

HAF 19 HERs



COUNTRY/REGION: Hong Kong

GENRE | FORMAT | LANGUAGE | RUNNING TIME:

Drama | Digital Format | Cantonese, Putonghua | 90mins

DIRECTOR:

Susie AU

PRODUCER:

Joe CHAN

HAF GOALS:

Funds

TOTAL BUDGET: US\$6,448,808

DIRECTOR'S FILMOGRAPHY

2007 *Ming Ming*

ONE-SENTENCE SYNOPSIS

Through six photographs, a dying photographer takes her actress friend on a journey to a hidden past that walks them through lies, betrayal, redemption, and love.

SYNOPSIS

Born in China and raised in Toronto, Polar is an internationally renowned photographer. In the art world, her images are acclaimed for their power to authentically depict the true nature of women. Polar returns to her hometown in China to visit her best friend Fay, now a famous actress. Serendipity brought them together, and they became closely acquainted over the years. Hoping to portray ordinary women in reality, Fay takes Polar's advice and produces a reality show about the mundane daily lives of women.

Whilst attending the show's press conference in Beijing, Polar faints. Only then does Fay find out that Polar is gradually losing her sight. Polar had actually known about her illness all along. Her wish for the trip is to find out the true story behind six photos connected to different phases of hers and Fay's lives. Since Fay only remembers fragments, Polar helps Fay piece back her broken memories by revisiting the stories behind each photo. Torn between memory and reality, as well as past and present, the two women finally find common ground in a surprising, transparent moment of shared recognition.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

I've persisted in using multiple visual medium to continue my passion of exploring women's inner lives. I've always wondered, do women on screen reflect how they are in reality? With franchises like *Wonder Woman* and *The Hunger Games*, Hollywood reinforces the concept of women in power on the screen, but what about women on screen in our culture? I developed *HERs* when I saw how technology was becoming so convenient that it changed how everyone sees reality, and the images that the media feeds us with every day has become a large part of that reality. That thought inspired me to revisit childhood photos. I saw faded colours, demolished buildings and dead relatives. The past has transformed into signifiers of time, memory, and emotions, reconnecting our fluid identities in reality. Polar is a photographer; Fay is an actress. The former searches for the missing past through images while the latter tries to connect to reality by taking on another persona. What is the reality hidden in a photo? What is real and unreal? These characters' paths will intertwine in the tales of lies, betrayal, redemption, and love that lie in the six photographs.

DIRECTOR

Susie AU

After obtaining a film degree in New York, Susie Au became a music video director to pursue her cinematic vision. Long recognised as one of the finest music video directors in the region, Au has won numerous awards for her past works. Au's signature visual style is innovative and feminine. Shifting her focus to scriptwriting and new media installation in recent years, Au entered the Nipkow Programme in Berlin, Germany to develop a cross-cultural feature about contemporary Chinese women. Au also directed *UTOPIA*,

Momentarily, a multi-media music theatre show that was praised for its unusually innovative production.

PRODUCER

Joe CHAN

Joe Chan has extensive experience in film productions with international stars and directors. He was the agent for pop icon Leon Lai and the managing director of Paciwood Entertainment. Chan was also a producer on films such as Wong Kar-wai's *Days of Being Wild* (1990), Clara Law's *Farewell China* (1990), Jeff Lau's *92 Legendary La Rose Noire* (1992) and Wilson Yip's *Leaving Me, Loving You* (2004). Over the past years, Chan has helped finance and manage large-scale productions with co-investments and co-production partners around the Asia-Pacific region.

PRODUCTION COMPANY

Handmade Films Ltd.

Handmade Films is a film production company established in Hong Kong in the late 1990's. It has produced many award-winning music videos and TV commercials, working with clients from mainland China and other international markets. Handmade has expanded its strength to new media creative work, including short films, concert videos and art installations.