

MoMA The Museum of Modern Art

LOOKING EAST

Images of Asians in American Film

1915-1958



John Migliore

December 13, 2007

Intro to MIAP

Program at a Glance



- 10 films
- 2 weeks
- Films set in China, Japan, The Philippines, and Vietnam
- Prints from MoMA, Eastman House, Warner Bros., Sony, & United Artists

- First successful Asian actor in Hollywood
- \$5,000/week-1915
- Haworth Pictures-1918
- Produced 23 films examining Japanese culture



The Cheat (1915)
Dir. Cecil B. DeMille



A Dragon Painter (1919)
Dir. William Worthington



Broken Blossoms (1919)
Dir. D.W. Griffith



Anna May Wong



The Bitter Tea of General Yen (1933)

Dir. Frank Capra



The Good Earth (1937)
Dir. Sidney Franklin



Daughter of Shanghai (1937)
Dir. Robert Florey



Behind the Rising Sun (1943)

Dir. Edward Dmytryk



Dragon Seed (1944)
Dir. Jack Conway & Harold S. Bucquet



Back to Bataan (1945)
Dir. Edward Dymtryk



Japanese War Bride (1952)

Dir. King Vidor



The Quiet American (1958)
Dir. Joseph L. Mankiewicz



Titus 1



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DRAGON SEED. 1944. Directed by Jack Conway, Harold S. Bucquet. With Katharine Hepburn (Jade), Walter Huston (Ling Tan), Aline MacMahon (Ling Tan's Wife), Akim Tamiroff (Wu Lien). Another adaptation from a Pearl S. Buck epic, this time focusing on the heroic resistance of Chinese farmers in a small village to Japanese invasion during the Sino-Japanese War in the 1930s. Hepburn portrays the spirited daughter of a rural family whose privileged position as a housemaid for a Japanese general offers the perfect opportunity to undermine the hostile forces. The only major film from Hollywood to deal with this often-overlooked conflict, *Dragon Seed* captures a unique moment in time, celebrating an ally who would, within a few years of its release, become an implacable enemy. The film's greatest interest lies in the sincere attempts at Asian characterizations, particularly Hepburn's intriguing variation on her usual principled and independent woman. 148 min.



Sun

Mon

Tues

Wed

Thurs

Fri

Sat

1

2

3

4

5

7pm: THE
CHEAT

8:30pm: A
DRAGON
PAINTER

2pm: BROKEN
BLOSSOMS

4pm: THE
BITTER TEA...

6pm: BACK TO
BATAAN

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

5pm:
DAUGHTER
OF SHANGHAI

6pm: THE
GOOD EARTH

4pm: BEHIND
THE RISING
SUN

6pm: DRAGON
SEED

6pm:
JAPANESE
WAR BRIDE

8pm: THE QUIET
AMERICAN

7pm: THE
CHEAT

8:30pm:
BROKEN
BLOSSOMS

7:30pm:
BEHIND THE
RISING SUN

9:15pm:
JAPANESE
WAR BRIDE

2pm: THE
GOOD EARTH

5:30pm:
DRAGON
SEED

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

2pm: THE
BITTER TEA...

4pm: THE
QUIET
AMERICAN

7pm: A
DRAGON
PAINTER

7pm:
DAUGHTER
OF SHANGHAI

8:30pm: BACK
TO BATAAN

Questions??

