



Treeology (森林木人) Taiwan

Taipei PAS Workshop 2016

Category : Fiction film
Length : 100'
Language : Mandarin
Shooting format : HD
Shooting location : Southern Taiwan
Shooting dates : August 2017
Expected date of completion : February 2018
Stage of production : Development stage

Budget : 655 000 €
Financing in place : around 55 000 €
Workshops and platforms attended : --
Current situation : Seeking for international partners, sales agent

Treeology

森 林 木 人

"A crime involves a cypress tree"



A FILM BY CHEN YUNG CHI

Ming Ying LIN – PRODUCER



MingYing is a graduate from the London Film with MA in Filmmaking in 2009. Since moved back to Taiwan, She worked in different fields in film industry, such as post production, film festivals and film business. After working two years in maketing department in Taiwan Film Institute, She found her true passion lies in film prodction. Therefore, she decided to move her career path and apply her knowledge of film maketing to film production.

Chi Yung CHEN – DIRECTOR



After years as an advertising producer, Chen Yung chi switched to film production and began writing scripts and creating short films. In recent years, he has made four dynamic short films reflecting on his emotions from living in Taiwan's urban landscape. His works have been screened at international film exhibitions such as the Hong-Kong International Film Festival, Tokyo International Short Film Festival, and South Korea's Bucheon International Fantastic Film Festival.

SYNOPSIS

« University professor Chen Ming-tang, who has resorted to taking bribes to cut in kidney transplant waiting list for his wife, discovers a link between her illness and the theft of the new cypress wood table which she bought recently... Wen Jen, an exploited foreign worker forced to turn to illegal logging, begins striking back with a vengeance against those who have wronged him when an accidental death he caused drives him over the edge... Inatapalan, a middle-aged indigenous hunter, seeks vengeance against his son's killer and sets out to track down the tree of his memories... This is the story of three very different people whose lives become inextricably tied to a cypress tree as it goes through the three processes of being chopped down, turned into wood, and ultimately made into a table. It is a morality tale about the interweaving fates of humans and nature as examined through their coexistence and mutual destruction... »

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DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT (extracts)

« While natural disasters deserve compassion, man-made disasters deserve our resentment because they are avoidable. Taiwan's recent food safety scandals, for instance, arose out of the selfishness, greed and shortsightedness of those who put their own interests above the lives of others. But will the perpetrators then live happily ever after? Exploit someone today; be exploited by someone else tomorrow. One person's crime can harm an entire nation. There are ultimately no winners.

This is a "victims are also victimizers" story, a warning that if we keep overexploiting nature there will come a day when nature will eventually engulf us all. This film adopts a multiple-view narrative (three protagonists) to illustrate the nature of cause and effect. The narrative is also nonlinear in that it may reveal an outcome before taking audiences back to explain "why"; or it may leave them hanging in suspense before unraveling the truth. The film was shot primarily in eastern Taiwan, with rolling mountains and spectacular sea views adding to broadness of the visual scope. Natural light is utilized to provide realism, while the widescreen composition, character-driven angles and handheld camera techniques create a powerful perspective that strengthens the contrast between man and nature. »