

## UT Documentary Center Presents: *Meishi Street*

Guangzhou/Beijing-based graphic designer, documentarian, and curator Ou Ning (欧宁) will be screening his film *Meishi Street* at Studio 4D on September 25, 2008 at 8:00 p.m. A special Q&A with Ou Ning will follow the screening.

Filmed by a Beijing resident and edited by the artist team of Ou Ning and Cao Fei (曹斐), *Meishi Street* documents the demolition of Dazhalan, one of Beijing's oldest and most famous historic neighborhoods, and offers a dramatic firsthand account of the local residents' struggle to keep their homes. The film traces conflicts caused by the imbalances between development and preservation, modernization and tradition, and governmental decrees and individual rights that resulted from Beijing's unprecedented urbanization process during the run-up to the 2008 Olympic Games.

The film was produced by The DaZhaLan Project, a grassroots organization that researches and documents the "historical and cultural development, poverty level, social organization, street level architecture, and humanist ecology" of Dazhalan, a 600-year-old neighborhood located at the southwest corner of Tian'anmen Square.

Mr. Ou Ning is the co-founder and director of The DaZhaLan Project, as well as the director and co-editor of *Meishi Street*.

Mr. Ou is also a co-founder and the curator of Get It Louder, a traveling biennale of art, architecture, design, and works in new media focused primarily on up-and-coming artists with Chinese backgrounds. Also in the role of curator, he organized the sound installations at Battersea Power Station, London in 2006 for Serpentine Gallery.

As a graphic designer, Mr. Ou is probably best known for his seminal book *New Sound of Beijing* (1999) which helped define the capital's emerging rock scene, and the experimental magazine *Bie Ce* (2000-2006) which he edited and designed for Modern Media Group

As an artist, he has organized such urban research and documentation projects as San Yuan Li, which showed at the 50th Biennale di Venezia (2003); MoMA, New York (2004); Mori Museum, Tokyo (2005); and House of World Culture, Berlin (2006); and more recently, The DaZhaLan Project sponsored by the Kulturstiftung des Bundes, which showed at NAI, Rotterdam (2006); ZKM, Karlsruhe (2006); MoMA, New York (2006); and San Francisco Art Institute (2007).

He is a writer, blogger, and lecturer. He is also the founder of U-thèque, an independent film and video organization; and Alternative Archive, a platform for alternative cultural activities. He was born in 1969, and lived and worked in Guangzhou until September 2006 when he moved to Beijing.

This event is sponsored by the UT Documentary Center, The DaZhaLan Project (大栅栏计划), and the Beijing Cultural Heritage Protection Center (北京文化遗产保护中心) and free and open to the public.

Studio 4D is located on the 4th floor of the Jesse H. Jones Communication Center (CMB) on UT Campus at the southeast corner of Dean Keaton & Guadalupe. ([Map](#))

For more information or special seating requests, please call 512-669-3151, or visit [www.utdoccenter.org](http://www.utdoccenter.org).

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## Event Details

Date: Thursday, September 25, 2008  
Time: 8pm; Q&A w/ director Ou Ning to follow screening  
Location: Studio 4D  
Located on the 4th floor of the Jesse H. Jones Communication Center (CMB) on UT Campus at the southeast corner of Dean Keaton & Guadalupe.  
Price: Free and open to the public

## Film Details

Year Released: 2006  
Rating: NR  
Running time: 85 min.  
Format: Digital Video  
Language: Mandarin Chinese with English subtitles  
Directed by: Ou Ning  
Edited by: Ou Ning, Cao Fei  
Original Video: Zhang Jinli  
Additional Video: Huang Weikai, Ou Ning, Cao Fei  
English Subtitles: David Bandurski  
Produced by: Ou Ning and Cao Fei  
Production: Alternative Archive

The work is part of The DaZhaLan Project.

The DaZhaLan Project is part of the Beijing Case fellowship program organized and supported by Kulturstiftung des Bundes and Goethe-Institut Peking.