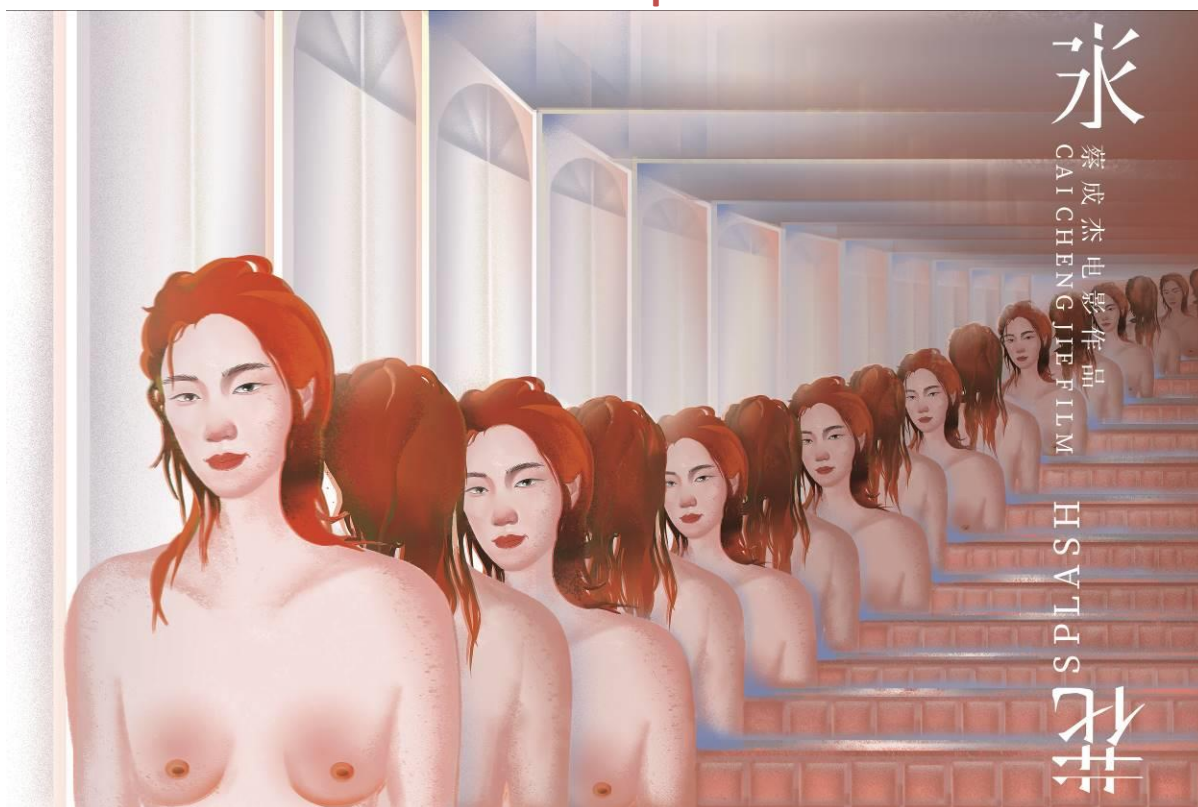


## HAF 23 Splash



**COUNTRY/REGION:** China

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

Drama | Digital Format | Putonghua | 100mins

**DIRECTOR:**

CAI Chengjie

**PRODUCER:**

CAI Chengjie

**HAF GOALS:**

Funds, Sales agents

**TOTAL BUDGET:** US\$740,004

**SECURED BUDGET:** US\$103,460

**DIRECTOR'S FILMOGRAPHY**

2018 *The Widowed Witch*

**ONE-SENTENCE SYNOPSIS**

Just before completing graduate studies, Qiqi gets drunk, and is sexually assaulted. In this complicated world, her fight is beset with difficulties, unspeakable pain, even danger...

## SYNOPSIS

Right before her thesis defense, Qiqi experiences the darkest moment of her life — she is sexually assaulted, in her supervisor’s apartment when she got drunk. In spite of physical and mental pain, Qiqi courageously tells the truth. During the police investigation, her parents, boyfriend, girlfriend, police officers and faculty staff all hold divergent attitudes. The offender insists they had consensual sex. Such conflicting accounts just muddy the waters.

In a desperate mood, Qiqi goes out with her girlfriend, only to find herself nearly assaulted again. To her surprise, the offender rescues her, which complicates their entanglement. However, a strange turn of events leads Qiqi back to where it all began 24 hours after the assault. This time, there seems to be no escape...

## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

The film explores the sexual assault of a female intellectual. From the viewpoint of a graduate student, it depicts her encounters on the day following the assault, as well as various responses from her parents, boyfriend, girlfriend, the police, the university faculty and the media. Capturing how she undergoes a change in mentality, the film intends to show the unspeakable pain women suffer and the exploitation they face in society.

I plan to recreate the events objectively and realistically in a documentary style, in order to capture the subtle change in her feelings and reveal her inner world. The film will be simple, natural, and direct. I will refrain from any method that may distract the viewers from the story. I will ensure the continuity of performances and avoid extreme camera angles, to maintain dramatic tension throughout the true-to-life narrative.

## DIRECTOR

### CAI Chengjie

Chinese writer-director who made his mark with his first film *The Widowed Witch* (2018), which won the Tiger Award at the 47th International Film Festival Rotterdam, as well as Best Narrative Feature and Best Director at the 11th FIRST International Film Festival. Cai is considered one of the most promising directors in Chinese cinema.

## PRODUCER

### CAI Chengjie

(same as director)

## PRODUCTION COMPANY

### **Seshizi (Beijing) Motion Pictures**

Founded in 2018. Its recent production, *The Widowed Witch* (2018), won the Tiger Award at the 47th International Film Festival Rotterdam.