Days of Being Wild
阿飛正傳
Directed by Wong Kar-wai 王家衛
1990, 94mins, Hong Kong
Cantonese with English subtitles
The Auditorium, China in the World Building 188, Fellows Lane, ANU

Set in 1960s Hong Kong, Yuddy is a playboy heartbreaker who displays suave control of the women in his life. Yet, he doesn't remember his birth mother and was raised instead by Rebecca, a well-off socialite who is planning to immigrate to the US and who promises to divulge his mother’s whereabouts. His current girlfriend is set to move back to Macau, increasing his ambiguous sense of loneliness and loss, making he and Hong Kong but stopovers on the way to some place else. He heads to the Philippines in search of his birth mother, but she refuses to meet him...

Days of Being Wild was Wong’s second feature, but arguably his first mature work. Despite being star studded—featuring Leslie Cheung, Maggie Cheung, Andy Lau, Carina Lau and others—its sensual, arching narrative initially baffled critics. Wong is known for working with little script, shooting first and piecing together a narrative in edits. This film is also significant, therefore, as his first collaboration with Australian-Hong Kong cinematographer Christopher Doyle 杜可風, who has since shot almost all of the features for which Wong is best known, including In the Mood for Love, which has an uncanny connection to this film.

The screening will be followed by a short informal discussion.