

A Different Evening
International Film Club at Ahmedabad University
(In Memory of Prof. Niranjana Bhagat)

Date: **September 27, 2019, Friday.**

Time: 8:30 p.m.

Venue: Ahmedabad University Auditorium,
GICT Building, Near M G Science College.



Name of the Film: **Memoirs of a Geisha**

(Based on a best-seller novel by Arthur Golden)

Date of Release: 23 December 2005

Director: **Rob Marshall (Nominated for Oscar + 17 Awards + 20 Nominations)**

Cinematography: Dion Beebe

Music: John Williams

Genre: Drama, Romance

Duration: 2 Hour 25 Minutes

Awards: **Won 3 Oscar Awards + 29 Awards + 48 other Nominations**

Also known as: Memorias de una geisha

Actors:

Ziyi Zhang (Golden Globe Nomination + 47 Awards + 55 Nominations)

Ken Watanabe (Nominated for Oscar + 9 Awards + 22 Nominations)

Michelle Yeoh (Won BAFTA Award + 6 Awards + 24 Nominations)

Li Gong (31 Awards + 19 Nominations)

Audio Language: **English** Subtitles: **English**

Colour: Colour

Aspect Ratio: 16:9 High Definition (720p)

About the film:

It is one of the most adored grand classic films. A film directed and produced in USA, having the backdrop of a story of Japanese culture in nineteen thirties.

In the 1920s, 9-year-old Chiyo gets sold to a geisha house. There, she is forced into servitude, receiving nothing in return until the house's ruling hierarchy determines if she is of high enough quality to service the clientele -- men who visit and pay for conversation, a dance or even a song. Her stunning beauty attracts the vindictive jealousy of Hatsumomo, until she is rescued by and taken under the wing of Hatsumomo's bitter rival, Mameha. Under Mameha's mentorship, Chiyo becomes the geisha named Sayuri, trained in all the artistic and social skills a geisha must master in order to survive in her society. After rigorous years of training, Chiyo becomes Sayuri, a geisha of incredible beauty and influence. Life is good for Sayuri, but World War II is about to disrupt the peace.

Trivia about the Film:

Music is given by John Williams, who also scored music for Harry Potter films.

The three leading non-Japanese actresses, including Ziyi Zhang, Li Gong, and Michelle Yeoh, were put through a six-week crash course on geisha culture through a "geisha boot camp" before production commenced, during which they were trained in traditional geisha practices of musicianship, dance, and tea ceremony.

The collars on the Geishas' kimono indicate their 'status' as a Geisha and give customers an indication of their ranking. A Maiko (apprentice Geisha) wears a red collar to symbolize she is in training while an accomplished Geisha will wear a white collar. This is where the phrase "turning the collar" comes from. According to Colleen Atwood, the costume designer, 250 hand-tailored kimonos were made for the film. She also said that their prints, patterns and colours are bigger and bolder than traditional kimonos.

Steven Spielberg had initially planned to make *Memoirs of a Geisha* as the follow-up to *Saving Private Ryan*, bringing along his company DreamWorks.

The film was banned in China because Chinese actresses play Japanese geisha. The whole film was shot in California with a budget of 85 million dollars.