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presents



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SYNOPSIS

THE HOLE

(DONG)

Dir. Tsai Ming-liang

Taiwan / 1998 / 89 min / Digital, 35mm archival film print

In Mandarin, with English subtitles

Aspect ratio: 1.85:1 Sound: Stereo

FIPRESCI Prize (Intl. Critics' Prize), Cannes

Golden Hugo (Best Film), Chicago

Set just prior to the start of the 21st century, this vaguely futuristic story follows two residents of a quickly crumbling building who refuse to leave their homes in spite of a virus that has forced the evacuation of the area. As rain pours down relentlessly, a single man is stuck with an unfinished plumbing job and a hole in his floor. This results in a very odd relationship with the woman who lives below him. Combining deadpan humor with an austere view of loneliness and a couple of unexpected musical numbers, Tsai Ming-Liang crafted one of the most original films of the 1990s.

PRESS

"One of the ten best films of 1999... Tsai's most distilled, droll, deftly realized allegory."

– J. Hoberman, *Village Voice*

"The most memorable fusion of song, dance and weather since *Singin' in the Rain*."

– Dennis Lim, *Village Voice*

"A broodingly apocalyptic and thoroughly original view."

- Marjorie Baumgarten, *The Austin Chronicle*

SELECTED FILMOGRAPHY

2020 DAYS

2013 STRAY DOGS

2009 FACE

2006 I DON'T WANT TO SLEEP ALONE

2005 THE WAYWARD CLOUD

2003 GOOD BYE, DRAGON INN

2001 WHAT TIME IS IT THERE?

1998 THE HOLE

1997 THE RIVER

1994 VIVE L'AMOUR

1992 REBELS OF THE NEON GOD

THE SONGS OF GRACE CHANG

In the 1950s, the film industry in Hong Kong was caught between Taiwanese nationalism and Chinese communism. Films dealing with social reality were suspected of propaganda and censored. The studios thus took refuge in the Hollywood style to escape this censorship. Their musicals glorifying happiness and materialism by pretending to ignore social and political problems were particularly popular in Hong Kong, Taiwan and South East Asia.

Among all the actresses of these musicals, Grace Chang was the greatest. Born in Shanghai, she moved to Hong Kong after the Communists took power and quickly became a huge star in song and dance. Her musical repertoire was extensive: popular Western and Chinese songs, jazz, folk songs and even Peking opera. In the 1950s, her popularity spread to South East Asia and Taiwan thanks to the many tours she made.

Her most famous songs like WILD WILD ROSE, SOUND OF BELL IN TEMPLE, I WANT TO FLY TO THE SKY have become classics.

Grace Chang's songs are still very popular in the Chinese community.

In the film THE HOLE, five of her most famous songs are used: CALYPSO, TIGER LADY, I WANT YOUR LOVE, ACHOO CHA CHA and I DON'T CARE WHO YOU ARE.

CAST

Yang Kuei-mei
Lee Kang-sheng
Tien Miao
Hsiang-Chu Tong

Woman
Man
Customer
Plumber

CREDITS

Director

Tsai Ming-liang

Writer

Yang Ping-Ying
Tsai Ming-liang

Producer

Peggy Chiao

Cinematography

Liao Pen-jung

Production design

Pao-Lin Lee

Editor

Ju-kuan Hsiao

Costume & wardrobe

Vivian Ming Chou

Music

Grace Chang

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