

Mongrel Media Presents

RIDING ALONE FOR THOUSANDS OF MILES

A Film by ZHANG YIMOU

(2005, Hong Kong/China/Japan, 108 mins)

Distribution

mongrel
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High res stills may be downloaded from <http://www.mongrelmedia.com/press.html>

CAST

Gou-ichi Takata	Ken Takakura
Rie Takata	Shinobu Terajima
Ken-ichi Takata	Kiichi Nakai
Li Jiamin	Li Jiamin
“Lingo”	Qiu Lin
Jasmine	Jiang Wen
Electrician	Ken Nakamoto
Director	Li Li Bin
Warden Chen	Chen Ziliang
Village Chief	He Zezhou
Yang Yang	Yang Zhenbo

CREW

Director	ZHANG Yimou
Producers	Bill Kong Xiu Jian Zhang Weiping
Screenplay by	Zou Jingzhi
Based on a story by	ZHANG Yimou Zou Jingzhi Wang Bin
Cinematographer	Zhao Xiaoding
Production Designer	Sun Li
Editor	Cheng Long
Composer	Guo Wenjing
Asst. Unit Manager	Huang Xinming
Light Designer	Xu Ou
Prod. Coordinator	Alice Yeung
Chief Interpreter	Zhang Jingsheng
Asst. Directors	Wu Xiguo Fu Lulu Ellen Wei
Asst. Cameramen	Xie Ze Song Dehua
Still Photographer	Bai Xiaoyan
Documentary Filmmaker	Luo Shasha

Costumer (Japanese)	Takahashi Kyoko
Make-up (Japanese)	Sato Mitsue
Property Master	Mu Ke
Costumer	Gu Jinhua

Set Dressers	Yao Shuping Hu Zhongquan
1st Sound Assistant	Zhang Zhigang
2nd Sound Assistant	Xiao Jing
Prod. Managers	Ge Tianhui Pu Lun
Still Photographer	Ohki Shigeru

Performers:

Yang Qianbin	Zhang Jingsheng
Li Jianhua	Yang Qiongqin
Nian Liangying	Lai Xizhi
Zhao Min	Peng Yaowen
Yu Zhengbo	Li Jiefeng
Qiao Guoen	He Shijun
He Xuewei	Liu Jinzhu
Mu Shuqi	He Lixiong
Zhou Junrong	Wen Huakun
Wen Guichao	Wang Rong
Duan Shihu	Li Jinsan
Yang Xiangang	Li Yanyang
Shao Taikang	Chen Gui
Zhang Jinping	He Yugan
Xiao Yingshan	Li Jingcui

Drama Art Director	Shuai Xuejian
Drama Performed by	Guizhou Anshun City Zhanjiatun Sanguo Drama Team
Zhan Xueyan	Zeng Yuhua
Zeng Ruxin	Zhan Xuesheng
Zeng Haihong	Zhan Laosi
Zhan Xueyou	Zhan Xueyu

Orchestra	China National Symphony Orchestra
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SYNOPSIS

From three-time Academy Award® nominated director Zhang Yimou comes a moving story of one man's journey across China's heartland. **RIDING ALONE FOR THOUSANDS OF MILES** stars the legendary actor Ken TAKAKURA, and Japanese stars Shinobu TERAJIMA and Kiichi NAKAI.

For the first time in many years, Gou-ichi TAKATA (Ken TAKAKURA) takes the bullet train to Tokyo from the quiet fisherman's village where he lives on the northwest coast of Japan. His daughter-in-law, Rie (Shinobu TERAJIMA) telephones to tell him that his son, Ken-ichi (Kiichi NAKAI) is seriously ill, and asking for his father.

But when he arrives in the city, Takata finds that Rie was not entirely truthful: Ken-ichi has been hospitalized, but after years of painful estrangement, he still refuses to see Takata. Crushed, the old man quietly slips out of the hospital, but not before Rie gives him a videotape to watch. Rie hopes what Takata sees on the tape will help him get to know his son again.

Takata plays the tape and learns that Ken-ichi is studying a form of Chinese folk drama that dates back more than a thousand years. Ken-ichi had traveled all the way to Yunnan Province in Southern China to see the famous actor LI Jiamin perform, but the actor was ill and unable to sing. Li promised to sing the legendary song *'Riding Alone for Thousands of Miles'* from the literary classic, *'Romance of the Three Kingdoms'* for Ken-ichi if he returns to Yunnan the following year.

Hoping to bridge the gap between himself and his son, Takata decides to find Li Jiamin and videotape his performance for the dying Ken-ichi. As the old man begins an odyssey into the heart of China, he encounters a number of strangers who color his journey -- from well-meaning translators who guide him through China's idiosyncrasies, to prison wardens anxious to promote Chinese culture abroad, to a young runaway with a complicated father-son relationship of his own. What Takata discovers on his journey is kindness... and a sense of family he thought he had lost long ago.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

This story came into being because I wanted to work with Ken Takakura. Takakura was my childhood idol and it has always been my dream to work with him. I first met Takakura more than ten years ago at a joint Chinese-Japanese Film Festival. We have been talking about **RIDING ALONE FOR THOUSANDS OF MILES** for five to six years now.

It was a wonderful experience working with Ken Takakura. He is a devoted, generous actor, and an inspiring man. I rarely see the crew so affected by an actor.

I filmed **RIDING ALONE FOR THOUSANDS OF MILES** in Yunnan Province because the scenery and atmosphere are especially suited to the story. I wanted the film to have the look of a still-life painting, which complimented this intimate portrait of filial love.

Takakura and I wanted to make a film about unconditional love and simple relationships between real people, so we had to dig deeper emotionally. We used a cast of largely non-professional actors to express these subtle feelings.

RIDING ALONE FOR THOUSANDS OF MILES is an investigation into the way people interact and an attempt to study that unique sense of unconditional love between a father and son.

ZHANG YIMOU

ABOUT THE PRODUCTION

Acclaimed filmmaker Zhang Yimou returns to his trademark understated storytelling for his newest film. **RIDING ALONE FOR THOUSANDS OF MILES** is a quiet tale, which Zhang created with the film's lead actor in mind. "I have always wanted to work with Ken Takakura," says the three-time Academy Award® nominated director, "I started writing this script five years ago. It is tailor-made for him." "If Takakura didn't like the story," muses Zhang, "I would have started again from scratch."

For Ken Takakura, there was never any question of not liking the idea. The actor, often dubbed Japan's answer to Clint Eastwood on account of his silent charisma, accepted the role of Takata after a three-year break from acting. "This is a brand new type of role for me," explains the actor, "Takata is very different to the characters I have played in the past." This is also the first time Takakura has performed alongside non-professional actors in a career spanning over forty years. "[The first-time actors] give me a fresh perspective on acting," says Takakura, "They express themselves so naturally."

Zhang Yimou, on the other hand, has a long and thriving history of working with first-time actors. As with previous projects such as *Not One Less*, Zhang scoured China for the perfect individuals to bring his characters to life. Nine-year-old Yang Zhenbo was chosen from seventy thousand children who auditioned for the role, and Li Jiamin, who plays the opera singer was singled out from over seven hundred hopefuls.

For Li, whose Beijing Opera experience dates back thirty years, *Riding Alone for Thousands of Miles* has renewed his love for performance. "I would definitely act again if the right opportunity arises," says Li, "Learning from Zhang Yimou and Ken Takakura has been an incredible experience." Japanese star Shinobu Terajima agrees "I can't ask for anything more than working with such cinematic giants," she says, "They are the reasons why I accepted the role of Rie".

The lyrical tale about one man's journey gives nod to one of the China's literary classics, the story of *Riding Alone for Thousands of Miles* from *Romance of the Three Kingdoms*. The mighty general Guan Yu became a symbol of loyalty when he refused titles and riches to ride thousands of miles in order to help a friend. "This is a story about human relationships," says Zhang of his film. His close-knit crew agrees: one production assistant has stated: "It is the respect and friendship between Zhang Yimou and Ken Takakura that brings this film to life".

CAST BIOGRAPHIES

Ken TAKAKURA (Gou-ichi TAKATA)

Ken Takakura, known affectionately as Ken-san, was born in Fukuoka Prefecture in 1931. A graduate of the prestigious Meiji University in Japan, Takakura began his acting career at the age of 24 with the Toei Company. There, he played a wide variety of roles before establishing his screen image as the chivalrous loner in films such as *'Nihon Kyokaden'*, *'Abashiri Prison'* and the *'Showa Zankyoden'* series.

Hollywood began to take notice, and in 1970, Takakura made his Hollywood debut in Robert Aldrich's *'Too Late the Hero'*. This followed in 1975 with the Warner Bros. production *'The Yakuza'*, in which Takakura plays a dangerous ex-yakuza opposite Robert Mitchum.

By the time he left the Toei Company in 1976, Takakura had already appeared in over 180 films. His first role after leaving the company was in Junya Sato's *'Kimiyo Funnu no Kawa wo Watare'*. The film enjoyed huge box office success, and, more significantly, became the first foreign film to be released in China. The success of the film made Takakura a household name in China and throughout the 1980s; his name became synonymous with contemporary Japanese cinema.

Takakura earned his first Japanese Academy Award for Best Actor with director Shiro Moritani's *'Mount Hakkoda'* (1975). This led to the actor's involvement with the moving, multi-award winning *'The Yellow Handkerchief of Happiness'* (1977) for which he won a second Japanese Academy Award.

In 1989, Takakura returned to Hollywood to appear in Ridley Scott's Oscar-nominated *'Black Rain'* with Michael Douglas and Andy Garcia. He then brought Hollywood back to Japan for his 200th film, starring opposite Tom Selleck in Fred Schepisi's *'Mr. Baseball'* (1992), a story about an American baseball player transferred to a Japanese team.

Takakura's talent has grown with his years and in 1999, he won an awesome five Best Actor awards for his role in Yasuo Furuhashi's *'Railroad Man'* (1999). He won the Best Actor Award at the 23rd Japanese Academy Awards, 'Best Actor Award at the 44th Asia Pacific Film Festival and he became the first Japanese actor to win the Best Actor Award at the 23rd Montreal World Film Festival. In 2001, Takakura starred in Furuhashi's critically acclaimed *'The Firefly'* to rave reviews.

Takakura accepted the role of Takata on Director Zhang Yimou's RIDING ALONE FOR THOUSANDS OF MILES after a five-year hiatus. This is the actor's 204th film to date.

Selective Filmography

Riding Alone for Thousands of Miles (2005)
The Firefly (2001)
Railroad Man (1999)
47 Ronin (1994)
Mr. Baseball (1992)
Buddies (1989)
Black Rain (1989)
See You (1988)
Demon (1985)
Antarctica (1983)
Station (1981)
A Distant Cry from Spring (1980)
The Yellow Handkerchief (1977)
Mount Hakkoda (1977)
Bullet Train (1975)
Kobe Kokusai Gang (1975)
The Yakuza (1974)
Cherry Blossom Fire Gang (1972)
Too Late the Hero (1970)
Hell Is Man's Destiny (1970)
The Flower and the Dragon (1969)
The Man with the Dragon Tattoo (1969)
Lady Yakuza (1968)
The Chivalrous Life (1967)
A Man's Warrior Spirit (1966)
Fugitive from the Past (1965)
Tokyo Gang vs. Hong Kong Gang (1964)
Gang Chushingura (1963)
Duel of the Underworld (1963)
Boss of the Underworld: Gang of 11 (1963)
Tokyo Untouchables (1962)
The Underworld's Last Day (1962)
Nippon G-men (1956)

Shinobu TERAJIMA (Rie TAKATA)

Born in Kyoto prefecture in 1972, Shinobu Terajima grew up in an acting family. Her father, Onoue Kikugoro is a well-known kabuki actor and her mother is the actress Junko Fuji, known widely as the face of Japanese Cinema. Shinobu Terajima has appeared in television commercials from a young age, and in 1992 began to train as a stage actress with the Bungakuza theatre group.

A naturally gifted actress, Shinobu Terajima quickly rose up the theatrical ranks. She received the Yomiuri Acting Grand Prize and the Best Actress Award for her performance in the play *'Chikamatsu Shinju Monogatari'* (1995), an Edo period double suicide love story. Then, in 1996, Terajima was awarded the Best New Actress Award from the Japan Arts Festival and the Best New Actress Award of the Matsuo Heino Awards for director Mikio Mizutani's *'Hanaoka Seishu-no-tuma'*.

One of the hottest stars to emerge from Japan in recent years, Shinobu Terajima proceeded to stun audiences with her sensitive portrayal of a troubled writer in Ryuichi Hiroki's *'Vibrator'* (2003) that propelled her into instant limelight. Her meteoric shot to stardom continued with Arato Genjiro's, *'Akame 48 Falls'*. Terajima has won a total of thirteen Best Actress awards, including the prestigious Japanese Academy Award for Best Actress.

Selective Filmography

Riding Alone for Thousands of Miles (2005)

Tokyo Tower (2005)

Quill (2004)

Akame 48 Waterfalls (2003)

Get Up! (2003)

Vibrator (2003)

Kiichi NAKAI (Ken-ichi TAKATA)

One of the most sought-after male actors in Japan, Nakai Kiichi made his silver screen debut in 1983 with the moving family drama, *'Father and Son'*.

Since then, Nakai has broadened his repertoire to include roles from period dramas to modern day comedies, and in 1994, he won the Best Supporting Actor Award at the Japanese Academy Awards for his performance in the lyrically beautiful *'47 Ronin'* opposite Ken Takakura. The film earned rave reviews for Kiichi Nakai.

led to further partnership on *'Film Actress'* (1987), and also "*The Burmese Harp*", the director's 1985 remake of his own 1956 classic.

Nakai then went on to work with another renowned director, Masahiro Shinoda in the 1999 film *'Owl's Castle'*, and earned the Best Supporting Actor Award at the Asia-Pacific Film Festival for his role in the 1998 breakout hit, *'Begging for Love'* for director Hideyuki Hirayama.

Director Yojiro Takita's *'When the Last Sword is Drawn'* presented a perfect opportunity for Kiichi Nakai to showcase his charismatic screen presence, and his outstanding performance as the anguished samurai earned him the Best Actor Award at the Japanese Academy Awards.

Kiichi Nakai's talents have since moved beyond his native Japan and propelled him to work with internationally acclaimed film makers including Chinese director, He Ping, on 2003's *'Warriors of Heaven and Earth'*.

Selective Filmography

Riding Alone for Thousands of Miles (2005)

Aegis (2005)

Warriors of Heaven and Earth (2003)

Onmyoji 2 (2003)

Jump (2003/II)

When the Last Sword Is Drawn (2003)

Ryoma's Wife, Her Husband and Her Lover (2002)

The Firefly (2001)

Darkness in the Light (2001)

Tales of the Unusual (2000)

Owls' Castle (1999)

Begging for Love (1998)

Love Letter (1998)

Falling Into the Evening (1998)

Marks (1995)

47 Ronin (1994)

Moving (1993)

The Taming of a Shrew (1993)

The Operating Room (1992)

Tokyo Heaven (1990)

Princess from the Moon (1987)

Film Actress (1987)

Big Joys, Small Sorrows (1986)

The Burmese Harp (1985)

FILMMAKER BIOGRAPHIES

ZHANG Yimou (Director)

Ever since his directorial debut, *Red Sorghum* (1987) won the Golden Bear Award at the Berlin Film Festival; Zhang Yimou has established his reputation as one of the most talented and influential directors working today.

Zhang Yimou was born in China in 1950 and studied cinematography at the Beijing Film Academy. He became a leading member of China's Fifth Generation Filmmakers, the first group to graduate following the turbulent Cultural Revolution. He is an accomplished actor, starring in *Red Sorghum* as well as earning the Best Actor Award at the Tokyo International Film Festival for his performance in *Old Well* (1986). Zhang Yimou is also a skilled cinematographer, with credits including *Yellow Earth* (1984), *Old Well* (1986), and *The Big Parade* (1986).

Zhang Yimou has received multiple honors as a director. He is the first Chinese filmmaker to receive Motion Picture Academy recognition, being nominated for Academy Awards® in the Best Foreign Film category for *Ju Dou* in 1990, *Raise the Red Lantern* in 1991, and *Hero* in 2003. He has earned numerous top honors, including the Silver Lion at the 44th Venice International Film Festival for *Raise the Red Lantern* (1991), the Golden Lion Award at the 45th Venice International Film Festival for *The Story of Qiu Ju* (1992), the Grand Jury Prize at the 47th Cannes International Film Festival for *To Live* (1994), the Golden Lion Award at the 52nd Venice International Film Festival for *Not One Less* (1999), the Silver Bear at the Berlin International Film Festival for *The Road Home* (1999) and the Alfred Bauer Award for *Hero* (2003).

Zhang Yimou's most recent box office hit, *House of Flying Daggers* is the recipient of multiple international awards as well as BAFTA and Golden Globe nominations for Best Foreign Film.

Selective Filmography

Riding Alone For Thousands Of Miles (2005)

House of Flying Daggers (2004)

Hero (2003)

Happy Times (2000)

The Road Home (1999)

Not One Less (1999)

Keep Cool (1997)

Lumiere and Company (1995)

Shanghai Triad (1995)

To Live (1994)
The Story of Qiu Ju (1992)
Raise the Red Lantern (1992)
The Puma Action (1989)
Red Sorghum (1987)

Bill KONG (Producer)

Bill Kong is head of Edko Films, one of Hong Kong's longest-standing independent film companies. Kong's production debut, *'The Blue Kite'* (1993) received multiple awards including Best Feature Film at the Hawaii and Tokyo International Film Festivals. Bill Kong's producer credits include YIM Ho's *'The Day the Sun Turned Cold'* (1994) which won Best Picture and Best Director at the Tokyo International Film Festival and the Academy Award® winning martial arts epic, *'Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon'* (2000).

'Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon' became not only one of the biggest hits of 2000, but also the most popular foreign film in US cinematic history. It went on to earn a roaring US\$130 million at the box office and win multiple awards including four Academy Awards® in Best Foreign Language Film, Best Art Direction, Best Original Score and Best Cinematography, as well as two Golden Globe Awards in Best Foreign Language Film and Best Director.

In 2002 alone, Bill Kong produced SUN Zhou's acclaimed love story *'Zhou Yu's Train'* starring GONG Li, TIAN Zhuangzhuang's remake of the Chinese classic film *'Springtime in a Small Town'* which won the San Marco prize at the 2002 Venice Film Festival, and Zhang Yimou's Academy Award® nominated martial arts drama, *'Hero'*.

'Hero' smashed box-office records when it opened in China grossing more than US\$1.45m in a single day from 200 screens, and then opened to a staggering US\$18m in the U. S. in 2004. Winner of the Alfred E. Bauer Prize for innovation at the 2003 Berlin Film Festival, *'Hero'* was nominated for a host of awards including Best Foreign Language Film in the 75th Annual Academy Awards, Best Foreign Film at the Golden Globe Awards and 14 nominations at the Hong Kong Film Awards including Best Film, Best Director, Best Screenplay and Best Actress for Maggie CHEUNG.

Bill Kong's recent projects include *'Windstruck'*, the first Korean film to open day and date in Korea, Hong Kong and China, and Zhang Yimou's Academy Award® nominated *'House of Flying Daggers'*, which premiered at the 58th Cannes Film Festival to great acclaim.

Selective Filmography

Riding Alone For Thousands Of Miles (2005)
House of Flying Daggers (2004)
Windstruck (2004)
Zhou Yu's Train (2003)
Hero (2002)
Springtime in a Small Town (2002)
Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon (2000)
The Day the Sun Turned Cold (1994)
The Blue Kite (1993)

CHENG Long (Editor)

An Electronic Engineering graduate of the Shanghai University of Science and Technology, Cheng Long began graduate studies in Computer Science in the U.S.A. before working as a sound engineer in a news van for WPVI-TV6 in Philadelphia.

This ignited Cheng's love for motion pictures and led him to pursue a Master's degree in Film and Media Arts from Temple University, Philadelphia followed by a course in Feature Filmmaking at the prestigious American Film Institute in 1995.

On graduation, Cheng Long edited a series of U.S.-based projects including *'Bontoc Eulogy'* (1995) which screened at the 1996 Sundance Film Festival and *'US Custom Classified'* (1995) which premiered on CKAL-9.

Returning to China in 1997, Cheng Long edited the feature film, *'A Time to Remember'* (1998) before editing the television shows *'A Hero Without a Name'* (1997-1998) and *'Love Affairs in Two Generations'* (2000) for China's Zhejiang TV Drama Centre and Nanjing Cable TV Station respectively. In 2004, Cheng Long edited Zhang Yimou's *'House of Flying Daggers'*, earning a BAFTA nomination for Best Editing.

Cheng Long is currently a visiting scholar in the Directing Department of the Beijing Film Academy.

Selective Filmography

Riding Alone For Thousands Of Miles (2005)
House of Flying Daggers (2004)
A Time to Remember (1998)
Bontoc Eulogy (1995)

ZHAO Xiaoding (Director of Photography)

Zhao Xiaoding graduated from the prestigious Beijing Film Academy in 1987 with a degree in Cinematography. Zhao photographed his first feature film, *'Soul of the Thundering Mountain'* (1987) straight out of college and has since been extremely prolific, averaging at least one film a year. His other works include the critically acclaimed *'A Season of Flowers and Rain'* (1999) and *'Subway to Spring'* (2000).

In 2001, Zhao Xiaoding began his collaboration with Director Zhang Yimou, working as the Cameraman on Zhang's martial arts epic, *'Hero'* (2003). The two struck up a great working relationship, and when Zhang Yimou began preparations for the *'House of Flying Daggers'*, the helmer quickly asked Zhao to be Director of Photography on his new film. Zhao's work on the film earned him his first Academy Award nomination for Best Cinematography.

Selective Filmography

Riding Alone For Thousands Of Miles (2005)

House of Flying Daggers (2004)

Hero (2003)

Subway to Spring (2001)

Season of Flowers and Rain (1999)

The Prosperous Queen Mother (1998)

Love Fool (1997)

One Family, Two Systems (1996)

The Substitute Husband (1995)

The Temporary Dad (1994)

The Divorce War (1993)

Police Hero (1992)

A Raging Grudge (1991)

The Wolf and the Angel (1990)

Soul of the Thundering Mountain (1987)

ZOU Jingzhi (Screenwriter)

One of China's best-known writers, Zhou Jingzhi was born in Jiangxi province, and raised in Beijing. During the Cultural Revolution, Zou worked in Henan province as well as remote Heilongjiang province in Northeastern China. Zou returned to the capital in 1977 where he earned a degree in Chinese Literature in 1984.

poems, entitled *'Banner'* (1989) followed by collections of essays including *'A Beauty Tablet'* (1991), *'Wine Speak'* (1993), *'Prospects at my Feet'* (1997), *'Sand in the Wind'* (1998); and short stories such as *'Third Brother Rides Up the Street'* (1997).

Zou Jingzhi has been awarded the top honor at the East Asian Contemporary Poetry Competition, as well as the Poetry Award commemorating the Fortieth Anniversary of the Founding of the People's Republic of China and the Mengya Prize for Literature. In 1993, Zou was awarded The People's Literature's Outstanding Novel Award and The People's Literature's 45th Anniversary Best Newcomer Award.

In 1995, Zou Jingzhi began his work in the film industry with screenplays including *'The Flute Player'* and *'Call Me'* as well as television series including the five-part TV serial *'Emperor Kangxi Travels Incognito'* and *'Ji Xiaolan Has a Glib Tongue'*. In 1997, Zou wrote the musical *'The Night Banquet'* which toured U.K., Hong Kong, France, Italy and America. In 2003, Zou wrote the critically acclaimed *'I Love Peach Blossom'*, which was performed at the 2004 Joint China-Japan-Korea theatrical festival.

Zou Jingzhi's future projects include John WOO's *'The War of the Red Cliff'*.

Selective Filmography

Riding Alone For Thousands Of Miles (2005)

The Battle of the Bare Wall

In Plain Gunshot

Because there is Love

Call Me

The Vast Land

The Flute Player

SUN Li (Production Designer)

Graduating in Production Design from the prestigious Beijing Film Academy in 1995, Sun spent his early career working in Art Direction for commercials. Sun made his silver screen debut as Deputy Art Director on SUN Zhou's heartwarming tale *'Pretty Mama'* (1999), starring GONG Li. *'Pretty Mama'* went on to win Best Actress nods for Gong Li at China's Golden Rooster Awards and the 1999 Montreal World Film Festival.

Sun Li collaborated with Sun Zhou and Gong Li again, this time as Production Designer, in the director's 2002 drama, *Zhou Yu's Train* which premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival. Sun Li's other projects include director Ning YING's *I Love Beijing* (2000), which won the Don Quixote Award at the Berlin International Film Festival.

Selective Filmography

Riding Alone For Thousands Of Miles (2005)

Zhou Yu's Train (2003)

I Love Beijing (2000)

Pretty Mama (1999)

GUO Wenjing (Composer)

Guo Wenjing was born in 1956, in Sichuan Province, a mountainous region in Southwestern China. As a child, he taught himself to play the violin his parents bought him in order to discourage him from loitering on the streets of Chongqing. He soon familiarized himself with the folk music of Sichuan, which became an important influence on his early composition. As a violinist at the Dance and Choral Ensemble of Chongqing (1970-1977), he began composing before joining the Beijing Central Conservatory, in 1978.

Guo is a Member of the Association of Chinese Musicians and recipient of numerous national and international awards. Guo Wenjing has been invited to Sweden by the Royal Institute of Music and to the United States by the Asian Cultural Council, the University of Cincinnati and the Manhattan School of Music.

He has written scores for both film and television, including the Silver Bear-winning *Blush* (1995) and JIANG Wen's *In the Heat of the Sun* which swept the Taiwan Golden Horse Awards in 1996.

From the symphony to the concerto, from symphonic poem to chamber music, his work has been performed in China, the United States and, since 1993, in Europe, at the initiative of the Nieuw Ensemble and its artistic director, Joel BONNS. Guo's major works include: *Ba* (1982), *The River of Sichuan* (1981-1984), *Concerto* (1986-1987), *Shu Dao Nan* (1987), cantata taken from a poem by LI Bai, *Shou Kong Shan* (1991), and *Yun Nan* (1993).

In 1995, the Festival d'Automne in France presented *The Wolfcub's Village* (1993-1994), an opera based on the work of LU Xun, followed in 1998 by a concert devoted to his works and featuring an orchestral suite (1994-1997) of the opera, as well as *Drama* op. 23 (1995), *Inscriptions on Bone* op. 24 (1996) and *Concertino*

pour violoncelle et ensemble op. 26 (1997).

In 1998, Guo Wenjing composed *Echoes of Heaven and Earth* op. 31 for a cappella choir and solo percussionist with settings of sanscrit, Tibetan and Chinese texts. He is currently working on a chamber opera based on the life of the sixth Dalai Lama, Tsangyang Gyatso (18th century) and a work for harp and ensemble.

Selective Filmography

Riding Alone For Thousands Of Miles (2005)

Blush (1995)

In the Heat of the Sun (1994)