



# HEAVY CRAVING (大餓)

Taiwan  
Taipei PAS workshop 2017

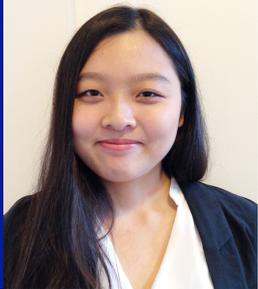
## Main data

Category: fiction  
Length : 90'  
Language : Mandarin chinese  
Shooting Format : HD  
Shooting location : Taipei  
Shooting dates : Spring 2018  
Expected dates of completion : June 2019  
Stage of production : development stage

## Production

Budget : € 725 964  
Financing in place : € 132 440  
Workshops and platforms attended : Selected for the Berlinale Talents Script Station Project Lab 2016, Winner of HAF Script Development Fund 2016, Semi-Finalist of Sundance International Screenwriter Lab 2017  
Current situation : Development stage

## Producer bio



Jing Wang is a film producer based in Shanghai. Her first feature, *Old Stone* world premiered at Berlinale and won Best Canadian First Feature Film at Toronto International Film Festival and Best First Feature at Canadian Screen Awards. Her projects in development, *Heavy Craving*, was part of Berlinale Talents Script Station and won the Development Award at Hong Kong Asia Film Financing Forum, *Ten Thousand Happiness* participated in Sundance Institute Screenwriting and Directing Lab, and was part of the Berlinale Co-Production Market and Hong Kong Asia Film Financing Forum, *Man with a Secret* participated in the Project Market at 2017 Shanghai International Film Festival.  
Jing graduated from Fudan University with a B.A. in Broadcast Journalism and received a M.F.A. in Creative Producing from Columbia University.

## Director bio



Pei-Ju Hsieh is a Taiwanese writer/director. After finishing her BFA in Motion Picture in National Taiwan University of Arts, she moved to New York and earned her MFA in Film Directing at Columbia University. Her short film *Knighthood* has screened at international film festivals including Palm Springs ShortFest, Frameline, Cinequest and Taipei Golden Horse Film Festival. Pei-Ju is currently developing her feature debut, which was selected for Berlinale Talents Script Station 2016 and was the winner of HAF Script Development Fund 2016.

## Contacts

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**Director**  
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**Director of Photography :**  
Ming Kai Leung



## Synopsis

YING-YING is a 35-year-old, lonely and obese woman. She lives alone in a dilapidated building and works as a cook in the afterschool program run by her demanding mother, MS. LIN. Regardless of Ying-Ying's talent in cooking, Ms. Lin despises Ying-Ying's obesity and constantly asks her to loose weight. But all Ying-Ying ever wants is a decent meal with her loved ones. On Ying-Ying's 35th birthday, Ying-Ying invites her mother to dinner. She puts all her heart into making a fancy dinner for two. But Ms. Lin never shows up. Instead, what she gets is a cruel prank from some teenage pranksters. At Ying-Ying's lowest point, a charming and energetic delivery boy XIAO WU shows up at her door. Ying-Ying is immediately attracted by his positivity and dreamy look. Determined to see Xiao Wu again, Ying-Ying starts to buy random things online, only for the brief moments with Xiao Wu when he delivers parcels to her door. She also begins a diet to make herself more desirable.

Ying-Ying's friendship with Xiao Wu soon develops. While there's an undeniable chemistry between them, Xiao Wu keeps a careful distance from Ying-Ying, as if there's an unpleasant past underneath his cheerful personality. At the afterschool program, Ying-Ying befriends a 10-year-old boy BILLY who has a secret urge of cross-dressing. Ying-Ying encourages Billy to be himself, but struggles with the insecurity of her own appearance. After loosing some weight, Ying-Ying soon reaches a plateau. She once again feels vulnerable and insecure, and starts to question her impossible dream of pursuing of Xiao Wu. To break the plateau, Ying-Ying begins an extreme diet of consuming only diet supplements and a small amount of food. As a result of the extreme diet and the constant hunger, She becomes weak and emotional. Until finally, the constant hunger and psychological stress slowly push Ying-Ying to an edge...

## Director's statement

"Growing up in Taiwan as a chubby teenager, I am well aware of how hurtful and narrow-minded this loving land can be when it comes to a "proper" body image. I was nicknamed "Chubby" by my dad during junior high school. For him, it was nothing but an innocent joke and a gesture of love. And now, ironically, with an average Asian figure, I'm complained by my mom for being too skinny. In our culture, it has become very natural for people to comment on others' appearances. Apparently, you're either too fat or you're starving yourself. There is no middle ground in between. As a filmmaker, I've always been interested in exploring diverse characters in an entertaining but sympathetic way. While the perception of beauty and female body image has been more and more discussed in western culture, we haven't seen many plus-size heroines in Chinese cinema. In Asia, a plus-size woman is rarely seen on screen without being stereotyped for comedic beats or minor supporting roles. This is an issue we want to bring up by making this film.

HEAVY CRAVING is a drama with a quirky sense of humor and some thriller elements. Being a fan of storybooks and fairy tales, I will approach the film with a high saturation and low-key visual style to create a fantastic dark fable tone. One of the moments I cherish the most in filmmaking is when an audience tells me I've told his or her story. HEAVY CRAVING is a universal story for everyone who feels insecure about his/her appearance and who has ever felt left out of the world.. "