

## HAF 19 Through the Cracks of the Parallel Universe



**COUNTRY OF ORIGIN:** China

**GENRE | FORMAT | LANGUAGE | RUNNING TIME:** Drama | Digital Format | Mandarin | 80 mins

**DIRECTOR:**

CHEN Cheng

**PRODUCER:**

HU Mengchu

**HAF GOALS:**

Funds, Co-producer

**BUDGET:**

US\$ 300,000

**SECURED BUDGET:**

US\$ 50,000

**DIRECTOR'S FILMOGRAPHY**

2018 *Spring Wind Blowing Over the City Plaza*

**ONE-SENTENCE SYNOPSIS**

A girl meets a boy as odd as she is. They talk about everything except her poems and his paintings.

## SYNOPSIS

Xiao Hui has an eccentric character – she will sometimes smile at a stranger in public who is not staring at their smartphone. One day late at night, Xiao Hui meets Ma Yue on the last bus home. Ma Yue responds when Xiao Hui smiles at him while his DV camera is pointing at her. Since Xiao Hui has never received such responses before, she is taken by Ma Yue who is fascinated with the parallel universe theory – two co-existing universes that never coincide yet may perceive each other's existence through accidental events. The “accidental event” between Xiao Hui and Ma Yue is the smile on the last bus.

One is a poet working as a cleaner and the other is a painter whose full time job is a porter. With their own sensitivity and pride, neither dares show their poems or paintings to one another at first, but this barrier slowly dissolves as their mutual understanding grows in the relationship.

## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

This is an atypical love story. Ma Yue and Xiao Hui, both born in the 1990s, are considered peculiar in the eyes of others: they do not use smartphones and they are always concerned with unworldly matters. While surviving through low-end jobs, they remain sensitive enough to discern the poetry of daily life and express it with their own voice - they are free. I want to represent contemporary Beijing from a perspective that reveals those living at the bottom of the social heap just like in a parallel universe - distressed and lonely but nonetheless bursting with vitality. By opening this crack into the undercurrent of class with the characters' sensitivity, creativity and a dose of love, they can truly see the city and all the beings in it.

## DIRECTOR

### CHEN Cheng

Born in Hunan, China, Chen Cheng is an MFA graduate of Academy of Film, Hong Kong Baptist University. Her short film *Winter Visitor* (2013) was in competition in China Independent Film Festival, Beijing Independent Film Festival, and Hangzhou Asian Film Festival. She completed her first feature film in June 2018.

## PRODUCER

### HU Mengchu

Independent producer, a graduate of Academy of Film, Hong Kong Baptist University. Hu's production credits include *My Dear Friend* (dir. Yang Pingdao, 2018) and *Behemoth* (dir. Zhao Liang, 2015).

## **PRODUCTION COMPANY**

### **Lumieria Pictures**

Lumieria Pictures is a production company focusing on the development and creation of arthouse films and other contemporary audio-visual content.