

Asia-Pacific Film Tour hits Eugene

TRISTA NOEL

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The 1995 Asia-Pacific Film Tour will visit Eugene May 8 to 11 as part of a spring tour of nine cities across the nation. This year's program includes films from Mongolia, Vietnam, Iran, South Korea and Japan.

The films will be shown free of charge at the Bijou Art Cinemas, located at 492 E. 13th Ave. This event is open to the public. Screenings begin at 1 p.m., and the theater will open at 12:30 p.m.

The tour will begin Monday, May 8 with *On the Far Side of Twilight*, a film from Japan, and *Heritage*, a film from Mongolia. *On the Far Side of Twilight* is a story about a young boy who loves the sunset so much he decides to steal a piece of it and put it in a frame.

But it slips out of the frame and becomes a magic box that carries the boy on a journey through time and space. It is based on a story written by the film's director, Kohji Ando, and the tanka poems of Shuji Terayama. The film was made in 1994 and runs 39 minutes.

Heritage is a strikingly visual film that features the glorious landscapes of the Steppes of Mongolia. The film is about a young boy who eventually travels to the city and encounters modern amenities, including many toys.

But the buildings are no

match for the mountains, and the city streets are too constricting compared to the open desert. Directed by D. Khatanbaatar and B. Nagnaidorj, the film shows the clash between the tradition and modernity. It was made in 1993 and runs about 75 minutes.

The film tour will continue Tuesday with *The Return*. The film was made in 1994 and Director Dang Nhat Minh said the story is about the "new" Vietnam. The movie portrays a country trying to enter the world market economy and trying to escape the lasting effects of the war.

The heroine, Loan, is a schoolteacher who is looking for the path to dignity, stability and intellectual self-respect. Loan is faced with a family-endorsed marriage of convenience or a relationship with a dynamic young man who represents the new Vietnam ethos.

The movie explores the choice she inevitably makes about her and how, symbolically, that choice provides an answer for her country. *The Return* runs 110 minutes.

On Wednesday, *The Travellers*, a film made in Iran in 1992, will be shown. This film is an unusual allegory with mystical overtones.

Writer/director/editor Bahram Beizai tells the story of a young woman's wedding that is turned into a ritual of mourning when

her sister and family are killed in an auto accident, which had been foreseen by the sister.

The wedding guests are thrown into further turmoil when the family's ghosts appear, happy in their new state — as spirits who guide as well as "haunt" members of the corporal world. *The Travellers* runs about 90 minutes.

The festival will conclude Thursday with a screening of *To the Starry Island*, a South Korean film made in 1994. When Moon Chae-Ku and Kim Chul try to bring the body of Moon's dead father back to his Kwison Island for burial, resentful locals refuse to let their boat dock, remembering the father's political activities in the 1950s. But these events form only a part of the story. Present and past conflicts are woven, through flashbacks, into memories, speculation and reverie. The film runs 102 minutes.

The Asia-Pacific Film Tour is sponsored by the University's Center for Asian and Pacific Studies. It is cosponsored by the University Foundation, the University's Center for the Humanities, International Affairs, Asian Studies, Vietnamese Student Association, Department of Political Science, East Asian Languages and Literature, Consulate General of Japan, Hawai'i Club and the *Eugene Weekly*.

For more information, call 346-1521.

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