

Mao The Real Man

BY SZILVESZTER SIKLOSI
FIRST RUN/ICARUS FILMS
153 WAVERLY PLACE
NEW YORK, NY 10014
1995. 54 MINUTES

Anyone who thinks this might be a real movie about Mao's life should think twice. This is actually an eccentric Hungarian-made film, which attempts to show how easy it is to manipulate people by confusing fact and fiction. The movie argues that Mao had a brother who emigrated to Chicago, where, in the 1930s, he became a mob kingpin nicknamed Wasp. After getting into a gang battle with the Russian mob, Wasp returned to China and took Mao's place as head of the CCP. Members of the Chicago mob then appeared in the CCP surrounding Mao. In order to get rid of them, the CIA turned to the Mafia. The Mafia agreed to cooperate in return for the CIA giving them Cuba, but this was thwarted when Castro overthrew Batista.

The movie further insists that Nikita Khrushchev, before returning to Russia, was the Chicago gangster with whom the Wasp feuded, hence the origin of the Sino-Soviet dispute. The movie ends by suggesting that after the Long March, the original Mao went to a monastery in Tibet, where he has lived without aging, though there may have been a recent sighting of him in K-mart with Elvis.

Sound bizarre? There's no question about that. But the movie does allude to a lot of arcane points in the history of the CCP. As such, it might be something that someone might want to show to an advanced class or graduate seminar in a zany moment, or in a desperate effort to inspire a spirited discussion. But no one should use this movie without watching it first!

Lee Feigon

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Ōsaka Story

BY TOICHI NAKATA
FIRST RUN/ICARUS FILMS
153 WAVERLY PLACE
NEW YORK, NY 10014
1994. 75 MINUTES/COLOR

This documentary traces the return visit of a Japanese Korean filmmaker in his thirties to his family in Ōsaka after a three-year absence to study in the United Kingdom. It has been shown at the 1994 Margaret Mead Film Festival and 1995 New York Asian American Film Festival, and it won the Gold Hugo at the 1994 Chicago Film Festival.

By examining the intimate details of one family, we see the complexities of contemporary Japanese urban life that clearly contradict the image of a uniform, homogenous Japan. The video also gives a good "feel" for daily existence with excellent footage of urban life, streets, shops, homes, restaurants, and so



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forth. The success of *Ōsaka Story* is how it operates on multiple levels.

A central message, repeated throughout the story, is the father's offer to buy the mother a burial plot. As the story unfolds, it becomes evident that although he may not divorce her in life, he intends to end the relationship and leave her alone in death. He

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