

Remember when Maggie Cheung enraptured with her colorful cheongsams

Director Wong Kar-Wai's 2000 movie "In the Mood for Love", which **premiered** at **Cannes** 20 years ago, is **lauded** for its tight plot, pitch-perfect score, lush cinematography and award-winning performances.

premiere 首映

Cannes 戛纳

laud 赞美; 称赞

gorgeous 华丽的; 绚烂的

But for many, its real stars are the **gorgeous** cheongsams worn by lead actress Maggie Cheung.

The **cheongsams** dazzle as costumes, but they're also integral to the film's visual storytelling. Wong and cinematographer Christopher Doyle use **closeups liberally**, frequently centering their shots on the cheongsams **hugging** Cheung's figure.

cheongsam 旗袍

closeup 特写; 近景照片

liberally 自由地; 公平地

As the camera's **languid** but purposeful gaze follows characters up and down tight stairwells and through **dimly-lit corridors** or shadowy alleyways, it's the colors and patterns of Cheung's outfits that pop.

languid 倦怠的; 呆滞的

dimly-lit 光线暗淡的

corridor 走廊; 过道

Red and green symbolize love and jealousy respectively. Warm and cold colors alternately suggest rising and cooling emotions, while floral patterns and fabrics like **chiffon**, lace and silk taffeta allude to Chan's femininity and softness.

chiffon 雪纺

allude 暗指; 提及

Together with art director and costume designer William Chang, Wong created almost 50 cheongsams for the movie, though fewer than 30 appear in the final cut. The pair looked to designs from the 1960s — when the garment was an everyday item among Hong Kong's women — for inspiration.

The cheongsam fell out of fashion in the early 1970s, replaced by more casual Western-style clothing.

Whatever the cheongsam's future holds in fashion, "In the Mood for Love" firmly cemented its place in cinematic history. And the item couldn't have had a better ambassador than Cheung, the local beauty queen who came to establish herself as one of the outstanding actors of her generation.