

HAF 28 The Peacemaker



COUNTRY/REGION: China

GENRE | FORMAT | LANGUAGE | RUNNING TIME:

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

DIRECTOR:

XU Lei

PRODUCER:

NING Hao

HAF GOALS:

Co-producers, Sales agents

TOTAL BUDGET: US\$6,258,038

SECURED BUDGET: US\$3,129,019

DIRECTOR'S FILMOGRAPHY

2019 *Summer Detective*

ONE-SENTENCE SYNOPSIS

“The Peacemaker”, whose role as a mediator in his village, walks the tightrope between human relationships and the law, finally makes his own choice.

SYNOPSIS

Respected in his village for his upright personality, Bin often mediates disputes at the request of locals. Although he appears successful, he is actually in financial straits, after advancing RMB 2 million for a residential project that he was hired to oversee by property developer Dong. Even after construction was completed, no payment has arrived, and the workers are owed a lot of money. No matter how Bin chases Dong to pay up, the latter keeps putting him off.

Then one day, Dong approaches Bin for help when he hears that Tiejun, whom he has cuckolded, has just been released from prison. Fearing for his life, he begs Bin to intercede on his behalf. Bin is initially reluctant to get involved because he feels that Dong has done Tiejun wrong in the first place. However, when he learns that Dong has been hogging the money that he owes him, he pretends to mediate for him, but walks away after swindling him out of the RMB 1 million he’s owed. Just when Dong has to resort to going to the police, he gets a call from Tiejun, who tell him that he’s kidnapped Dong’s son. This time, Bin decides to step in.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Since ancient times, the Chinese imperial court has never been able to extend its power and governance to the provincial outposts. Therefore, private disputes were seldom resolved by law, and instead relied on arbitration by the local gentry. In modern China, the rural gentry has all but disappeared, but the rural population still remains. Hence, there is still demand for settling disputes outside of the courts. People from different walks of life have stepped in to fill this missing link in the social fabric. This story depicts what happens during the awkward transition from a society of rituals to one governed by Rule of Law.

DIRECTOR

XU Lei

XU Lei studied at the Communication University of China and Beijing Film Academy. He has written and directed a number of films, documentaries and commercials. Xu specialises in certain genres, namely, comedy and suspense. His short film *From Taipei to Shenbei* (2014) was in competition at the Shanghai International Film Festival. His first feature film, *Summer Detective* (2019), was nominated for Best Feature Film and won Best Cinematic Script at the 13th FIRST International Film Festival. It also earned him a nomination for Youth Director of the Year at the China Film Director’s Guild 2019 Awards.

PRODUCER

NING Hao

A Chinese filmmaker who boasts a track record of quality films that achieved huge success at the box office, Ning Hao knows how to make commercial films with his own distinctive style. *Crazy Stone* (2006) helped Ning become the fourth Chinese film director with a box office over RMB 100 million. Other well-known works include *No Man's Land* (2013), *Breakup Buddies* (2014) and *Crazy Alien* (2019). *Dying to Survive* (2018), which Ning executive-produced, grossed over RMB 1.89 billion within 6 days of its premiere, becoming the ninth highest-grossing film in Chinese film history.

PRODUCTION COMPANY

Dirty Monkey Productions

Branched out from director-producer Ning Hao's studio, Dirty Monkey Productions has become a major force in China's film industry. Its projects are developed to embody four key characteristics: Timeliness, innovation, local authenticity and auteur-driven. Working with new subjects, new aesthetic approaches and new film talents, Dirty Monkey strives to create iconic content of enduring cultural value that records the present and influences the future. The company culture brings together flourishing new talents, culture and attitude with the goal of establishing itself as an influential cultural brand of its time.