Hailed as one of the most comprehensive documentaries about Hong Kong’s 2014 Umbrella Movement, this film explores the protest’s origins and impact through the intergenerational lenses of three post-Tiananmen democratic activists, “umbrella mothers,” student activists, politicians and media professionals, international scholars, and activist LGBT Cantonop icons. Paring footage of protests and protesters with anti-Occupy voices, the film lays bare the political risk of attempting to define Hong Kong’s autonomy within China. Cosponsored by Asian Studies and Peace and Conflict Studies.

**First Film**

**February 16**

**RAISE THE UMBRELLAS**

* dir. Evan Chia, 2016, 117 min

**February 23**

**CITY OF GODS**

* dir. Matthew Heineman, 2017, 93 min

Heineman’s documentary follows the journey of “Raqqa is Being Slaughtered Silently” (RBSS)—a handful of anonymous activists who banded together after their homeland was taken over by ISIS in 2014. With astonishing, deeply personal access, this is the story of a brave group of citizen journalists as they face the realities of life under ISIS, on the run, and in exile, risking their lives to stand up against one of the greatest evils in the world today. “An urgent and heart-heavy account of Syrian resistance from the ground up.” — The New York Times. Cosponsored by Peace and Conflict Studies.

**March 20**

**FAREWELL MY CONCUBINE**

* dir. Chen Kaige, 1993, 172 min

Winner of the Palme d’Or at the 1993 Cannes Film Festival, Farewell My Concubine traces both the unrequited gay love story of two stars in a Peking opera troupe, and a half century of Chinese history. Cheng Duai (played by Hong Kong pop star Leslie Cheung) performs the role of the concubine, a pained and statesman man unable to distinguish between reality or dream, and doomed never to achieve his one desire: the love of the king. Performed by his friend Xiaolou (Zhang Fengyi). A narrative of love and betrayal.

**April 6**

**HIDDEN FIGURES**

* dir. Theodore Melfi, 2016, 126 min

Nominated for numerous Oscars, Golden Globes, and SAG Awards, Hidden Figures tells the incredible untold story of Katherine Johnson, Dorothy Vaughan, and Mary Jackson—brilliant black-American women working at NASA who served as the brains behind the launch into orbit of astronaut John Glenn, a stunning achievement that turned around the Space Race. As Variety notes, “Hidden Figures is empowerment cinema at its most populist, and one only wishes that the film had existed at the time it depicts—though ongoing racial tensions and gender double-standards suggest that perhaps we haven’t come such a long way.”

**April 13**

**KOUDELKA: SHOOTING HOLY LAND**

* dir. Gilad Baram, 2015, 72 min

A young Czech photographer Josef Koudelka grew up behind the Iron Curtain and always wanted to visit the Holy Land, which he described as “the most magical place on earth.” After going there, he became determined to create a body of work that would bring the world closer to the region. Koudelka’s assistant at the time, Gilad Baram, embarked on a four-year project in the region that will confront him once again with the harsh reality of violence and conflict. Director Gilad Baram, Koudelka’s assistant at the time, follows him on his journey through the Holy Land from one emotive and visually spectacular location to another. In each location, a new scene unfolds, gradually introducing us to Koudelka’s method of working and his perception of the world he is documenting as well as the people he encounters. This screening and discussion is offered in conjunction with the exhibition, This Place, on view at the Picker Art Gallery from February 1-March 20, 2018. Support comes from the Picker Art Gallery and the Fund for the Study of World Religions.

**April 20**

**HAVE A NICE DAY**

* dir. Liu Jian, 2017, 75 min

A hard rain is about to fall on a small town in Southern China. In a desperate attempt to find money to save his fiancée’s failed plastic surgery, Xiao Zhang, a mere driver, steals a bag containing a million yuen from his boss. News of the robbery spreads fast within the town, and everyone starts looking for Xiao Zhang and his money. Everyone starts looking for Xiao Zhang and his money. Have a Nice Day is a white-knuckle neo-noir from Liu Jian, a pioneering force in independent Chinese animation. Cosponsored by Asian Studies and East Asian Languages and Literatures.