

Film Portrays Young Life of Toscanini

By Hong Sun-hee
Staff Reporter

The mono recordings of Arturo Toscanini were buried in oblivion with the debut of hi-fi stereo. But his music was not dead for good. In the last couple of years, over three decades after his death, the Italian maestro who conquered American musicdom has regained his old esteem through compact disc reproduction of his music.

The legendary figure comes more close even to the younger generation who may not even have heard of the name, Toscanini in a Franco Zeffirelli film, "The Young Toscanini," a dramatic film, which is on run at the Piccadilly Cinema in Seoul.

The eighteen-year-old Toscanini, a cellist and rehearsing pianist for a touring Italian opera company, made his conducting debut in Rio de Janeiro in 1886 in place of a Brazilian conductor who quit at the very last stage of final rehearsal.

The abrupt debut concert made in the presence of the Brazilian king, who loved a Russian soprano, proved to be the start of a career that lasted some 70 years for Toscanini as the paramount conductor of the time.

The film sheds light on the three months before taking the podium for the first time.

This film was shot last year. However it is a classical film with the grandeur of the past century in it — the crystal-studded chandelier, China-porcelain, oil paintings, gorgeous apparel and magnificent opera house. The Latin architecture, exotic samba music and the cross-Atlantic voyage adds elan to this film.

Also there is an impossible love between Toscanini and a young Catholic nun choosing the orphaned slave children instead of Arturo whom



Actor Thomas Howell yields the baton in the film "The Young Toscanini" which unfurls the episodes on the debut of the legendary maestro under the direction of Franco Zeffirelli.

she called "the dearest person I have seen and I will never forget."

Thomas Howell is a look-alike of the real Toscanini. But this willowy sissy boy lacks the charisma held by every great musician regardless of age. Toscanini's trademark upbeats is not seen anywhere in this film.

Soprano Nadia Bulichov is played by Elizabeth Taylor who underwent near

deadly weight control for this role. She is an imposing diva on the screen though the arias are not sung by her. The Russian soprano who stopped singing, falling in love with the Brazilian king, makes a comeback touched by the passion of the young Toscanini.

Philip Noiret, a village film engineer in Cinema Paradiso, portrays the king patient enough to listen to the advice of a young musician.

John Rhys-Davies portrays the witty impresario and patron who sensed the caliber of the young Toscanini boycotting an audition at La Scala on the grounds that the jury was insulting Vivaldi, the composer of the work he was playing.

Zeffirelli, a renowned director of Shakespearean plays and Italian operas, has inserted magnificent scenes from "Aida" as the highlight of the film.

Both the vocal and instrumental music that flows throughout the film is untiring even to those who have no penchant for music because of the director's skillful command of dramatic and screen composition.

Undoubtedly, this film is one of the masterpieces to be remembered in the category of music-related films.

Changmu-hoe Dance Troupe To Give 11th Performance

Changmu-hoe, a representative traditional Korean dance company in the nation, will have its 11th regular performance at the grand hall of the Munye Theater Nov. 1-2.

The company, founded in 1976, has played a leading role in the exploitation of a new dance language and introduction of traditional Korean dance to other countries through its frequent overseas performances.

It has also devoted itself to imbuing the nation's dance society with a fresh image by introducing one experimental work after another.

The works to be shown in the coming regular performance are "We, Becoming a Bird On The Winter Sea," choreographed by Kim Hyo-bun, "Sandglass," by Kim Yon-bok and "Hwal," by Kang Mi-ri.

The first two works are newly choreographed for the coming regular performance, but the third one is a revival of a work first premiered in the fifth Korean Dance Festival in April 1989.

Kim Hyo-bun and Kim Yong-bok who choreographed the new works for the performance are veteran dancers of the company who have furthered their careers in the company for nine and six years respectively.

The work "We, Becoming A Bird On The Winter Sea" tries to describe human lives through the image of sea birds. Various movements of the sea have been adopted as dance motion in the work.

"Sandglass" is a work showing a struggle of people who want to be free from time. Specifically, it describes the human desire to conquer time.

It also focuses on the relationship between modern society and time under the assumption that human behavior is strongly determined by the specific time.

The performance, that will last for about 80 minutes, is expected to show the style and color peculiar to the dance of Changmu-hoe.



Members of Changmu-hoe rehearse for the 11th regular performance of the season on the occasion of its 14th founding anniversary at the Munye Theater Nov. 1-2. Performances will take place twice daily at 4:30 p.m. and 7 p.m.

'Son of General' to Attract More Than 600,000 Viewers



A group of rookie actors including protagonist Park Sang-min, center, star in director Im Kwon-taek's "The Son of General," which recently broke box-office records.

company which produced the movie, the reasons that it has won the acclamatory response are firstly the reputation and credibility of director Im whose films have won awards in international film festivals.

Secondly, Taehung said, the chivalrous spirit that the young protagonists portray might have appealed to young Korean movie enthusiasts who have begun to get fed up with "merciless and blood-stained" U.S. action movies and "Hong Kong Noir" films that have been blamed for undermining local juveniles' emotions.

Another reason for its success was

that director Im mobilized young and unknown new comers including Park Sang-min who starred as Kim Tu-hwan, said Taehung.

"The Korean-style action scenes presented by the shrewd rookie actors must have given a fresh impression to the young audience who tend to seek for manliness in the cinema," the film company said.

In the meantime, Dansungsa, the cinema running the film, will give a lifelong free admission ticket to the 600,000th patron and his or her partner, said Taehung Film preparing to shoot a sequel of "The Son of General."

Kim Joong-man's 'Beijing Days'

Vivid Images of Chinese Life on Exhibit

By Jung Ha-yun
Staff Reporter

A boyish grin, an earring dangling from his right ear and holes in his jeans are not what you would expect from a "serious" Korean artist, but photographer Kim Joong-man is opening up a bold new chapter in his career with works on very serious and very Korean themes.

Currently holding an exhibition titled "Beijing Days," a collaboration work on the images of China with journalist Kim Chin-hwa at the Gallery Mac (544-8411), his recent projects concentrate on presenting history and tradition from a more modern point of view in hopes of finding a connection between Korean culture and today's much Westernized modern culture.

"I agreed on this China project because it was in many ways related to my 'Images of Korea' photographs that I have been working on for the last couple of years. To visualize China and its people for contemporary Koreans was also a means of communication, just like my recent project, which aims at finding bridges between the cultures of the older and younger generation," said the 38-year-old artist in an interview.

Perhaps more widely known as a glamorous fashion photographer and for his much publicized marriage to fashion model Oh Sumi, ex-wife of film director Shin Sang-ok, Kim has had his share of hardships in maintaining his career as an earnest and talented artist, but he has left much of that behind.

"This is my first solo show in five years. I had promised myself that unless I was absolutely confident with my new themes, I would never display my works in public. The Beijing show is an exception, but I believe it will give a glimpse of what I am working on," Kim commented.

Strong in color and full of spontaneity, his pictures from his seven-day trip to China are an amalgam of the country's exotic scenes and the familiarities the Koreans can feel from a



Vivid images of street scenes and daily life in contemporary China are presented in photographer Kim Joong-man's photo sketch on China titled "Beijing Days," currently on exhibit at the Gallery Mac until Nov. 4.

culture that was once interwoven to Korea by history.

The biggest barrier with this project, according to Kim, was breaking the traditional concepts on the "Great China" that Koreans might still have, and to present the images and lives of China of the 1990s - which he achieves wittily, with a sketch of a Beijing license plate on a sleek Mercedes, for example.

"I think we were visually polluted by all these pictures in newspapers of the Great Wall, the Forbidden City and Tiananmen Square. So I tried to focus on the more ordinary and real cultures of life in China. Though the scale of the huge nation was impos-

sible to catch in a week, I feel satisfied with the outcome of the street scenes and country-side sketches.

"To the younger generation of Koreans who grew up on Westernized pop culture, including me, traditional Korean images and Chinese culture would both strike them as equally alien and distant. I would like to draw that distance a little closer with this show and also my Korean project," Kim concluded the interview with a "just-you-wait-and-see" look on his face that might mean in a year or so when he exhibits his "Images of Korea," people will start talking more seriously about his works rather than his "outrageous" appearances.

TOWN CRIER

EXHIBITION

Paintings by 21 members of Korean Watercolor Painters Group at Galleria Gallery (515-3131) Oct. 26-Nov. 8.

Kang Byoung-ok's ceramics at Woony Gallery (697-0010) Oct. 26-Nov. 1.

"Korean Sculpture for 1990" by 16 graduates of Ewha Womans University at Moonhwa Gallery (537-6425) Oct. 27-Nov. 10.

Kim Jong-in's clay works at Space Gallery near the Secret Garden Oct. 29-Nov. 4.

Kang Sang-jung's oils and acrylics at Yale Gallery (548-0683) Oct. 25-31.

Oh Myung-hee's colored ink paintings at Indeco Gallery (738-5075) Oct. 26-Nov. 1.

Works by Kangwon University students majoring in industrial design Oct. 25-30 at Korea Design Package Center.

Paris-based artist Han Mook's oils and prints at the Hyundai Gallery (734-8215) until Oct. 31.

Kim Yung-zai's landscapes at Yuna Gallery (545-2151) Oct. 26-Nov. 8.

Young-june P. Lew's abstract oils and acrylics at Sun Gallery (734-0458) Oct. 26-Nov. 7.

Kim Han-kook's prints at Dongsung Art Center Gallery (741-5849) Oct. 26-Nov. 1.

"Quintet Painting" at Moin Gallery (739-9291) Oct. 26-Nov. 4.

Byun Sook-kyung's sculptures at Chongnyon Gallery in Kwanhun-dong Oct. 24-30.

Five female artists' paintings at Chongnam Gallery (732-7121) Oct. 24-30.

You Mi-kyung's acrylics at Hanson Gallery (720-7219) Oct. 24-30.

Ten female artists' "Image of 1990" paintings at Kwanhun Gallery (733-6469) Oct. 24-30.

Oh Kyung-hwan's "Cosmos & Space" abstracts at Kukje Gallery (735-8149) Oct. 24-Nov. 2.

Sculptures by six young artists at Gallery Doll (739-1406) Oct. 25-31.

Kim Dai won's colored ink paintings at Kumho Gallery (720-5866) Oct. 24-30.

Kwon Jun's oils at J&C Gallery (514-7352) Oct. 25-Nov. 3.

Cluing Hoi jin's colored ink paintings at Chongman Gallery (732-7123) Oct. 24-30.

Baik Soon-shil's "tea spirit" paintings at Hyundai Department Store Gallery (547-2233) Oct. 24-Nov. 1.

Cho Byoung-hyon's landscapes at Paeksang Memorial Hall (724-2229) Oct. 22-31.

Kim Chung-jung's sculptures at Park Ryu-sook Gallery (544-2500) Oct. 22-31.

Kim Heung-soo's "harmonism" paintings at National Museum of Contemporary Art (503-7744) Oct. 17-Nov. 15.

Paintings, sculptures, handicrafts and photos, titled "Man and Nature," at National Museum of Contemporary Art Oct. 17-Nov. 10.

"500 Artists of Contemporary Korean Art," at Seoul Arts Center Exhibition Hall (580-1114) Oct. 18-Nov. 11.

"Beijing Days," a collaboration sketch of China by photographer Kim Joong-man and journalist Kim Chin-hwa, at Gallery Mac (544-8411) till Nov. 4.

MOVIE

"Another 48 Hrs.," the sequel of comedy-action film "48 Hrs" starring Eddie Murphy and Nick Nolte under the direction of Walter Hill, at Cinehouse (540-4637), Pagoda (742-1937) and Damoa (540-5134).

"The Interrogation," the last banned film in Poland depicting inhumanity of torture, directed by Ryszard Bugajski and graced by and exceptional performance by actress Krystyna Janda who won the top actress honor of the 1990 Cannes Film Festival, at Daeha Theater (278-8171).

DRAMA

Die Klappe Puppet Theater's Seoul performance, organized by the Puppet Theater Seoul and Goethe Institute, at the Kyemong Art Hall (559-5114), Oct. 29-Nov. 2, at 7:30 p.m.

"The Typist," a production by the Minjung Theater Company of Murray Schisgal's witty play about a couple living in the industrialized society, directed by Chong Chin su and starring two veterans of stage Son Suk and Kwon Song dock, Oct. 25-Nov.11 at Minjung Small Theater (745-5608).

"Why did Shimchong Throw Herself

Into Indangsu - Twice?" a new play written and directed by Oh Tae-sok and presented by the Mokhwa Repertory Company, at the Chungdol (Clash) Theater Mokhwa (743-7778) Oct. 24-Nov. 25.

"Anthony and Cleopatra," Silhom Theater Company's production of Shakespeare's classic tragedy, directed by Yun Ho-jin, with Lee Hye-yong and Lee Ho-jae in the leading roles, at Hoam Art Hall (751-5549), Oct. 20-Nov. 4.

MISCELLANEOUS

Foreigner's Community Service's (FOCUS) talks on "A Healthy Lifestyle," at Seoul Club, Oct. 30, 1:30 p.m. More info at 798-7529.

The British Womens' Group's monthly meeting at the Seoul Club, Oct. 30 at 10 a.m. For details call 792-4527.

Hyatt Regency Seoul's club J.J. Mahoney's Halloween Party on Oct. 31, featuring a horror movie and "Witch's Stew." More Information at 799-8492.

"UK Education Fair," organized by the British Council at the Grand Ball Room of the Westin Chosun Hotel, Oct. 29-31. The fair is open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. More information at 737-9912.

Women's Aglow Christian Fellowship's meeting at the International Lutheran Church Nov. 1, 10 a.m. Further details at 794-7853.

International Christian Women's Club's "Holiday Gifts from Korea," at Westin Chosun Hotel Nov. 1 at noon. More information at 333-0838.

Exhibition of antique photographs Oct. 27-Nov. 3 at Culture Development Institute inside Toksu Palace.

CHONJU

Exhibition of performance by Lee Kun-yong at 01 Gallery (85-0323) Oct. 25-Nov. 3.

KANGNUNG

Exhibition of ceramics by Kim Yong mun at Yemaek Gallery (43-2886) Oct. 27-31.