

# HAF 20 The Wedding Celebrant



**COUNTRY OF ORIGIN:** Hong Kong

**GENRE | FORMAT | LANGUAGE | RUNNING TIME:** Drama, Romance | Digital Format | Cantonese | 100 mins

**DIRECTOR:**

Barbara WONG Chun-chun

**PRODUCER:**

Gus LIEM

**HAF GOALS:**

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

**BUDGET:**

US\$ 10,000,000

**DIRECTOR'S FILMOGRAPHY**

2018 *Girls vs. Gangsters*

2016 *The Secret*

2014 *Girls*

2013 *The Stolen Years*

2012 *The Allure of Tears*

**ONE-SENTENCE SYNOPSIS**

A married woman who never had a wedding herself gets a license to officiate weddings. After presiding over many moving ceremonies, she wonders if she has married the right man.

## SYNOPSIS

Since many couples do not wish to have their weddings in a religious setting such as a church, temple, or mosque, they rely on wedding celebrants to officiate at their ceremony according to their wishes. Wedding celebrants. Typically go through formal training courses, and need to register with the government office of the jurisdiction where they will be practicing. Once registered, they can marry couples in virtually any location and at any time of the day or night.

May is a Chinese-Canadian woman stuck in an unhappy marriage. Her life changes the day that her best friend Peggy, a retiring wedding celebrant, asks May to take over her position, May accepts and begins her journey as a celebrant. When her husband's cousin, Nam, moves in with them to prepare his wedding, he asks for May's assistance. While helping out Nam and other engaged couples with their ceremonies, May tries to find a way to fix her own marriage and begins to realize her own feelings about true love.

## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

My aunt is a licensed wedding celebrant in Australia. She used to tell me amazing stories that came from different wedding ceremonies she had conducted. So one day, I decided to fly over and spend a month following her to over 30 weddings. During these weddings, I shot video tapes for her, and I learned one very interesting thing: even though I did not know any of these couples, I would still be moved to tears by their vows, by the moment they say "I do"... until death should tear them apart... Wedding ceremonies are powerful. They are fantasies come true.

But do all of these fantasies end 'Happily Ever After'? What if after the big day, you find out that you married the wrong person? What if one day your other half doesn't love you anymore, and your marriage becomes cold and unbearable? Do we stick to the VOWS we made at the ceremony, or do we stay true to our feelings? This is what I would like to explore with you in *The Wedding Celebrant*, through our heroine, May.

## DIRECTOR

### Barbara WONG Chun-chun

Barbara Wong Chun-chun has been the film director, writer and producer behind a long string of commercial and critical hits since 2000, including *Women's Private Parts* (2000), *Truth or Dare: Six Floor Rear Flat* (2003), *Break Up Club* (2010), and the more recent Chinese box office hits *The Allure of Tears* (2012), *The Stolen Years* (2013), *Girls* (2014), *The Secret* (2016), and *Girls 2* (2018). Barbara is a graduate of Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts – School of Drama, where she majored in Acting. After graduating, she entered New York University Graduate Film School.

## PRODUCER

### Gus LIEM

Gus Liem is a seasoned entertainment industry executive and film producer, with over 20 years of experience in a varied career as a film producer, senior corporate executive, live entertainment promoter, startup entrepreneur, investment banker and lawyer. Gus has been Barbara's film producing partner since 2003, when they founded Diva Productions.

## PRODUCTION COMPANY

### Real Pictures Entertainment

Real Pictures is a film company headquartered in Beijing that develops and produces high-quality theatrical feature films for the global Chinese market. Led by film director-writer-producer Barbara Wong Chun-Chun, Real Pictures has produced recent Chinese box office hits *The Allure of Tears* (2012), *The Stolen Years* (2013), *Girls* (2014), *The Secret* (2016), and most recently *Girls 2: Girls vs Gangsters* (2018) starring Fiona Sit, Chen Yi-han and Chang Ning and featuring Mike Tyson, which was released in March 2018.