

HAF 05 The Goddess



COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Hong Kong

GENRE | FORMAT | LANGUAGE | RUNNING TIME: Drama | HD | Cantonese | 100 mins

DIRECTOR:

Sobel CHAN Ka-lok

PRODUCER:

Sobel CHAN Ka-lok

HAF GOALS:

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

BUDGET:

US\$506,250

SECURED BUDGET:

US\$255,000

DIRECTOR'S FILMOGRAPHY

2013 *The Flying Dragon of Armor* (in pre-production)

2007 *Praying Heroes*

2006 *Blessing through Hope*

2005 *Barber Life*

2005 *144 Arrows*

ONE-SENTENCE SYNOPSIS

Torn between her identities as a disreputable prostitute and a virtuous mother, Ruan Yumei (called as “Auntie Yuen”) believes education can save her daughter Shurui. Yet, who is responsible for her daughter’s unexpected death?

SYNOPSIS

Shurui’s corpse flows on the river soullessly.

Her name is Zhang Shurui. Her mother, Ruan Yumei, is a prostitute in a one-woman brothel in Sham Shui Po. She believes education is her daughter’s best chance to a brighter future. Therefore, she had high hopes for her daughter’s DSE results. Unfortunately, her artistic talent was not enough for the rigid education system.

Xuan Zhihe is the English teacher in a secondary public school. One day, Shurui missed Zhihe’s home visit and Zhihe discovered that he had a sexual exchange with Shurui’s mother before. Yumei took the opportunity to threat and seduce him. After that, Yumei pleaded for his help with Shurui’s education. Since then, Zhihe has become disoriented, lost in lust for a youthful body of Shurui. Zhihe and Shurui develop the love between teachers and students.

The tension between Yumei and Shurui lessens as her grades improved. As Yumei begins to imagine building a family with Zhihe, Shurui discovers her mother’s affair with Zhihe. Shurui feels betrayed by both of them. For vengeance, Shurui seduces Zhihe, losing her virginity to him.

Meanwhile, Yumei dedicates her time to participating in a classic play, *The Goddess*, in Zi Teng, in a sex workers society therapy session. Acting the role of a prostitute in 30’s Shanghai, she finds the character, Ruan Lingyu, similar to herself and hopes light will shine through the darkness of her life.

Yumei, however, becomes furious and heartbroken when she finds out Shurui was impregnated by Zhihe. After that, Shurui goes missing. For vengeance, Yumei acts like she contacted Zhihe for help to find Shurui; however, she has already planned to kill Zhihe in the dark. One can only become truly learned in the lessons of life by seeing the end of one’s own life.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

The Goddess pays homage to the classic 1930’s Chinese film, *The Goddess*. The remake takes place in modern Hong Kong, focused on the issues of the Hong Kong public education system, the life of Mainlander immigrants, conflicts between mother and daughter, and power struggles between men and women. We are going to reinterpret the meaning and complex humanity of the classic story of *The Goddess* in contemporary society. Director Chan uses Chinese aesthetic and artistic essences to convey a cautionary tale of pursuing light in the darkness of society.

DIRECTOR

Sobel CHAN Ka-lok

Sobel Chan Ka-lok works as a producer, director and a scriptwriter. His film works include *The Flying Dragon of Armor* (2013, Co-FPC in Shanghai International Film Festival), *Winter Cicadas* (2013, Vancouver Film Festival), *League of HK Movies Heroes* (2013), which was among the finalists of the HAF/FOX Chinese Film Development Award; *Oriental Casablanca* (2011, as producer) and *Praying Heroes* (2007, as director and scriptwriter) which was funded by Hong Kong Arts Development Council and The Media Evangelism Limited. His TV works include *Blessing through Hope* (Director and Scriptwriter, 2006), *1SIR* (2005), *144 Arrows* (2005), *Barber Life* (Director and Scriptwriter, 2005) and others.

PRODUCER

Sobel CHAN Ka-lok (same as director)

PRODUCTION COMPANY

Silver Screens Limited

Silver Screens Limited is founded by Sobel Chan in 2004. It is mainly focused on film and TV production on different genres and topics. Its production included *Praying Heroes*, *Blessings through Hopes*, *144 Arrows*, *Barber Life*, etc.