

Cinema Asia

5 X 1 HOUR

EPISODIC BREAKDOWN

1. China

China is the world's third-largest producer of films. Since the Cultural Revolution, when filmmaking virtually ceased in China, the Chinese cinema industry has stormed back. This film reveals that the Chinese renaissance began humbly. Art-house films such as *Yellow Earth* and *Red Sorghum* introduced the world to a new kind of cinema, before bigger-budgets began to rival even Hollywood counterparts.

2. Korea

Since the late 1990s, South Korea's film industry has undergone an amazing transformation. The Korean Film industry is attracting more international interest than ever before. We explore how Korea's divided history has influenced movie themes and how Korea's increasing self-confidence has inspired it's unique characters ensuring a positive future for the Korean film industry.

3. Taiwan

Once a major producer of Asia's films, Taiwan is now struggling with the increasing competition from its neighbours. In the face of increasing sophistication of mainland Chinese films can Taiwanese films continue to exist as a separate entity? Or will mainland Taiwanese and Hong Kong cinemas grow together into a super pan-Chinese cinema to rule the world?

4. Iran

The Islamic Revolution of 1979 not only threw the Shah out of Iran, it also turned the vibrant local cinema scene on its head. Filmmakers had to learn how to make films in a strictly Islamic environment. How did they meet the challenge of making films with chador-clad leading ladies and prohibitions on filming within the puritanical strictures of Islam?

5. India

A behind-the-scenes look at the world's largest film industry. We see how India's traditional culture has influenced popular cinematic themes, and where Bollywood's music and dance passion come from. We meet with director Chopra, visit the Mandir Theatre, where only one film has shown for the past ten years, and get the first of the new trends of Bollywood films.

