

HAF 09 Impossible Split



COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Hong Kong

GENRE | FORMAT | LANGUAGE | RUNNING TIME: Drama | HD | Cantonese | 100 mins

DIRECTOR:

Tommy TOM Chung-sing

PRODUCER:

Adam WONG

HAF GOALS:

Funds, Sales agents, Pre-sales

BUDGET:

US\$1,200,000

SECURED BUDGET:

US\$100,000

DIRECTOR'S FILMOGRAPHY

First Feature Director

ONE-SENTENCE SYNOPSIS

A bowling prodigy fails to cope with tremendous pressure and his career plummets. He and his father face cancer diagnoses. How can he confront the impossible split fate brought him?

SYNOPSIS

This story is based on the true story of Hong Kong bowling athlete Wu Siu-hong.

Bowling is a sport in which you can reach perfection. If you hit a strike in all 10 frames, you can get a full score of 300. Sixteen-year-old elite bowler Wu Siu-hong won two gold medals in the East Asian Games and was trained to be perfect. But as he became better and gained more publicity, he began burdening himself with strict self-expectations. Finally, in his debut Busan Asian Game match, against all expectations, he failed to cope with tremendous pressure and lost. To him, this was the beginning of his twelve-year Asian Games curse.

Wu's father operated a small napkin factory. He was proud to see his son shine in the sport he loved. But Wu's addiction to being perfect also led to an estrangement between them, and sabotaged his performance. To his dismay, Wu's father was diagnosed with cancer. All of a sudden, his life fell apart. But Wu's father takes a different attitude and shows his son the way to manage and overcome adversity.

At 30 years old, Wu finds himself to be diagnosed with the same cancer that took his father. Against all odds, this experience pushes him to become the world champion, putting an end to the 12-year curse that marked the fall and rise of this bowling prodigy.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

I learned the story of Hong Kong's elite bowler Wu Siu-hong from a research for a TV commercial, which left a deep impression on me. The ups and downs he faced in his real life are just as dramatic as any screenplay. I kept wondering why there hasn't been a film based on his story? So we contacted Wu and proposed our idea of making a film from his life story. Wu likes the idea and hopes his experience could inspire others, so he readily agreed to adapt his story into a film.

In every bowling competition there are opponents, but the real challenge is yourself: to keep your move perfect, to bowl a strike. But in reality, no one could be that perfect. So here comes the beauty of bowling. Even you didn't bowl a strike, you have a second chance to bowl a spare. Each spare has its own difficulties, but at least you are given a chance to take your best shot. *Impossible Split* aims to inspire audiences with this bowling spirit.

DIRECTOR

Tommy TOM Chung-sing

Tommy Tom studied computer animation in Canada and joined post production studios upon his return to Hong Kong. He has extensive experience on post production for commercials and feature films. His work includes *Kill Bill* (2003) and *Kung Fu Hustle* (2004), among others. In 2004, he was nominated for Best Visual Effects of *Kill Bill* in the 57th British Academy Film Awards.

In 2008, Tommy established production house Picturethat Limited. Since then he has been working extensively as a director and screenwriter for a board range of jobs and clients, including commercial and short films. His commercial works *Personal Safety During Typhoon* for the Security Bureau and *Listen for Landslip Warnings* for the Civil Engineering and Development Department, which won the 2015 TVB Most Popular TVC Citation for Excellence Awards. He has also directed several TV dramas for Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) since 2008; his latest work is *Below the Lion Rock Series 2016 - the Story of a Young Farmer* (2016).

PRODUCER

Adam WONG

Adam Wong started to make short films with facilities at University of Iowa when he was an exchange student there. Many of his later works were awarded at ifva.

His short films include: *Glowing* (2000), *Pinwheel* (2008), *Secret Taste* (2012), *Our Playground* (2015), *Assignment* (2016) and others. His feature films include: *When Beckham Met Owen* (2004), *Magic Boy* (2007), *The Way We Dance* (2013) and *She Remembers, He Forgets* (2015). In 2013, he was invited to be the voice-actor for the protagonist of Miyazaki Hayao's animation *The Wind Rises*. He also teaches courses on creative media at the Hong Kong Polytechnic University and the Hong Kong Baptist University. He is planning the sequel to *The Way We Dance*.

PRODUCTION COMPANY

Picturethat Limited

Picturethat Limited, established in 2008, is a Hong Kong-based production studio; over the years, Picturethat has produced a broad range of work for government organisations and private companies. Picturethat has also produced outsourced TV dramas for Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK), including *Below the Lion Rock Series 2016 – The Story of a Young Farmer*.