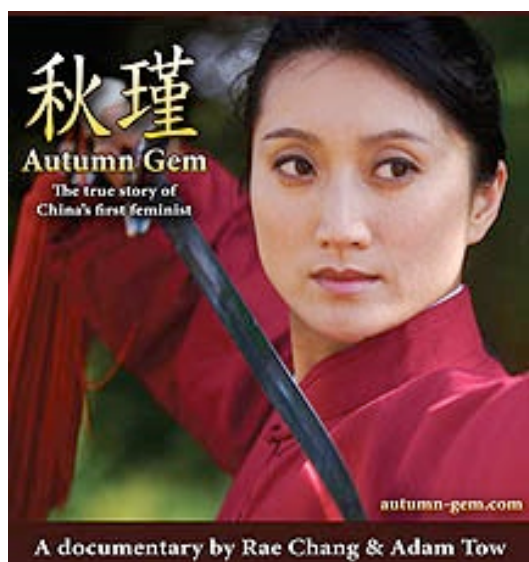


For immediate release



East Asia Institute, One UTSA Circle, MB 1.209, UTSA, San Antonio, TX 78249
Contact: eai@utsa.edu
210.458.4943

UTSA East Asia Institute hosts “Autumn Gem: The Story of China’s First Feminist” documentary film directed by Rae Chang and Adam Tow— Free public viewing and meet the directors



(October 1, 2010)- The UTSA East Asia Institute (EAI) will host a free, public viewing of “Autumn Gem: The Story of China’s First Feminist” directed by Rae Chang and Adam Tow at 3:30 p.m., Sunday, November 14, 2010 in the Retama Room (UC 2.02.02) at the UTSA Main Campus. Meet the "Chinese Joan of Arc," Qiu Jin (1875 - 1907), a radical women's rights activist who defied tradition to become the leader of a revolutionary army against the corrupted Qing Dynasty. Qiu Jin boldly challenged traditional gender roles and emerged as a national heroine who is celebrated in China today.

At a time when women’s lives were often marked by footbinding, arranged marriages, and denial of education, she envisioned a future where women would free themselves from the confines of tradition and arise as strong and active citizens of a new and modern nation. She passionately spoke out against footbinding and other oppressive practices, demanded equal education for girls, and urged women to become politically active in public. She was the first woman to lead a major armed uprising against the imperial Qing (Ching) dynasty.

Using scholar interviews, archival materials, and dramatic recreation scenes based on her original writings, *Autumn Gem* brings the story of Qiu Jin to life. The hour-long film is narrated in English and contains dialogue in Mandarin with both English and Chinese subtitles.

AUTUMN GEM was produced and directed by two San Francisco Bay Area independent Chinese American filmmakers, Rae Chang and Adam Tow, and stars former China National *Wushu* (martial arts) Champion and Hollywood stunt actress Li Jing.

“*Autumn Gem*” is an informative and entertaining documentary, with a smattering of martial arts thrown in for good measure,” said J.B. Spins, a writer in New York Screening. “I definitely applaud Rae and Adam for their great work on putting together the film, I must admit that I probably would have been enthralled by even an musty old encyclopedia article on the life of Qiu Jin,” said Lindsay, The Fword Online, University of Pennsylvania Screening. In addition, iPad for *Autumn Gem* won the Future of Publishing Award at the inaugural [iPadDevCamp!](#)

Rae Chang, a writer and director of *Autumn Gem*, graduated from U.C. Berkeley in 1994 with a degree in Art and Anthropology. She worked as a graphic designer at various Internet companies in the San Francisco Bay Area. Her short films on Qiu Jin and Jingwei Girls were presented at APature Film Night in 2003 and the Women of Color Film Festival in 2004 respectively.

Adam Tow is a digital media producer and web consultant. He graduated from Stanford University in 1997 with a degree in Symbolic Systems. An accomplished photographer, his work has been published in The New York Times, Stanford Magazine, and the San Francisco Chronicle.

For more information regarding the free public viewing event, please contact the East Asia Institute at 210.458.4943 or see *Autumn Gem*’s homepage at <http://autumn-gem.com/>.