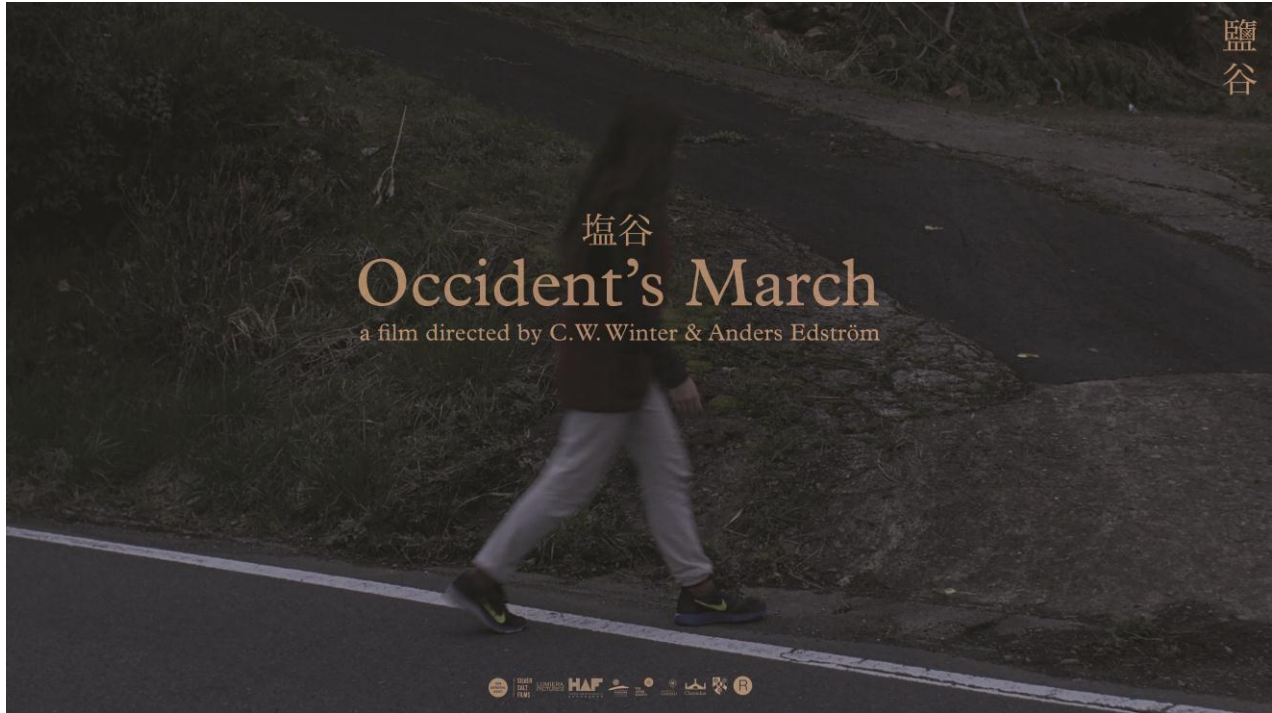


WIP M **Occident's March**



COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: USA, Japan, Sweden, United Kingdom, Hong Kong

GENRE | FORMAT | LANGUAGE | RUNNING TIME: Drama | Digital Format | Japanese, Swedish, English | 477 mins

DIRECTOR:

C.W. WINTER
Anders EDSTRÖM

PRODUCERS:

C.W. WINTER
HU Mengchu
WANG Yue
Helen JONES

HAF GOALS:

Funds, Sales agents, Pre-sales, Festival Screening

BUDGET:

US\$ 496,141

SECURED BUDGET:

US\$ 276,335

DIRECTOR'S FILMOGRAPHY

2010 *The Anchorage*

ONE-SENTENCE SYNOPSIS

Occident's March chronicles the daily labor of a farmer over the last year of her husband's life in a farming village, population 47, in the mountains of Kyoto Prefecture, Japan.

SYNOPSIS

Occident's March chronicles the daily labor of a farmer over the last year of her husband's life in a Japanese mountain farming village, population 47. It is at once a sensory geography, an oral history, a soundscape, an annal of a family, and a dramatic fiction. The film is a meditation on mourning— the mourning of a slowly dying village; what would be the attendant death of its collective economy; the creeping death of the local forest; and the actual death of Tayoko's husband, Junji. The film is also a dramatic performance of mourning, a year in which Tayoko, guided by her actual diary, recreates imminent loss. It is a performance which began on the day of her husband's real life funeral. A performance in which the emotions of post-death intertwine with the dramatic recreation of the pre-death until there is an indiscernibility of actuality and fiction. The film is a highly sensory immersion into this landscape — the forest, the river, the fields, the weather, the light, the sounds. Liberatory harmonies appear in the film through a tracing of the changing roles of women in Japan from the post-war to the present — from Tayoko on through to her granddaughter, Mai.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

The 7-hour 57-minute duration of *Occident's March* is intended to offer audiences an uncommonly deep and thoroughly moving relationship with a film character. As well, our aim is to offer audiences an uncommonly immersive experience of a specific geography. Ours is a post-slow cinema approach to fiction that eschews dramatic arcs altogether. Our interest instead is on having an audience get to know our characters as one would do in real life, by simply spending time with them — and along the way experiencing their joys, their sorrows, their toils, their regrets, their strengths, their vulnerabilities. While we look forward to the festival and theatrical run of the film, we especially look forward to its online, DVD and television releases. Most international cinema is now seen at home, so we question the fundamental model of making films of a typical length tailored for 20th-century cinemas. We're proposing a post-brick and mortar 21st-century cinema. We see this film as perhaps the first film novel, a film that a viewer is free to pick up and put down — in a weekend, over days, or over weeks — as one would a book. It is intended as an approachable film designed at an intimate, human scale.

DIRECTOR

C.W. WINTER

Occident's March is the follow-up to C.W. Winter and Anders Edström's *The Anchorage* (2010), which won Golden Leopard at Locarno Film Festival. *The Anchorage* was named one of the Ten Best Films of the Year by critics at Cinema Scope, Film Comment, Senses of Cinema, Variety, and IndieWire; and was named Best First Film of the Year by The New York Times. C.W. Winter is a doctoral researcher in Fine Art at the University of Oxford.

Anders EDSTRÖM

Anders Edström is one of the most acclaimed photographers of the last three decades; his work is widely published and exhibited.

PRODUCER

C.W. WINTER (same as director)

HU Mengchu

Independent producer in Beijing; production credits include *My Dear Friend* (2018, Yang Pingdao), premiering at Busan and *Behemoth* (2015, Zhao Liang) in competition at Venice.

WANG Yue

London-based artist and filmmaker. Her work has been shown internationally including Festival Belluard Bollwerk International, ICA London, Centre Culturel Suisse, and Locomoción Festival.

Helen JONES

Producer at Silver Salt Films, experienced in international theatrical distribution, independent and studio releases. Helen headed Acquisitions and Distribution at CinemaLive. Helen's team broke multiple box-office records and was nominated for Screen Awards (2015 runner-up, 2014).

PRODUCTION COMPANY

General Asst.

C.W. Winter's Los Angeles-based production company, working at the intersection of cinema and art. *Occident's March* is a follow-up to *The Anchorage*, which won Golden Leopard at Locarno.

Lumieria Pictures

Founded in Hong Kong, Lumieria Pictures focuses on the development and creation of arthouse films and other contemporary audio-visual content.

Silver Salt Films

London-based feature film production company, committed to producing stories from alternative perspectives, with a focus on female-driven material supported by international public and private financiers including the BFI, Film4, PFI, Film London, Film Wales, Creative England, and the Japan Society.