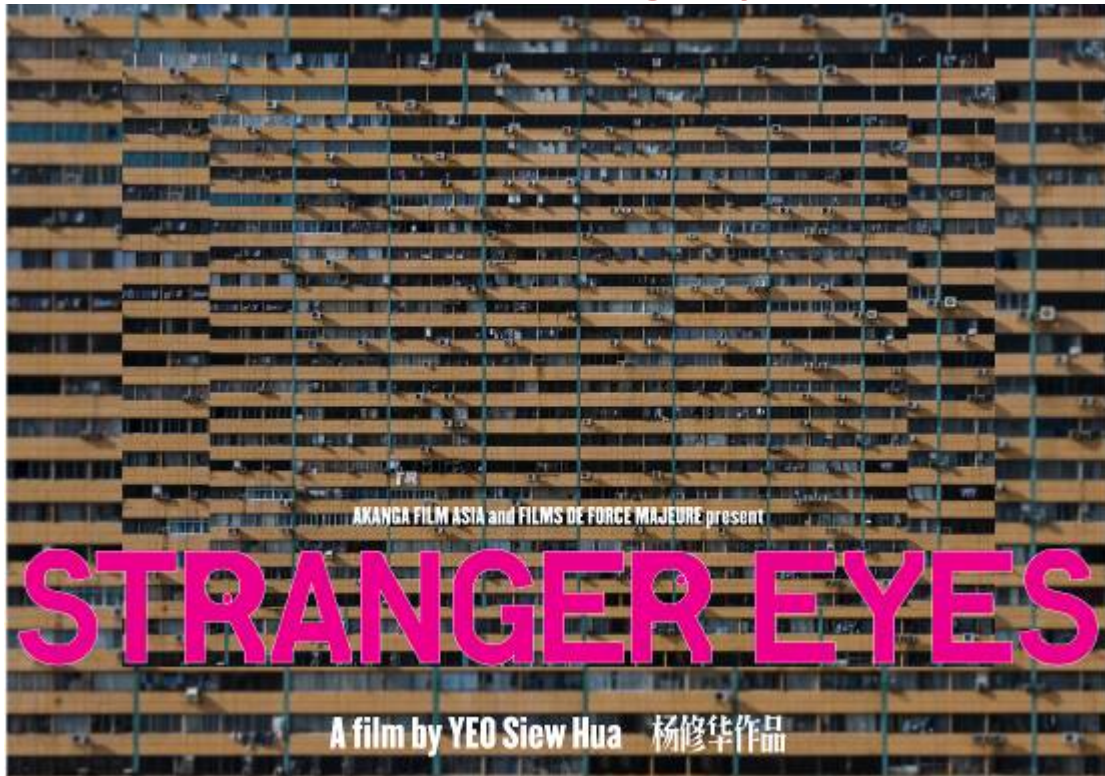


## HAF 27 Stranger Eyes



**REGION:** Singapore

**GENRE | FORMAT | LANGUAGE | RUNNING TIME:**

Drama, Suspense | Digital Format | Mandarin, English | 100mins

**DIRECTOR:**

YEO Siew Hua

**PRODUCER:**

Fran BORGIA

Dan KOH

**HAF GOALS:**

Co-producers, Sales agents, Pre-sales

**BUDGET:** US\$ 650,000

**SECURED BUDGET:** US\$ 130,000

**DIRECTOR'S FILMOGRAPHY**

2018 *A Land Imagined*

**ONE-SENTENCE SYNOPSIS**

In a city of total surveillance, a troubled cop shadows a delinquent scam artist. When hunter becomes hunted, a dangerous imitation game ensues, threatening to destroy them both.

## SYNOPSIS

In the small and highly surveilled state of Singapore, scam artist Darren (23) and his girlfriend, Tara (17), mastermind a syndicate of love scams and identity thefts to prey on elderly folk. They are being watched by veteran cop Goh (52), stalking them in the shadows. While on their trail, Goh discovers that Darren is a new father, but that the young thug is unable to handle fatherhood; Goh witnesses Darren trying to abandon the baby. Projecting his own wasted youth onto Darren, Goh becomes consumed by an obsessive voyeurism and pries into the young couple's private lives. Discovering Goh hot on his heels, Darren is intrigued by him. Darren reverses the gaze and stalks Goh secretly, imitating the latter in this process. Through this dangerous imitation game, Darren loses himself. The younger and older men start to look like they are one and the same person, as though past and future are staring into each other. Must the observer ultimately confront himself in the object of his gaze? All this while, nothing escapes the watchful eyes of the countless surveillance devices all around them – someone, or something, is always watching.

## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Our existence is increasingly becoming that of an image; something to be perceived by others and filtered by ourselves. Within cities that are constantly watching and being watched, we need to ask what it really means to see someone, not as points and patterns, but as an agent with a past, a present and a future, with the potential to change and to be understood. I am interested in what happens when we are being watched and what happens to those who do the watching. I believe that seeing is not a passive activity, so my characters, who actively observe each other, are transformed, because to truly see someone is ultimately to see and understand oneself in the object of one's gaze.

*Stranger Eyes* explores this relationship and its reversal through these acts of voyeurism, setting off a dangerous imitation game between the two protagonists, and drawing them into destabilizing their own identities plus eventually the worlds around them.

Continuing from my previous film, *A Land Imagined*, *Stranger Eyes* is a suspense thriller told in two parts, with a switch in viewpoints. *Stranger Eyes* further explores such themes as the shifting of identities, and newly investigates surveillance and the gaze.

## DIRECTOR

### YEO SIEW HUA

Yeo Siew Hua's *A Land Imagined* (2018) won the Golden Leopard grand prize at the 71<sup>st</sup> Locarno Film Festival, is Singapore's entry to the Academy Awards (Oscars) 2020, and is internationally distributed on Netflix. The film won Best Original Screenplay and Best Original Film Score at the 56<sup>th</sup> Golden Horse Awards, and Yeo was nominated for Best New Director at the 13<sup>th</sup> Asian Film Awards in 2019. He is a member of the Asia Pacific Screen Academy and Singapore's 13 Little Pictures film collective. After graduating from film school, he studied Philosophy at the National University of Singapore.

## PRODUCER

### Fran BORGIA

Born in Spain, Fran Borgia has been based in Singapore since 2004. The founder of Akanga Film Asia, Borgia produced *Here* (Cannes Directors' Fortnight 2009) and *Earth* (Venice 2009) by Ho Tzu Nyen; *Sandcastle* (Cannes Critics' Week 2010) and *Apprentice* (Cannes Un Certain Regard 2016) by Boo Junfeng; and *A Yellow Bird* (Cannes Critics' Week 2016) by K. Rajagopal. Recently, he produced *A Land Imagined* (Locarno, winner of the Golden Leopard 2018) by Yeo Siew Hua.

### Dan KOH

Associate producer and script consultant of *A Land Imagined*, Dan Koh is a Southeast Asian film producer and writer.

## PRODUCTION COMPANY

### Akanga Film Asia

Founded in 2005 in Singapore, Akanga Film Asia is an independent production company that produces quality films by the new generation of Asian filmmakers. Akanga's titles include Ho Tzu Nyen's *Here* (Cannes Directors' Fortnight 2009); Boo Junfeng's *Sandcastle* (Cannes Critics' Week 2010); Lav Diaz's *A Lullaby to the Sorrowful Mystery* (Berlin, winner of the Silver Bear Alfred Bauer Prize 2016); K. Rajagopal's *A Yellow Bird* (Cannes Critics' Week 2016); and two Singapore Oscars entries: Boo Junfeng's *Apprentice* (Cannes Un Certain Regard 2016) and Yeo Siew Hua's *A Land Imagined* (Locarno, winner of the Golden Leopard 2018).