

HAF 06 | I Promised



COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Hong Kong

GENRE | FORMAT | LANGUAGE | RUNNING TIME: Drama, Coming-of-Age | 35mm, Digital Format
| Cantonese | 95 mins

DIRECTOR:

CHAN Ying-wai

PRODUCER:

Jessinta LIU Fung-ping

HAF GOALS:

Funds

BUDGET:

US\$ 900,000

DIRECTOR'S FILMOGRAPHY

2010 *Landscape on the Other Side: Hong Kong Cinematographer Bill Wong*

ONE-SENTENCE SYNOPSIS

To fulfill a broken promise, a teenager departs for a journey with a runaway girl. There they realise growing up is never easy.

SYNOPSIS

On a bright summer day, Yat-fan learns that his dear friend jumped to his death off the roof the night before. As sun is glares into Yat-fan's eyes, he recalls his friend's request: "Let's ride to Lantau's lighthouse to see the sunrise next year, on our bikes."

A promise that Yat-fan has not fulfilled and now will never have the chance to.

Yat-fan steals his late friend's broken bike, determines to repair the bike with his own hands at his uncle's bike shop. With the help of an older girl on the staff, he fixes it bit by bit throughout the summer, while his affection for the girl grows.

But reality is not so sweet. The bike shop is closing down. Moreover, Yat-fan finds out the girl is fond of his uncle. Worse still, the girl reprimands Yat-fan for his selfish acts since the whole bike repair process is only a way to comfort himself after his friend's death.

Summer is over. Yat-fan starts his journey alone to the southernmost lighthouse on the repaired bike. On the way, he must come to grips with his own weaknesses while trapped in the woods, knowing he can never make it to the destination.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

As we move forward in life, we often leave behind regrets. Some will mend relations, some will not.

This film is about growing up: its desires and its responsibilities, its sweetness and its cruelty. The protagonist's joy and pain will resonate with the audience's memories.

Yat-fan is in a dilemma. As an elder brother, he has to be the role model at home. But when he faces crises, he needs some guiding light. For the sake of a bike and a promise, he ventures into the world, with all its desires and responsibilities. On the road, growth follows.

As the lyrics go, "home is where the heart is, but your heart has to roam."

DIRECTOR

CHAN Ying-wai

Chan Ying-wai's short film *Someone's Running* (2008) received the Best Film Award (Open Category) in the Fresh Wave Short Film Competition (2008) and the Big Wave Award in Fresh Wave Short Film Festival (2009).

His popular documentary works include *Humming in the Journey* (2003), which traces the inner world of a poet Wordic, and *Landscape on the Other Side: Hong Kong Cinematographer Bill Wong* (2010), shown in a tribute programme dedicated to two master cinematographers at the Hong Kong Film Archive.

Besides being a director, he has also been sound designer in a number of independent short films.

PRODUCER

Jessinta LIU Fung-ping

Jessinta's first film as Associate Producer, *Maybe It's Love* (dir. Angie Chan, 1984), earned her the trust of fellow filmmakers at Shaw Studios, including Ann Hui, for whom she produced five films, including *Love in a Fallen City* (1984), *The Romance of Book and Sword* (1987), *Princess Fragrance* (1987), *Starry is the Night* (1988), and *Song of the Exile* (1990).

After leaving Shaw Studios, Jessinta continued her work with such critically acclaimed directors as Wayne Wang, Yim Ho, and Andrew Lau. She has also worked with well-known foreign directors such as Peter Greenaway and Marion Hansel.

PRODUCTION COMPANY

At Odds Workshop

Founded in 2013, At Odds Workshop is a visual and conceptual creative studio specializing in local short films and feature films. We also make feature-length documentaries that focus on local artists' portraits. As the founder of At Odds Workshop, Chan Ying-wai is a director and sound designer who has a wide range of experience in independent filmmaking and various disciplines in art. He now teaches at the School of Film and Television, Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts.