

Tongdang Wansui

("Long Live the Childhood Gang")

Taiwan : 1989 : dir. Yu Weiye : Grand March Movie Prod. Co.
 prod: Hsü Li-hua : scr: Hsiao Sa : dir.ph.: Li Yi-hsü

: 103 min

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 Li Chih-hsi; Chang Shih; Danny Dun

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Source: 33rd London Film Festival programme

33rd London Film Festival (1989)
 programme review:

“Structurally, **"TONGDANG WANSUI"** resembles several earlier "growing up" films by Taiwan New Wave directors; but it leaves most of them standing in dramatic clout. Yu Weiye's semi-autobiographical movie is made of sterner stuff - from the moody photography (often bathed in an amber glow), through the raunchy dialogue and natural sex scenes, to the realistic social detail as the island progresses from the rural 1950s to the glitzy 1980s.

The thread that runs through the film's changing relationships (the Chinese title literally means "Long Live the Childhood

Gang") is the central character's affair of the heart that results in a final twist worthy of Nicolas Roeg. A dark, raw, but essentially romantic movie that ends dramatically in mid-breath on the crowded streets of night-time Taipei.”

- Derek Elley

[no listing in "Halliwell's Film Guide", "Leonard Maltin's Movie and Video Guide 2001", "The Critics' Film Guide", "Movies on TV and Videocassette 1988-89", "Rating the Movies (1990)", "The Time Out Film Guide", "TV Times Film & Video Guide 1995", "Variety Movie Guide 1993", "Video Movie Guide 1993" or "The Virgin Film Guide"]

No further information currently available. The boys pictured are not identified, and this title is not listed in *The Moving Picture Boy*. Beyond the 1984 Taiwanese title "**DONGDONG DE JIAQI**" ("Summer at Grandpa's") I cannot think which other New Wave "growing up" films Elley might be referring to. That particular film was certainly rather dewy-eyed in its evocation of childhood as a long summer (a common fallacy), but after so many grim and gruelling films of impoverished Asian childhood it came as something of a tonic, and perhaps received more attention in the West than it otherwise merited.

See subject undex under **ASIA, AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL TITLES** and presumably **BOY MEETS GIRL**.