

## WIP I Winter Chants



**COUNTRY/REGION:** Hong Kong

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

Documentary | Digital Format | Cantonese | 90mins

**DIRECTOR:**

TSANG Tsui-shan

**PRODUCER:**

Teresa KWONG

Ken HUI

**WIP GOALS:**

Funds, Co-producers, Sales agents, Pre-sales, Festival Screening

**TOTAL BUDGET:** US\$192,308

**SECURED BUDGET:** US\$64,103

**DIRECTOR'S FILMOGRAPHY**

2019 *The Lady Improper*

2014 *Scent*

2014 *Flowing Stories*

2011 *Big Blue Lake*

2008 *Lovers on the Road*

**ONE-SENTENCE SYNOPSIS**

With the global pandemic as background, this film looks at the importance of family and traditions through the once-in-a-decade *Tai Ping Ching Chiu* Festival taking place in a rural village in Hong Kong.

## SYNOPSIS

This film follows the progress for the preparation of the *Tai Ping Ching Chiu* Festival over four seasons through two preparation committee members from different generations. The elder village head had left the village to live in the United Kingdom for many years, so his national sentiments are different from the new generation who grew up in Hong Kong. As more and more old villagers pass away, many are worried whether traditions can be maintained. At the same time, with the global pandemic still raging, others are worried whether villagers scattered across the world can come back to attend this once-in-a-decade event. Nowadays, many people living in the village are not indigenous residents and they are stuck in Hong Kong because of travel restrictions. The camera captures the construction works in the village, villagers and children relaxing and playing in the village square, as well as the situation of overseas villagers thinking of their faraway homeland. From local villagers to overseas Chinese, this film explores different perspectives of the local and the global, revealing the inter-connectedness of people.

## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

In Buddhist belief, everything in the world is inter-connected, and small networks of relationships can affect the entire universe. The once-in-a-decade *Tai Ping Ching Chiu* Festival is an important traditional event in Ho Chung Village. It represents the reunion and collective prayer of villagers, but will the fate of one small village affect that of the entire world? Due to overconsumption and the ravaging of nature, a global pandemic is raging across the world. Many countries have closed their borders, severing the ties between people and challenging familial and community relationships. As a villager and a documentary filmmaker, I hope to reexamine the meaning of home and reunion through continuous recording of my own home village. As an observer and participant, I can never ignore my identity as a family member. *Winter Chants* is an experiment, observing from an unknowing position, waiting for the gathering of energy and recording every moment in ever-changing people and nature.

## DIRECTOR

### TSANG Tsui-shan

Winner of Best New Director at the 31st Hong Kong Film Award. In 2008, her first feature film *Lovers On the Road* (2008) won the Best Drama Film Award at the 8th South Taiwan Film Festival. Her second feature *Big Blue Lake* (2011) won the Jury Special Award of the Golden Koala Chinese Film Festival 2013 in Australia and the Asian New Talent Jury Prize of the Shanghai International Film Festival 2012. Her latest feature film *The Lady Improper* was released in April 2019.

## PRODUCER

### **Teresa KWONG**

Teresa Kwong's producing titles include *Addicted to Love* (Liu Hao, 2010), *Flowing Stories* (Tsang Tsui Shan, 2014) and *Suk Suk* (Ray Yeung, 2019), which screened in the Panorama section of the Berlin International Film Festival 2020.

### **Ken HUI**

Ken Hui's producing titles include: *My Way* (Cheuk Cheung, 2012), *Snuggle* (JC Wong, 2016), *Light Up* (Deniece Law, 2017), *Bends* (Flora Law, 2013, Cannes Un Certain Regard) and *Hong Kong Trilogy* (Christopher Doyle, 2015).

## PRODUCTION COMPANY

### **River Vision Company Limited**

Established by director Tsang Tsui-shan in 2008, the company's first production *Lovers on the Road* (2008) received the Best Drama Film Award at the 8th South Taiwan Film Festival. *Big Blue Lake* (2011) was invited into many international film festivals. In 2014, River Vision collaborated with 24images to create *Flowing Stories* (2014). In 2018, the company produced the feature film *The Lady Improper*.