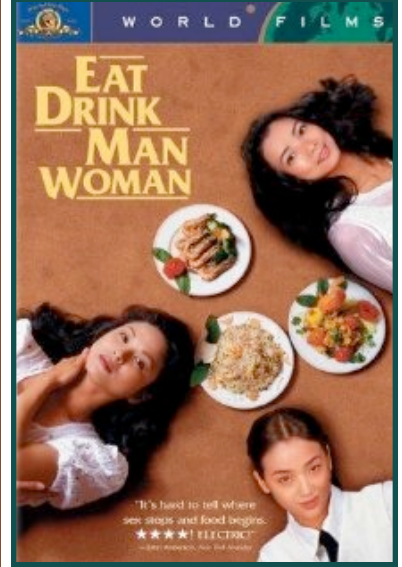


李安電影節



Ang Lee Film Festival at UTSA

February-April 2014



Opening reception



From left: Michael Lin, Dr. Steven Kellman, Julius Gribou, Euroya Lauzon, Sherry Dowlatshahi, Dr. John Frederick, and Curtis Liang

UTSA hosts Ang Lee Film Festival

On Thursday February 27, 2014, the East Asia Institute (EAI) hosted a grand opening reception to kick off the Ang Lee Film Festival. This event was made possible due to a generous grant from Houston's Taiwanese Academy. To launch the grand opening, EAI showcased *Life of Pi*, the first movie of the Ang Lee Film Festival series.

The grand opening was attended by over 100 people! Among the guests were Director Curtis Liang of Houston's Taiwan Academy and Senior Cultural Officer Mr. Michael Lin. In addition, Dr. John Frederick, Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs of UTSA, Julius Gribou, Executive Vice Provost and Senior International Officer, Euroya Lauzon, President of the Taiwan America Association of San Antonio, and Sherry Dowlatshahi, Chief of Protocol of San Antonio City Office's International Relations were also in attendance.

Many of the guests included University departmental chairpersons and professors from various disciplines along with students and people from the San Antonio community. Shortly after the start of the reception, Erina Romanowich, Educational Specialist and

Life of Pi: February 27, 2014 5:00-8:30 p.m. MB 0.106

The Wedding Banquet: March 17, 2014 5:30-8:00 p.m. MB 1.124

Eat Drink Man Woman April 17, 2014 5:30-8:00 p.m. MB 1.120

Ang Lee, a Taiwanese-born American film director, screenwriter and producer





Dr. Steven Kellman, Prof. of English at UTSA leading the post screening discussion

Project Director for EAI, gave the opening remarks. She then passed the torch to Julius Gribou, who in turn gave welcoming remarks on behalf of UTSA and bequeath recognition to a select few people in the audience. Steven Kellman, English Professor and Speaker for the *Life of Pi* discussion, gave a few opening remarks of his own. "Three directors tired to make *Life of Pi* into a movie before giving up on the project," Kellman announced. "However, Ang Lee was the one who figured out the best way to portray the philosophical journey was to disguise it as an action adventure film." He then told the audience to be on the lookout for religious themes as they watch the movie.

Life of Pi is based on the best-selling novel by Yann Martel, "Life of Pi" is a magical adventure story centering on Pi Patel, the precocious son of a zoo keeper. Dwellers in Pondicherry, India, the family decides to move to Canada, hitching a ride on a huge freighter. After a shipwreck, Pi finds himself adrift in the Pacific Ocean on a 26-foot lifeboat with a zebra, a hyena, an orangutan and a 450-pound Bengal tiger named Richard Parker, all fighting for survival.

After the screening, Steven Kellman began his discussion of film. First he talked about spectacular visual

effects of the movie. He spent a little time discussing how it was originally made to be experienced in 3D and how the effects did not really translate well into a 2D screen. The majority of the lecture was spent discussing the philosophical and religious aspects of the film.

Pi in the film was raised in the Hindu religion and was introduced to Christianity and Islam. He decides to follow all three. His logic being he "just wants to love God." Kellman asked the audience to point out religious connections they discovered while watching the film. "One thing I found interesting, was the visited the carnivorous island," stated Kellman, "it shows that heaven and hell are two sides of the same coin, with a very thin line of distinction depending on the person. Pi was sent to a dangerous place such as this to show that God was indeed looking after him, but wanted him to complete the rest of his journey. " Many patrons exclaimed their joy for this movie and cannot wait for the next installment.

The next installment will be on March 17th, 2014. The EAI will be showing *The Wedding Banquet* with a lecture by Mimi Yu. April 10th, 2014 *Eat Drink, Man Woman* will be the final film of the festival, with a lecture to be held by Dr. Jie Zhang.



About Ang Lee

Lee's earlier films, such as *The Wedding Banquet*, *Pushing Hands*, and *Eat Drink Man Woman* explored the relationships and conflicts between tradition and modernity, Eastern and Western.

Lee also deals with the repressed, hidden emotions in many of his films, including *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*, *Hulk* and *Brokeback Mountain*.

Lee's insight into the human heart has allowed his films to transcend cultural and linguistic barriers to speak to audiences all over the world.

Lee has won the Academy Awards for Best Director twice, first for *Brokeback Mountain* (2005) and most recently for *Life of Pi* (2012). He also won the Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film for *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon* (2000). He is the first person of Asian descent to win an Oscar, Golden Globe and BAFTA for Best Director, and the only director to win two Best Film Awards (Golden Bear) at the Berlin International Film Festival.

The Ang Lee Film Festival is sponsored by UTSA's East Asia Institute (210.458.4943; eai@utsa.edu; <http://www.utsa.edu/eai>)

and Houston's Taiwan Academy