Chinese animated films

April 21, 1980

Two filmmakers from the People's Republic of China will present a program of Chinese animated films at 7:30 p.m. Friday, April 25, in room 104 of the Third College Lecture Hall at the University of California, San Diego.

The program, which will feature prize-winning films representative of the art of Chinese animation, is free and open to the public.

Visiting the United States for the first time are Te Wei, head of the Shanghai Animation Film Studio and a noted film director, and Chen Xui, first deputy director of the Shanghai Film Dubbing Studio and a veteran writer and director in theater and film. They will introduce the program and participate in an open discussion following the screening.

Te Wei is well-known throughout the People's Republic of China for his satirical cartoons. He has been the head of the Shanghai Animation Film Studio since its inception in 1957, and he is a member of the China Federation of Literary and Art Circles, the Council of Chinese Artists and the China Film Association.

Chen Xui, a student of western literature and drama, began his career in 1943 when he adapted Eugene O'Neill's "Desire Under the Elms" for a performance in Shanghai. He helped establish the Film Dubbing Group in Shanghai in 1949 and was named its first deputy director when it was reorganized in 1957. The studios have dubbed more than 500 foreign films into Chinese during the past 30 years.

Accompanying the Chinese filmmakers is Mark Scher, head of the Asia Film Library and a specialist in Asian affairs.

Watercolor, paper cutting and puppetry are all art forms used in Chinese animated films. Among the films to be shown at UC San Diego are "Nezha Conquers the Dragon King," a story adapted from the classical Chinese novel "Immortal Heroes"; "The Golden Conch," a film which uses the traditional Chinese art of paper cutting to tell a folk tale, and "The Cowherd's Flute" and "Where's Mama," both done in the traditional ink-and-wash style of China's great artists.

The program is sponsored by the Chinese Studies program, the Communications program, the departments of psychology, visual arts and literature and the Chancellor's Associates.

For more information contact: Leslie Franz, 452-3120

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TO THE EDITOR: A conference scheduled from 1-5:30 p.m. April 25 will feature the film program and a scholarly discussion with the visiting filmmakers. The conference is not open to the public, but interested members of the press may attend. Phone Leslie Franz for details.