



## **The Spring River Flows East**

**A film by Cai Chusheng and Zheng Junli**

*"How much sorrow can one man have to bear? As much as a river of spring water flowing east"*

Often cited as one of the masterpieces of Chinese cinema, *The Spring River Flows East*, made in 1947, is an epic and tragic melodrama set in Shanghai and Chungking around the time of the Second Sino-Japanese War.

Newly restored by the China Film Archive, it will be released on DVD by the BFI on 20 February 2017 – the first time the film has ever been released in the UK.

A film in two parts, part one, *Eight War-Torn Years*, tells the heart-rending story of a working-class couple, Sufen (Bai Yang), and Zhang Zhongliang (Tao Jin), whose marriage is torn apart when the war forces Zhongliang to flee from Shanghai to Chungking. Part two, *The Dawn*, sees Zhongliang return to Shanghai. His fortunes transformed, he has married into a wealthy bourgeois family, but his world is undone by a chance meeting with the now-destitute Sufen.

### **Special features**

- Newly restored by the China Film Archive
- *A Stilted City. Chungking. China* (1930, 1 min): a rare glimpse of the ancient city which sits on the banks of the Yangtze river

### **Product details**

**RRP: £19.99/ Cat. no. BFIV2104 / Cert 12**

China / 1947 / black and white / Mandarin, with optional English subtitles / 179 mins / DVD9 / Original aspect ratio 1.33:1 / Dolby Digital 1.0 mono audio (192kbps)

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