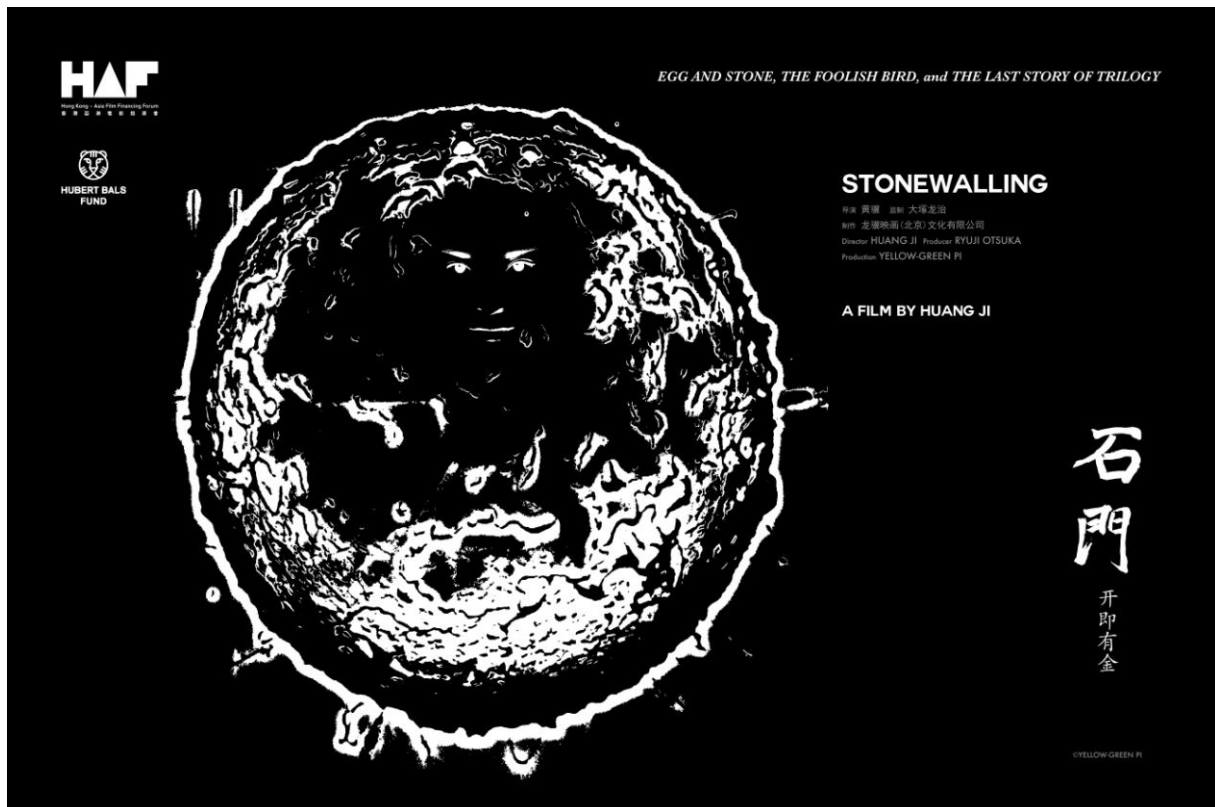


HAF 21 Stonewalling



COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: China

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

DIRECTOR:

HUANG Ji

PRODUCER:

OTSUKA Ryuji

HAF GOALS:

Funds, Co-producers, Sales agents

BUDGET:

US\$ 500,000

DIRECTOR'S FILMOGRAPHY

2017 *The Foolish Bird*

2012 *Egg and Stone*

ONE-SENTENCE SYNOPSIS

A left-behind child becomes a college student, trying to repay her parents' debts. However, she also confronts an unexpected baby dilemma.

SYNOPSIS

A collage student, Lynn, (21) is a left-behind child. One day, she receives a phone call from her mother to announce that she and Lynn's father are divorcing. Her mother requests that Lynn pays a visit to Guangdong, where her parents still live, despite the divorce, operating a medical clinic together. Their caustic relationship has leaked into their professional lives. An explosive argument at the clinic has stressed one of their patients into premature labor. Chen Ming, the woman's husband, repeatedly requests the family's attention, but amidst all the pandemonium he is left, helplessly, to watch the failure of his child's delivery. Incensed by the couple's negligence, Chen Ming threatens them with the police, but ends up by calling in the mafia to demand monetary compensation. As Lynn is forced to reckon with the situation by herself, she also discovers she is pregnant with her boyfriend's child. Shortly afterwards, Chen Ming and the mafia return for payment, and with no solution as to how to pay the debt, the pregnant Lynn finds herself with no alternative...

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Recently, my five-year-old daughter often has asked me the question, "Mommy, why did you give birth to me?" This question reminds me of my mother in my own childhood. She used to be an obstetrician and often took me to the operating room to see deliveries or abortions.

Abortion was the best tool to coordinate the "One Child Policy" in the past thirty years in China. It was legal with widespread acceptance. Since 2016, a new "Two Children Policy" has been promulgated, so people can have more kids without limitation. Women are free to choose whether to keep their babies or not. Will abortions be reduced? In my opinion, they will not decrease if people do not change their values of life and education.

Since I am now a parent, too, I have started to think about my daughter's future. "Mommy, why did you give birth to me?" I think *Stonewalling* could be the answer for me.

DIRECTOR

HUANG Ji

Born in Hunan Province, China. Since she has screened her first short film, *The Warmth of Orange Peel* (2010), in Berlin Film Festival, her films have continued to take up the issues of left-behind children and women's sexuality. Her feature directorial debut, *Egg and Stone* (2012), was shot with non-professional actors, world-premiered at International Film Festival Rotterdam and won the Hivos Tiger Award. Her second film, *The Foolish Bird* (2017), won a Special Mention of Generation 14plus section at the Berlin Film Festival. The new project, *Stonewalling*, is the last film of her "Trilogy of Chinese Left-behind Rural Women and Sexual Issues".

PRODUCER

OTSUKA Ryuji

Born in Tokyo, Japan, director and cinematographer of Japanese TV documentaries. After 2005, Otsuka Ryuji stayed in China to work with films and social issues and has produced award-winning features in Huang Ji's films. In 2015, he produced the project *The Foolish Bird* (2017) and won a post-production award at HAF. Then, he collaborated with the creative team from four countries. He has a passion for producing new style films and opening new doors to the universe. In 2015, he participated in Berlinale Talents. Filmography as producer: *Egg and Stone* (2012), *The Foolish Bird* (2017).

PRODUCTION COMPANY

Yellow-Green Pi

Yellow-Green Pi is based in Beijing, China. It was founded in 2009 by Huang Ji from China and Otsuka Ryuji from Japan. Otsuka Ryuji works as the producer, director and cinematographer, and Huang Ji contributes in scriptwriting and filmmaking. Their teamwork with a transnational background gives an extraordinary edge to their vision, which facilitates their collaborations with Asian TV stations on documentary productions, the studio's self-branded feature films. Their international team's vision is, "Through the film's imagination, we communicate with a new generation."