

HAF 19 Pawns with No Return



COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Taiwan

GENRE | FORMAT | LANGUAGE | RUNNING TIME: Drama | HD | English, Mandarin, French | 90 mins

DIRECTOR:

CHEN Yi-Jung

PRODUCER:

LIN Jing-Jie

HAF GOALS:

Funds, Co-producers

BUDGET:

US\$315,000

DIRECTOR'S FILMOGRAPHY

First Feature Director

ONE-SENTENCE SYNOPSIS

Fate brought them together. A little boy from a single parent family and an old man, the self-proclaimed “king of chess”, create a touching story.

SYNOPSIS

Yi-Xuan was a lonely child from a single parent family. His father was a taxi driver. In order to save money, he walked to school every day. In the park where he used to pass, there were always some old people playing chess. He was curious, so one day he stopped to watch them play. Yi-Xuan saw that an old man was about to be checkmated. He almost told him but then thought he should keep silent while watching a chess game, so he quickly covered his mouth. Liu Bin, an old man next to him, saw all this. He asked Yi-Xuan to come to play chess with him every day. If Yi-Xuan won, he would get 50 dollars. If he lost, he would still get 10 dollars. Yi-Xuan agreed.

After that day, Yi-Xuan went to play chess with Liu Bin in the park every day. But year after year, he never won 50 dollars from Liu Bin. Time flew, and Yi-Xuan was in senior high school. He took care of Liu Bin and kept playing chess with him until Liu Bin became too old to play. The last time they played, Liu Bin was sick, lying on the bed. After he waited a long time for Liu Bin to take his turn, Yi-Xuan realized that he wouldn't wake up anymore.

Yi-Xuan began to organise Liu Bin's belongings. He found out Liu Bin was a retired veteran. His parents had died in the Chinese Cultural Revolution and his wife had remarried. Liu Bin stayed alone in Taiwan. Before he died, Yi-Xuan's company was his greatest joy. Yi-Xuan also found a photo in which Liu Bin was holding a national chess medal: he really was a real chess master.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Pawns with No Return was written by an anonymous student. The story is about his childhood as a little boy from a single parent family. It is the tale of a friendship between this little boy and an old man, the self-proclaimed “king of chess,” despite the generation gap and political differences. It received an enthusiastic response on the internet last year. Other readers, like me, were moved by this story that reminded us childhood memories. Unfortunately, in modern society, we don't have the opportunity to get to know the people we have met in our lives. Even if the physical distance between people is reduced by means of transportation, the distance between our souls is larger than in the past.

In recent years, people have become more fearful of violence and fraud. This has led us to build walls between us. Kindness and compassion for strangers have disappeared. The story of *Pawns with No Return* expresses mankind's most precious emotion: goodwill. In order to preserve this valuable goodwill, I decided to make this story into a film.

Because of history, geography, economic development and other reasons, there are different ethnicities living in Taiwan. We have been working hard to build the ideal world. We hope

people from different backgrounds can live happily on this land. The protagonists of this film are like you and me. Through their story, we explore different ethnicities and generations. With this opportunity, we can break down the barriers and start dialogue. This stimulates human goodwill.

DIRECTOR

CHEN Yi-Jung

Chen Yi-Jung a creator of movies and visual arts. She formed an original style from her experience as a journalist and from her knowledge of both classic and modern European aesthetics. In 2004, She made her first short documentary, *Taiwanese Marionette*, which helped her to enter Lumière University. Then She made documentary *La Boîte – the Meeting of Taiwanese and French Marionettes* in 2010 as her graduate project.

After finishing her studies in France, She worked as executive director in W&M Creative Co., Ltd. in Taipei on several commercials and documentary projects such as *The Centenary of the National Palace Museum*. As a side project, She became interested in contemporary dance in Taiwan and made the documentary *Dance Travel Project – 1875 Ravel and Bolero* in 2011.

In 2012 She left the company to become an independent film director. Then in 2013, She participated as the second assistant director in the film *Elena* with director Lin Jing-Jie. Since then, She has been focusing on her dramatic creation, which has always been her goal while studying cinema. *Pawns with No Return* would be her first production.

PRODUCER

LIN Jing-Jie

With 20 years of experience working in film and directing documentaries, Director Lin Jing-Jie's well-known works include dramas such as *Bad Girl Trilogy - My Own Personal Gun* (1998), which won the Special Jury Award of Asia-Pacific Film Festival and New Director Award of the Taipei Film Festival in 1999. Then he made the documentary *Taipei, Looking Up* (2004) and the drama *We Don't Have a Future Together* (2003), which won Best Film Editing at the Golden Bell Awards in 2004. His dramatic film *The Most Distant Course* won (2007) the Critics' Week Award at the Venice Film Festival, and was selected as the opening film for Taipei Film Festival in 2007. His documentary *The Man behind the Book* (2011) won the Best Film Editing Award of the Taipei Golden Horse Awards, Excellence Award of the Taiwan International Documentary Festival and Media Award of the Taipei Film Festival in 2011. The documentary *Dear Mother Earth* (2012) won Best Film Editing at the Golden Bell Awards in 2012. His dramatic film *Elena* was selected as the opening film for Kaohsiung Film Festival in 2014.

PRODUCTION COMPANY

Hana Studio de Création Audiovisuelle Indépendant

Director Chen Yi-Jung founded Hana Studio de Création Audiovisuelle Indépendant in Taiwan in 2015, together with some passionate image professionals. We are committed to all types of videos such as documentaries, experimental, commercial and drama films, using state-of-the-art techniques.

Although the team was established only last year, each collaborator brings nearly ten years of experience in film production, including Director Chen Yi-Jung (*La Boîte – The Meeting of Taiwanese and French Marionettes*, *Dance Travel Project – 1875 Ravel and Bolero*); Producer Lin Jing-Jie (*Elena*, *The Most Distant Course*, *The Man behind the Book*); Producer Xiao Kai-Wen (*Taiwan World Vision Project*, *The Last Waltz*, *8000 Miles from Hip Hop*); Cinematographer Chen Xiang-Song (*The Long Goodbye*, *Wansei Back Home*); Gaffer Sheu You-Wu (*The Bride*, *The Tag-Along*, *Wake Up*) and post production. We aim to unite diverse expert talents and use our serious commitments to finish all kinds of works.