Reading Imprisoned Memories:  
Reconstructed Imagery in *March of Happiness*  
and the Inscription of Politics in Contemporary Taiwanese Fiction

閱讀禁錮的記憶：從“天馬茶房”的影像重構談台灣當代小說中的政治書寫

Professor Ming-jou Chen (陳明柔)  
Department of Taiwanese Literature. Providence University

Two young people begin a tragic love affair against a backdrop of political turmoil in Lin Cheng-sheng's *March of Happiness*. In 1945, Taiwan is under Japanese occupation and Yu (Hsiao Shu-shen), a merchant's daughter who is a member of a theater troupe, falls in love with a musician named Jin (Lim Giong) who works with her group. However, Yu's father is not pleased, as he hopes she will some day wed Ren-chang (Yang Cai-hsia), the son of a prominent doctor. When Allied forces begin bombing Taiwan, the players are forced to disband, and Yu and Jin do not see each other for two years. When they do, a great deal has changed; the Kuomintang, under the leadership of Chiang Kai-shek, have established a Chinese-directed government in Taiwan, and local dialects are forbidden while residents are forced to speak Mandarin. Despite the new hardships, Yu and Jin renew their love and pledge to marry on Feb. 28, 1949 -- a day now remembered in Taiwan for a bloody massacre in which the Kuomintang forces attacked helpless Taiwanese citizens. *March of Happiness* was Lin Cheng-sheng's fourth film to be shown at the Cannes Film Festival, and his first to be screened in official competition. ~ Mark Deming, All Movie Guide

November 20, 2009 3-6 pm  
Humanities Gateway Room 1010

This event is composed of a 30 minute introduction, 90 minute film screening, and 45 minutes of discussion. This is a bilingual event, Mandarin and English, with translation provided.

Co-sponsors:  
The Department of East Asian Languages and Literatures  
The Center for Asian Studies