



SIFTING THROUGH LIGHT (Shi Guang)

Taiwan
Taipei PAS workshop 2017

Main data

Category: Drama LGBT fiction
Lenght : 90'
Language : Mandarin chinese/french
Shooting Format : ARRIRAW 3.2K (1.85:1)
Shooting location : Taipei, Paris
Shooting dates : June-July 2018
Expected dates of completion : late 2018
Stage of production : development stage

Production

Budget : € 917 000
Financing in place : € 0
Workshops and platforms attended : --
Current situation : Development stage, seeking for partners

Producer bio



In 2007 Chin Chang received his MA degree in Enterprise & Management for Creative Arts at the University of the Arts London. Shortly after graduation, he worked as a Production Coordinator on the award winning film *Cape No. 7* which continues to hold the record for the top grossing film in Taiwan. He also worked on *Au Revoir Taipei* a co-production of Taiwan and Germany which received the NETPAC prize at the 2010 Berlin International Film Festival. Most recently, he produced the film *The Receptionist* which is co-produced by Taiwan and the UK and had its world premiere at the 2016 Golden Horse Film Festival. Chin's other credits in international co-productions include *The Betel Nut Girl* (2014, China and Taiwan), *I Love You, too* (2013, China and Taiwan), and *Der Chinese* (2010, Germany and Taiwan). Chin Chang brings over a decade of valuable experience in international coproduction to secure a team of professionals who can actualize this vision.

Director bio



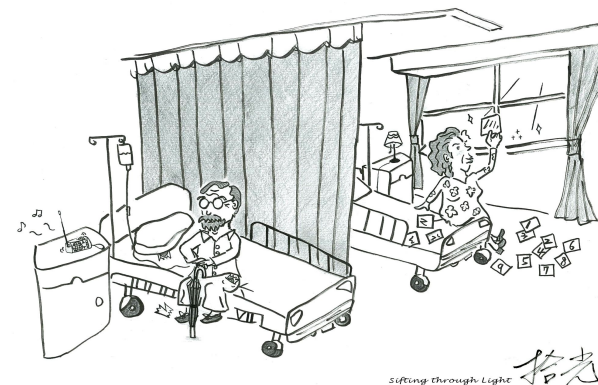
Before turning to filmmaking, Natasha had worked in creative department in leading advertising agencies such as Ogilvy and JWT for ten years. She received her MA degree in Filmmaking in 2009 at Goldsmiths College, University of London. One of her short films 'Ping Pong' (2008) was screened at the Sehsüchte International Student Film Festival (Potsdam, Germany). In recent years, she has worked as an assistant director for award winning film director Wi-Ding Ho. During these projects, she collaborated with the French companies Rumble Fish Productions and Plug Effects and accumulated great experiences in working with crews and actors from different countries and cultural backgrounds. She has also produced, written & directed commercials, indie shorts and feature length documentaries.

Contacts

Producer
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Director
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Director of Photography :
Steven Tsai



Synopsis

This is a story about companionship. Professor Chen, a nearly blind recluse, is forced to share a hospital room with Hua, a dementing photographer. They can't stand each other. But there is no way out. One day, Hua discovers that Chen has lied about having cancer to get his son to visit him. Incensed that a stranger has criticized him, Chen retaliates: "No one is completely honest with his family!" With this statement, he unwillingly unleashes a secret that Hua has been trying to forget for decades; this secret is hidden in a missing photograph.

These two elderly people - one can't see but won't accept help, the other can't remember but wants to reclaim her past - are trapped in one space. Yet, from their bickering develops an unexpected trust. Perhaps their growing dependence on each other could help them face the rest of their life journeys?

Director's statement

"Many of the elderly find themselves living in corners, forgotten by the rest of the world. As they struggle to accept their aging life, life seems no longer willing to understand them. In the story of Shi Guang, I explore the complex issues that aging societies must face. As people go through the final stage of their lives, how do they cope with disease, pain, and the day-by-day loneliness? Perhaps a challenge greater than all these is that the rest of the world doesn't seem to be willing or able to understand them. As a result, they are forced to find the meaning of old age on their own - their own importance as individuals. Through a companionship that results from a chance encounter, I attempt to discover the light the guides each one of us along the final steps of our journeys and offer a warm footnote to this seemingly disheartening process. A hospital double room provides the space and opportunity for Professor Chen and Auntie Hua and forces them to confront the unresolved conflicts they each face. If they had never met and forged this brief but important friendship, they probably would not have gained the courage to expose their vulnerabilities and overcome their fears. Auntie Hua's story comes to a premature end because of her dementia. But by visiting Hua's beloved Hiroko and "seeing" her through his blind eyes, Professor Chen completes Hua's journey for her - the journey to find peace and a lifelong regret. To me, the "destiny" that brings them together may be an Eastern concept, but the sentiments behind it are universal. Through their stories, I hope to comfort all the people facing old age, illnesses, separations, and loneliness - facing life."