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THE EMPEROR'S SHADOW

Zhou Xiaowen (China) 1996

35mm, Color, 117 mins

Mandarin w/English s.t.

Film Rental: \$300

VHS purchase: \$225

The tumultuous saga of two boyhood friends in China at the dawn of its dynastic history (circa 200 BC). Ying Zheng grows up to be the first emperor of unified China, while Gao Jianli becomes a much-admired musician and composer. An opulent drama of battling kingdoms and forbidden love affairs. Its eccentric and sometimes brutal details are cast amidst breathtaking visual splendor. The most expensive film ever made in China, featuring two of China's most celebrated actors. By the director of 1997's award-winning film, ERMO.

“★★★★ More than mere spectacle or lavish costumes. An intense psychological study of a cruel conqueror that reaches far into the soul. Delicously nuanced, intelligent and enlightening. Each frame is a visual knockout. Riveting. A towering statement about the artist as the ultimate free man.”

– Peter Stack, San Francisco Chronicle

“A stunningly staged and photographed period epic, arguably scoring as the most lavish, eyeball searing Sino-spectacle to date. Breathtaking. Magnificent.” - San Francisco Bay Guardian