

HAF 01 12 x 4



COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: China

GENRE | FORMAT | LANGUAGE | RUNNING TIME: Drama | Digital Format | Mandarin | 100 mins

DIRECTOR:

LIU Miaomiao

PRODUCER:

TIAN Zhuangzhuang

ZHAO Jin

CAO Liuying

HAF GOALS:

Funds, Sales agents, Pre-sales

BUDGET:

US\$ 1,000,000

SECURED BUDGET:

US\$ 300,000

DIRECTOR'S FILMOGRAPHY

2018 *Red Flowers and Green Leaves*

1994 *Family Scandal*

1993 *Chatterbox*

1987 *Women on the Long March*

ONE-SENTENCE SYNOPSIS

A film about the self-salvation of a woman stricken with bipolar disorder in her confrontation with society as a whole.

SYNOPSIS

Xiang Xiaoyun, former ping-pong player, finds herself stricken with bipolar disorder, drowning in her life in the vast city of Beijing. The 48-year-old woman has had a glorious past but is now experiencing trauma. She desperately needs to reshape her connections to the world. In a tiny restaurant far beneath her social standing, Xiang Xiaoyun hopes she can catch her breath by doing a humble job in an utterly strange environment but she eventually realizes she cannot escape. She is tied up with so many people: her adolescent daughter Manman, her ex-husband Xu Lixin, who appears out of nowhere, the benevolent restaurant owner Feng Yuan, various colleagues and customers, a senior citizen claiming to be a former deputy director of the Ministry of Water Resources, and a barber named Li Li, to name just a few. Xiang Xiaoyun remains in the vortex of Beijing life. Yet, the transformation of her social identity seems to have enlightened her about the truth of life, while her mind grows stronger...

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Three days after my 33rd birthday in 1995, I was sent to a mental hospital for bipolar disorder. That special experience helped me face the disease and find out the truth of life beyond dread and despair. I have had a taste of the colorful mental worlds of mankind thanks to this difficult, yet meaningful experience. Mental disorders are incurable, so is life. I want to do a film about bipolar disorder based on my own experience while recognizing that in actuality, the disease completes me. *12 x 4* will be a special piece of work. It is about the self-salvation of a woman stricken with bipolar disorder in her confrontation with society as a whole. Our heroine is like a drowning woman and the restaurant in the film is like an island that harbors her in the middle of the ocean. However, this island cannot offer her complete tranquility. A dominant theme throughout the film is the instinctive consciousness of the heroine of her needs and abilities for helping herself. A broken family, a sick single woman and a local restaurant with its owner and clients come together to constitute the setting of the film.

DIRECTOR

LIU Miaomiao

Born 1962 in Guyuan, Ningxia, LIU Miaomiao is a female Chinese film director and an ethnic Hui Muslim. She used to be the youngest member of the 1982 class of the Beijing Film Academy, commonly referred to as the Chinese Fifth Generation Filmmakers. Her film *Chatterbox* was the winner of the President of the Italian Senate's Gold Medal at the Venice Film Festival in 1993. Her last film, *Red Flowers and Green Leaves*, was selected for the Gala section at Pingyao International Film Festival in 2018 and won the Audience Choice Award.

PRODUCER

TIAN Zhuangzhuang

TIAN Zhuangzhuang, film director, producer and actor, is one of the most prominent filmmakers of the Chinese Fifth Generation. His films include *The Horse Thief* (1986), *The Blue Kite* (1993) and *Springtime in a Small Town* (2002).

ZHAO Jin, CAO Liuying

ZHAO Jin and CAO Liuying co-founded MIDNIGHT BLUR FILMS and are partners in the international PARALLAX Films. They produced *Vanishing Days* (Berlin, 2019), *Three Adventures of Brooke* (Venice, 2018), *I've Got a Little Problem* (Busan, 2017), and *Life Imitation* (BFI London, 2017). They participated in international sales for *Girls Always Happy* (Berlin, 2018) and *The Fragile House* (Locarno, 2018).

PRODUCTION COMPANY

MIDNIGHT BLUR FILMS

MIDNIGHT BLUR FILMS is a film production and service brand that is devoted to developing and creating films with international vision and idiosyncratic style, both commercial and arthouse. Striving to integrate all segments of the global film industry, MIDNIGHT BLUR FILMS also has two subsidiaries: an international sales and film festivals PR company, PARALLAX FILMS, and a new media brand, DEEP FOCUS. The company has agents in Paris, New York, Hong Kong and Tokyo and its business covers all major film markets and festivals worldwide.