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Autumn Moon

Qiuyue

HONG KONG/JAPAN 1992, 108 min.
In English, Cantonese, and Japanese with English subtitles

DIR Clara Law

PROD Law, Fong Ling Ching **SCR** Fong **CAM** Tony Leung

ED Fong **CAST** Masatoshi Nagase, Li Pui Wai, Choi Siu Wan, Maki Kiuchi, Sun Ching Hung **PRINT** Fortissimo Film Sales

The uncertainty of diaspora coupled with a technology-fueled consumer culture are rapidly eroding the traditions which nourish the roots we know as self. Pondering this impact on young people lies at the heart of **Autumn Moon**, Clara Law's evocative meditation on identity, friendship, and culinary alchemy. Twentysomething Tokio (Masatoshi Nagase of *Mystery Train*), a camcording Japanese tourist, spends his Hong Kong holiday in desultory pursuit of one-night stands, good buys, and *the* great meal. One day his half-hearted fishing effort catches the eye of Wai (Li Pui Wai), a 15-year-old who's remained in the city to finish the school year while her parents sort out the family's emigration to Canada. Their aimless banter, cobbled together by gesture and broken English, assumes purpose when the conversation turns to food. Tokio's desperate han-

kering for a dining epiphany eventually leads back to Wai's home and the magic of Granny's wok. Differences in language, culture, and experience serve as no barrier as this chance encounter blossoms into a tender friendship of shared confidences between two unlikely soulmates. Silent but omnipresent is Hong Kong, rendered a luminous ultramodern ghost

town through Tony Leung's stunning compositions of glass, steel, and concrete. Part Chinese puzzle, part

memory box, **Autumn Moon** weaves together disparate themes of innocence and cynicism, materialism and spirituality, tradition and modernity to sublime effect. *Golden Leopard, Locarno Film Festival.*

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