

Document Citation

Title The world

Author(s) Giovanna Fulvi

Source Toronto International Film Festival

Date 9/9/2004

Type program note

Language English

Pagination

No. of Pages 1

Subjects

Film Subjects The world, Jia, Zhang ke, 2004



Film Description

FILM TITLE:

The World

Box Office Information

→ Live From The Festival

→ Media Centre

Get involved

Best Bets

Order Online

→ My Film List

TIFF Alerts

· Search for a Film

Festival Insights

Filmmaker's Blog

TORONTO INTERNATIONAL

Contact Us I

General Policies

Up To The Minute

TIFFG Year-Round

QUICK LINKS

(Shi Jie)

Programme: Contemporary World

Cinema

Director: Jia Zhang-ke Country: China/Japan/France

Year: 2004

Language: Mandarin Time: 140 minutes

Film Types: Colour/35mm



SCREENING TIMES:

Wednesday, September 15 07:00 PM PARAMOUNT 4 Saturday, September 18 09:00 AM PARAMOUNT 4

Production Company: Office Kitano Inc./Lumen Film/X Stream Pictures

Executive Producer: Shozo Ichiyama

Producer: Shozo Ichiyama Screenplay: Jia Zhang-ke Cinematography: Yu Lik-wai

Editor: Kong Jing-lei
Production Designer: Wu Li-zhong

Sound: Zhang Yang Music: Lim Giong

Principal Cast: Zhao Tao, Chen Tai-sheng, Jing Jue, Jiang Zhong-wei, Wang Yi-qun

In *The World*, the film that marks Jia Zhang-ke's entry into legitimate cinema in China, he travels the earth without ever leaving Beijing. Here, the world is the awesome kitsch of an amusement park on the outskirts of an Asian megalopolis. Yet it is also the standpoint of one's personal experience, the projection of one's life and ideas on other cultures and places, or a finite universe traversed by globalization. It is the solidarity of the village that rural migrants, flooding into Beijing in search of work, are trying to find and recreate. But it can also be the love of one's life – that intimate, close relationship a person shares with another. And, then again, sometimes the world is a stage.

Featuring traditional folk songs and an electronic score written by Taiwanese composer Lim Giong, *The World* follows the offbeat rhythm of the love story of Tao (Zhao Tao) and Taisheng (Cheng Tai-sheng). Tao, a performing artist whose round-the-clock task is to amuse tourists with folk dances from other countries, and Taisheng, a security guard, live inside the gilded amusement park, where international architectural wonders such as the Arc de Triomphe, Big Ben and the Egyptian pyramids stand as scaled-down monuments to a simulated culture. The two are naturally and necessarily brought together by their respective loneliness and by their struggle to find a purity of sentiment which, ultimately, they are destined to chase unsuccessfully.

Drawing an elegant strength from its amazing, allegorical location, *The World* revisits Jia's favourite subjects – youth, detachment and disillusionment – with appropriate reserve; though the film is about a tragic love story, the impression it leaves is one of extreme cold and disengagement, and of an incapability to communicate. The philosophical premise is embodied in the inherent artificiality of the characters' environment and in Tao's performances, which – like a bleak commercial – evoke the pageant the Chinese government is constantly staging to advertise the country's exceptional economic growth. The microcosm of the theme park is a multi-layered symbol for the idea that the world exists wherever you are.

- Giovanna Fulvi

Jia Zhang-ke was born in Fenyang, in the northern Chinese province of Shanxi. He studied painting as a teenager and wrote a novel at the age of twenty-one. He entered the Beijing Film Academy in 1993 and founded the Youth Experimental Film Group two years later. He made his feature directorial debut with Pickpocket (97); his next two films, Platform (00) and Unknown Pleasures (02), were both Festival presentations. The World (04) is his fourth feature.

Associated with European Film Promotion, an initiative supported by the European Union's MEDIA Programme.

Add This Film to My Film List

Back To Contemporary World Cinema

© 2004 Toronto International Film Festival Group. All rights reserved. (416) 967-7371 (416) 968-FILM ® Toronto International Film Festival is a registered trade-mark of Toronto International Film Festival Inc.