

Programme

After each screening there will be a Q&A session with the director Xu Xing followed by more informal conversations during the drinks receptions.



Thursday 26th May, 2016

17.30 – 19.00

My Chronicle of the Cultural Revolution, 80 min.
David Hume Tower, Lower Ground Floor, LG 11

Friday 27th May, 2016

17.00 – 19.30

Criminal Records, 120 min.
David Hume Tower, Lower Ground Floor, LG 11



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CHINESE INDEPENDENT DOCUMENTARY II Xu Xing: History, Memory & Legacy

University of Edinburgh, 26-27th May, 2016



Tracing Vestiges of the Chinese Cultural Revolution (1966 – 1976)

Introduction

A Warm Welcome...

...as you join us for our second programme of truly remarkable cutting-edge, independent, documentary filmmaking from China including screenings of films rarely shown & with the opportunity for discussions with the director immediately after each screening.

We are most delighted and proud to host as our guest, the award winning novelist and film maker XU Xing, whose documentaries have been presented widely in Europe and the US.

Natascha Gentz, Director of the Confucius Institute for Scotland

Xu Xing, born 1956 in Beijing, started his career as a novelist and writer. His publication *Variation Without a Theme* won him accolades at the Beijing University Art Festival and international acclaim and awards such as the Tucholsky Prize for Foreign Literature (Pen International) and "Order of the Chevalier des Arts et des Lettres" from the French Ministry of Culture for his translated work.

He has held fellowships and author-in-residence positions in Germany, France and the US. After turning to filmmaking, his documentaries were selected for film festivals garnering awards from Korea and the Awards Forum for Independent Documentary (AIF). His work has been widely shown in the US at Harvard, Yale & Columbia, and in Europe at Berlin, Rome & Aix-en-Provence a.o.

Films

My Chronicle of the Cultural Revolution

In 1972, Xu Xing wrote the first love letter of his life and sent it to a girl in school, whose parents had been sent to the countryside. Not knowing, what to do with it, she showed the anonymous letter to her teacher. Xu Xing was identified as author through his handwriting, and was detained...

In this autobiographical piece, Xu Xing tells the story of his own experiences of the Cultural Revolution by tracing his personal encounters of the past in contemporary China.

Criminal Records

In 2011, Xu Xing accidentally came across registration documents of prisoners, who were detained as active counter-revolutionaries during the Cultural Revolution. Unlike most other political prisoners of the time, these were all peasants, and from the same region in Zhejiang. So Xu Xing started his journey to find these people to discover their stories both as prisoners and their later lives.

50 years after the Chinese Cultural Revolution

This month, 50 years ago, the CR started as a political movement, that with its violence, political radicalism and utopianism brought tremendous changes to China's society. Its contested legacy makes it probably still the least understood period of modern China.

