**Background**

* Filmmaker: Zhang Yimou,
  + widely considered to be China’s most important filmmaker
  + Member of “5th Generation” of Chinese filmmakers (1976 liberation of China)
  + Tested limits of freedom in films
    - Got suspended
* *Hero*
  + Helped him gain trust from government who were previously frustrated with his use of freedom in movie making
  + Calls for nationalism at the expense of individual lives
* Olympics Opening and Closing Ceremony
  + Was in charge of creating it
  + Spielberg was going to help, but refused for his political views of China taking Tibet

**Movie Synopsis**

Based on Shi Bao’s novel Remembrance, The Road Home follows a young man who, on learning of his father’s death, returns to the village of his youth and his elderly mother, Zhao Di. His mother insists that his father’s body be returned to the village in the traditional manner, with a procession on foot.

This prompts the young man to remember the story of his parents’ courtship, which is recounted here in a moving and sentimental tribute to his parents’ marriage, to his father’s legacy as village teacher, and to his mother’s great strength and moral determination. The young Zhao Di is played by the luminous (and very young) Zhang Ziyi, who is now one of China’s best-known stars.

A few things you might want to think about while viewing this film. First, notice that the film alternates between black and white and color scenes. Why did the filmmakers do this? How is color used in the color scenes? Second, the scenes from the past are set during the cultural revolution, a period in China of strong ideological conformity and the seemingly irrational punishment of those suspecte