

Document Citation

Title	Childhood's end: the films of Hou Hsiao-Hsien
Author(s)	
Source	<i>Asia Society</i>
Date	
Type	program note
Language	English
Pagination	
No. of Pages	2
Subjects	Hou Hsiao-Hsien (1947), Meixian, Guangdong, China (Republic : 1949-)
Film Subjects	Fengkuei-lai-te-jen (The boys from Fengkuei), Hou Hsiao-Hsien,, 1984 Erzi de da wanou (The sandwich man), Hou Hsiao-Hsien,, 1983 Dongdong de jiaqi (A summer at Grandpa's), Hou Hsiao-Hsien,, 1984 Tong nien wang shi (The time to live and the time to die), Hou Hsiao-Hsien,, 1985 Lianlian fengchen (Dust in the wind), Hou Hsiao-Hsien,, 1986



725 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10021

Writer, actor and director, Hou Hsiao-hsien is one of the foremost filmmakers of the New Cinema of Taiwan that began to emerge in 1982-83. Hou, along with other young filmmakers like Edward Yang and Chen Kwen-hou, belong to a new generation that came of age after 1949 during a period of remarkable growth and change in Taiwan. With formal film training in the West and in Taiwan, these filmmakers broke away from the melodramatic romances, historical epics haunted with memories of the mainland, and martial arts flicks that dominate Taiwan's film industry.

Hou's films deal with the changing reality of life in Taiwan: its generation gap, the increasing divergence between the rural and urban areas, the affluence of the emerging middle class professionals. What further distinguishes Hou's films are their essentially Chinese character and a realism that is startling in the authenticity and artistry of its portrayal of contemporary Taiwan. The films are strongly autobiographical, and in drawing upon his recollections of childhood and adolescence, Hou's films become a metaphor for the changes in modern-day Taiwan.

Thursday, July 9 at 7:00 PM. Also July 23 at 3:00 PM.

Lien Lien Fung Chen (Dust in the Wind)

Directed by Hou Hsiao-hsien. Screenplay by Wu Nien-jen, Chu Tien-wen. Camera by Li Ping-pin. With Sin Shu-fen, Wang Tsin-wen, Lee Tien-mu, Mei Fang. 1987, 109 minutes. US Premiere.

Acclaimed at the 1987 Berlin Film Festival's Forum of Young Films, Hou's latest film is about a young man who sets out to find work in the big city so he can make money to send home and eventually marry his childhood sweetheart. Marked with great sympathy and understanding for its characters and a spare, unhurried visual style, Hou's film becomes an atmospheric statement on the generation gap and the divide between the village and the city in contemporary Taiwan. *Mr. Hou will be present at the 7 PM screening.*

Thursday, July 16 at 7:00 PM. Also July 30 at 3:00 PM.

Tung-tung te Chia-ch'i (A Summer at Grandpa's)

Directed by Hou Hsiao-hsien. Screenplay by Chu Tien-wen. Camera by Chen Kwen-hou. Music by Edward Yang. With Koo-Chuen, Mei Fang, Wang Chi-kwang, Lin Hsiao-ling. 1984, 102 minutes.

Tung-Tung and his young sister, two city kids, are sent to their grandparents' home in the country for the summer vacation. What follows is a controlled, leisurely series of episodes marking the children's first encounter with the countryside and figures from Taiwan's not too distant past.

Presented in cooperation with the Chinese Cultural Center. The Asia Society's film program is partially supported by the New York State Council on the Arts.

Childhood's End:

THE FILMS OF HOU HSIAO-HSIEN

Thursday, July 23 at 7:00 PM.

Also July 9 at 3:00 PM.

Feng-kuei Lai-te Jen (The Boys from Fengkuei)

Directed by Hou Hsiao-hsien. Screenplay by Chu T'ien-wen. Camera by Chen Kwen-hou. Music by Yang Te-ch'ang. With Niu Ch'eng-tse, Lin Hsiu-ling, T'ao Tsung-hua, Chang Shih. 1984, 100 minutes. NY Premiere.

Hou's most exuberant film to date recounts the adventures of three lads who, as they wait to go into military service, leave behind the ennui of their hometown on the small island of Fengkuei for the larger bustling port of Kaohsiung in southern Taiwan. With characteristic gentle humor the filmmaker probes the aimless wanderings of Taiwan's less privileged youth in the crowded anonymity and energy of city life.

plus: Erh-tzu-te Ta Wan-ou (Son's Big Doll)

Directed by Hou Hsiao-hsien. Screenplay by Wu Nien-chen, from a story by Huang Ch'un-ming. Camera by Ch'en Po-cheng. Music by Wen Lung-hsin. With Ch'en Po-cheng, Yang Li-yin, Tseng Kuo-feng, Lai Te-nan, Hou Fu-yu. 1984, 34 minutes. US Premiere.

Originally part of *The Sandwich Man*, a trilogy of films based on stories by Huang Ch'un-ming, Hou's episode, filmed in Taiwanese rather than Mandarin, is a poignant portrait of a man seeking a little comfort from his impoverished family as he ekes out a living as a sandwich-board man.

Thursday, July 30 at 7:00 PM. Also July 16 at 3:00 PM.

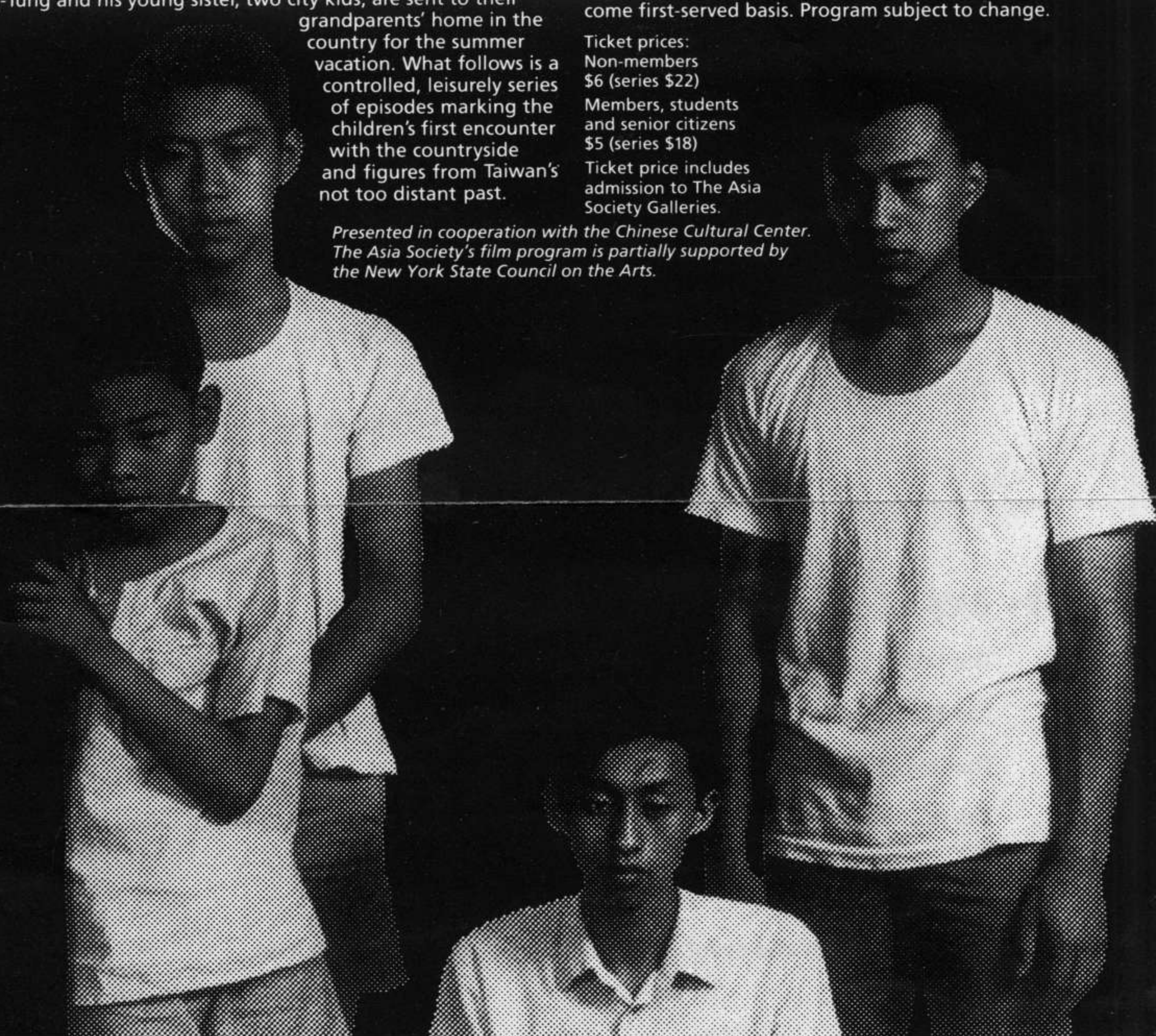
T'ung Nien Wang Shi (A Time to Live and A Time to Die)

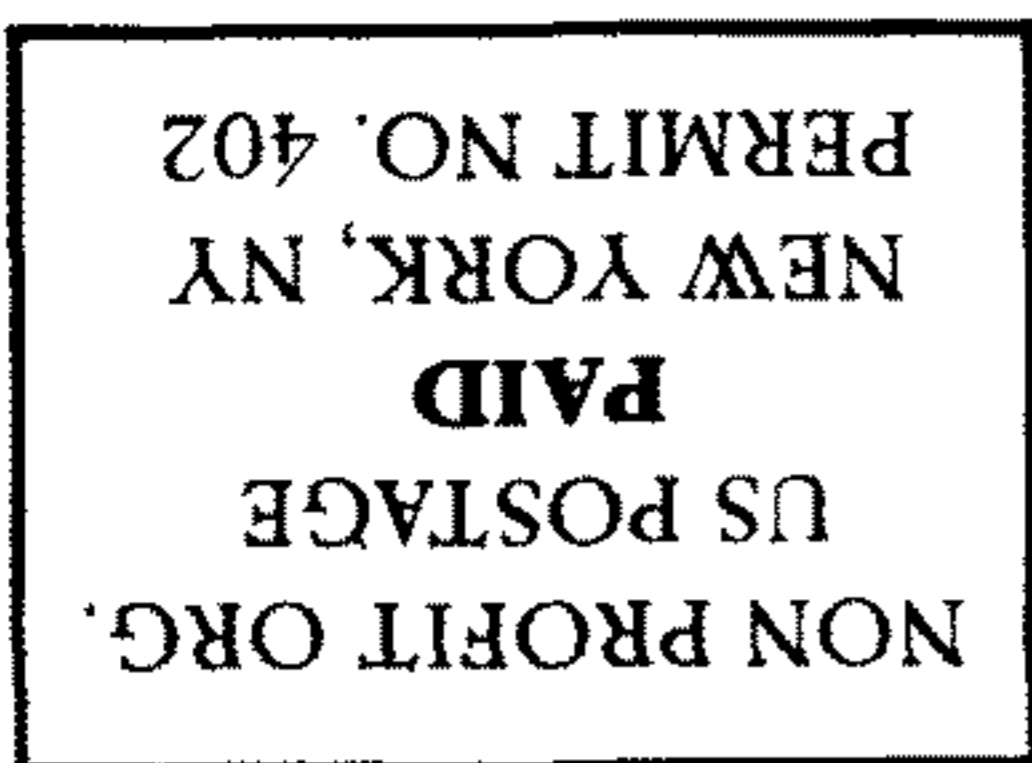
Directed by Hou Hsiao-hsien. Screenplay by Chu Tien-wen, Hou Hsiao-hsien. Camera by Li Ping-pin. Music by Wu Ch'u-ch'u. 1985, 145 minutes. With Yu An-shun, Shin Shu-fen, T'ien Fong, Mei Fang, Tang Zu-yung.

A quiet, understated eloquence marks this unpretentious and unsentimental look at growing up in modern Taiwan. Set in a small village, the film follows the young hero from childhood to his rebellious teens. With an ailing father and a senile grandmother, the young protagonist passes from childhood games and youthful scrapes, to the coming of age of his new generation.

All films have English subtitles and will be screened in the Society's Lila Acheson Wallace Auditorium. Tickets are available at the reception desk, Monday-Saturday 11-5, Sunday 12-4 on a first-come first-served basis. Program subject to change.

Ticket prices:
Non-members \$6 (series \$22)
Members, students and senior citizens \$5 (series \$18)
Ticket price includes admission to The Asia Society Galleries.





Childhood's End:

THE FILMS OF HOU HSIAO-HSIEN

Screening Schedule

- Thursday, July 9** 3 PM: *The Boys from Fengkuei and Son's Big Doll*
7 PM: *Dust in the Wind*
- Thursday, July 16** 3 PM: *A Time to Live and A Time to Die*
7 PM: *A Summer at Grandpa's*
- Thursday, July 23** 3 PM: *Dust in the Wind*
7 PM: *The Boys from Fengkuei and Son's Big Doll*
- Thursday, July 30** 3PM: *A Summer at Grandpa's*
7 PM: *A Time to Live and A Time to Die*

On exhibition:

- The Starr Gallery:** "Ice and Green Clouds: Traditions of Chinese Celadon"
July 16–September 6.
- The Burke Room:** "India: The Photographs of Beatrice Pitney Lamb"
Part I. Through September 13.
- The Ross Gallery:** "Japanese Poets and Poetry"
June 16–September 6.
- The Rockefeller Gallery:** Asian Art from the Mr. and Mrs. John D. Rockefeller
3rd Collection.

Gallery hours: Tuesday–Saturday 11–6, Sunday 12–6.

For further ticket and event information, call 517-8508 or 517-ASIA.