

WIP V Wuhai



REGION: China

GENRE | FORMAT | LANGUAGE | RUNNING TIME:

Drama | Digital Format | Mandarin | 100mins

DIRECTOR:

ZHOU Ziyang

PRODUCER:

WANG Luna

QIAN Yini

HAF GOALS:

Sales agents, Pre-sales, Festival Screening

BUDGET: US\$ 5,003,853

SECURED BUDGET: US\$ 4,500,000

DIRECTOR'S FILMOGRAPHY

2017 Old Beast

ONE-SENTENCE SYNOPSIS

A man who is about to succumb to numbness is awakened by a series of difficulties in his life.

SYNOPSIS

Yang Hua and Miao Wei form a happily married couple living in Wuhai, a small city surrounded with astonishing desert scenery in Inner Mongolia. Yet, the husband, Yang Hua, often feels stressed over the financial differences between his and his wife's families. He partners with his friend Luo Yu in commercial lending, but unfortunately the business fails and he becomes bogged down in debts. One day, Yang Hua's family, friends, debts collectors, and debtors come one after another, depriving him of his last bit of dignity. In the darkest night, he feels helpless and hopeless. With his third anniversary coming the next day, Yang Hua drives his wife to the mountaintop, where he had proposed to Miao Wei, to see the sunrise. However, the two both have heavy loads on their mind. With the first rays of the sun, a dark fate awaits them by the edge of the cliff.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

I am saddened that under rapid economic development, desire and distorted money-oriented values have brought such great harm to people. This film, reflecting on that issue, is like a fable that inspires the audience to introspection. At the same time, it investigates the depths of human nature. I try to use the energy of life to interpret depression and further understand the meaning of life. So I conceived of a series of symbols of strong vitality, such as pregnancy, fetuses, lungfish, dinosaurs, animals, and desire, to contrast with reality, its threats, stress and depression. All of these will lead to life, birth and rebirth in the end. What I want to present in my second film is drama, philosophical thinking, and more sophisticated aesthetics within the form of genre films. It will break new ground in Chinese auteur films, and pay tribute to Akira Kurosawa's film contributions and to the peak of the Fifth Generation of Chinese directors in the 1990s, with a tight and deep connection with millions of Chinese people. I firmly believe that this is a film that will strongly resonate with people, as the struggles of the characters in the story embody the reality of what is happening today in China.

DIRECTOR

ZHOU Ziyang

Zhou Ziyang, Chinese Inner Mongolian director, made his mark by his first film *Old Beast* (2017), which won Best Original Screenplay and FIPRESCI Prize at the 54th Golden Horse Film Festival, Special Mention at the 30th Tokyo International Film Festival, and Best Young Director at the 9th China Film Director's Guild. Zhou is considered one of the most promising directors in Chinese cinema.

PRODUCER

WANG Luna

Wang Luna is an experienced producer who has won awards at many major film festivals around the world. Her works include *American Dreams in China* (2013), *12 Citizens* (Marcus Aurelius, Rome Film Festival 2014) and *Ayka* (Best Actress, Cannes 2018)

QIAN Yini

Qian Yini was production director at Dongchun Films and Emperor Motion Pictures. As executive producer and co-producer her many award-winning films include: *So Long, My Son* (Golden Bear nominee, Silver Bear for the Best Actor and Actress, 2019), *An Elephant Sitting Still* (FIPRESCI Prize, Golden Horse Best Feature Film, 2018) and *Old Beast* (Best Actor, Golden Horse 2017).

PRODUCTION COMPANY

Beijing Juben Production Company

Beijing Juben Pictures is a film production company focusing on operating sensitive but sensational IP, which also embody mainstream values. Juben's productions includes *American Dreams in China* (2013), *12 Citizens* (2014), and *Ayka* (2018) which was selected for the 71st Cannes main competition and won Best Actress.

Ziyang Film

Ziyang Film, founded by director Zhou Ziyang, is a production company devoted to profound, powerful auteur films. A recent work, *Old Beast* (2017), won the 30th Tokyo International Film Festival Asian Future Section Special Mention and the 54th Golden Horse Awards Best Leading Actor and Best Original Screenplay.