

WIP S Virgin Blue



REGION: China

GENRE | FORMAT | LANGUAGE | RUNNING TIME:

Drama, Musical | Digital Format | Mandarin | 90mins

DIRECTOR:

NIU Xiaoyu

PRODUCERS:

WANG Zijian

NIU Yuan

HAF GOALS:

Funds, Sales agents, Pre-sales

BUDGET: US\$427,672

SECURED BUDGET: US\$ 279,190

DIRECTOR'S FILMOGRAPHY

First Feature Director

ONE-SENTENCE SYNOPSIS

This is a story about a girl trapped in her grandmother's memories, which intertwine with fragments of her own past, bringing her into a deep dream that awaits no waking.

SYNOPSIS

After her college graduation, Yezi comes back home to spend her last summer vacation with her grandmother, who has been living alone ever since grandfather passed away. The house is filled with grandma's memories that gradually begin to take on actual forms in life. Sometimes they appear as a cat, a plant or a total stranger, while at other times, they manifest themselves as grandpa or even Yezi's childhood self. At the same time, grandma slowly slips into the abyss of amnesia and time begins to lose meaning. Haunted by those tireless memories, Yezi finds herself wandering among fragments of her family history, where she recollects a deserted childhood and befriends her own past. One night, everyone gathers by a fish pond for a grand farewell. When it seems to be another one of grandma's dream, all the loved ones decide to stay.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

I am captivated by the emotions that bind people closely. Even if those with deep bonds do not always stay together till the end, there will forever be some forms of interaction in between. I believe deceased family members come back in my dreams so as to be with me in whichever ways possible. In that light, *Virgin Blue* is not about how to face the loss of our loved ones, but rather about how to be together with them. We cannot stop losing those we love. Life is a continuous process of facing defeats and failures. That is why we should choose to be with them. This film offers many ways to do so.

DIRECTOR

NIU Xiaoyu

Niu Xiaoyu was born in Hefei, Anhui Province, and graduated from Beijing Film Academy with a Bachelor's degree in animation and a Master's in experimental film. Niu has independently produced two short films: *Summer Fever* (2013) and *Summer Fever II* (2017), which have been officially selected for the 10th China Independent Film Festival and the 12th FIRST International Film Festival, respectively.

PRODUCER

WANG Zijian

Wang Zijian founded Blackfin Production in 2013. Since then, he has produced a series of art films and documentaries, including *Kaili Blues* (dir. Bi Gan, 2015), *Knife in the Clear Water* (dir. Wang Xuebo, 2016), *Free and Easy* (dir. Geng Jun, 2017), *Mosaic Portrait* (dir. Zhai Yixiang, 2019), and *The Cloud in Her Room* (Zheng Lu Xinyuan, 2020).

NIU Yuan

Niu Yuan was born in 1964 in Hefei, Anhui Province. She graduated from Anhui University with a Chinese Language major.

PRODUCTION COMPANY

Blackfin Production

Blackfin Production focuses on investment, production and distribution of independent films and documentaries. It has promoted young directors among whom the films it produces have been selected in international film festivals, including *Kaili Blues* (dir. Bi Gan, 2015), *Knife in the Clear Water* (dir. Wang Xuebo, 2016), *Free and Easy* (dir. Geng Jun, 2017) and *Mosaic Portrait* (dir. Zhai Yixiang, 2019).

Big Fish Films (Anhui) Co., Ltd.

Big Fish Films (Anhui) Co., Ltd., with Niu Xiaoyu as the core director, hatched her first feature film *Virgin Blue* and the follow-up works of this series of films.