

Reading Passage:

Great Film Directors:
Ang Lee

Great Film Directors: Ang Lee

Ang Lee was born in Taiwan, in 1954. He was the **eldest** of the six children in his family. When he got a low score on his university entrance exam, he decided to study acting at an art **academy** instead. After he finished his courses there, he went to the U.S. at the age of 23.

Lee earned a bachelor's degree in theater from the University of Illinois, and went on to study film production at New York University. In his first film job, he worked as an assistant cameraman on another student's project. The movie he made to earn his degree at New York University, called *Fine Line*, won awards for the best film and best director at his university's film festival in 1984.

Later, after graduating, he tried for five years to get money for his projects, without **success**. He spent this time writing **screenplays** for movies that he wanted to make. In 1990, Lee's screenplays won the first and second prizes in a competition in Taiwan, and he could finally begin making full-length movies.

Lee's first movies were made in Chinese. *Pushing Hands* (1992), *The Wedding Banquet* (1993), and *Eat Drink Man Woman* (1994) were very popular across Asia, as well as in Europe and North America. Many of Lee's best-known movies are about the **conflict** between tradition and modern life. Often the story involves a strong father who causes problems for his children.

Lee moved **permanently** to the United States and in 1995, he directed his first full-length film in English. The story for *Sense and Sensibility* was taken from a novel by Jane Austen, which was written in 1811. The movie was a hit with international **audiences**. He followed it in 1997 with *The Ice Storm*, the story of an unhappy American family.

Throughout his career, Lee has made many different kinds of movies. *Ride with the Devil* (1999) was a historical movie **set in** the United States, while *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon* (2000) was a martial arts movie with a love story. In *Hulk* (2003), a comic book character comes to life. Lee's most successful movie so far, *Brokeback Mountain* (2005), was set in America's cowboy country. He received the Academy Award (also called the Oscar) for Best Director for this film.

Lee married Jane Lin in 1983. She is a research scientist, and they have two sons, Han and Mason. The family lives in New York.

