

# Chinese novel, *Wolf Totem*, made into movie by French director



The famous Chinese novel, *Wolf Totem*, will be made into a movie by Jean Jacques Annaud, an award-winning French film director who is the maker of the film version of *The Name of a Rose*.

During the press conference held in Beijing, Jean brought the main cast members, 17 wolves to the ceremony. One major difficulty faced during the process, according to Jean, will be these wolves.

“How to tame and guide these wild wolves is a big problem. We need to teach them in a way that they are neither afraid of people nor hunting people. We

invited an experienced animal trainer from Canada.” said Jean.

To guarantee a high-quality result, together with the writer, Jean

recently went to Mandu Grassland, the shooting place for the movie and visited local herdsmen

for inspiration.

The current 17 wolf casts members are selected from over 100 candidates and are all well-trained.

“The preparation work takes seven years, among which two years are for training the wolves.” said Zhangqiang, director of Central Pictures Corporation, the production firm.

The movie is based on the novel *Wolf Totem* written by Jiang Rong and published in 2005, which remains one of the top 10 literacy fiction books in China. The book depicts the life of wild wolves on the vast grassland of inner Mongolia and shows their world full of tactics, strategy and competition.

