



The Last Emperor: Bernardo Bertolucci's latest film, for which he was allowed unprecedented freedom for a Western film-maker in China, embraces the history of 20th century China in the extraordinary life of Po Yi, its last emperor.

Po Yi came to the imperial throne in 1908, when he was three. Forced to abdicate (at the age of six), he lived as a

playboy before being installed by the Japanese as a puppet ruler in Manchukuo province, captured by the Soviets and imprisoned in communist China. He re-emerged in 1960, a changed man, to begin a new life as a gardener in the Peking of the cultural revolution.

The Last Emperor is on release from the beginning of March.