Credits: director, David Cronenberg; writer, David Henry Hwang.
Cast: Jeremy Irons, Ian Richardson, John Lone, Annabelle Leventon.
Summary: Melodrama set in Beijing, China from 1964 on. Story of Rene Gallimand (Irons), a French diplomat, and Song Liling (Lone), a man who performs female roles for the Beijing Opera. They carry on a love affair over almost 20 years before the diplomat discovers his lover is a man. Song employs a variety of ruses to sustain the deception, culminating in the production of a baby, while he spies for the Chinese government beginning with passing on advance information about U.S. plans in Vietnam. The Cultural Revolution interrupts their affair. Song is sent to a work farm. Gallimand's breach of security lands him in prison in Paris where ultimately Song's true identity is revealed to him.


“Picks & pans – M. Butterfly directed by David Cronenberg” People weekly 40/16 (Oct 18, 1993), p. 22.

Pristin, Terry. “‘M. Butterfly’ is forced to face glare of the spotlight” Los Angeles times (Oct 11, 1993), p. F1.


Thuena, Ulrich von. “M. Butterfly” EPD Film 10 (Dec 1993), p. 34.


[Reprinted in Film review annual 1994]


Wilmington, Michael. [M. Butterfly] Chicago tribune (Oct 8, 1993), Friday, p. A.