

HAF 18 Her Lullaby



COUNTRY/REGION: Hong Kong

GENRE | FORMAT | LANGUAGE | RUNNING TIME:

Drama | Digital Format | Cantonese | 120mins

DIRECTOR:

Oliver CHAN Siu-kuen

PRODUCER:

Oliver CHAN Siu-kuen

HAF GOALS:

Funds, Co-producers

TOTAL BUDGET: US\$1,050,574

SECURED BUDGET: US\$9,600

DIRECTOR'S FILMOGRAPHY

2018 *Still Human*

ONE-SENTENCE SYNOPSIS

Suk-jing, an ordinary woman in her 30s, embarks on the journey of becoming a “good mother”, only to find herself getting devoured by the new identity.

SYNOPSIS

Suk-jing has lived an ordinary life for 35 years. She is a baker at a low-end bakery and lives with her husband and his parents in the suburbs of New Territories. She has welcomed twin babies, a boy and a girl, into the world recently, and her life is never the same.

Mothering has become very stressful for her. She is by default the one to rear day and night and thus also the one to be blamed when the babies aren't fit and healthy, or cry incessantly. Her husband is as good as absent even when present, since he never actively participates in parenting. She is also worn down by endless conflict with the in-laws about child raising, and distressed by her body's postpartum changes. When Suk-jing loses her beloved job due to frequent childcare leave, her life starts to fall apart.

While striving to be a “good mother”, she has lost pieces of herself. Before she is aware of it, she has become drained, both physically and emotionally. Then one day, she feels so devastated that she has to find an immediate way out, even if it leads to tragedy.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

I used to wonder how vicious those mothers are, when I read about them murdering their babies. It is only until I have become a mother myself, that I started to feel for them. We cannot simply put these tragedies as results of post-partum depression, there are other reasons and rigid gender roles play a key role. Motherhood seems to be a blind spot in the pursuit of gender equality; mothers' sacrifices are taken for granted. Society is indifferent and fails to provide support to mothers. I feel the urge to convey these struggles through cinema and explore with the audience on reshaping the gender landscape.

DIRECTOR

Oliver CHAN Siu-kuen

Chan is a new generation director and scriptwriter from Hong Kong. She graduated from the Business School of Chinese University of Hong Kong, and received an MFA in Scriptwriting at Hong Kong Baptist University. Her debut feature *Still Human* was selected by various international film festivals and earned her awards including Best New Director of the 38th Hong Kong Film Awards.

PRODUCER

Oliver CHAN Siu-kuen

(same as director)

PRODUCTION COMPANY

No Ceiling Film Production Limited

Founded in 2017, the company's first production *Still Human* was winner of the 3rd First Film Fund Initiative of Create Hong Kong, and received a production budget of HK\$3.25 million. The film was released in 2019 and received a box office of HK\$19 million in Hong Kong as well as multiple awards at international film festivals, including Best New Director, Best Actor, Best New Performer at the 37th Hong Kong Film Awards; Golden Mulberry Audience Award and Black Dragon Critics Award at the 21st Far East Film Festival, among others.