

## WIP Q Summer Blur



**REGION:** China

**GENRE | FORMAT | LANGUAGE | RUNNING TIME:**

Drama | Digital Format | Mandarin | 100mins

**DIRECTOR:**

HAN Shuai

**PRODUCER:**

HUANG Xufeng

LIANG Ying

**HAF GOALS:**

Funds, Sales agents, Pre-sales, Festival Screening

**BUDGET:** US\$ 944,863

**SECURED BUDGET:** US\$ 500,000

**DIRECTOR'S FILMOGRAPHY**

First Feature Director

**ONE-SENTENCE SYNOPSIS**

Yang Guo, who lives with her aunt, falls into trouble after witnessing her best friend's death. Fleeing the town, Guo gradually matures, becoming able to face life and be herself.

## SYNOPSIS

Yang Guo is a 13-year-old girl. She accidentally witnessed a teenage boy drown but took no action because her fear and instinct of self-preservation stopped her. She decides to pretend that she was not there. The evidence left behind was hidden by a young boy, Zhao You, because he had a crush on Guo. The whole thing became their shared secret. Yet, as they get to know each other better, Guo has the feeling of being trapped. Then, Guo has an unexpected opportunity to fly to Shanghai and spend time with her mother. Sadly, this turns out to be a farewell trip: Guo's mother abandons her. But after even this time with her mother, Guo begins to be aware of the feelings of being a woman. She has an opportunity for a movie audition that might be her last chance for freedom. Guo begins to avoid Zhao, but he uses their secret to threaten her. To escape from his control, Guo uses her femininity to frame Zhao. Then, in a heavy rain, Guo's first period comes. She hits herself hard, like self-punishment. In the arms of the mother of the boy who drowned, she cries out loud for the first time.

## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

This story is not about social events or political issues. It is about a girl's secret world, small and ordinary, and represents the common situation of girls today. The summer when a 13-year-old girl begins to realise what it is like to be a woman in the current society. In this process of exploration, she experiences pain and struggles to overcome it. Her mother's abandonment, her lover's control, other men's quests for love and death... What should she do when facing all these complicated issues? Life can be hard sometimes. Girls can turn bad. You might think she was destroyed by life, but she was not.

## DIRECTOR

### HAN Shuai

Han Shuai, female. Among the short films she wrote and directed, *The Time to Live and the Time to Die* (2012) won the jury award in the short film unit "Light of Asia" of Hangzhou Asian Youth Video Exhibition; *The Son* (2014) won the best director award in the 24<sup>th</sup> Beijing College Student Film Festival. *Last Shot* (2015) won the best short film award in the 23<sup>rd</sup> Beijing College Student Film Festival. The film *Summer Blur* (formerly titled *Summer Girl*) won the best screenplay award in Beijing International Film Festival.

## PRODUCER

### **HUANG Xufeng**

Huang Xufeng is the founder/CEO of the independent production house Factory Gate Films, founded in 2017. Huang produced the documentary *Mr. Big* (Best Documentary Award, Beijing IFF 2018) by Tong Shengjia, *Dwelling in the Fuchun Mountains* (Cannes Critics' Week closing film, 2019) by Gu Xiaogang, *Balloon* (Venice Orizzonti, 2019) by Pema Tsenden and *A Trophy on the Sea* (Youth Jury Award, Pingyao IFF) by Ju Anqi.

### **LIANG Ying**

Liang Ying, a partner of Factory Gate Films, worked with acclaimed directors Wang Xiaoshuai and Lou Ye. She has worked on films selected in festivals in Cannes, Venice or Berlinale.

## PRODUCTION COMPANY

### **Factory Gate Films**

Based in Beijing, Factory Gate Films is a production company founded in 2017 by veteran film lovers and experienced professionals. With a lineup of arthouse and commercial films by acclaimed and emerging directors, its mission is to produce unique and high-quality films for both Chinese and international audiences, with an emphasis on fostering new talents. Its films include *Dwelling in the Fuchun Mountains* (Gu Xiaogang, Cannes Critics' Week closing film, 2019), *Mr. Big* (Tong Shengjia, 2018), and *Balloon* (Pema Tsenden, Venice Orizzonti, 2019), amongst others. The company is developing over 20 projects by directors from different backgrounds.