

Fall 2007 Korean Film Series

Ridgley 219 5:00PM

September 13

Kim Söngsu, *Musa: the Warrior* (2001), 130 min. A spectacular transnational production by China, Japan, and Korea. The year is 1375. China is in a state of chaos, with the rising Ming dynasty still fighting against the declining Yuan empire. A delegation from Koryö visits the Ming court, only to be left wandering through the desert by the suspicious Ming. On their journey back home, the Koreans rescue a Ming princess kidnapped by Yuan soldiers. What follows is an epic chase set against the background of war, rebellion, and the intricate diplomacy of the time. .

September 27

Im Kwöntaek, *Chunhyang* (2000), 136 min.

An 18th-century love story between an aristocratic heir and a *kisaeng*'s daughter, *The Story of Chunhyang* is the most popular classic tale of Korea. It has been adopted to screen several times in both North and South Korea. In director Im's highly acclaimed version, the story is told in the form of a dazzling costume drama accompanied by the terse vocalizations of traditional Korean *p'ansori* opera.

October 11

Kim Hyönsök, *YMCA Baseball Team* (2002), 108 min.

Take a delightful look into early modern Korea through this hilarious comic drama. In 1905 YMCA organizes Korea's first baseball team, recruiting volunteers from all social strata and walks of society. The unlikely teammates—Confucian gentlemen, modern intellectuals, servants, and even a New Woman—must now work together to create a dream team.

October 25

Im Kwöntaek, *The Taebaek Mountains* (1994), 164 min.

Based on Cho Chongrae's bestselling novel of the same title, this epic film chronicles events that took place in the small town of Pölgyo in the Southern Chölla Province before and during the Korean War. A sweeping historical saga is combined here with the intimate portraits of ordinary Koreans trapped in the horrors of an internecine ideological warfare.

November 8

Park Kwanghyun, *Welcome to Dongmakgol* (2005), 132 min.

Director Park's postmodern historical fantasy offers a daring reinterpretation of the Korean War. In 1950 a few stranded soldiers of South Korea, North Korea, and the U.S. end up together in a remote village, where, unaware of the war, the villagers are happily carrying on their traditional ways of living. The comic events that ensue will be capped by a most unlikely ending.