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A Touch of Sin (Tian zhu ding)

dir. Jia Zhangke | China/Japan 2013 | 129 min.

• Official Selection, Toronto International Film Festival 2013

Chinese master Jia Zhangke made his worldwide reputation with a series of brilliant films that blended documentary and fiction to reflect on both his country's vanishing past and its uncertain future, seeking out those marginalized places and peoples often forgotten in China's great leap towards global predominance. Tracing the tragic destiny of four "sinners" from four different provinces who channel their underclass rage into a bloody and murderous rampage, Jia's new film *A Touch of Sin*—whose English title cheekily references King Hu's swordplay classic *A Touch of Zen*—fuses gritty social realism with eye-popping action to create a modern-day *wuxia* epic. Angry, aggressive, strikingly stylized and startlingly violent, *A Touch of Sin* is a stunning change of pace from one of today's greatest filmmakers.

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