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## Chinese New Year at BFI Southbank: Four Films by Tian Zhuangzhuang.



To celebrate Chinese New Year on February 3 and to welcome in the Year of the Rabbit, **BFI Southbank**, presents four films by legendary Chinese director and key figure of the Fifth Generation film movement, **Tian Zhuangzhuang**.

Born in 1952 in Beijing to the son of **Tian Fang**, a famous actor of the 1930s who later became head of the Beijing Film Studio, **Tian Zhuangzhuang** was a graduate of the Beijing Film Academy who found international acclaim in the 1980's through his pair of experimental films, **On the Hunting Ground** (1985) and **The Horse Thief** (1986).

In the early Nineties, controversy sparked by criticisms of communism found within a number of Zhuangzhuang's films led to the post-production on **The Blue Kite** (1993) to be moved outside his homeland and a ban placed on the director working in China until 1996.

The short New Year's season also features an overview of the career and context of director Tian Zhuangzhuang by Luke Robinson, University of Nottingham.

### **The Blue Kite** Lan feng zheng

China 1991. Dir Tian Zhuangzhuang. With Liping Lü, Xiaoman Chen. 140min. Mandarin with EST. **12A**

Probably the director's most famous film, this impassioned drama follows the fate of a Beijing family and their acquaintances through the political and social upheavals of the 1950s and 1960s. The film's child's-eye perspective on the era wasn't enough to prevent it being outlawed in China, with Tian himself banned from filmmaking for five years.

**Seniors' Free Matinee: This screening is free for over-60s; otherwise tickets available at regular matinee prices**

**Thu 3 Feb 14:00 NFT2**

**The Horse Thief** Dao Ma Zei

China 1986. Dir Tian Zhuangzhuang. With Rigzin Tseshang. 88min. Mandarin with EST. **PG**  
A largely wordless film set amid the expanses of the Tibetan plateau and influenced by the films of Kurosawa. The visual poetry of *The Horse Thief* captures not only the breathtaking beauty of the landscape but an elaborate depiction of Tibetan religious ritual. It follows the story of a man who has to reconcile his crime against man and god to fend for his family, and who must face the consequences of his action.

**Mon 7 Feb 21:15 NFT2**

**The Warrior and the Wolf** Lang zai ji

China-Hong Kong-Japan-Singapore-USA 2009. Dir Tian Zhuangzhuang. With Maggie Q, Jô Odagiri, Chung Hua Tou. 100min. Mandarin with EST

The director's most recent film takes him into the controversial terrain of interational co-production. Asian superstar Maggie Q figures in an erotic tale of the supernatural in which a soldier becomes stranded among a remote tribe and becomes both captor and prey. Filmed in China's spectacular Xinjiang region, where gorgeous mountain vistas, epic wastelands and weather-ravaged battlegrounds provide apt location for this part epic, part fable in which distinctions between beast and man become blurred.

**Tue 8 Feb 20:45 NFT2**

**The Go Master** Wu Qingyuan

China 2006. Dir Tian Zhuangzhuang. With Chen Chang, Sylvia Chang, Akira Emoto. 104min. Mandarin with EST. **15**

An intense, stately character study, following the fortunes of Wu Qingyuan, master of the ancient game of Go. A native of China, Wu emerged as a prodigy who, at a young age, moved to Japan and rose to prominence as the top Go player in the world. The tumultuous Sino-Japanese relations that dominated the 20<sup>th</sup> century form a dramatic backdrop to this poetically rendered true story.

**With extended introduction and overview of the career and context of director Tian Zhuangzhuang by Luke Robinson, University of Nottingham**

**Sat 12 Feb 14:45 NFT2**

- Ends -

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**Tickets for FREE screenings and events must be booked in advance by calling the Box Office to avoid disappointment**

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**The benugo bar & kitchen**

Eat, drink and be merry in panoramic daylight. benugo's décor is contemporary, brightly lit and playful with a lounge space, bar and dining area. The place to network, hang out, unpack a film, savour the best of Modern British or sip on a cocktail.

There's more to discover about film and television through the BFI. Our world-renowned archival collections, cinemas, festivals, films, publications and learning resources are here to inspire you.

\*\*\* PICTURE DESK \*\*\*

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