Diversify Your Film Viewing

Asian Experience

The Buddha: The Story of Siddhartha

The Buddha never claimed to be God or his emissary on earth, only that he was a human who had found a serenity that others could find too. This documentary tells the story of his life, a journey especially relevant to our own times.

The Drop Box

A pastor in South Korea goes to heroic measures to embrace and protect the most vulnerable children in his community by building a “baby box” at the front of his church where desperate mothers could leave babies that would otherwise be abandoned.

Gandhi

Winner of eight Academy Awards, this film tells the story of a man who rose from being a simple lawyer to becoming a world-wide symbol of peace and understanding. Gandhi is an intriguing story about activism, politics, religious tolerance and freedom.

Growing Up Smith

Smith, a ten-year old boy from India, grows up in a small town in America as his family tries to embrace the American dream and preserve their Indian heritage. He sneaks out for Kentucky Fried Chicken and tries to cope when his parents send him to school with a yellow squash instead of a pumpkin to carve on Halloween.

Jiro Dreams of Sushi

85 year-old Jiro Ono is considered by many to be the world’s greatest sushi chef. He is the proprietor of a 10-seat sushi-only restaurant located in a Tokyo subway station. Despite its humble appearance, it’s the first restaurant of its kind to be awarded a 3-star Michelin review.

The Last Emperor

The dramatic history of Aisin-Gioro “Henry” Pu Yi, who at the age of three became the last of the Emperors of China. After his abdication he returned to public life in 1959, just another peasant in the People’s Republic, and died as a gardener at the Botanical Gardens of Peking.
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Last Train Home

Every spring, China’s cities are plunged into chaos as 130 million migrant workers journey to their home villages for the New Year’s holiday. This mass exodus is the largest human migration on the planet and reveals a country caught between a rural past and an industrial future.

Mao’s Last Dancer

Based on a true story, the emotionally powerful film is the epic tale of Li Cunxin, a peasant boy from rural China who beats impossible odds to become a world-renowned ballet dancer.

Mountains May Depart

At once an intimate drama and a decades-spanning epic that leaps from the recent past to the present, this drama is a moving study of how China’s economic boom and culture of materialism has affected the bonds of family, tradition and love.

Peace through Music: Playing for Change

Music is our common denominator and shows us that the differences between countries or cultures is not as great as we often think. This is the story of an unparalleled international musical collaboration and the unifying power of music.

Seven Samurai

This story of a sixteenth-century village whose inhabitants hire seven out-of-work warriors to protect them from invading bandits, weaves philosophy, human emotions and entertainment into a timeless tale of courage and hope.

Silence

Scorsese’s film tells the story of two Catholic missionaries who face the ultimate test of faith when they travel to Japan to look for their missing mentor at a time when Catholicism is outlawed.