

HAF 15 Ordinary People



COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Taiwan, China

GENRE | FORMAT | LANGUAGE | RUNNING TIME: Drama, Romance | Digital Format, 35mm, 16/8mm | Mandarin | 100 mins

DIRECTOR:

HUANG Xi

PRODUCER:

HOU Hsiao-Hsien

HAF GOALS:

Funds, Sales agents

BUDGET:

US\$ 2,000,000

SECURED BUDGET:

US\$ 50,000

DIRECTOR'S FILMOGRAPHY

2017 *Missing Johnny*

ONE-SENTENCE SYNOPSIS

After meeting in Shanghai, Zhou and Po begin a sensual relationship that will ultimately lead Zhou to the truth behind her sister's suicide.

SYNOPSIS

Zhou, a 38-year-old woman with depression, returns to Shanghai to attend her sister's funeral. At a hotel, she meets Po, a 28-year-old Chinese opera actor, who has just relocated from Taipei in search of opportunity, and who is also battling her own demons. Intrigued by each other's emotional challenges, they begin a sensual relationship. Discovering photographs of her sister taken by a mysterious man, Zhou realizes that behind the veneer of her sister's happy marriage there was a secret affair. But facing the terminal stage of cancer, her sister chose to end her own life, seemingly longing for death. Triggered by clues from Zhou's mourning brother-in-law, she sets out with Po to unravel her sister's affair, and in doing so, leads Po through a series of spontaneous actions, repeating the footsteps of her youth. Driven by the highs and lows of their bipolar emotions Po finally proposes a last question: if life inevitably is an endless stream of menacing struggles, then does one dare to live?

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Throughout our cities, among ordinary peoples, affections gush excessively, full of extravagant ups and downs, like the bipolar swings between depression and hypomania. But faith in love always shines through from a distance, guiding us to believe. Yet, do we have the free will to love? "In the mind there is no absolute or free will; but the mind is determined to wish this or that by a cause, which has also been determined by another cause, and this last by another cause, and so on to infinity." – by Baruch Spinoza.

DIRECTOR

HUANG Xi

A graduate of New York University's Tisch School of the Arts, Huang Xi originally hails from Taipei, Taiwan, and worked with director Hou Hsiao-Hsien on films such as *Goodbye South, Goodbye* (1996) and *The Assassin* (2015). *Missing Johnny* (2017) was the director's first feature.

PRODUCER

HOU Hsiao-Hsien

Hou Hsiao-Hsien, well-known Taiwan filmmaker, won the Golden Lion at the Venice Film Festival in 1989 for his film *A City of Sadness*. His early work *A Time to Live, A Time to Die* (1985) won the FIPRESCI Prize at the Forum of New Cinema at the 1986 Berlin Film Festival, and *Puppetmaster* won the Jury Prize at the 1993 Cannes Film Festival. In 2015, he won the best director prize in Cannes Film Festival with *The Assassin*.

PRODUCTION COMPANY

3H Productions

Founded in 1992, 3H productions produced Hou Hsiao Hsien's films and Huang Xi's first feature film *Missing Johnny*.

Luminous Pictures

Luminous Pictures develops and produces feature films and focuses on developing original contents with sensitive insights for the market. It has built close relationships with movie producers and film production companies in Mainland China, North America, Hong Kong and Taiwan since its establishment.