

HAF 24 Sunfire



COUNTRY/REGION: China

GENRE | FORMAT | LANGUAGE | RUNNING TIME:

Drama | Digital Format | Putonghua | 120mins

DIRECTOR:

YANG Rui

PRODUCER:

FANG Li

HAF GOALS:

Funds

TOTAL BUDGET: US\$4,000,000

SECURED BUDGET: US\$1,800,000

DIRECTOR'S FILMOGRAPHY

2017 *The Chainbreakers*

2010 *Crossing the Mountain*

2006 *The Bimo Records*

ONE-SENTENCE SYNOPSIS

A small team of postal workers in Tibet, faced with serious competition and logistical challenges in the e-commerce era, make a last-ditch attempt to preserve their honour.

SYNOPSIS

This film tells the story of a mail truck driver from the remote plateau mountains of Ganzi Tibetan area in Sichuan Province. For the past 30 years, he has been driving day after day around the bends of China's most dangerous alpine valley. He had enjoyed the era when China Post was a monopoly, but also suffered a low ebb due to vicissitudes of the industry. Not even avalanches, wolves, or robbers, could make him flinch, and yet, his financial plight caused by declining business and his family's misunderstanding makes him almost want to give up.

He finally chooses to risk his life to fight against the syndicate that controls the cordyceps business, so as to make enough money to sustain the mail truck. For as long as he can deliver mail to those living in remote pasturing areas, they would be able to receive letters and goods at low cost, even if other commercial couriers don't cater to them. Even if the deliveries might be slow, he can keep the postal service up and running, and thus prevent the people there from losing their undeniable rights.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

This is a road-movie-cum-western in a gritty style resembling the image quality of *The Hurt Locker*. It is the first screen depiction of how the towns of Ganzi Tibetan area are swept along by huge commercial tides in China from the end of the 1990s to the beginning of the 21st century. In this place connecting different provinces, where multiple ethnic groups including Tibetan and Han people live together, a team of Tibetans men manning the mail truck rise to the challenges of their time. Fighting bandits with wit and courage, they fulfil their responsibilities as postmen while defending the dignity of the underclass.

The protagonist Shenglong Dorji is a civilian hero. Blunt and bad-tempered as he is, he is also rigorous, self-disciplined and methodical in his work, even capable of deadpan humour. Although depicting life set in the frontier, the film actually reflects on the spiritual dilemma in our modern society. Despite the relentless pursuit of profit, speed and novelty, there will always be those willing to hold on to the traditional spirit in their own way, and never give up on people left behind by their age.

DIRECTOR

YANG Rui

Artistic Director of Beijing Shu Shu Shu Screen Culture Co., Ltd., Yang also teaches scriptwriting at Beijing Film Academy. Films she directed include *The Chainbreakers* (2017),

Crossing the Mountain (2010) and documentary *The Bimo Records* (2006). Her works have been nominated and won numerous national awards, most notable being the nomination of *The Chainbreakers* for the 17th Excellent Minority Film at Huabiao Film Awards.

PRODUCER

FANG LI

Born in Chengdu, Sichuan in 1953, Fang Li is Founder and President of Beijing Laurel Films Co., Ltd. He has produced films for China's most celebrated directors like Lou Ye (*Summer Palace*, 2006), Li Ruijun (*River Road*, 2014) and most of Li Yu's oeuvre: *Dam Street* (2005), *Lost in Beijing* (2007), *Buddha Mountain* (2010), *Double Exposure* (2012) and *Ever Since We Love* (2015). *Buddha Mountain* won Best Actress and Artistic Contribution awards in the Main Competition of the 23rd Tokyo International Film Festival. *The Continent* (2014), author Han Han's directorial debut, produced by Fang, was a national hit.

PRODUCTION COMPANY

Beijing Shu Shu Shu Screen Culture Co., Ltd.

A production company responsible for works such as *The Chainbreakers* and the short film *Flag of Totem*.