

## Document Citation

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## **Lust, Caution**

Passion, lust and politics: a dazzling portrait of China in the 40s

The latest film from Ang Lee is a tense, handsomely mounted espionage thriller set in the 1940s, about the fate of one woman's heart. Based on a short story by celebrated Chinese author Eileen Chang, it begins in 1942 with the Japanese occupation of Shanghai in full force.

Mrs Mak, a woman of sophistication and means, walks into a café and places a call. Sitting and waiting, she remembers how her story began several years earlier, as a shy student who discovers a talent for drama. Her ability to act makes her valuable to the underground revolutionary movement, and she joins a radical and ambitious plot to assassinate a top Japanese collaborator, Mr Yee. Adopting the guise of a wealthy businessman's wife, she insinuates herself into his life by befriending his wife and all seems to be going to plan, until emotions start to surface.

Lust, Caution brings together cinema icon Tony Leung Chiu-Wai (In the Mood for Love, Infernal Affairs) and dazzling newcomer Tang Wei to electric effect, alongside the ever excellent Joan Chen (Xiu Xiu: The Sent-Down Girl, Twin Peaks) as Mrs Yee. Ang Lee is a master of capturing the nuances of passion suppressed and concealed, and in Lust, Caution this is set amidst a fascinating and troubled period in Chinese history, where subterfuge was a part of everyday life for many. Absorbing, beautifully crafted (Rodrigo Prieto's cinematography and Tim Squyres's editing are outstanding) and emotionally devastating.

*Sandra Hebron*

LONDON FF 2007

### **Directed by:**

Ang Lee

### **Written by:**

Wang Hui-Ling, James Schamus

### **Cast:**

Tony Leung Chiu-Wai, Tang Wei, Joan Chen

### **Distributor:**

Universal Pictures International

### **Country:**

USA

### **Year:**

2007

### **Running time:**

156 mins