

Opening

Chinese Martyr Torture

In *Moving the Mountain*, Michael Apted's documentary about the 1989 Tiananmen Square massacre, news footage and amateur videos give us the outlines of a clear and identifiable oppressor—an aging, paranoid government. “This was the Peoples Army, and the idea that it would turn on the people themselves was unthinkable,” says Trudie Styler, *Moving the Mountain*'s producer. In *The Day the Sun Turned Cold*, another new film—this one fictional—about China's troubles, director Yim Ho uses stark landscape photography and family melodrama to create a sense of oppression; the heaviness is more general and, in a way, more tragic. One bleak and snowy day, a son goes to a police station to accuse his mother of murdering his father. As his story unfolds, we begin to understand why this quiet, bitter, profoundly dissatisfied woman would secretly defy—then poison—a husband she hates and whom her peers won't let her leave. Like the documentary, *The Day the Sun Turned Cold* is based on actual events, but Ho has turned the story into a subtle depiction of all the ways in which a painfully conventional society can damage its members. The film stars the Mongolian actress Siqin Gowa and the Taiwanese actor Tuo Zhonghua. *Moving the Mountain* will be shown at a benefit for several human-rights organizations (including Amnesty International) on April 19 (call 629-6170, ext. 173) and opens April 26 at Film Forum. *The Day the Sun Turned Cold* opens April 21 at Quad Cinema.

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