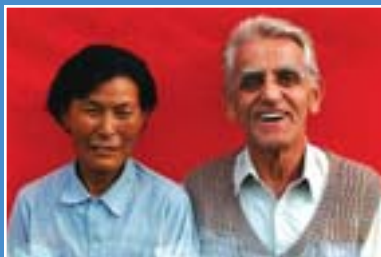


NEW Films, Videos & DVD's FOR

Asian Studies



ANGRY MONK: REFLECTIONS ON TIBET

A Film by Luc Schaedler



Gendun Choephel (1903-1951) is a legendary figure in Tibet, not simply because he was believed to be the reincarnation of a famous Buddhist lama but also because this promising young monk eventually turned his back on monastic life and became a fierce critic of his country's religious conservatism, cultural isolationism and reactionary government. After leaving the monastery in 1934, and fueled by his intellectual curiosity and free-spirited nature, Choephel began extensive travels throughout Tibet and India in order to understand the true political history of his country.

ANGRY MONK provides both a personal and political portrait of this pioneering and visionary intellectual who was also a smoking, drinking and sexually active man who renounced the "false duty of monastic obligations." The film traces the biography and historic times of Choephel, who lived between the British colonial invasion of 1903 and the occupation by the Chinese army in 1951.

In addition to rare archival footage, Choephel's paintings and sketches, and contemporary scenes of many of the sites he visited, the documentary features interviews with Tibetan historians, scholars, writers, poets, a travel companion, a contemporaneous British diplomat, and Choephel's wife. Their commentary and reminiscences chronicle the major phases of Choephel's life, including his monastery education in Lhasa (1927-34), his journey across Tibet (1934-1938), his journey throughout India (1938-1946), and his return to Tibet (1946-1951).

Choephel's many writings include a guide book to Buddhist holy sites in India, a Tibetan translation of the *Kama Sutra*, and a political history of Tibet published posthumously. He also wrote articles for an expatriate newspaper that criticized Tibet as a political, cultural



Gendun Choephel

and scientific backwater, which in 1946 led the Tibetan government to imprison Choephel for three years as a political subversive. Today Choephel is a revered figure in his Chinese-occupied homeland, and an influential symbol of hope for those seeking political and spiritual reform in a free Tibet.



"This absorbing film offers a very useful perspective on recent Tibetan history."—**The Vancouver Sun**


"ANGRY MONK offers a fascinating insight into a country whose eventful past is refracted in the multiplicity and contradictions of everyday life."—**MediaRights**

"Fascinating... provides a vivid picture of Tibet that is in refreshing contrast to its often idealized and esoteric image."—**Swiss Films**

"A gritty, insightful film about the tragic life of a radical Tibetan artist and intellectual... A compelling story, beautifully told."
—**Jamyang Norbu, novelist and Tibetan independence activist**

 **North American Premiere**
2006 Sundance Film Festival

 **2006 Melbourne International**
Film Festival

 **2006 Thessaloniki**
Documentary Festival

97 minutes | color | 2005 | **Order #AS6-01**
Sale/VHS or DVD: \$440 | Rental: \$125

52 minutes | color | 2005 | **Order #AS6-02**
Sale/VHS: \$390 | Rental: \$100





JAPAN'S PEACE CONSTITUTION

A Film by John Junkerman



In 2005, sixty years after the end of World War II, a conservative Japanese government is pressing ahead with plans to revise the nation's Constitution and jettison its famous no-war clause, Article 9. This timely, hard-hitting documentary places the ongoing debate over the Constitution in an international context: What will revision mean to Japan's neighbors, Korea and China? How has the U.S.-Japan military alliance warped the Constitution and Japan's role in the world? How is the unprecedented involvement of Japan's Self-Defense Force in the occupation of Iraq perceived in the Middle East?

Through interviews conducted with leading thinkers around the world, the film explores the origins of the Constitution in the ashes of war, and the significance of its peace clauses in the conflicted times of the early 21st century.

"Evokes courage and provokes thought. It should be seen by all generations."

—Okinawa Times

"Powerful!"

—Professor Peter Frost,
Williams College,
for Education About Asia

"The interviews are intensely interesting and beautifully photographed. It is a simply superb presentation on a truly important subject."—Chalmers Johnson, President, Japan Policy Institute



2006 Association for Asian Studies Film Festival

Best Documentary, 2005
Kinema Jumbo Awards

Best Documentary, 2005
Japan Film PEN Club Awards

70 minutes | color | 2005 | Order #AS6-03
Sale/VHS or DVD: \$348 | Rental/VHS: \$100

BACK TO THE SOIL

A Film by Kwon Woo-jung



In 1998 Lee Geun Hyuk left the city, along with his wife and infant daughter, for Korea's South Chungcheong Province to begin a new life in farming. Lee harbored no romantic illusions about becoming a farmer, since he had been born and raised in a farming family, but he believed strongly in the importance of traditional agriculture and in the urgent need to organize a farmers' movement to protest new government policies.

To produce BACK TO THE SOIL, documentary filmmaker Kwon spent a year living with and filming the Lee family, chronicling with remarkable intimacy their numerous difficulties—such as harvesting on a trial-and-error basis, Lee's role in leading militant rallies against the expansion of the Free Trade Agreement, and the emotional impact of their young daughter's heart operation and the illness and death of Lee's father.

BACK TO THE SOIL thus functions as both an emotionally engaging portrait of the young couple's challenges in starting a new life as well as a revealing depiction of a rapidly changing agricultural system that threatens to destroy traditional farming methods.

2005 Yamagata International Documentary Film Festival

2005 Green Film Festival (Korea)

2004 Seoul Independent Film Festival

2004 Gangju Human Rights Film Festival

85 minutes | color | 2004 | Order #AS6-04
Sale/VHS or DVD: \$440 | Rental/VHS: \$125





THEY CHOSE CHINA

A Film by Shuibo Wang

A National Film Board of Canada Production



In January 1954, months after the end of the Korean War, U.S. soldiers held in POW camps were at last free to return home. A small group, however, refused repatriation to the U.S. and, after being given 90 days to reconsider their decision, 21 American soldiers decided to stay in China. In **THEY CHOSE CHINA**, Academy Award-



nominated Chinese filmmaker Shuibo Wang tells the controversial story of these forgotten American dissidents.

Using rare archival footage, excerpts from American and Chinese TV programs, as well as period and contemporary interviews, **THEY CHOSE CHINA** chronicles the fascinating history of this group of young Americans who were hailed in China as "peace fighters" and denounced in America as

"turncoats" and "traitors." U.S. media claimed that these young POW's had been "brainwashed" by the Chinese communists. The film shows conditions inside these Chinese camps, featuring never-before-seen footage, plus contemporary interviews with some of the camps' Chinese translators, instructors, lecturers, and officers.

"Illuminates on many levels... Wang unearths rare and fascinating footage that reveals a different story of individuals who, out of loathing for McCarthy's America, chose a people they viewed as peace loving and who repaid their admiration until the tide turned with the Cultural Revolution."

—United Nations Association (Stanford University)

Jury Prize, 2006
Black Maria Film Festival

Remi Award, 2006
WorldFest-Houston

Golden Gate Award, 2006
San Francisco Film Festival

52 minutes | color | 2005 | Order #AS6-05 CD
Sale/VHS or DVD: \$390 | Rental/video: \$75



STOLEN LIFE

A Film by Li Shaohong



Growing up separated from her own family, Yan-ni (Zhou Xun) developed a withdrawn, reclusive personality, convinced that her life and her fate are out of her hands. Her prospects improve when she is accepted to college. Just as she prepares for a new life, a chance encounter with Mu-yu (Wu Jun), a truck driver, leads to a relationship that triggers a series of unfortunate events.

Yani-ni becomes pregnant and quits college to raise the child. When he loses his job and becomes destitute, Mu-yu contacts Yan-ni's mother, with whom, unbeknownst to Yan-ni, he has signed an unusual contract. In this independently-produced film that has been banned in China, Yan-ni eventually learns the shocking truth but overcomes her exploitation and abandonment to forge a newly matured sense of confidence and self-worth.

"A riveting performance by Zhou Xun... as a vulnerable young college student fuels this dark coming-to-consciousness tale."—Variety

Best Narrative Feature,
2005 Tribeca Film Festival

2005 Times BFI London
Film Festival

90 minutes | color | 2005 | Order #AS6-07
Sale/VHS: \$248 | Rental/VHS: \$125

SHIGERU BAN: An Architect for Emergencies

A Film by Michel Quinejre



The award-winning Japanese architect Shigeru Ban is noted for his use of inexpensive construction materials such as paperboard and cardboard tubes. While his designs for DIY prefab housing have been adopted by the UN High Commission for Refugees to house earthquake victims, Ban has also used these light-weight but sturdy and relatively inexpensive materials to create breathtakingly beautiful homes, pavilions and churches.

SHIGERU BAN features interviews with this innovative young architect (b. 1957), who explains the practical, philosophical and esthetic aspects of his work, including his application of several methods found in traditional Japanese architecture. He also articulates



his concerns with the bidimensional and tridimensional nature of his buildings, his aim to incorporate structural elements into the overall designs, as well as their sensitivity to light and shade, which lends unusual vitality to his buildings.

SHIGERU BAN provides stunning views of many of Ban's major buildings throughout Japan, whose design concepts he explains in voice-over commentary, including the Paper Dome in Gero, the House with Double Roof in Yamanaka Lake, the Miyake Design Studio Gallery, the Hanegi Forest Home and the Ivy Structure 2 in Tokyo, the GC Building in Osaka, the Paper Church in Kobe; and the 9 Square Grids House in Hadano.

In showcasing the designs of one of the most innovative architects at work today, **SHIGERU BAN** reveals that an emphasis on issues of conservation, economy, and accessibility does not necessarily involve a sacrifice in architectural beauty.



53 minutes | color | 2000 | Order #AS6-10
Sale/VHS or DVD: \$390 | Rental/VHS: \$75



TRY TO REMEMBER

A Film by Zhong Jian



In TRY TO REMEMBER, 22-year old Zhong Jian escorts his mother, Liu Zhi, on a visit to the rural Chinese village, Yantang, where she grew up. Zhong films her as they walk around the village, pay a visit to his grandparents' graves, and chat with relatives and other villagers. Every place brings back fresh memories.

Zhong's mother is for the most part cheerfully nostalgic, but many of the stories she tells are serious, and always involve the two subjects—hunger and Mao's Cultural Revolution—that dominated her childhood. Her words pour out in a heartfelt cascade as she relates the misery of those days, and her childhood experiences as a Red Guard.

The family of seven sisters toiled hard on the land, but despite bountiful crops they often had nothing to eat. Zhong's mother was the only one permitted to go to school, so she could then tally the family's production. She recalls other families smashing their precious family heirlooms because personal possessions were considered "bourgeois," explains that she could not understand why some villagers were beaten because they were considered "bad," and recounts how you could cross a certain intersection only after quoting a few lines from Chairman Mao's 'Little Red Book.'

More than just a film of historical reminiscence, however, TRY TO REMEMBER also shows that, in many ways, the pace and quality of life in rural China has remained essentially unchanged, with its poor farmers and illiterate peasants still struggling to make a living. It also reveals other contemporary concerns, from China's strictly enforced birth policies to the environmental degradation affecting the countryside.

 2005 Yamagata International Documentary Festival

 2005 Amsterdam International Documentary Festival

90 minutes | color | 2005 | Order #AS6-08
Sale/VHS or DVD: \$440 | Rental/VHS: \$100



KOCHUU—Japanese Architecture, Influence & Origin

A Film by Jesper Wachtmeister

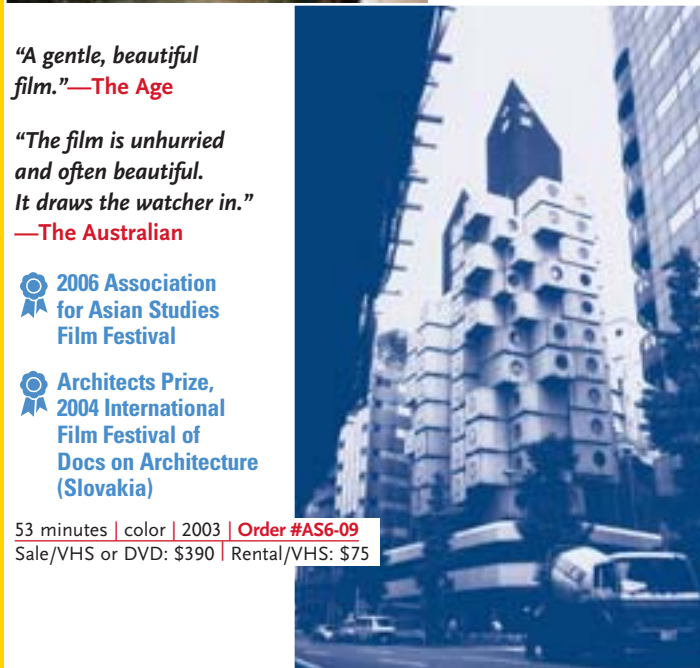


KOCHUU is a visually stunning film about modern Japanese architecture, its roots in the Japanese tradition, and its impact on the Nordic building tradition. Winding its way through visions of the future and traditional concepts, nature and concrete, gardens and high-tech spaces, the film explains how contemporary Japanese architects strive to unite the ways of modern man with the old philosophies in astounding constructions.

KOCHUU, which translates as "in the jar," refers to the Japanese tradition of constructing small, enclosed physical spaces, which create the impression of a separate universe. The film illustrates key components of traditional Japanese architecture, such as reducing the distinction between outdoors and indoors, disrupting the symmetrical, building

with wooden posts and beams rather than with walls, modular construction techniques, and its symbiotic relationship with water, light and nature.

KOCHUU is a compelling illustration of how the aesthetics of Japanese architecture and design are expressed through simple means, and also shows that the best Japanese architecture, wherever it appears, expresses spiritual qualities that enrich human life.



"A gentle, beautiful film."—The Age

"The film is unhurried and often beautiful. It draws the watcher in."—The Australian

 2006 Association for Asian Studies Film Festival

 Architects Prize, 2004 International Film Festival of Docs on Architecture (Slovakia)

53 minutes | color | 2003 | Order #AS6-09
Sale/VHS or DVD: \$390 | Rental/VHS: \$75

WANDERING SOULS

A Film by Boris Lojkine



Thirty years after the end of the war, three Vietnamese combat veterans—Dang Van Tho, Hoang Cong Doan and Trần Thị Tiệp—undertake a search for the missing remains of fellow soldiers of the Vietnamese People's Army. The now middle-aged men, who express a sense of guilt for having left the bodies of their comrades on the battlefield, visit a number of sites but fail to locate any skeletal remains and are able only to commune with the spirits of their dead comrades.



During their determined search the veterans meet with families of the deceased, consult with local government bureaucrats, and visit national cemeteries, including plots reserved for “unknown martyrs,” in an attempt to find their comrades and bring their spirits “back home.” WANDERING SOULS features their surprisingly vivid memories of thirty-year-old battles with American troops, and detailed accounts of how their comrades died, as well as the heartrending stories of widows and mothers, revealing the devastating impact of the “American War” on marriages, families and friendships.

Trần Thị Tiệp, the widow of one of their long-dead comrades, agrees to join them in the search for her husband's body, which for her involves a lengthy and expensive trip, a search of a national computer database of

war dead, a fruitless search of a local cemetery, and Buddhist prayer rituals that attempt to evoke the spirit of the deceased. The emotional depth of her grief, even after thirty years, is extraordinarily revealing.

WANDERING SOULS may prove to be both an unsettling and enlightening experience for American viewers, since this Vietnamese version of our own MIA issue not only personalizes Vietnamese victims of the war previously regarded as faceless enemy combatants, but also highlights the universal nature of such war-related

emotions and concerns. As the grieving widow explains, there is “nothing more precious than a grave to visit.”

“Paying homage to the casualties of the Vietnam War, in this case the Vietnamese themselves, this film magnifies the spiritual function of the cinema.”—Les Inrockuptibles

2005 Cinéma du Réel Film Festival

2005 Biarritz Film Festival

84 minutes | color | 2005 | Order #AS6-11
Sale/VHS or DVD: \$440 | Rental/VHS: \$125

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