

MAGGIE
CHEUNG

CENTER STAGE

A FILM BY STANLEY KWAN



阮玲玉

LEONARDO HO AND JACQUE GILAN PRESENT CENTER STAGE. PRODUCED BY WUIE CHAN, TSOI SUI MING. PRODUCTION MANAGER PIERRE TSE. STARRING MAGGIE CHEUNG, TONY LEUNG KA-FAI, CHUN HANG, CARINA LAU LAURENCE, NG, KECILIA YIP, WAASE EYE.
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY POON HANG GENG. MUSIC SAU CHUNG. DIRECTOR OF CASTING STANLEY KWAN. FORTUNE STAR.



FILM MOVEMENT[®]
CLASSICS

presents

A FILM BY STANLEY KWAN

CENTER STAGE

original title: RUAN LING YU
also known as: ACTRESS

DIGITALLY RESTORED IN 4K

**“One of the indisputably great Chinese works of the past decade
and Kwan's most thrilling, concentrated and dazzling achievement.”**

–Patrick Z. McGavin, *Chicago Tribune*

Hong Kong | 1991 | Cantonese & Mandarin with English Subtitles
Biography, Drama | 154 minutes | 1.85:1 | Mono

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SYNOPSIS

International superstar Maggie Cheung embodies tragic screen siren Ruan Lingyu, known as the "Greta Garbo of China," in this unconventional biopic by Hong Kong New Wave master Stanley Kwan. Praised for her moving and emotive onscreen presence, Ruan's private life, which was frequent fodder for the vicious Shanghai tabloids, began to mirror the melodramas which brought her fame, culminating in her suicide at age 24. Kwan and Cheung paint a kaleidoscopic yet intimate portrait of the ill-fated actress, deftly blending lush period drama, archival footage, and metatextual documentary sequences of Cheung reflecting on Ruan's legacy. The result is, much like the films of Ruan Lingyu themselves, "tender, vivid and almost overwhelmingly moving" (*Time Out*).

SELECT PRESS

"Stanley Kwan's landmark film about the legendary Shanghai silent film actress Ruan Lingyu transcends the biopic genre." –Dean Bowman, *Eye for Film*

"A masterpiece... the greatest Hong Kong film I've seen." –Jonathan Rosenbaum

"Tender, vivid and almost overwhelmingly moving." –*Time Out*

AWARDS & FESTIVALS

1991 – Golden Horse Awards – Best Actress (Maggie Cheung)

1991 – Golden Horse Awards – Best Cinematography

1992 – Berlin International Film Festival – Best Actress (Maggie Cheung)

1992 – Chicago International Film Festival – Best Actress (Maggie Cheung)

1993 – HK Film Awards – Best Actress (Maggie Cheung)

1993 – HK Film Awards – Best Cinematography, Best Art Direction, Best Theme Song



STANLEY KWAN BIOGRAPHY

Hong Kong born Stanley Kwan began his filmmaking career at Television Broadcasts Limited in Hong Kong, working closely with many of the country's young "new wave" directors.

As one of the few openly gay directors in Asia, Kwan's films often revolve around aspects of gender and sexuality as portrayed in his films ROUGE, FULL MOON IN NEW YORK and CENTER STAGE. Kwan himself came out as a gay man in his 1996 documentary, YANG ± YIN, which explores the history of Chinese-language film through the prism of gender roles and sexuality.

The critically acclaimed ROUGE won Best Film and Best Director honors at the 1988 Hong Kong Film Awards.

In 2001, Kwan won the Best Director award at the prestigious Golden Horse Film Festival for his film LAN YU.



MAGGIE CHEUNG BIOGRAPHY

Exhibiting classic beauty and elegance, Maggie Cheung is widely regarded as one of the greatest Asian actresses to have graced the silver screen. Due to her cosmopolitan upbringing, Cheung stands out as one of the few multi-lingual actresses in Asia, speaking Cantonese, Mandarin, Shanghainese, English and French, as seen throughout her body of work.

Cheung initially gained exposure for her role as Jackie Chan's girlfriend May in the POLICE STORY series. It wasn't until she was cast in Wong Kar Wai's directorial debut AS TEARS GO BY that Cheung began to stand out as a premiere talent in Asian cinema, going on to star in many acclaimed roles in Wong's subsequent films, such as DAYS OF BEING WILD, ASHES OF TIME, IN THE MOOD FOR LOVE and 2046.

Gaining increasing popularity outside of Asia, Cheung won international acclaim in 1991 for her portrayal of the classic Chinese actress Ruan Ling Yu in the Stanley Kwan film CENTER STAGE, winning Best Actress at the Berlin International Film Festival. More recently, she won Best Actress at the Cannes Film Festival for her role in the 2004 film CLEAN becoming the very first Asian female to have won the award.



CAST

Ruan Ling-yu / Self
Tsai Chu-sheng / Self
Tang Chi-Shan / Self
Lily Li / Self
Lin Chu-Chu
Li Min-wei

Maggie Cheung
Tony Leung Ka Fai
Chin Hang
Carina Lau Lawrence Ng
Cecilia Yip
Waise Lee

CREW

Director
Produced by

Production Manager
Screenplay
Story by
Edited by

Director of Photography
Music

Stanley Kwan
Leonard Ho
Jackie Chan
Willie Chan
Tsui Siu Ming
Doris Tse
Yau Dai An Ping
Peggy Chiu
Cheung Yiu Chung (H.K.S.E.)
Cheung Ka Fai (H.K.S.E.)
Joseph Keung
Poon Hang Seng (H.K.S.C.)
Siu Chung



ABOUT FILM MOVEMENT

Founded in 2002 as one of the first-ever subscription film services with its DVD-of-the-Month club, Film Movement is now a North American distributor of award-winning independent and foreign films based in New York City. It has released more than 300 feature films and shorts culled from prestigious film festivals worldwide. Film Movement's theatrical releases include American independent films, documentaries, and foreign art house titles. Its catalog includes titles by directors such as Hirokazu Kore-eda, Maren Ade, Jessica Hausner, Andrei Konchalovsky, Andrzej Wajda, Diane Kurys, Ciro Guerra and Melanie Laurent.

In 2015, Film Movement launched its reissue label Film Movement Classics, featuring new restorations released theatrically as well as on Blu-ray and DVD, including films by such noted directors as Eric Rohmer, Peter Greenaway, Bille August, Marleen Gorris, Takeshi Kitano, Arturo Ripstein, Sergio Corbucci and Ettore Scola.

For more information, please visit www.filmmovement.com.

