

WIP T To Love Again



COUNTRY/REGION: China

GENRE | FORMAT | LANGUAGE | RUNNING TIME:

Drama | Digital Format | Putonghua | 88mins

DIRECTOR:

GAO Lingyang

PRODUCER:

LIANG Jing

GUAN Hu

WIP GOALS:

Funds, Sales agents, Festival Screening

TOTAL BUDGET: US\$1,902,539

SECURED BUDGET: US\$1,393,280

DIRECTOR'S FILMOGRAPHY

First Feature Director

ONE-SENTENCE SYNOPSIS

To Love Again portrays the traumatic impact of China's Cultural Revolution through the eyes of an elderly couple struggling to face their past.

SYNOPSIS

Li Zhenhua and Nie Suzhen got married in the 1980s after having both lost their spouses at a young age. They have been living a happy life together in Xian ever since. After renewing their vows in a group wedding ceremony, Li suddenly finds out that his late wife's grave is to be relocated by the local authorities. He deeply regrets that his late wife died during the Cultural Revolution as a result of her association with him. This prompts Li to suggest that his late wife be reburied with him and his current wife when they eventually die, turning the peaceful life of this elderly married couple upside down.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

On the surface, *To Love Again* is a story about a couple's funeral arrangements. Beneath the surface, however, it is about how people come to terms with their traumatic past.

Contemporary society tends to forget about history. This is a pragmatic approach that suppresses the power of collective memory in order to end conflict. But to the individual, revisiting the past is a basic human instinct. The male protagonist's obsession with the idea of being buried with his current and late wife is his way of saying he refuses to forget. He is unable to deliver justice on the violent crimes against humanity that he experienced in the past, and death is his only way of remembering. When his memories clash with those of his current wife's, tensions arise in their relationship and they split into two camps.

They remember now, not because they want to let old memories affect their future together, but because they need a form of therapy to heal their trauma. This film portrays their pain, but also how they find solace in each other.

In *To Love Again*, forgetting is not about erasing the past, but about laying the groundwork for a new beginning.

DIRECTOR

GAO Linyang

Editor and director, he was born in 1991 in Shanxi, China. He has edited *On the Border* (2018) (Cannes Short Film Special Distinction by the Jury) and *Striding into the Wind* (2020) (Cannes Film Festival official selection).

PRODUCER

LIANG Jing

A well-known actor and producer. She was the main producer of *Mr. Six* (2015), *The Eight Hundred* (2020) and *The Sacrifice* (2020).

GUAN Hu

A household name in the Chinese film industry, he directed *Cow* (2009), *Design of Death* (2012), *The Chef, the Actor, the Scoundrel* (2013), *Six* (2015), *My People, My Country* (2019), *The Eight Hundred* (2020) and *The Sacrifice* (2020).

PRODUCTION COMPANY

The Seventh Art Pictures Co., Ltd.

Co-founded by director Guan Hu and actor Liang Jing, the company has created an industry chain covering investment in film and television, development and planning, filming and production, publicity and distribution, artist management, and filmmaker and screenwriter training. Its productions have won nominations and awards at international and domestic festivals, including the Golden Horse Festival, the Golden Rooster Festival and the Venice Film Festival.