

Speaking in Images: Interviews with Contemporary Chinese Filmmakers (Global Chinese Culture)

By Michael Berry



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"I always compare filmmaking to cooking. Shooting is like buying the groceries. You buy all kinds of ingredients and the better ingredients you get, the better chance you have of making the movie you want."? Ang Lee, from Speaking in **Images**

Speaking in Images offers an engaging and rare collection of interviews with the directors who have changed the face of Chinese and international cinema. Michael Berry's discussions with such directors as Ang Lee (Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon), Zhang Yimou (Hero), Chen Kaige (Farewell My Concubine), Stanley Kwan (Lan Yu), Tsai Ming-Liang (Vive l'Amour), Edward Yang (Yi Yi), and Hou Hsiao-hsien (Flowers of Shanghai) offer an eclectic and comprehensive portrait of contemporary Chinese cinema.

In interviews that capture each filmmaker's unique vision, the subjects discuss their formative years, the ideas and influences that shaped their work, film aesthetics, battles with censors and studios, the mingling of commercial and art film, and the future of Chinese cinema in a transnational context. Berry's introduction to the collection provides an overview of Chinese cinema in the second half of the twentieth century, placing the directors and their work in a wider historical and cultural context.



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Editorial Review

Review

Speaking in Images, by Michael Berry, is engaging... It is refreshing to read artists talk about their work and medium.

(Malcom Parker Pots.com)

Berry's questions are intelligent... they illicit intelligent, detailed answers...useful to anyone seriously interested in world cinema...Essential.

(Choice)

[Speaking in Images] should be required reading for anyone seeking to understand the complexities and power of contemporary Chinese Film.

(Mingwei Song China Review International)

Speaking in Images is an excellent, even essential resource for anyone interested in the past, present, and future of these three important Chinese film industries.

(Ethan de Seife Film International)

Review

These interviews are a revelation... engaging, hard-hitting, informative, and entertaining. Michael Berry has trotted the globe, done much homework, and asks fruitful questions. This volume will become a key text for classes in Chinese cinema in American colleges. It will also be an immensely useful guide for film critics, scholars, and historians.

(Ban Wang, author of Illuminations from the Past: Trauma, Memory, and History in Modern China)

Speaking in Images is at once an impressive introduction to who's who in Chinese cinema, a revealing glimpse into Chinese filmmaking history, and the kind of conversation that you don't want to end.

(Bill Kong, producer, Hero, Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon, and Springtime in a Small Town)

Chinese-language filmmaking has entered a new era. Michael Berry's unique access to filmmakers and his deep knowledge of Chinese culture and film history have yielded probing, insightful portraits of major creative figures. From Beijing to Hong Kong, from Shanghai to Taipei, these directors are creating today's most exciting regional cinema.

(David Bordwell, author of *Planet Hong Kong: Popular Cinema and the Art of Entertainment*)

Speaking in Images gives you the stories of individual artists, articulating their own perspectives toward their art, their working methods, their inspirations, the problems they've encountered. It also provides a marvelous portrait of not one but three societies?mainland China, Hong Kong, and Taiwan

(Martin Scorsese from the foreword)

About the Author

Michael Berry is assistant professor of contemporary Chinese cultural studies at the University of California, Santa Barbara. He is the translator of *To Live* by Yu Hua, *Nanjing 1937: A Love Story* by Ye Zhaoyan, and *Wild Kids: Two Novels about Growing Up* by Chang Ta-Chun.

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