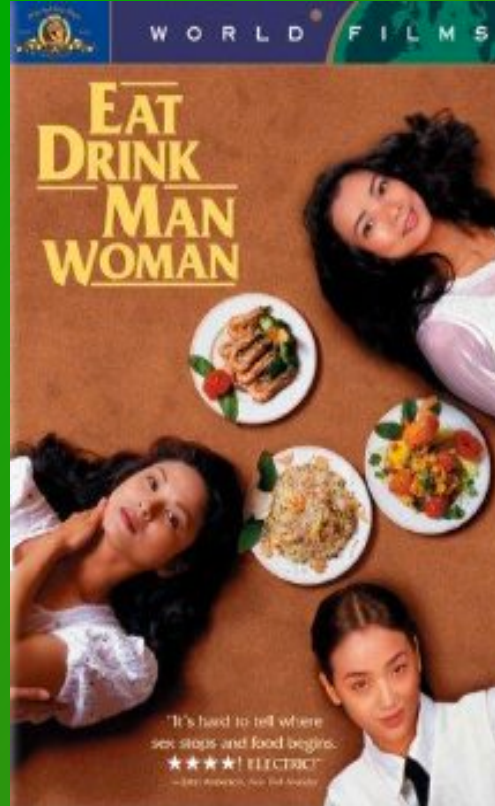


Ang Lee Film Festival Series at UTSA:

Eat Drink, Man Woman



Dr. Zhang gives her lecture



The final dinner scene



A student joins the discussion



Audience getting ready to watch

The final installment of the Ang Lee Film Festival was screened April 10th, 2014, with the film *Eat Drink, Man Woman*. This event was hosted by the East Asia Institute (EAI) along with the generous grant from Houston's Taiwan Academy. Over 30 people attended the finality.

Eat Drink Man Woman is about a Senior Master Chef, Chu, who lives in a large house in Taipei with his three unmarried daughters: Jia-Jen, a chemistry teacher converted to Christianity, Jia-Chien, an airline executive, and Jia-Ning, a student who also works in a fast food restaurant. Life in the house revolves around the ritual of an elaborate dinner each Sunday and the love lives of all the family members.

Dr. Jie Zhang, Associate Professor of Chinese of Trinity University, delivered a lecture after the event. She talked about the film in the context of Ang Lee's "Father Knows the Best Trilogy" and discussed how the director dealt with themes of family, modernity, and cultural clashes. Ang Lee's "Father Knows Best" trilogy consist of three films: *Pushing Hands*, *The Wedding Banquet*, and *Eat Drink Man Woman*. In addition, she briefly discussed her analytic findings of this film against Lee's more recent films including *Crouching Tiger Hidden Dragon*, *Brokeback Mountain*, *Lust Caution*, and *The Life of Pi*.

One thing Zhang paid special attention to is the modern and western elements the three daughters are compared to their traditional, patriarchal father. The oldest daughter is a devout Christian, going so far as to convert her husband. The middle daughter is a strong, independent business woman working for an international corporation. The youngest daughter is a college student, who works at the Wendy's fast food chain. Another audience member pointed out the contrast the Father has who spends time to make elaborate, sometimes traditional meals, for his family every Sunday. Zhang also noted that there were six dinners shown in this film. Each meal is infamous for one of the family members always says "I have an announcement..." right before the plot takes an unexpected twist.

"I found the film's theme very interesting," one guest mused after the screening and lecture. "Life is constantly full of surprises, especially if one opens themselves to possibilities." Many of the guests raved about how well the movie's themes and messages still held up to today's standards even though the film was first debuted in the early 1990's. The entire Ang Lee film festival was quite a success: not only the films were enjoyable to watch, the post screening lectures also discussed the Taiwanese and Chinese culture from a societal, cultural, and historical perspective.