

HAF 01 Art College



COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: China

GENRE | FORMAT | LANGUAGE | RUNNING TIME: Animation, Drama | Digital Format | Mandarin, Nanjing Dialect | 90 mins

DIRECTOR:

LIU Jian

PRODUCER:

YANG Cheng

HAF GOALS:

Funds, Co-producers, Sales agents, Pre-sales

BUDGET:

US\$ 1,510,000

SECURED BUDGET:

US\$ 460,000

DIRECTOR'S FILMOGRAPHY

2017 *Have a Nice Day*

2010 *Piercing I*

ONE-SENTENCE SYNOPSIS

In the 1990s, the bittersweet youth and school life of Xiaojun and Tuzi, two art students of South Art College.

SYNOPSIS

In the 1990's, Xiaojun and Tuzi are art students of South Art College. The two of them are criticized by their teacher because they suspect Weiguo has stolen their meal tickets. At night, Xiaojun and Tuzi are so upset that they go to the park to steal bamboo shoots. While Xiaojun and Tuzi are joking about the "Chinese van Gogh," Youcai, they get to know Lili from the music department. Xiaojun is confused about his art career; Lili's outgoing personality attracts him. Lili invites Xiaojun and Tuzi to go buffet. The one who pays the bill is Lili's cousin from Shenzhen.

Xiaojun and Lili gradually get to know each other and indulge in good times. But after Xiaojun comes back to school from a sketching project in Northwestern China, things change. Tuzi starts to date a freshman, Gaohong. Lili starts to sing in the bar since she has to support her brothers to college. And Professor Feng criticizes Xiaojun's creativity in art. Suddenly, Xiaojun faces the pressures of his relationship with Lili, his friends, and his school work. Xiaojun has to make a choice between ideality and reality. And to his surprise, all the things he encounters become clear.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Last year, I went back to the university from which I graduated 20 years ago. Looking through the exaggerated gate, the place became the same as the brand new outside world. It has already become a place I am unfamiliar with. The concrete blocked my access to the past. The memories were broken. Then, someone called my name. I looked back and he turned out to be my teacher. Now he was mature, with white hair. Some young guys in hurry passed me, kicking and laughing, while I was in a trance. For an instant, my heart felt the relentless cruelty of time. And the teacher's greeting refreshed my memory. The past and the present were mixed here. When I started working on the script, I found that the theme of the memory had changed in my mind. I could no longer remember the romantic past of the university days, but the word 'cruelty' always came to me and lingered in my head.

DIRECTOR

LIU Jian

Liu Jian studied Chinese landscape painting and graduated from the Nanjing University of the Arts in 1993. His works have been presented at major exhibitions both in China and abroad. In 2007, he established the Le-joy Animation Studio. His first feature-length animation, *Piercing I* (2010), has received numerous prestigious awards at film festivals across Asia and Europe, including the Annecy International Animated Film Festival. In 2017, his second feature-length animation work, *Have a Nice Day* (2017) was in competition at the Berlin Film Festival, receiving praise from different festival delegates and film critics.

PRODUCER

YANG Cheng

Yang Cheng (born in 1985) graduated from Beijing Film Academy with a MFA in Literature. Yang worked as the President of Heaven Pictures, the Vice President of Laurel Films and founded NeZha Bros. Pictures in 2016. Yang has produced or co-produced *Fly with the Crane* (2012, Horizons, Venice Film Festival), *River Road* (2014, Competition, Tokyo International Film Festival), *My Original Dream* (2015, Competition, Tokyo International Film Festival), *Have a Nice Day* (2017, Competition, Berlin Film Festival) and *Ghost in the Mountain* (2017, Panorama, Berlin Film Festival).

PRODUCTION COMPANY

NeZha Bros. Pictures

NeZha Bros. Pictures was founded in 2016. Its first production, *Have a Nice Day* (2017), was selected in the competition section of the 2017 Berlin Film Festival. The second production, *Ghost in the Mountain* (2017), was selected in the Panorama section. NeZha Bros. Pictures became the first Chinese film production company to have two films enter Berlin Film Festival in the same year.

Lightriver Culture & Media

Lightriver Culture & Media was founded in 2017. It is a wholly-subsidary company of NeZha Bros. Pictures.