

HAF 18 Seven Days and Nights



COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: China

GENRE | FORMAT | LANGUAGE | RUNNING TIME: Drama, Fantasy, History | Digital Format | Mandarin, Kazakh | 100 mins

DIRECTOR:

YAO Tian

PRODUCER:

ZHANG Yang

ZHAO Jin

CAO Liuying

HAF GOALS:

Funds, Co-producers

BUDGET:

US\$ 1,200,000

SECURED BUDGET:

US\$ 500,000

DIRECTOR'S FILMOGRAPHY

2016 500M800M

ONE-SENTENCE SYNOPSIS

Seven long takes of marvelous spectacles through seven days and nights – the life and history of Kazakhs in four seasons of reincarnation.

SYNOPSIS

Grandpa Buick has been living on a mountain of more than three thousand meters in Xinjiang Province. As he nears death's door, he begins to repent his early decision to force his daughter Ayiguli to marry a vet who lives seven mountains and seven rivers away in the name of protecting family honour. Ayiguli has never managed to return home since the day she married. Grandpa Buick hopes that his friend Imam will see him off in the last journey of life by purging his soul and by accompanying him for seven days and nights. However, a heavy snow blocks the paths in the mountain after Grandpa Buick passes away, and Imam is caught in an avalanche and disappears... As the seven days are running out, Ayiguli, deeply grieved, leads people to bury her father. On their journey, they encounter an old horse that was sent by Grandpa Buick as a gift to rescue others seven years ago, and is now exhausted and covered with cuts and bruises. The old horse seems to respond to the calling and travels several thousand meters from Altay to Ili to see Grandpa Buick off...

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

The Kazakhs are always on the road, migrating to wherever water and grass are available. *Seven Days and Nights* adopts seven moving long takes to narrate a story saturated with love and resentment over three generations. Against the backdrop of a tribe's transhumance, the film captures the marvelous spectacles of four seasons in sequence within seven days and nights, thanks to the unique landscape of Xinjiang Province. The film interweaves real space and time with the diegetic world and interprets the history of Kazakhs, their perspective on heaven, earth, people, and their philosophy of life and death.

DIRECTOR

YAO Tian

Yao Tian, born in 1980, is a directing graduate of Beijing Film Academy. His feature debut, *500M800M* (2016), was among the official selections in the Busan International Film Festival, Stockholm Film Festival (Competition), and Bologna Asian Film Festival (Opening Film). It also won the Best Picture (Cyclo d'or d'honneur) in the 23rd Vesoul International Film Festival of Asian Cinema, and the Viewers' Choice Award of National Institute for Oriental Languages and Civilizations (Paris, France).

PRODUCER

ZHANG Yang

ZHANG Yang, director and screenwriter, was born in 1967. He studied in the Sun Yat-sen University, and then graduated from the Central Academy of Drama in 1992. His debut feature, *Spicy Love Soup* (1999), was selected for the Tokyo International Film Festival. *Shower* (2001) and *Sunflower* (2005) twice brought him the Best Director awards at the San Sebastian Film Festival. His latest works include *Getting Home* (2007), *Paths of the Soul* (2015), and *Soul on a String* (2017).

ZHAO Jin

Producer, co-founder of Parallax Films

CAO Liuying

Producer, co-founder of Parallax Films

PRODUCTION COMPANY

PARALLAX FILMS

PARALLAX FILMS is a Chinese production and international sales company that devotes itself to producing and distributing director-driven films, both commercial and art-house that are usually honored by international film festivals. Now based in Beijing, PARALLAX FILMS has agents in Paris, Tokyo, New York and Shanghai. The company has participated in the production and the international sales of Zhang Ximing's *I've Got a Little Problem* (2017), Chen Zhou's *Life Imitation* (2016), Deng Xiaoxi's *Alor Star* (2018), Zhang Dalei's *The summer is Gone* (2016) and Mei Feng's *Mr. No Problem* (2017).