

WIP I Silence in the Dust



COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: China

GENRE | FORMAT | LANGUAGE | RUNNING TIME: Documentary | Digital Format | Mandarin | 90 mins

DIRECTOR:

LI Wei

PRODUCER:

YANG Keruo

QIU Yang

LI Hongqi

HAF GOALS:

Funds, Sales agents, Festival Screening

BUDGET:

US\$ 88,000

SECURED BUDGET:

US\$ 61,800

DIRECTOR'S FILMOGRAPHY

2016 *Enclave*

ONE-SENTENCE SYNOPSIS

Having worked in a quartz powder factory for many years, Dazhang suffers from pneumoconiosis. In the final stage of his life, he worries about his three innocent children.

SYNOPSIS

In the late 20th century, Dazhang, followed by his three brothers, goes to coastal Guangdong to find work. Their working conditions in the quartz powder factory prove arduous and dangerous. After working several years, Dazhang meets his wife, who is also working in the area, and together they have three children. Yet, when Dazhang goes to a hospital for an examination, he finds out that he suffers from advanced pneumoconiosis.

Dazhang's illness depletes nearly all his family's savings and drains his wife's will to live. The only ones left in the house are the three children, ignorant of the situation; Dazhang, lying on his sickbed; and Dazhang's parents. They all depend on a few pieces of land where they plant vegetables.

The film revolves around Dazhang who, because of his illness, is unable to breathe properly, and his family. The middle-aged Dazhang doesn't want his life to end, but his situation seems hopeless. He places all of his hopes on the next generation, but his children haven't even grasped what the meaning of "future" is. Nevertheless, they move ahead on the road towards the future.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Our film attempts to blend documentary observations with cinematic photography, profoundly and poetically demonstrating the hardships of Dazhang's family. As a documentary dealing with pneumoconiosis, we focus on the current life of the sufferers and their future instead of exploring the causes of the disease. We have employed a limited number of interviews during the filming process. Instead, we use a meditative approach to observe and capture their living conditions and express the complex emotions within the family. With this film, we want to draw more attention to the issue of pneumoconiosis and the families who suffer from this disease.

DIRECTOR

LI Wei

Li Wei was born in Chongqing in 1994 and graduated from Li Xianting Film School. Li's first documentary *Enclave* (2016) won the Independent Spirit Award by the 12th Beijing Independent Film Festival and was nominated in a series of international film events such as the Taiwan International Documentary Festival, Hong Kong Independent Film Festival, First Xining International Festival, and Greece International Documentary Film Festival. Li Wei now lives and works in Chongqing.

PRODUCER

YANG Keruo

Yang Keruo is a producer and investor. He is the producer of the short films *Home* (2015) and *Fata Morgana* (2016).

QIU Yang

Qiu is an award-winning Chinese director. His short film *A Gentle Night* (2017) was awarded the Palme d'Or at 70th Cannes Film Festival.

LI Hongqi

Li Hongqi, director, writer. In 2010, his film *Han Jia*, won the 63rd Locarno International Film Festival Golden Leopard Award, FIPRESCI Prize and Prize of the Ecumenical Jury.

PRODUCTION COMPANY

Wild Grass Films

Wild Grass Films was founded by Chinese film director QIU Yang, and focuses on producing independent art-house films for the family of "World Cinema". In 2018, Wild Grass Films produced Qiu's VR film *O*, commissioned by HTC and Taiwan Golden Horse Film Festival. In 2017, Wild Grass Films produced Qiu's Palme d'Or winning short film *A Gentle Night*. In 2015, Wild Grass Films also produced Qiu's short film *Under the Sun* (2015) which was also officially selected in Cinéfondation of Cannes Film Festival.