



Asian Education Media Service (AEMS)  
presents

*Teaching Asia Using Film and  
Technology*

# Why use film as a teaching aid?

- When used in conjunction with texts and lectures, it is an effective teaching tool.
- Images can drive home a message that words cannot.
- Documentary films often tell engaging stories, generally from a “local” perspective, that students will remember.
- Films are often interdisciplinary and can be used to serve very specific units or courses.

# Images can drive home a message that words cannot

Example: consider the December 2004 tsunami. Which is more effective?

Text only:

*“The provincial Sumatran capital was desolated by the tsunami.”*

# Or this?



Photo: © SUPRI/Reuters/Corbis

# Social studies and the nature of learning

Social studies should be taught using methods that are consistent with:

- Constructivist Learning – Intellectual process where the learners fit new ideas together with ideas that they already know
- Characteristics of “powerful social studies”

From National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS), 2000. *National Standards for Social Studies Teachers*, p. 11.

# What are “powerful social studies?”

According to NCSS' *National Standards for Social Studies Teachers*, social studies teaching and learning are powerful when:

- They are meaningful
- They are integrative
- They are values-based
- They are challenging
- The learning is active

# Integrative teaching

Students retain:

- 10% of what they read
- 20% of what they hear
- 30% of what they see
- 50% of what they see and hear [media/film]
- 70% of what they say
- 90% of what they say and do

From: Rief, Sandra F. *How to Reach and Teach ADD/ADHD Children: Practical Techniques, Strategies, and Interventions for Helping Children with Attention Problems and Hyperactivity*. The Center for Applied Research in Education, 1993, p. 53.

# **Sample topics that can be taught through film**

- Legal system in China - “The Story of Qiu Ju”
- Urban development in Southeast Asia - “Golf War”
- Jane Austen - “Bride and Prejudice,” “I Have Found It”
- Water as a global commodity - “Thirst”
- Cross-cultural communication/theater production - “A Dream in Hanoi”



# Common types of films

- Feature films
  - Pros: High quality footage, accessible, interesting
  - Cons: Accuracy?, Stereotypes?
- Documentary films
  - Pros: Contextualized, specific topics
  - Cons: Pricey, less accessible, dry?
- News programs
  - Pros: Timely, interesting, shorter chunks of info
  - Cons: Limited topics (newsworthy), US-bias?

# Some things to remember before teaching with film

- Review concepts of media literacy with your students.

For more information, visit these websites:

Center for Media Literacy

PBS Teacher Source


- Films are not “primary” sources - consider how and why the film was made
- The difference between teaching film and teaching through film

# Steps to using film in your classroom

1. Search for titles in a film database => [www.aems.uiuc.edu](http://www.aems.uiuc.edu)
2. Read the summary of each title, and pick 3 to 5 that sound most interesting
3. Borrow the films
4. Watch the films & critically evaluate them
5. Select and purchase desired film(s)
6. Show the film


# 1. Start with a search of titles in a film database

=> [www.aems.uiuc.edu](http://www.aems.uiuc.edu) Example: Search for “Hanoi” on AEMS results in 4 hits – all films

**Asian Educational Media Service**  
Center for East Asian and Pacific Studies, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

**MEDIA SEARCH**      **SEARCH OUR DATABASE**

Search Our Media Database



[Advanced Search](#)

Search Our Website

Google Powered by

Found 4 records.

Displaying Records 1 - 4.

Search Results: All Regions, All Media Types, All Subjects, All Audiences  
Browse by Title

Sort by: [Title](#)      [Release Date](#)

<a href="#">Dream in Hanoi, A</a>	Videocassette	2002	Higher Education Secondary Education
<a href="#">Hanoi and the Red River Plain (Vietnam)</a>	Videocassette DVD	2001	Secondary Education Higher Education
<a href="#">Hanoi, Tuesday the 13th</a>	Videocassette	1967	Higher Education
<a href="#">My Hanoi</a>	Videocassette DVD	2002	Secondary Education Higher Education

**About A**

- [Abou](#)
- [Peop](#)
- [Histe](#)
- [Med](#)

**Media S**

- [Abou](#)
- [Bro](#)

**AEMS E**

- [Asia](#)
- [Bare](#)
- [Guid](#)
- [Rese](#)
- [Loca](#)


**Reviews**

- [AEM](#)
- [Seai](#)
- [Writ](#)

**Addition:**

- [Sch](#)
- [Rela](#)
- [Con](#)
- [Site](#)

**2. Read the summary of each title, and pick 3 to 5 that sound most interesting.**


**Asian Educational Media Service**  
 Center for East Asian and Pacific Studies, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

**MEDIA SEARCH**  
 Search Our Media Database

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## Media Information

# Dream in Hanoi, A

**Available from:** [Bullfrog Films](#)

**Media Type:** Videocassette

**Release Date:** 2002

**Audience:** Higher Education  
Secondary Education

**Running Time:** 91 min.

**Physical Description:**

**Language:** English  
Foreign Language with English Subtitles

**Author:** Moira Productions

**Resource Library Number:** SEADVD 03

**Purchase Price:** Purchase: \$295

**Subject:** [Arts](#)

**Subdivision:** [Performing Arts](#)  
[Dance](#)  
[Cross-Cultural Exchange](#)  
[Fine Arts](#)

**Region:** [Southeast Asia](#)  
[East/West Relations](#)

**Country:** [Vietnam](#)

[Click here to add a review for this media title.](#)

**Abstract:**

Twenty five years after the end of the Vietnam War, Vietnamese and Americans join forces in a unique collaboration. Two theater companies, one American and one Vietnamese, come together to stage the first performance in Vietnam of Shakespeare's play A Midsummer Night's Dream. This spirited tale follows the actors, directors, producers and technicians from both countries as they struggle to surmount the huge obstacles of language, culture, ideology, and a history of war on their journey to opening night at Hanoi's famous Opera House. The film features Vietnam's renowned theater, the Central Dramatic Company of Vietnam, and actors and staff from the Artists Repertory Theater in Portland, Oregon. Music is performed by artists of Vietnam's National Theater of Music and Dance and the Cheo Theater of Hanoi. A DREAM IN HANOI is the first American documentary about American/Vietnamese relations that does not focus on the Vietnam war or its legacy of human suffering. In English and Vietnamese with English subtitles.

### 3. Borrow the films. Search WorldCat or ask a librarian to locate item and borrow the films through inter-library loan.

**SILC** Statewide Illinois Library Catalog UNIV OF

**Libraries that Own Item**

- This screen shows libraries that own the item you selected.

[Home](#) [Databases](#) [Searching](#) [Results](#) [Staff View](#) [My Account](#) [Options](#) [Comments](#)

[List of Records](#) [Detailed Record](#) [Marked Records](#) [Saved Records](#)

Current database: WorldCat Total Libraries: 22

Title: A dream in Hanoi Author: Weidlinger, Tom

Libraries with Item: "A dream in Hanoi" ([Record for Item](#) | [Get This Item](#))

Location	Library	Code
IL	<a href="#">NORTHWESTERN UNIV</a>	INU
CA	<a href="#">CALIFORNIA STATE UNIV, LOS ANGELES</a>	CLA
CA	<a href="#">CHABOT COL LIBR</a>	CAB
CA	<a href="#">UNIV OF CALIFORNIA, IRVINE</a>	CUI
GA	<a href="#">UNIV OF GEORGIA</a>	GUA
IN	<a href="#">FRANKLIN COL</a>	IFC
IN	<a href="#">INDIANA UNIV</a>	IUL
MD	<a href="#">UNIV OF MARYLAND, COL PARK</a>	UMC
NJ	<a href="#">RUTGERS UNIV</a>	NJR
NY	<a href="#">CORNELL UNIV</a>	COO
NY	<a href="#">HAMILTON COL LIBR</a>	YHM
NY	<a href="#">UNION COL</a>	ZWU
OH	<a href="#">OHIO UNIV</a>	OUN
OR	<a href="#">REED COL LIBR</a>	ORC
TX	<a href="#">TEXAS A&amp;M UNIV LIBR, COMMERCE</a>	IEA
TX	<a href="#">UNIV OF N TEXAS</a>	INT
VA	<a href="#">GEORGE MASON UNIV</a>	VGM
WA	<a href="#">EDMONDS COMMUN COL LIBR</a>	Z24
WA	<a href="#">NORTH SEATTLE COMMUN COL LIBR</a>	Z35
WI	<a href="#">ALVERNO COL, LIBR</a>	GZA
ON	<a href="#">YORK UNIV LIBR</a>	YOU
AS	<a href="#">UNIV OF HONG KONG LIBR</a>	HUA

**Record for Item: "A dream in Hanoi"** ([Libraries with Item](#))

## 4. Review the films & critically evaluate them

It is important that (a) the film not be shown “blind;” in other words, screen the film before you consider showing it in the classroom, and (b) teachers look to see if there are any reviews available on the film.

- Did you enjoy the film?
  - Would your students enjoy the film?
  - What type of lens (or point-of-view) was used to tell the story?
  - Were any stereotypes used?
- 
- See Heider, Karl and Carol Hermer, 1995. *Films for Anthropological Teaching* (8<sup>th</sup> ed.), American Anthropological Association.

## 5. Select and purchase desired film(s)

- Return to AEMS database and pull up record
- Under the film's title, it says "Available from: [Distributor's name]." Click on the name.



The screenshot displays the AEMS (Asian Educational Media Service) website. At the top, the AEMS logo is next to the text "Asian Educational Media Service" and "Center for East Asian and Pacific Studies, University of Illinois". Below this is a red banner with "MEDIA SEARCH" and "SEARCH OUR DATABASE". A search bar with the text "Search Our Media Database" contains a text input field and a "Start Search" button. A link for "Advanced Search" is also visible. The search results for the film "Dream in Hanoi, A" are shown below. The title is in large blue font. Underneath, the "Available from:" field shows "Bullfrog Films" in red text. The "Media Type:" is "Videocassette". The "Release Date:" is "2002". The "Audience:" is listed as "Higher Education" and "Secondary Education". To the right, under the heading "Abstract:", a short description of the film is provided.

Asian Educational Media Service  
Center for East Asian and Pacific Studies, University of Illinois

**MEDIA SEARCH** SEARCH OUR DATABASE

Search Our Media Database

**Start Search** ?

[Advanced Search](#)

Media Information

**Dream in Hanoi, A**

<b>Available from:</b>	<a href="#">Bullfrog Films</a>	<b>Abstract:</b>
Media Type:	Videocassette	Twenty five
Release Date:	2002	forces in a
Audience:	Higher Education	Vietnames
	Secondary Education	play A Mic



# 5. Select and purchase desired film(s) [cont'd]

- The “Distributor Information” page has the phone number and website for the film’s distributor. Contact them directly to purchase the film(s).
- Be sure to check on performance and viewing rights.

The screenshot shows the AEMS website interface. At the top, the logo and name "Asian Educational Media Service" are displayed, along with the address "Center for East Asian and Pacific Studies, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign". Below this is a navigation bar with "MEDIA SEARCH" and "SEARCH OUR DATABASE" buttons. A search bar is present with a "Start Search" button. The main content area is titled "Distributor Information" and features the "Bullfrog Films" logo. To the left of the logo, contact information is listed: Name: Bullfrog Films, Address: (blank), Phone: 800-543-3764 or 610-779-8226, Fax: 610-370-1978, E-mail: [video@bullfrogfilms.com](mailto:video@bullfrogfilms.com), and Website: <http://www.bullfrogfilms.com>. To the right of the logo, a section titled "Other titles from this company:" indicates "Found 85 records." and "Displaying Records 1 - 20." Below this, a list of film titles is shown, each preceded by a "Next Records" link. The titles include: [After Silence: Civil Rights and the Japanese-American Experience](#), [All Different, All Equal](#), [Amahs of Hong Kong, The](#), [Arrow Against the Wind](#), [Arrows Against the Wind](#), [At the End of a Gun: Women and War](#), [Because They're Worth It](#), [Blowpipes and Bulldozers](#), [Bomb Under the World, The](#), [Bombies](#), [Boundaries of Change, The](#), [Community](#), [Cost of Living, The](#), [Credit Where Credit is Due](#), [Discipline with Dignity](#), [Disenchanted Forest, The](#), [Doctor's Story, The](#), [Dream in Hanoi, A](#), [Drowned Out: We Can't Wish Them Away](#), and [Dry Days in Dobbagunta](#). On the right side of the page, there is a vertical sidebar with links for "About AEMS", "Media Search", "AEMS Editor", "Reviews", and "Additional Resources".

## 6. Showing the Film

1. **PRE-VIEW:** Engage students. Discuss key concepts and themes before showing the film.
2. **VIEWING:** Show entire film or selected segments. Pause the film if there is a scene to discuss. Consider giving students a task to complete while viewing.
3. **POST-VIEW:** Discuss the film. Have students relate film to their own lives or to the world in general.

# FAQ's

- Where can I get more information about Asian or Asia-related films in general?
- How do I know if a film is culturally sensitive?
- What if I have trouble borrowing the item through inter-library loan?

# Closing comments

- Look to film festivals and film associations for new titles
- There are many excellent films and documentaries available. Keep searching until you are satisfied.
- Utilize film reviews – *Education About Asia* or *AEMS' News & Reviews* (available online).
- Talk to others about their successes.
- Questions & Discussion?