

## HAF 20 IOU



**REGION:** China

**GENRE | FORMAT | LANGUAGE | RUNNING TIME:** Drama | Digital Format | Mandarin | 100mins

**DIRECTOR:**

ZHANG Zhonghua

**PRODUCER:**

Julia CHU

SZE Kit-ling

**HAF GOALS:**

Funds

**BUDGET:** US\$ 1,526,977

**DIRECTOR'S FILMOGRAPHY**

2019 *The Home in the Tree*

2012 *Hearty Tomato*

2012 *A Running Mule*

2006 *Purple Top*

**ONE-SENTENCE SYNOPSIS**

A boy and his 12-year-old sister are trapped in their home by their father's creditor; they must make the best out of a seemingly desperate situation.

## SYNOPSIS

Two elementary school students, Li Jinlong and his elder sister, Li Yinxiu, are taken hostage in their own home by Wu Zhengliang, a schoolmate and business partner of their father's. Not being able to reach him after a failed illegal pigeon racing enterprise, Wu awaits the father's return. Rude and unreasonable, Wu tries this way to force their father to pay his money back. But he never had expected Li Jinlong to suffer from food poisoning; Wu has no choice but to take him to the hospital. Li Yinxiu's father comes back home during their absence and leaves some money before disappearing again. Li Yinxiu goes to Wu's home to bring the money her father left, only to find, in turn, a dozen creditors waiting there for Wu.

## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

I see this film as an ironic comment to the craziness of illegal fund-raising in recent years. As in my previous film *The House in the Tree* (2019), I follow the perspective of my young protagonists. My new project shows how people are thrown into a debt crisis because of their greed. It implores people to question the relationship between money and love, criticizes the indifference of the majority of people and their corrupted way of life, expounds on the importance of morality and good faith, and finally, praises sincerity and kind-heartedness in humanity. This film tells the story of two teenagers, two characters whom I have become acquainted with and attached to. The film focuses on the conflict between two youngsters and a man, a complete stranger, who literally moves into their home to collect a debt. But thanks to the kindness in their characters, human nature takes over and they begin to help each other as the story unfolds. In the end they are not hostile towards each other anymore. What happens later is moving, stirring and, I hope, believable. Sometimes people may be blinded by money, but the warmth of love will always prevail.

## DIRECTOR

### ZHANG Zhonghua

Zhang Zhonghua, a Chinese film director and screenwriter born in Xi'an, Shaanxi Province has made films including *Purple Top* (2006), rated as one of the "eight classical Shaanxi films"; *A Running Mule* (2012), Best Children's Film at Chinese Digital Films Baihe Awards; *Hearty Tomato* (2012), selected for the 28<sup>th</sup> Warsaw Film Festival; and *The Home in the Tree* (2019), which won the 1<sup>st</sup> Shaanxi Film Award and the Chinese Film Recommendation Award at the Golden Rooster Film Festival and Hundred Flowers Film Festival, and was selected for the 24<sup>th</sup> SCHLINGEL International Film Festival for Children and Young Audiences in Germany.

## PRODUCER

### Julia CHU

Julia Chu, a veteran in film productions, had worked for D&B Films, Bo Ho Films, Film Workshop, Go East Entertainment, Mythical Films and Emperor Motion Pictures. Her blockbuster film works included *An Autumn's Tale* (1987), *A Moment of Romance* (1990), *Once Upon A Time In China* (1991) and *The Legend of Fong Sai-Yuk* (1993). Her productions from 2014 to 2019 were *As the Light Goes Out* (2014), *Two Thumbs Up* (2015), *Port of Call* (2016), *Yesterday Will Be Perfect* (2018) (MAS Award winner at the 2018 Busan Asian Project Market), *Theory of Ambitions* (2019), *Fagara* (2019) and *Fatal Visit* (2019).

### SZE Kit-ling

She was a director-cum-producer at the General Program Division of Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK, a publicly-funded broadcaster). She involved in over 100 TV, music and movie production and creation. One of her award winning documentaries *Success Stories of Outstanding Chinese Series* featured the best-selling novelist Louis Cha Leung Yung (Jin Yong) as well as directors Ang Lee and John Woo.

## PRODUCTION COMPANY

### Golden Gate Productions Limited

Golden Gate Productions Limited was established by two veteran producers, Julia Chu and Kingman Cho in 2008. By using their expertise as producers, the company aims to facilitate finance and production services to the film industry, both local and international, including Identifying, selecting and developing appealing projects with strong commercial potential for various target markets; packaging and financing the projects with strategic partners or investors; and exploring markets, and providing project planning and management consultancy services for the Asian film talents.