

popular stories about the turbulent times near the end of the Han Dynasty and beyond.

**Running time: 147 minutes**

**Language: Mandarin with English subtitles**

**Cert: 15A**

*Le Grand Voyage*

**Saturday 31st March at 1.30pm**

**Film Club screening**



To tie in with the trip to London to visit the Hajj exhibition at the **British Museum** we are delighted to present a screening of this very moving film. This is the first fiction film permitted to shoot inside Mecca's holiest shrines during the Hajj.

This compelling film portrays the relationship between a father and son as both embark on the Hajj pilgrimage to Mecca covering thousands of kilometres by car through 10 countries. As their journey progresses they meet several interesting characters along the way and their once icy relationship begins to thaw as they gradually come to know each other.

**"Le Grand Voyage...has a quiet, thoughtful integrity, and is blessed by two outstanding central performances..." The Daily Telegraph**

**Running time: 108 minutes**

**Language: Arabic and French with English subtitles**

**Cert: PG**



**The Thousand Autumns of Jacob de Zoet by David Mitchell**

**Saturday 28th April at 11.30am**

**Book Club meeting**

The year is 1799, the place Dejima in Nagasaki Harbour, the Japanese Empire's single port and sole window onto the world, the farthest outpost of the war-ravaged Dutch East Indies Company and a de facto prison for the dozen foreigners permitted to live and work there. To this place of devious merchants, deceitful interpreters, costly courtesans, earthquakes, and typhoons comes Jacob de Zoet, a devout and resourceful young clerk who has five years in the East to earn a fortune of sufficient size to win the hand of his wealthy fiancée back in Holland.

But Jacob's original intentions are eclipsed after a chance encounter with Orito Aibagawa...

**Join us for tea, coffee and biscuits before the meeting**

**The book is available in the Chester Beatty Library gift shop and in**

**The Company of Books, Ranelagh. Members will receive a**

**10% discount on purchases.**



**Members' Book Club and Film Club:**

Recommend a book and /or film that has a link with any part of the Chester Beatty Library collection

Title: .....

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Author / Director:.....

Members' choice – tell us the name of your favourite book and film of all time:

Title: .....

Author / Director:.....

Any other comments or suggestions: .....

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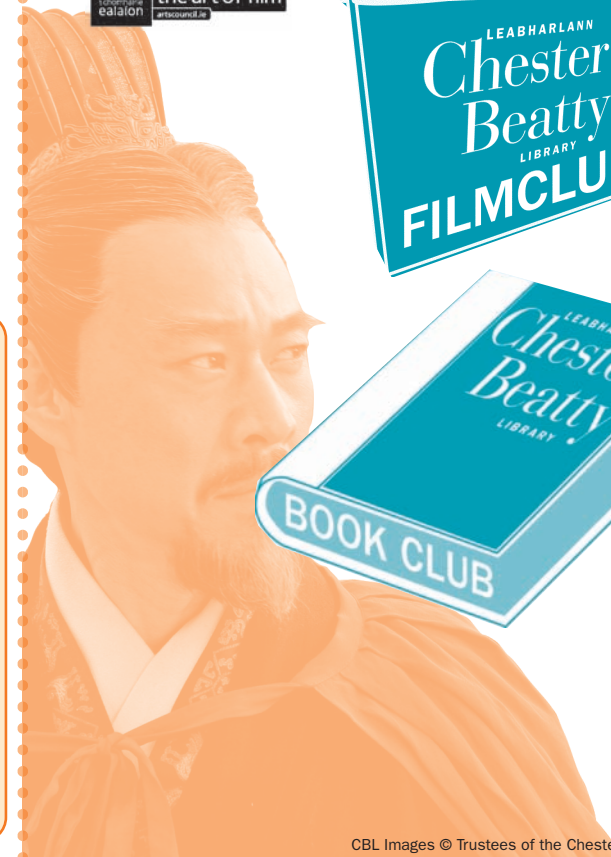
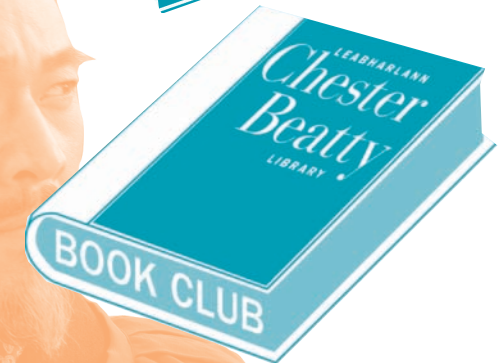
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# Members' Book Club & Film Club

January to April 2012



## Members' Book Club & Film Club: January to April 2012

### *Global Nomad: China (Episodes 3 & 4)*

**Sunday 15th January at 2pm**

**Documentary screening**

#### **Episode 3**

West from the Great Dam is Yunnan Province, bordering on Tibet. Bounded by the snow capped Himalayas, Yunnan is the source of the great Yangtze and also home to 52 of China's 56 distinct ethnic groups. Manchán talks with three minority cultures who are still thriving after centuries of persecution, including the Mosu, one the last surviving matriarchal cultures in the world.

#### **Episode 4**

Northwest from Yunnan is the Xinjiang Province. Although its capital Urumqi is 3000 miles from Beijing the clocks here remain set to Beijing time. China desperately needs to control this harsh region and is migrating millions of people out there to colonise the under populated Gobi Desert. But Xinjiang is quite distinct from modern China, closer to Afghanistan than Shanghai, the people mostly Muslim Kazaks and Uighers. It is both one of the hottest and coldest regions on the planet.

**Running time: 30 minutes per episode**

### *Springtime in a Small Town*

**Saturday 21st January at 1.30pm**

**Film Club screening**

After a long, harsh, dark winter, at last springtime has come to a small town in Southern China. The year is 1946 and the war had come and gone leaving a mark on the psyche of the people and a pitted and devastated landscape. A semblance of normalcy has just



returned. At the Dai family house, life has resumed its slow leisurely pace. However, there are stirrings within the walls of the house, which are soon to test the limits of love, commitment, lust and sacrifice. A young woman must choose between her sickly husband and an old flame who turns up on the doorstep. The serene cinematography makes this enduring love story a spell binding experience.

**"Beautifully photographed and delicately played by an outstanding cast, the film is a haunting, sensual and long overdue return to filmmaking from one of China's finest directors..."**

**The Irish Times**

**Running time: 116 minutes**

**Language: Mandarin with English subtitles**

**Cert: CLUB**

### *Global Nomad: China (Episodes 5 & 6)*

**Saturday 18th February at 1.30pm**

**Documentary screening**

#### **Episode 5**

Taiwan – is it truly another culture and country or simply a small local province of China? Despite having no real international standing, Taiwan is the 18th wealthiest economy in the world with an extraordinary history. Travelling through the island Manchán discovers an extraordinary element of Taiwan's history. Thousands of years ago it was colonised by Polynesian people whose ancestors still live in underground typhoon proof dwellings and sing the songs of their culture.



#### **Episode 6**

As China reaches out to the rest of the world, it faces an internal struggle between the traditional forces attempting to sustain China's ancient culture and the ever increasing capitalist tendencies of the new Chinese generation. It is an almost impossible challenge in the face of an ever-liberating economy and fresh engagement with the world. Manchán visits Tongli, one of China's few remaining traditional towns and contrasts it with Shanghai, the most western of all China's cities. Somewhere between Tongli and Shanghai lies the real China of the 21st century.

**Running time: 30 minutes per episode**

### *Red Cliff*

**Saturday 25th February at 1.30pm**

**Film Club screening**

Full of exhilarating action this Chinese epic war film is based on the famous Battle of Red Cliffs (208-209 AD) which changed the course of Chinese history and inspired many Chinese writers and artists over the centuries. The film is based on one of the great classical novels of Chinese literature, Luo Guangzhong's 14th-century *Romance of the Three Kingdoms*, which combined historical records with myths and



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