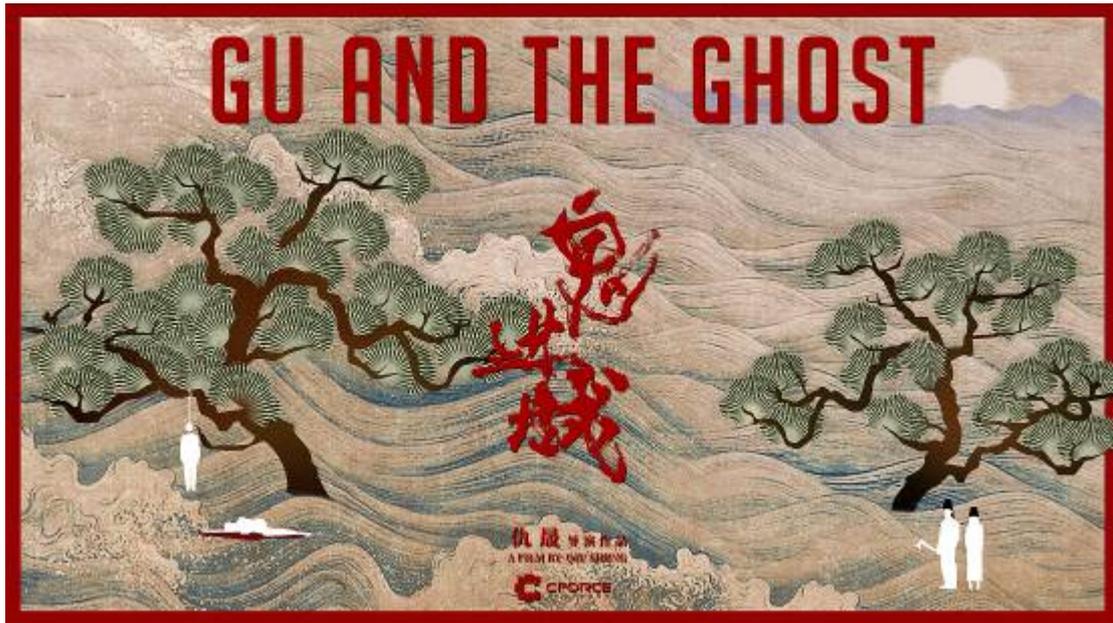


HAF 18 Gu and the Ghost



REGION: China

GENRE | FORMAT | LANGUAGE | RUNNING TIME:

Drama, Horror, Romance | Digital Format | Mandarin, English, German | 140mins

DIRECTOR:

QIU Sheng

PRODUCER:

Tony HAN

HAF GOALS:

Funds, Co-producers

BUDGET: US\$ 3,050,000

DIRECTOR'S FILMOGRAPHY

2018 *Suburban Birds*

ONE-SENTENCE SYNOPSIS

This is a two-part film about the poet Gu Cheng. The first part is a ghost story. The second part is a love story.

SYNOPSIS

Among the Maori tribes at the Waiheke Island, a ghost story is widely told: under the misted moonlight, a Chinese couple kill chickens with axes in their hands. Boge, a Maori woman, adopts a “Yellow Man” in his 30s, who has a baby girl of mixed races. One day, many chickens at Boge’s farm die, which arouses a widespread suspicion against the Yellow Man. The Maoris steal his daughter. On a misty moonlit night, the ghost couple enter the village, where the Yellow Man is waiting for them, and so is his axe...

In 1989, Li Ying comes to Waiheke Island to visit Gu Cheng and his wife. Later, she moves into the couple’s house, while their son is sent to Boge. They fall into a three-way love affair. In 1992, Gu and his wife go to Germany to give lectures there. Several months afterwards, news from New Zealand breaks Gu’s heart - Li Ying has eloped with an English man. In grief, Gu Cheng writes the prose-novel *Ying’er* with his wife Xie, who files for divorce shortly after they finish the book. When they return to Waiheke, Gu Cheng kills Xie with an axe and hangs himself afterwards.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Gu Cheng once wrote a poem called “Ghost Enters the City.” The poem is not only a portrayal of his experience of lecturing in Berlin, a city strange to him, but also a prophecy of his own destiny, because “Cheng” means “City” in Chinese. So “Ghost Enters the City” means that the ghost enters himself. Gu's ghost is his inner desire to return to nature and purity, which is also an echo of his family's forced exile in the wilderness in the era of Cultural Revolution. In the end, the ghost appeared in the form of sheer violence that ended the lives of Gu and his wife. The first part of the film tells a fictitious story of his son, as in Gu's dream, living in a tribe that civilization has not stained. But how will the “Yellow Man”, his son, face his own ghost?

DIRECTOR

QIU Sheng

Qiu Sheng was born in Hangzhou, China. He earned a bachelor’s degree in biomedical engineering in Tsinghua University before getting an MFA in film at Hong Kong Baptist University. Qiu has taken part in the Golden Horse Film Academy and Berlinale Talents. His feature debut, *Suburban Birds* (2018), was selected for Filmmakers of the Present Competition in Locarno Film Festival and more than 20 other film festivals. The film also won Best Narrative Feature in the 12th FIRST International Film Festival, Best Feature Film in the Novos Cinemas Festival and the NETPAC Award in the International Film Festival and Awards Macao.

PRODUCER

Tony HAN

Tony Han, producer and director is founder and CEO of CForce Pictures. He earned a B.A. in Journalism and Communication at Tsinghua University. He has been presenter and co-producer of *Suburban Birds* (2018, Official Selection–Modern Filmmaker program of 71st Locarno Film Festival, Best Narrative Feature of 12th FIRST International Film Festival); presenter and producer of *Single Cycle* (2019, Official Selection–Crouching Tiger Program, 3rd Pingyao International Film Festival); presenter and co-producer of *The River in Me* (2019); and presenter and producer of *Anonymous Beasts* (2018) and *A Song on Repeat* (2019).

PRODUCTION COMPANY

CForce Pictures

CForce Pictures is a rising film company devoted to content development, film production, film investment and talent management in the film industry. We have generated a group of talented screenwriters, directors and producers in the past two years. We would like to help those people discover themselves and express their actual feelings, without any stereotypes or limitations. We strive to lead the market of youth filmmakers by creating decent stories and figuring out good contents. Representative works include *Suburban Birds* (2018), *Single Cycle* (2019) and *The River in Me* (2019).