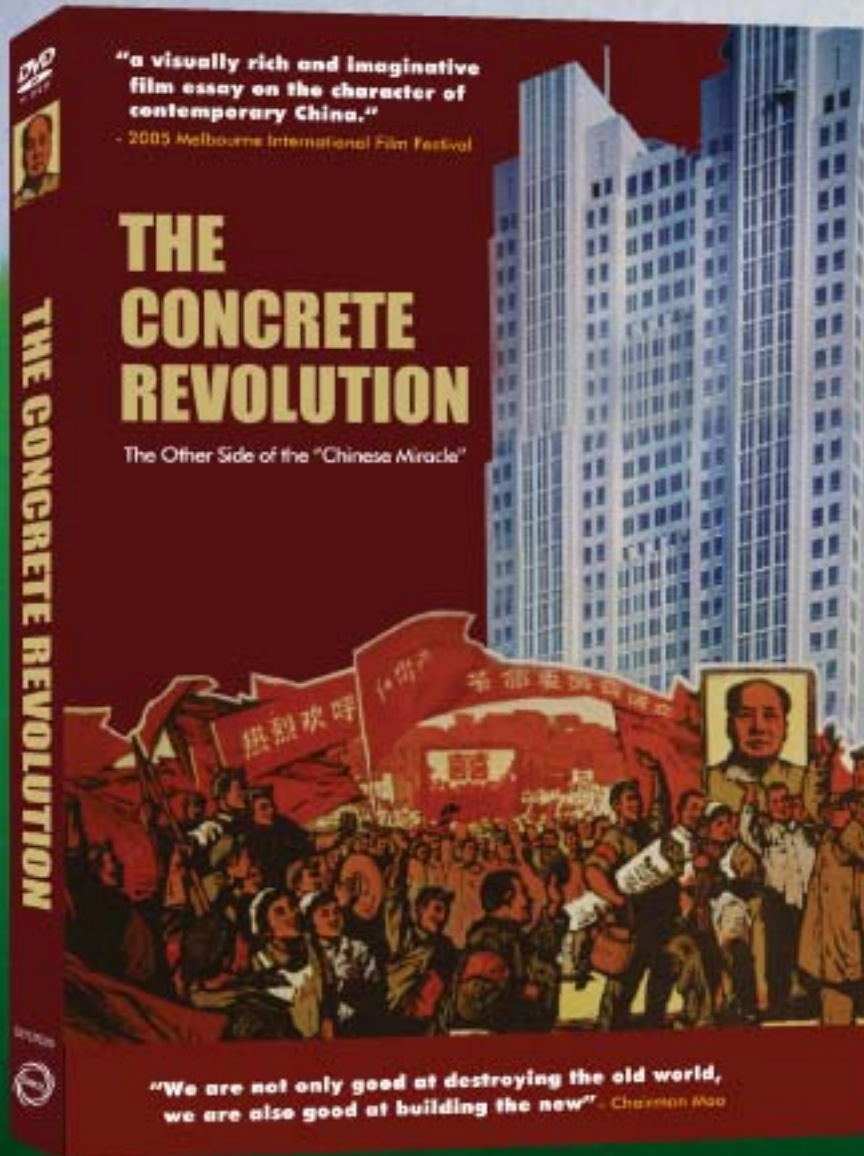


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"It is a powerful statement that has not yet been heard in the United States."
San Francisco International Labor Film Festival 2005



Award-winning filmmaker Xiaolu Guo examines the enormous moral and human cost of creating a "New China" for the 2008 Olympics. Blending social commentary, frank interviews and evocative imagery, the viewer is led to ponder who really benefits from the endless construction taking place in Beijing. As traditional communities are bulldozed to make way for modern high-rise apartment buildings and ancient traditions are cast aside at the expense of about one million poor laborers from villages, the film asks how far will China go to sacrifice its traditional way of life for this new Western version? Thought-provoking and controversial, *The Concrete Revolution* offers a rare, first-hand survey of China in the 21st century.



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Choices Releases Award-Winning Film on the Cost of the "New China"

Los Angeles, CA (April 11, 2006) - Choices, Inc. proudly announces the release of ***The Concrete Revolution: The Other Side of the Chinese Miracle***, a documentary by internationally renowned director and writer Xiaolu Guo. Part objective documentary, part personal essay, this film charts the transformation of Beijing, a city undergoing massive construction to present a modern, glossy facade to the world at the 2008 Olympic Games. While placing ideals of western consumerism in the foreground, the Chinese government is hiding in the background the hardship of the workers constructing the new image, along with the disappearing world of the country's culture and values.

Winner of the 2005 Grand Prix Award at the International Human Rights Film Festival, ***The Concrete Revolution*** examines the enormous moral and human cost of creating a "New China." Blending social commentary, frank interviews and evocative imagery, the film begs the viewer to ask who really benefits from the endless construction in Beijing. Between eighty to one hundred and twenty million unemployed peasants are rushing to undertake the backbreaking work of demolition and reconstruction - their desperation fueling the dream of a shiny, modern Beijing.

A meditation on life in a rapidly developing land, the hour-long film is thought-provoking and controversial. Unfolding in an innovative visual style --a contrast of individual stories and retrospective context, color and black-and-white -- it shows a turning point in China's history and captures a disappearing heritage. A reviewer at the Melbourne International Film Festival called ***The Concrete Revolution*** "a visually rich and imaginative film essay on the character of contemporary China."

Choices Releases Award-Winning Film on the Cost of the "New China"

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Larry Rattner, co-president of Choices, commented, "We look forward to bringing this important film to a larger audience." Choices, Inc. will release ***The Concrete Revolution*** on DVD April 11, 2006. The DVD will include both English and Chinese language versions of the film, a director's statement and a lesson plan/guidebook for educators. SRP is \$99.95, and orders may be placed by visiting www.choicesvideo.net.

About Choices:

Choices, Inc. is a specialty distributor of quality documentaries, educational programming, and feature films. The company believes that documentaries are highly effective teaching tools, and provides both lesson plans and guidebooks as a resource for educators. More information is available online at www.choicesvideo.net.

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THE CONCRETE REVOLUTION

Director's Notes

Xiaolu Guo, 2nd November 2005, London

On *The Concrete Revolution*:

This is a personal film set in a political landscape. 21st century China is the character, and Beijing is the battlefield of a fast changing history. When I look at the city of Beijing, its map; its streets; its young people; I think that memory can be completely altered and rewritten. If architecture can change our memories, then perhaps a film can record the process of this change.

I would like to take this occasion to salute two masters: Jean Rouch and Chris Marker. They showed me how important an author's eye is when looking at this great illusion: reality.

On my work:

When I was 15, a most depressing age for me, my first poem was published. Since then I've always believed poetry can do something great for life. I am not talking about literary poetry, but having a poetic attitude to deal with life especially when it is brutal or hard going. The poetry helps you to go through it.

Through novel writing and filmmaking, I try to discover how someone who has always felt like an outsider reveals the truth of human existence in a chaotic reality. I find the distance between our inner worlds and the outside world can be so far. Humanity cries for love and emotional touch. Art seems to warm and strengthen the human soul.

Shamelessly honest, sharp, poetic and feminine. That's the starting point for my work.

THE CONCRETE REVOLUTION

REVIEWS

"With *Agnes Varda*-like dexterity and lightness, Xiaolu interlaces passages on Chinese culture and history with ironic, intelligent commentary about the other side of the 'Chinese miracle' to create a visually rich and imaginative film essay on the character of contemporary China."

-----*2005 Melbourne International Film Festival*

The film's director is brilliant. Her description is an observation of China's extraordinary transformation through the triple prism of the disturbing real estate construction transforming the capital, a subtly-drawn portrait of a number of workers, most of whom have come from the country, and her own trajectory as a young woman hurled into an increasingly flashy urban modernity. The result is a very subtle, fluid account of the situation (fleshed out by widely varied contributions, such as songs from the Maoist era and newsflashes), which remains personal but never narcissistic and which captures the atmosphere of today's Peking with the rhythm of a piece of visual music.

-----*2005 Fribourg International Film Festival*

About the Director

Education:

- 2002** National Film and Television School, U.K.
- 1997-2000** Graduate Student & Lecturer on film theory & Asian film studies, School of Screenwriting and Film Theory, Beijing Film Academy. Master's Thesis: "Images of the Orient: A Comparative Analysis of the Films of Ozu Yasujiro and Hou Hsiao-Hsien"
- 1993-1997** Undergraduate, Department of Screenwriting & Film Theory, Beijing Film Academy. B.A. Thesis on the films of Hong Kong director Wong Kar Wai

Published books:

- Novels: Village of Stone (Random House, 2004), 20 Fragments of Fenfang's Youth (Shanxi People's Publishing House, 2000)
- Collections: Indecision, Flying in My Dream (Shanxi People's Publishing House, 2000), Notes on Movie Theory (China Film Press, 2002), Movie Map (Shanghai Literature and Art Publishing House, 2001)
- Film Articles: "Notes on Film Theory," "East Beast, West Beauty," "A Chinese Writer's Journey to the West"
- Collected Screenplays: Who is My Mother's Boyfriend? (China Film Press, 1999)
- Over 120 articles on female culture and film theory for Chinese film publications

Filmography:

- Screenwriter, "Knowledge can Change Your Fate"(1998), CCTV public service series directed by Gu Changwei
- Screenwriter, "A Boat in the Sea" (2000), Taiwanese TV-series
- Screenwriter, **House** (1999), Feature film by Wang Xiaoshuai
- Screenwriter, **Love in the Internet Age** (1999), Feature film by Jin Chen (Best Screenplay Award, 1999 Chinese National Film Awards)
- Director, **Life is Elsewhere** (2003), Short film, UK
- Writer/Director, **The Artists I Know from Beijing's Alleyways** (1993), Documentary
- Writer/Director, **Far and Near** (2002), Documentary
- Writer/Director/Producer, **The Concrete Revolution** (2005), Documentary