

PEARLS OF THE FAR EAST

Vietnam, 2011, 103 mins, Drama/Romance,
Wide Screen 1:2.4, (Not Rated)
IMDB Score 8.5
FVFS panel voted 4.7 (out of 5)

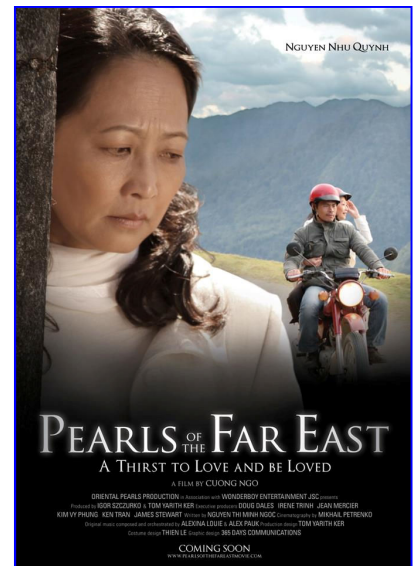
Director: Cuong Ngo
Stars: Truong Ngoc Anh, Kieu Chinh, Kris Duangphung.

Seven stories about Vietnamese women spanning different generations, exploring their inner lives and forbidden loves.

The award winning Vietnamese / Canadian film *Pearls of the Far East*, from director Cuong Ngo is now available through the Federation of Victorian Film Societies (FVFS) to Australian film societies for free loan at just the normal screening rights fee of \$35 (since 16 Sep 2014) per non-theatrical screening. It is highly recommended, with the Victorian Federation scoring it 4.7 stars out of 5.

A promo can be seen at <http://www.youtube.com/user/OrientalPearlsMovie>

- To book this film or for further enquiries please email admin@fvfs.org.au.
- If you need a preview of the film before committing, please ask.



The FVFS panel found it a beautifully photographed film, almost lyrical in feeling and each of the 7 short stories interesting.

This film is unlikely to be given a commercial release in Australia either as a cinema screening or as a DVD, so this may be your only chance to see it.

Note it has not been classified by the Film Classification board, so it must be screened responsibly and be treated as if has an 18+ rating. In our opinion though, it is more like a PG or M rating! Screenings should be strictly to members only.

The FVFS has been supplied with copies of the DVD which are available on loan to interested film societies for the cost of the screening rights and postage only. Contact admin@fvfs.org.au for details, to book a screening, or pay for the screening rights.

For screening to NPV film festivals or NPV Cinemas, where the screening is not non-theatrical, the Canadian producer will need to be approached and a higher rate could apply.

THE FILM

Director: : Cuong Ngo

Producers: Igor Szczurko, Tom Yarith Ker, Cuong Ngo

Duration 103 minutes

Origin: Vietnam 2011

With contributions by film makers and actors from Vietnam, USA, Canada

Genre: Drama / Romance

Based on: Several stories by Minh Ngoc Nguyen (who also appears in the film)

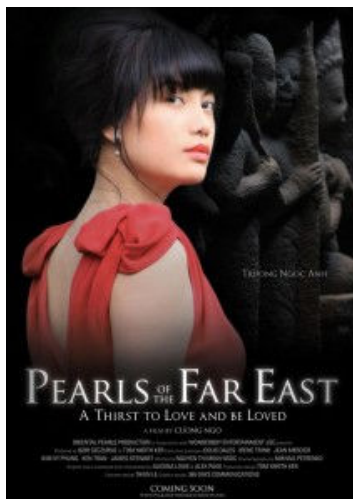
Screenwriter: Matt Guerin

Cinematographer: Mikhail Petrenko

Original Music: Alexina Louie, Alex Pauk

Featured actresses:

Truong Ngoc Anh (The White Silk Dress, 2006)
Nhu Quynh (Vertical Ray of the Sun, 2000)
Hong Anh (Moon at the Bottom of the Well, 2009)
Ngo Thanh Van (The Clash, 2010, the Rebel, 2007)
Minh Ngoc Nguyen
Kieu Chinh (Joy Luck Club, 1993).



Pearls of the Far East is a visually stunning film. It includes images and landscapes from the north to the south of Vietnam. The scenery is not what Westerners usually see!

This film had amazing success at the Toronto *Reel Asian International Film Festival*.

With its beautiful scenery as a backdrop, the stories of seven women who span different generations are told. Their inner lives and forbidden loves are explored intelligently and sympathetically.

Dialogue is kept to a minimum with voiceover mainly to convey their thoughts, and each story is incredibly moving. The musical score is beautifully interwoven with each characters' emotions.

Representative members from Victorian film societies viewed this film and were all equally dazzled by its beauty and we all had empathy with the characters.

Our collective score for it was: 4.7 stars (out of 5).

Pearls of the Far East is an anthology of seven short films adapted from stories by the writer and actress Minh Ngoc Nguyen, who also penned the screenplay. The lush musical score is by Alexina Louie and Alex Pauk. *Pearls of the Far East* offers a collective vision of womanhood, structured chronologically from childhood to old age. The search for love, the desire to love and be loved, is a major theme, and the film's three final episodes in particular explore this in ways that can be seen as parallels to classic woman's films.

SYNOPSIS

The film is in 7 parts, each a short story about different people.

1. Childhood.

Two children enjoy each other's company as they play outside before one is taken to Saigon to go to secondary school.

2. The Message.

A university graduate calls on the mother of her deceased friend to inform her of his death from an overdose.

3. Blood Moon

Teenage brother and sister live by the seaside where he fishes and makes a home from palm fronds while their mother goes off to search for the missing father.

4. The Boat.

Young adults meet and fall in love, making love before she has to move on next day. (Nothing shown explicitly)

5. Awakening

Middle-age woman re-examines her life and analyses why her 6 marriages failed.

6. The Gift

Middle-age woman discovers her husband is having an affair and is tempted by a young man hitchhiking and photographing the district. An affair is implied but not shown.

7. Time

An older woman actress reminisces, still waiting for the ideal acting role and good reviews – but she is getting too old.

The trailer is at:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SmpSLSjQQs&list=UUvQKFTBeYW26nVPacm8N2yA>

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ABN:62 373 979

www.fvfs.org.au

admin@fvfs.org.au

03 9873 1369