

M1280 M. BUTTERFLY (USA, 1993)

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.

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