Askwith International Media Awareness Project: Scope and Depth of Asian Movies Collection

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Askwith International Media Awareness Project: Scope and Depth of Asian Movies Collection

Michigan Library Scholar: Yifei Yao
Mentors: Chloe Herl, Laurie Shaw-Smith, Sheila McFolley
Learn Together Remotely

**June**
- Trainings
- Get to know the team
- Think what’s useful

**July**
- Weekly check-ins
- Decide on the deliverable--an online exhibit!

**August**
- Omeka & Qualtrics are my friends
- Feedback from mentors

**Exploration**
- Make movie & artist lists using Aleph & Catalog
- Connect with Library specialists and communication expert
- Brainstorm: online film festival, movie posters, video essays?
- Create a work plan

**Research**
- Watch movies & interviews
- Read books & papers & reviews
- Omeka trainings
- Drafts

**Design**
- Write, revise, write
- Keep accessibility in mind
- Design what-to-watch quiz that highlights lesser-known films
Final Product

An online exhibit that features two eminent Asian directors

Engagement | Publicity

Exhibit Contents

Introduction
Hirokazu Kore-eda
Civic Responsibility in a Gray World
What Makes a Family?
Healing
Loss and Incompletion
Thinker, Writer, Director, Editor
Abbas Kiarostami
Childhood and Education
Road
Ambiguity: City Chapters
Experimentation

Introduction
An exhibit to highlight some of the Asian films of the University of Michigan Film & Media Library.

Hirokazu Kore-eda
Hirokazu Kore-eda is both a leading pioneer in the "New Japanese New Wave" and a familiar face abroad. Constantly gracing...

Civic Responsibility in a Gray World
Kore-eda's humanistic perspective and personal touch with social issues heighten our understanding of the complex society we are in...

What Makes a Family?
Kore-eda is known for mastering family dramas, especially good at portraying non-traditional families. When his interest in complexity and versatility...

Healing
Kore-eda's characters often experience liminality, a transitional state where they don't want to give up on the past and cannot..

Loss and Incompletion
Loss, memory, and trauma are recurring themes in Kore-eda's work. While it's tempting to associate them with the aesthetics and...

Thinker, Writer, Director, Editor
Kore-eda never shies away from admitting the "TV genes" in his films. He learned from his predecessors that TV embraces..

Abbas Kiarostami
Blending appreciable acumen with natural simplicity, Abbas Kiarostami earns global recognition with his idiosyncratic practice. Not confined in the language.

Childhood and Education
Kiarostami's early short films are sponsored by Iran's Institute for the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults, with an...
Loss and Incompletion

Loss, memory, and trauma are recurring themes in Kore-eda’s work. While it’s tempting to associate them with the aesthetics and appreciation of imperfection in Japanese culture, Kore-eda insists he tries to tell the story of how the living people adapt and recover from sadness, emphasizing people’s resilience in the midst of grief. During the shooting of two documentaries, Lessons from a Calf (1991) and However... in the time of Public Welfare Cuts (1991), Kore-eda observed people’s resilience and creativity when mourning the death. Through showing us a woman’s mourning journey in profoundly poetic Maboroshi, Kore-eda shares his belief that death is a natural part of the living experience.

A recommendation quiz that feeds in your preference and returns our recommendations!

### Asian Film Recommendations

**I want a movie that feels**

- Melancholic
- Insightful
- Intense
- Cheerful

**Pick a movie poster you vibe with**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Poster 1</th>
<th>Poster 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><img src="image1" alt="Poster 1" /></td>
<td><img src="image2" alt="Poster 2" /></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Theme of your ideal film should be**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Music Taste</th>
<th>Theme</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Electronic Dance Music</td>
<td>Romance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rock</td>
<td>Crime, Murder, Political drama</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Where do you want to spend your vacation?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>South Asia</td>
<td>At home watching films from Askwith Asian film collections</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Asia</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southeast Asia</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Asia</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Challenges

**Writing**
- Handle complicated topics: national cinema and the idea of Eastern
- Blogging insecurities

**Time Management**
- Divide the big project into small tasks
- Quantify my work
- Managing “perfectionism” in workplace

**Communication**
- Navigate remote work communication challenges
- Do work meaningful for both the library and myself
## Solutions

Don’t overcomplicate things! Accept the fact that I don’t know

### Writing
- Get more educated on the topic through reading and listening
- Clarify the intended result for the audience
- Write, think, revise

### Time Management
- Build personal accountability- focus on measurable goals
- Stay organized- build a workflow
- Be flexible; value the effort & learning process

### Communication
- Communication redundancy is ok
- Regular check-ins
- Learn from my colleague Sally
- Use library’s inner resources
- When in doubt, ask
## Reflections

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Creativity</th>
<th>Adaptability</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Initiative</td>
<td>Collaboration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research/analytical skills</td>
<td>Quality of Work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Problem-solving skills</td>
<td>Professionalism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time management</td>
<td>Integrity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication skills</td>
<td>Judgment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interpersonal/intercultural skills</td>
<td>Maturity</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Learned

✓ Skills: Qualtrics, Omeka

✓ Independent research skills:
  - time management, my workflow
  - useful websites, note-taking, writing
  - creative solutions
  - more confidence

✓ Professionalism:
  - efficiency, make prioritization decisions
  - communication skills
  - work is only one component

✓ Library resources

✓ impact & accessibility
Next Step

- Social Media Promotions
- Expand the exhibit content
- Write a work instruction
- Explore web design