

WIP B Far Away My Shadow Wandered



COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Singapore, Japan, Hong Kong

GENRE | FORMAT | LANGUAGE | RUNNING TIME: Documentary | Digital Format | Japanese, English | 80 mins

DIRECTOR:

LIAO Jiekai
Sudhee LIAO

PRODUCER:

Jeremy CHUA
Elysa WENDI

HAF GOALS:

Funds, Sales agents, Pre-sales

BUDGET:

US\$ 85,000

SECURED BUDGET:

US\$ 50,000

DIRECTOR'S FILMOGRAPHY

2014 *As You Were*

2010 *Red Dragonflies*

ONE-SENTENCE SYNOPSIS

A young man encounters a dancer as he returns to his hometown to reconcile with a promise made to his late grandfather to take over the family Shinto shrine.

SYNOPSIS

When he was a child, Junya promised his maternal grandfather that as the eldest grandson, he would take over the family Shinto shrine. However, this did not come to pass as Junya did not share the same family name and he grew estranged from his family over time. To escape from this tension, Junya ventured overseas to pursue other dreams and distanced himself from the hometown where he grew up. One day, while working in an Izakaya, he meets a foreigner with the same birthday researching a new dance piece for a film. His fateful encounter leads him to confront a family history that he has left behind and gives the dancer inspiration for her work. Together in the midst of winter, they revisit Junya's hometown to reconnect with his childhood and let go of a promise he cannot fulfil.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

I befriended Junya in 2017 when I was traveling in the Noto Peninsular in the Ishikawa prefecture of Japan. Junya performed a private Shinto ritual for me in his family shrine as a gesture of friendship. I was both inspired by his personal story and also by the land of Noto where the harsh winter has a powerful effect on coastal landscapes and the lives of people living there. In 2018, I came back to Noto with a dancer and a crew to make this hybrid documentary that combines elements of dance, documentary and also some fiction: Junya uses his voice to recount his relationship with his grandfather, just as the dancer uses her body as a conduit to express Junya's memories of the land.

DIRECTOR

LIAO Jiekai

Liao Jiekai is a filmmaker and visual artist from Singapore. His films include *Red Dragonfiles* (Special Jury Prize, Jeonju International Film Festival 2010) and *As You Were* (Tokyo International Film Festival 2014). His short videos and documentaries have shown at museums, biennales and festivals. He is currently mentored by Kurosawa Kiyoshi and Nobuhiro Suwa at the Masters programme of Tokyo University of Arts.

Sudhee LIAO

Sudhee Liao is an independent dance artist and choreographer from Singapore who has performed widely internationally. Her recent works *Haptic Compression* and *Hermetic Diode* have been shown and performed at Hong Kong Arts Festival in 2017 and 2018 respectively.

PRODUCER

Jeremy CHUA

Jeremy Chua is a film producer and screenwriter from Singapore. He has produced films such as *A Yellow Bird* by K. Rajagopal (Cannes Critics Week 2016), *A Lullaby to the Sorrowful Mystery* by Lav Diaz (Silver Bear Alfred Bauer Prize, Berlin Film Festival 2016), *Brotherhood* by Pepe Diokno (Karlovy Vary International Film Festival 2016) and *A Family Tour* by Ying Liang (Locarno Film Festival 2018).

Elysa WENDI

Artistic Director of Cinemovement, she has produced short films *The Mist* by Liao Jiekai (Best Director of SEA Short Film Competition, Singapore International Film Festival 2016) and *A Dance for Ren Hang* by Lei Yuan Bin and Sara Tan (Busan International Film Festival 2018).

PRODUCTION COMPANY

Potocol

Potocol focuses on producing Asian films for international audiences. Our films have travelled to and won prizes at festivals such as Cannes Critics Week, Berlin Film Festival and Locarno Film Festival.

Cinemovement

Cinemovement explores interdisciplinary filmmaking between cinema and choreography. Its filmography includes *The Mist* by Liao Jiekai (Best Director of SEA Shorts Competition, Singapore International Film Festival 2016) and *A Dance for Ren Hang* by Lei Yuan Bin and Sara Tan (Busan International Film Festival 2018)