

Document Citation

Title	All tomorrow's parties
Author(s)	Derek Elley
Source	<i>Variety</i>
Date	2003 Jun 23
Type	review
Language	English
Pagination	31
No. of Pages	1
Subjects	
Film Subjects	Mingri tianya (All tomorrow's parties), Yu Lik-Wai, Nelson, 2003

variety 6/23-29/03
P-31

ALL TOMORROW'S PARTIES

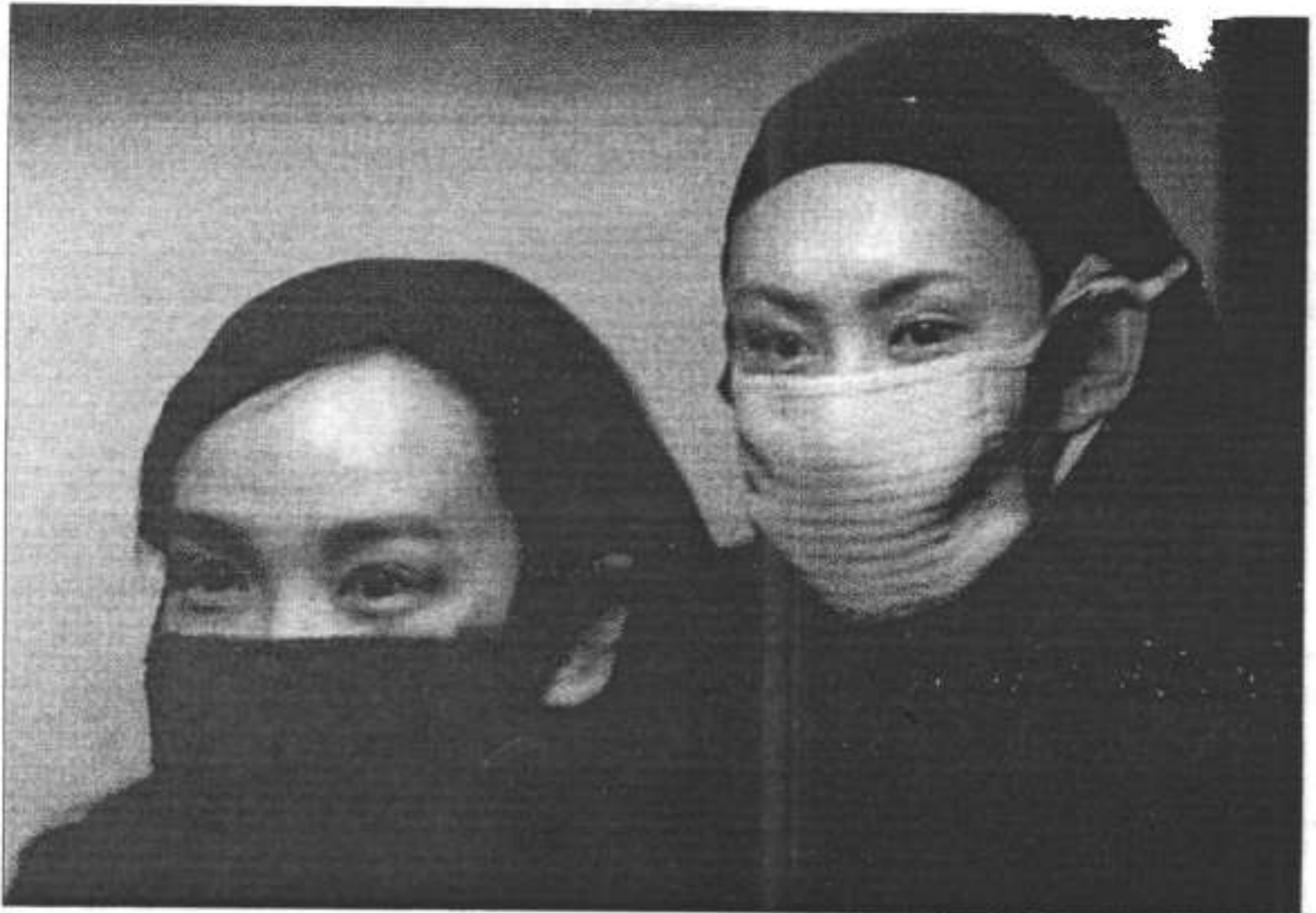
(MINGRI TIANYA)

(FRANCE)

A Lumen Films production, in association with Hu Tong Communications, Won & Won Pictures, Teleimage. (International sales: Celluloid Dreams, Paris.) Produced by Hengameh Panahi, Li Kit-ming.

Directed, written by Yu Lik-wai. Camera (color, HDCam DV), Lai Yiu-fai; editor, Chow Keung; music, Yoshishiro Hanno; art directors, Zhao Xiaoyu, Qiu Sheng; costumes, Fu Jingping. Reviewed at Cannes Film Festival (Un Certain Regard), May 16, 2003. Mandarin & Korean dialogue. Running time: 96 MIN.

With: Jo Yeong-weon, Diao Yi'nan, Zhao Weiwei, Na Ren.



MASQUERADE: *Filmmaker Yu Lik-wai's grimly futuristic "All Tomorrow's Parties" takes place in the mid-21st century.*

Pretension is high on the menu in "All Tomorrow's Parties," a joyless tranche of post-apocalyptic dystopia set in continental East Asia that's headed nowhere except arty fests and digital-friendly events. Hong Kong helmer (Nelson) Yu Lik-wai's first feature, "Love Will Tear Us Apart," a flawed but moody portrayal of mainland Chinese immigrants, seems a model of clarity and atmosphere in comparison.

Setting is the mid-21st century (on a budget), when the neo-Maoist Gui Dao sect rules throughout China and the Korean peninsula. Brothers Xie Xiaozhuai (Diao Yi'nan) and Xie Xiaomian (Zhao Weiwei) are rounded up and sent to Camp Prosperity, a gulag where Xiaozhuai meets Korean single mom Xuelan (Jo Yeong-weon) and Xiaomian hooks up with sickly Chinese woman Lanlan (Na Ren). When an (unseen) coup frees them, Xiaozhuai and Xuelan travel to a ruined industrial city, where more proto-fascism awaits them. Dialogue is terse and elliptical, largely composed of unanswered questions ("Are you from Mongolia?" Reply: "Why are you going south?"), and perfs stiff and emotionally desiccated. Listed among associate producers is cult Mainland helmer Jia Zhangke ("Platform"), which gives a hint of the French-produced pic's arid tone.

— *Derek Elley*