

## HAF 28 The Sunny Side of the Street



**REGION:** Hong Kong

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

Drama | Digital Format | Cantonese, English, Urdu | 100mins

**DIRECTOR:**

LAU Kok Rui

**PRODUCER:**

Peter YAM Yin-cheung

**HAF GOALS:**

Funds, Co-producers

**BUDGET:** US\$ 1,000,000

**DIRECTOR'S FILMOGRAPHY**

First Feature Director

**ONE-SENTENCE SYNOPSIS**

A Hong Kong taxi driver takes a refugee boy on the road to escape pursuit by the driver's policeman son.

## SYNOPSIS

Yat is a taxi driver living in Hong Kong who despises the settlement of refugees in his neighbourhood. His policeman son, Hong, tries to encourage tolerance. One day while on the road, Yat accidentally kills a refugee driver. Hong spares his father from prosecution by amending the witness statements. Yat, disturbed by guilt, decides to seek out the family of the deceased and finds the son, Hassan. Hassan has been drifting around Sham Shui Po and is used by triads for gang fights against the police. Hong, while pursuing Hassan on duty, accidentally kills his superior and tries to frame Hassan with the killing. Yat, who witnessed the whole incident, persuades Hassan to flee to mainland China. Yat and Hassan build a special relationship on the road. Moments before boarding the smuggler's boat, Hassan learns that Yat is his father's killer.

## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

*The Sunny Side of the Street* is my first feature and the product of my recent observations. While working on documentaries on stateless boat people in Malaysia and refugees in Hong Kong, my biggest challenge has been dealing with the proposition that the refugees choose their own fate – where, in fact, they have no choices. They are pushed about by the forces of the times, drifting from one place to another. Their children grow up in tumult. I want to make a film about a refugee and a Hong Kong local, where the refugee ultimately does make his own choice.

## DIRECTOR

### LAU Kok Rui

Lau Kok Rui is a Hong Kong-based Malaysian writer-director who graduated from the 11<sup>th</sup> Golden Horse Film Academy. His directorial works include fiction, documentary and TV drama; *Let's Get Lost* (2017), *Have A Nice Day* (2018), *How High the Moon* (2019), were selected by numerous film festivals, such as the Asian American International Film Festival (USA) and the Fresh Wave International Short Film Festival (Hong Kong). He is currently developing his first feature film, *The Sunny Side of the Street*, which won the Script Service Award in Film Lab of Hong Kong - Asia Film Financing Forum.

## PRODUCER

### Peter YAM Yin-cheung

Peter Yam is a Hong Kong-based independent film producer. Yam produced the Yamagata International Film Festival Ogawa Shinsuke Prize winner *Yellowing* (2016), directed by Chan Tze-woon, which also nominated for 2016 Golden Horse Best documentary and the documentary *Lost in the Fumes* (2017), directed by Nora Lam, which was awarded the Chinese Documentary Award Special Jury Prize by 2018 Taiwan International Documentary Film Festival.

## **PRODUCTION COMPANY**

### **Thousand Sails Pictures Limited**

Thousand Sails Pictures is a Hong Kong-based film production company founded by Eric Tsang Hing-weng and Lau Kok Rui. Thousand Sails gathers independent filmmakers with unique voices and visions of the future. We produce original works as well as facilitating co-production. Through contemporary ways of story-telling we strive to foster dialogue between peoples and cultures. As the Chinese poetry goes: “By the side of a vessel sunk, a thousand sails are floating past”, we embrace every trial and believe it is necessary for achieving our goals.