



Critical Acclaim for P.O.V.'s "UP THE YANGTZE"

By Yung Chang

"An astonishing documentary of culture clash and the erasure of history amid China's economic miracle."

— Stephen Holden, The New York Times

"The construction of China's massive Three Gorges Dam has forced . . . a human upheaval almost too gigantic to conceive. Yet filmmaker Yung Chang finds a . . . beautiful way to glimpse the big picture of dislocation through an exquisitely poised small study. Grade: A"

"Up the Yangtze blends this empathy with its subjects with a striking visual quality, haunting images that show both the beauty and uncertainty of this pivotal time."

— Kenneth Turan, Los Angeles Times

"A gloriously cinematic doc of epic, poetic sadness. . . ."

— John Anderson, Variety

"An arresting documentary of a vanishing China."

— Michael O'Sullivan, The Washington Post

"A potent documentary about two very different Chinese teenagers who wind up working on the same Yangtze River tour boat. . . . It does a marvelous job of communicating just how devastating such "progress" is proving to be for those least able to absorb such 'miraculous' change."

— Ken Fox, TV Guide

"An intimate documentary with the soul of an epic, Up the Yangtze packs more story, more drama, more strange, deadpan humor, political insight, heartache and human emotion into its go— minute running time than many major motion pictures. . . . It's a reminder of filmmaking's power to inform, entertain and put us in the shoes of people who are caught up . . . in the rising tide of history."

— Kevin McDonough, United Feature Syndicate

"In his masterful and haunting documentary Up the Yangtze, Yung Chang shows the old China drowning helplessly under the weight of the new."

— Ty Burr, Boston Globe

"What Chinese Canadian filmmaker Yung Chang achieves in his documentary is remarkable. In one sense, he has created an epic — his backdrop is the gargantuan Three Gorges Dam project, the biggest hydro— electric project in the world. In another sense, he has created an intimate film. about two teenagers whose lives will never be the same."

— G. Allen Johnson, San Francisco Chronicle

"Myth and reality, past and present, tradition and progress go head to head in Yung Chang's remarkable documentary about China's longest river."

— Tirdad Derakhshani, Philadelphia Inquirer

"A lovely, engrossing documentary Its range of subjects and emotions cuts a surprisingly wide swath."

- Rene Rodriguez, *Miami Herald*

"*Up the Yangtze* shows us the individual impact of a big picture that is changing the lives of millions."

- *Los Angeles Daily News*

"It's beautifully filmed, but the stunner is how well Yung has 'cast' his film, finding people both on

and off the ship whose lives tell us plenty about China's astonishing transforming and how it's changing the lives of everyone there - whether they like it or not."

- Aaron Barnhart, *Kansas City Star*

"Yung Chang's documentary is a subtle, melancholy look at a chunk of civilization vanishing before

his - and our - eyes A sense of lost opportunities also comes through in gorgeous footage of parts of rural China that are about to be flooded in the name of progress."

- Chris Hewitt, *St. Paul Pioneer Press*

"Yung Chang's film is a quiet presentation of mere fact, letting the images on the screen make what case there is to be made, without polemics."

- Richard Nilsen, *The Arizona Republic*

"Movingly told and gorgeously shot. ... Chang's fluid camera captures the river's vanishing beauty,

as well as the dichotomy between Yu Shui's rural poverty and Chen Bo Yu's urban lifestyle."

- Sean P. Means, *Sa't Lake Tribune*

"Always illuminating, often heart-rending."

- Rick Groen, *Toronto Globe and Mail*

"[Director Yung Chang] and lenser Wang Shi Qing use powerful images, subtlety and a little humor

to apprise the viewer of the human and cultural issues at stake."

- Peter Howell, *Toronto Star*

"Chang's immigrant grandfather had told him stories about the river, and he hoped to see it before

it was changed forever by the Three Gorges Dam. But as he watched the old country slip beneath

the waters, Chang also found an intriguing story of the new China below deck."

- Jen Phillips, *Mother Jones*

"An eye-opening look at Chinese modernization through the eyes of a teenage worker on a lUXUry

riverboat. ... it's thrilling to see it on television."

- Pat Aufderheide, *In These Times*

"Yung Chang's witty, lovely and profoundly unsettling documentary *Up the Yangtze* takes him back

to the legendary river of his grandfather's homeland, now transformed beyond recognition."

- Andrew O'Hehir, *Salon.com*

"Its visual strategy, so subtle and so evocative, is typical of *Up the Yangtze's* brilliant understatement. Respectful and riveting, it reveals the complex effects of loss and fear, as well as a kind of relentless hopefulness."

- Cynthia Fuchs, *PopMatters.com*