

## WIP B From Black and White to Shades of Grey



**COUNTRY OF ORIGIN:** China

**GENRE | FORMAT | LANGUAGE | RUNNING TIME:** Drama | Digital Format | Cantonese, Mandarin, Zhejiang Dialect | 120 mins

**DIRECTOR:**

HUANG Zi

**PRODUCER:**

HUANG Zi

**WIP GOALS:**

Funds, Sales agents, Pre-sales, Festival screening

**PRODUCTION BUDGET:**

US\$ 200,000

**DIRECTOR'S FILMOGRAPHY**

First Feature Director

## **ONE-SENTENCE SYNOPSIS**

A man suffers from a serious illness, his wife is forced to support the family, and their son wants to escape. The family strives to maintain peace.

## **SYNOPSIS**

Everything changes for a family of three when Weiming, the husband and father, is diagnosed with terminal cancer. The family becomes shrouded in shadows, although they try to maintain peace. The mother, Muling, who supports the family by herself, is not understood by her husband and son. When her sick husband and son become closer, she becomes more isolated. Although Muling has tried her best to keep Weiming from knowing his real condition, Weiming has come to realise that he is at death's door.

Yiming, their son, receives university admission from the U.S. and he also decides to keep it secret. He is unable to find a good way to care for his mother. One day, a security guard trying to stop Yiming and his friend from running away from a school trip, he falls and is left unconscious. While Yiming is able to climb over the wall, he is not able to escape his youthful torments.

Weiming realizes that he has become a burden for his family. The conflicted family returns to Weiming's hometown for the tomb-sweeping ritual, but the original mountain tomb has been replaced by newly built hotels. In the end, Weiming has a fantastic experience.

## **DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT**

The story has a dark theme but it is not meant to be a heart-breaking or sensationalised record of my father's dying.

The film is divided into three parts, each of which is titled after the names of one of the three family members in Chinese. Each part focuses on one member, and with three different points of view, the whole story lines up.

The main parts in this film are unadorned by narration and provide a space for profound reflection

The final part, when the whole family visits the grave back in their hometown, is surreal. It would seem that characters do exist in the real world but they also live in fantasy, a combination similar to the imagination of my father before his dying.

So I tried to achieve a breakthrough in the final part of this film. Hence, when the high point of this film occurs, the dramatic conflicts are not increased.

## **DIRECTOR**

### **HUANG Zi**

Huang Zi began making short films in his third year at the University of California, Berkeley. Later he went to NYU's Tisch School of Art where he improved his skills. Huang's short film, *The City* (2013) was shortlisted amid widespread appreciations at several film festivals, including Premiere Plans d'Angers, the Beijing Independent Film Festival. And *River* (2016, Zhang Xiangdong as director, with Huang as cameraman) was shortlisted in the Montreal International Film Festival. His latest work was selected at the 9<sup>th</sup> Xining FIRST Financing Forum and the Hong Kong - Asia Film Financing Forum 2016.

## **PRODUCER (100 words)**

### **HUANG Zi**

## **PRODUCTION COMPANY**

### **Huang Zi Film Studio**

A newborn film making collective.