

# Boosting Morale and Collegiality

The AFDG (Asian Films Discussion Group) of UBC

CEAL Poster Session, March 2022

# Background

- The Catalyst: UBC Campus closure in March 2020 and pivoting to completely remote online work for some, while others rushed to prepare curbside delivery/returns. New processes and workflows
- The Problem: Sense of isolation and stress :(
- The Agents: Asian Library Personnel. Acting Head, 3 Staff, 4 Area Librarians, and 4 GAAs
- The Assets: Preexisting collegiality. New Zoom technology and equipment. Our collection

# Asian Film Discussion Group

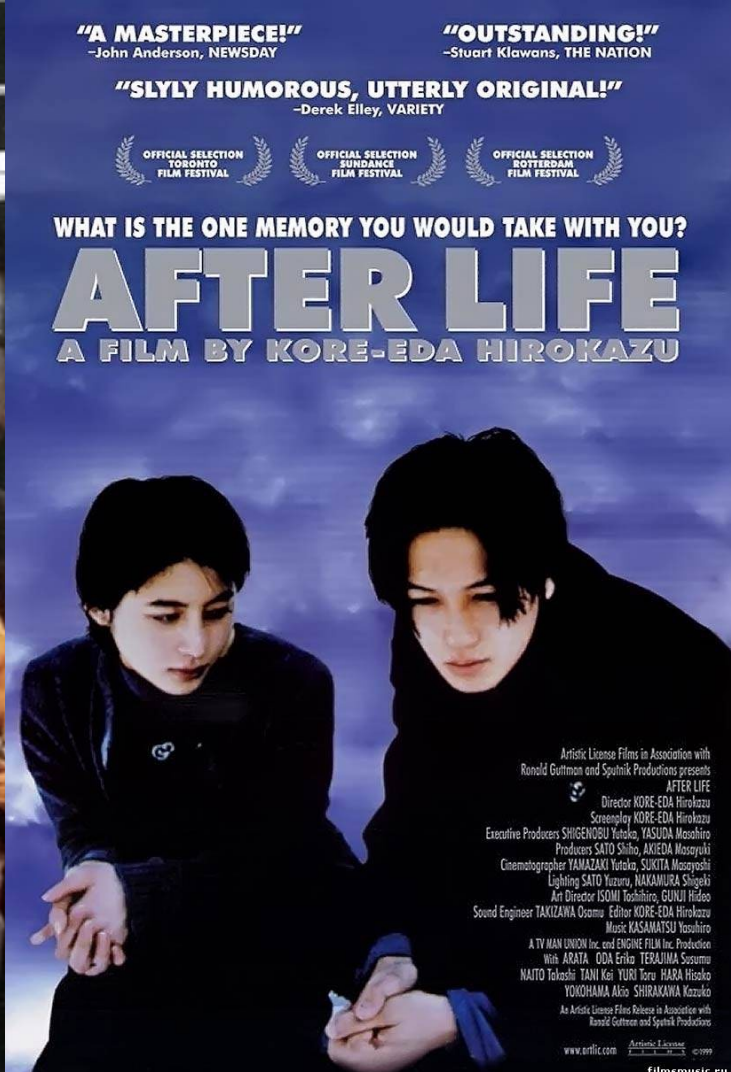
- Proposed following all - staff Zoom checkins
- June 24th “Luck- Key discussion”
- Sep 2nd “AFDG”

“Let's increase our pan-Asian cultural awareness and enjoy one another's company by recommending, watching and discussing films from different Asian countries.

We will watch mainly happy or funny movies, as far as possible. Meeting dates are flexible and watching the movie is always an option, not a requirement”

# Rules and Attendance

- Focus on being a low- stress activity that still promotes communication
- We meet in Zoom when we are all free
- Discuss one or two films, or curated videoclips, created in Asia by Asians
  - Available through UBC or other streaming sources
- Absolutely no pressure—to attend, to watch the film to the end, or to speak up
- No set discussion items
- Happy or thoughtful films mainly, or those that have fun memories attached
- We take turns to choose films and you can always ‘pass’ it on
- Average one meeting per six weeks, 5-6 attendees
- Started out as a 30- min discussion, grew to about an hour



**"A MASTERPIECE!"**

-John Anderson, NEWSDAY

**"OUTSTANDING!"**

-Stuart Klawans, THE NATION

**"SLYLY HUMOROUS, UTTERLY ORIGINAL!"**

-Derek Elley, VARIETY



WHAT IS THE ONE MEMORY YOU WOULD TAKE WITH YOU?

# AFTER LIFE

A FILM BY KORE-EDA HIROKAZU

Artistic License Films in Association with  
Ronald Guttman and Sputnik Productions presents  
**AFTER LIFE**  
Director KORE-EDA Hirokazu  
Screenplay KORE-EDA Hirokazu  
Executive Producers SHIGEMORU Yutaka, YASUDA Masahiro  
Producers SATO Shihō, AKIEDA Masayuki  
Cinematographer YAMAZAKI Yutaka, SUKITA Masayoshi  
Art Director ISOMI Toshihiro, GUNJI Hideo  
Sound Engineer TAKIZAWA Osamu, Editor KORE-EDA Hirokazu  
Music KASAMATSU Yasuhiro  
A TV MAN UNION Inc. and ENGINE FILM Inc. Production  
With ARATA ODA Erika, TERAJIMA Susumu  
NAITO Takashi, TANI Kei, YURI Toru, HARA Hisako,  
YOKOHAMA Aiko, SHIRAKAWA Kazuko  
An Artistic License Films Release in Association with  
Ronald Guttman and Sputnik Productions

# Benefits

- Relaxed conversation on Asian culture and history
- Doubled as a less formal checkin time for the whole team; opportunity for smalltalk before and after
- Some informal learning on Library resources such as Kanopy, Criterion on demand, etc., and Zoom practice
- Learning the collection, finding films to purchase
- Possible AFDG/”staff pick” exhibit ideas

# What Next?

- With return to campus, it may no longer be as easy or necessary to meet. The Library front desk needs to be staffed continuously and the team has physical meetings to attend, making scheduling harder
- The team is no longer as isolated
- AFDG may transition to physical, morph into something else entirely, or retire quietly
- Sparked questions, such as format/service considerations, which could be explored sometime in the future

# Image Credits

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Thank you!

