

## Document Citation

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*Jia Zhang Ke (Hong Kong/China, 2000)*

(*Zhan Tai*). China's tumultuous 1980s are revisited in this hyperrealistic account of one provincial theater troupe's struggles, in a landscape moving from post-Cultural Revolution isolation to a consumer-age nightmare of bad perms and disco fever. The troupe is founded in 1979, but by 1989 they have left traditional opera and Mao behind and become the All-Star Rock'n'Breakdance Electronic Band, performing Cantopop and Michael Jackson to an increasingly dwindling audience. Members fight, split up, drained by continual run-ins with angry workers, hardheaded cops, and corrupt politicians. Jia Zhang Ke covers a nation's transformation by focusing on one group of finely sketched, all-too-human characters.

- Written by Jia. Photographed by Yu Lik-wai. With Wang Hong-wei, Zhao Tao, Liang Jing-dong. (155 mins)