

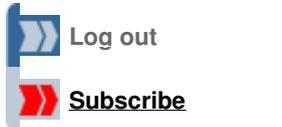


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REVIEW



CURSE OF THE GOLDEN FLOWER

Zhang Yimou's period epic is a meaty, blood-soaked melodrama filled with intrigue, deception and incest, says Mike



SCREEN DAILY STORIES

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✉ Daldry, Dornford-May partner on South African pics

Geoffrey Macnab in London

24 October 2005 04:00

Golden Bear winner Mark Dornford-May (*U-Carmen eKhayelitsha*) and Oscar-nominated director Stephen Daldry (*The Hours*, *Billy Elliot*) are to partner on a series of three new films in South Africa.

The first feature, already in post-production, is tentatively titled *Son of Man* (aka *Jezile*). This is an extension of award winning global theatre success *Yiimimangaliso - The Mysteries*, in which Dornford-Yates reworks *The Medieval Mystery* plays. *Son Of Man* comes billed as "a gripping journey of love, betrayal and deception in a conflicted society." Daldry co-directed parts of the film.

"We will carry on working literally together as directors. One of the films I may direct, one Stephen may direct. One I may produce, one Stephen may produce," Dornford-May told *ScreenDaily.com*. Their plan, he elaborated, is to take the collective ideals of fringe theatre and to apply them to cinema. Like *Carmen*, the new features will all be set in the township of Khayelitsha on the outskirts of Cape Town and will be performed in Xhosa.

To make the three films, UK based production company Film and Music Entertainment (F&ME), founded by Mike Downey and Sam Taylor in 2000, is joining forces with Dimpho Di Kophane (DDK), the South African theatre outfit behind *U-Carmen eKhayelitsha*. F&ME will partner with DDK and their film production banner Spier Films on the projects. Daldry has close ties with F&ME and is currently chairman of the company's advisory board.

The second project will be announced at the end of November but will be another adaptation of a major European piece of music theatre given the DDK treatment under the musical directorship of Charles Hazlewood. Shooting is planned for March 2006.

"South Africa is a new emerging force in world cinema, and we are delighted to be able to make a contribution, not only to this phenomenon, but to provide DDK with a strong international production base," said F&ME's Mike Downey in a statement.

U-Carmen eKhayelitsha, which screened to some acclaim at the London Film Festival this weekend, is being released in the UK early next year by Tartan.

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