

Category : Fiction film
Length : 90'
Language : Mandarin, Taiwanese
Shooting format : HD 4K
Shooting location : Taipei, New Taipei City, Taoyuan
Shooting dates : June 2017
Expected date of completion : April 2018
Stage of production : Development stage

Budget : 800 400 €
Financing in place : 0 €
Workshops and platforms attended : 2015 Golden Horse Film Project Promotion
Current situation : Seeking for international coproducer, sales agent

Steven TU PRODUCER



Steven is the CEO of Good Talent Entertainment, Ltd. He is a producer, screenwriter, film critic and film festival programmer. Steven has a master's degree in communication from Tamkang University. His thesis sets up martial arts films as a genre and explores the revolution of its aesthetics and form in the Chinese film history. He was the programmer for the Taipei Film Festival from 2011 to 2013 (...). He was nominated for Best Original Screenplay at the 47th Golden Horse Awards for « The Fourth Portrait ». Currently he is producing the feature film « Forêt Debussy » (2016).

SYNOPSIS

« A 23 years old middle school Civics teacher tries to get himself infected in order to save a dying relationship with his HIV positive boyfriend in the young democratic Taiwanese society, "The Teacher" follows a young man through his love story with HIV's shadow looming over it. It's about his struggle between love, sex, taboo, fear of disease and social oppression.
 In a chance encounter, Kevin has unprotected sex with Xin. He thinks it's love at first sight, until Xin reveals his HIV status. With few knowledge about HIV, Kevin is frightened. His test result comes out fine. He tries to keep away but just can't forget Xin. They run into each other at the gay parade, reconnect and quickly fall in love.
 Xin is hospitalized and has developed drug resistance. A new medication is prescribed yet its effectiveness is unknown. Madly in love, Kevin stands by Xin. They don't know what's ahead, but they believe love will conquer all.
 Xin starts to push Kevin away in fear that he is infectious. Kevin tries everything to win Xin back but failed. Out of desperation and provocation, Kevin seeks unprotected sex to get infected so their problem will be solved. A rumor breaks out at school. Although the principle claims to be supportive, Kevin is coerced to take an official test to assuage everyone. Kevin is in fear of losing everything. »

CONTACTS :

Steven TU : cinema6363@gmail.com
 Ming Lang Chen : wwff productions@gmail.com

Ming Lang Chen DIRECTOR



Ming Lang Chen is a Taiwanese filmmaker. He earned his MFA at New York University Graduate Film Program. His first feature film « Tomorrow Comes Today » (2013) premiered at Taipei Film Festival. The script won an award at Taiwan Ministry of Culture Department's screenplay competition as well as a production grant. He was selected to take part in Lower Manhattan Cultural Counsel's writer's residency in 2008. He received Ang Lee scholarship in his student years in NYU. « The Teacher » is his second feature and had been selected for 2015 Taipei Golden Horse Film Project Promotion.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT (extracts)

« My best friend's name is Aki. We met in the college years in Taipei. Our minds were so in sync we could call each other's bluff in a second. In the pre-internet age, we spoke on the phone for hours, reading newly written poems to each other for goofy fun and for criticism. He knew how to make me laugh when I was down; I knew how to calm him down when he was agitated. Looking back now, I realized it's the kind of friendship that you only get one in your life. And I let him die of AIDS. It was in the 90s', in the environment where AIDS was regarded as The Black Death. I knew he must have HIV and I didn't force him to take action. Aki died in 2002, at the tender age of 29.

At the time I was studying in New York, I couldn't attend his funeral. His passing away was not real for me. I couldn't feel it. There was nothing for me to grasp to be sure of. I thought I could always pick up the phone and dial his number, he'd answer with snarky remarks. I dreamed about him at times. It was so real. I went back to Taiwan, he was there. But his family would not let me see him because he was bedridden. He sneaked out to meet me, his body thin and frail. However, we had grown apart so much that there was nothing left to say. I woke up with cold sweats and saddened with a genuine confusion about his existence. Is he still alive on the other side of the earth? (...) »

