

HAF 17 Getting Nowhere



COUNTRY/REGION: China

GENRE | FORMAT | LANGUAGE | RUNNING TIME:

Drama | Digital Format | Putonghua, Northern Dialect | 100mins

DIRECTOR:

YANG Mingming

PRODUCER:

YANG Jing

HAF GOALS:

Funds, Co-producers, Sales agents

TOTAL BUDGET: US\$2,424,372

SECURED BUDGET: US\$122,289

DIRECTOR'S FILMOGRAPHY

2018 *Girls Always Happy*

ONE-SENTENCE SYNOPSIS

Dayan, a "road wife" to her truck-driver husband for eight years, discovers his dirty secret on their final run. Swallowing her pride till journey's end, she plots revenge.

SYNOPSIS

Ever since her trucker husband's leg gave out eight years ago, Dayan has been riding along on his freight runs. Multi-tasking as a work partner, wife, housekeeper, even a stand-in driver whenever he's too tired, she keeps things ship-shape in the tiny cabin. When the economy sours, the couple decides to transport one last lot of cargoes, then sell up and settle down. Little does Dayan expect to discover clandestine goings-on between her husband and a young waitress at a roadside diner. Even as her world crumbles, the cargo can't wait, and highway dangers still lurk around every bend. Dayan numbly carries on with her 'job' while plotting her revenge, but a meeting with the waitress ends up changing her mind. She decides to take on a few more freight runs with her husband, before selling the truck. They retire at 50 with a new apartment, and she's relieved to bid farewell to life on the road: At last she gets to "go nowher".

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

The "road wife"— a woman who accompanies her trucker husband on his road trips, eating and sleeping wherever the job takes them. A work partner, a wife, a housekeeper, even a stand-in driver when he's too tired. She has to look out for road hazards and detours, the driver's emotions and his sexual needs. It is an exhausting, and unpaid vocation — to be subservient to her husband, just like a cog in his truck's wheel. And yet, it is what he relies on the most for everything to run smoothly.

My film will paint an intimate portrait of these women, their joys and desires, as they toil away unpaid in a noisy, stressful and de-sexualized environment.

DIRECTOR

YANG Mingming

Writer-director Yang Mingming's *Female Directors* (2012) won the Best Short Film Award at the 7th Chinese Young Generation Film Forum. Her first feature *Girls Always Happy* (2018) was nominated for the Best First Feature Award at the 68th Berlinale Panorama, won the Young Cinema Competition Firebird Award and FIPRESCI Prize at the 42nd Hong Kong International Film Festival, and Best Director at the 20th International Women's Film Festival, Seoul.

PRODUCER

YANG Jing

YANG Jing was selected by the 2017 China Film Foundation-Wu Tianming Film Fund for Young Talents to participate in the Producer Cultivation Programme, and attended the Marche du Film's Cannes Producers Workshop. He worked on Yang Chao's *Crosscurrent*

(2016), Yang Mingming's *Girls Always Happy* (2018) and Xu Zhenhao's *Give Me a Ride* (2019).

PRODUCTION COMPANY

Beijing Trend Cultural Investment Co., Ltd.

The company is committed to investing in film productions of cultural importance and social responsibility. Completed projects include *Female Directors* (2012), *Crosscurrent* (2016), *Girls Always Happy* (2018) and *Give Me a Ride* (2019).