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Paper title: "Fixing visual memories and history: Film and the Chinese Cultural Revolution"

The Cultural Revolution is generally presented as a destructive period in which much suffering was inflicted upon the Chinese population by politics being fully in command of cultural production and consumption. Mainstream history writing, memoirs and films about life during that era perpetuate this view. But an examination of film culture during these years (conventionally 1966-1976) and of some films made in China since the mid-1990s presents a more rounded, even alternative history of the Cultural Revolution. Some films flourished, including those that fixed an overwhelming visual memory of these years. Two works by the actor-director Jiang Wen explore another side of history and memory. This paper draws in part on my *The Chinese Cultural Revolution: A History* (Cambridge University Press, 2008).

