



PRODUIRE AU SUD  
FESTIVAL DES 3 CONTINENTS  
nantes

# THE STRANGER

China

Produire au Sud Nantes 2017

## MAIN DATA

**Category :** Fiction  
**Length :** 110'  
**Language :** Chinese (various dialects)  
**Shooting format :** 4K  
**Shooting location :** China  
**Shooting dates :** September 2018  
**Expected dates of completion :** April 2019  
**Stage of production :** development stage

## PRODUCTION

**Budget :** 410000 €  
**Financing in place :** 110000 €  
**Production company :** Burn the Film  
**Workshops and platforms attended :** BoostNL (2017), Hubert Bals Development (Fund)  
**Current situation :** Development stage, seeking for partners

## ZHU SHENGZE - PRODUCER

Initially a photographer, Zhu Shengze co-founded Burn The Film in 2010 with Yang Zhengfan, and has worked as a producer and cinematographer for Yang's films. *Out Of Focus* (2014) is her directorial debut, which premiered at Cinéma du Réel (Paris). Her second feature documentary *Another Year* (2016) received the Best Film Award at Visions du Réel, the Grand Prix at the RIDM Montreal International Documentary Festival, and the Critic's Award at the Olhar de Cinema. The film was honored as one of the "Top 10 Films of the Year" by 24 Images Magazine in Canada. Zhu is currently working as the producer for Yang's fiction film *The Stranger*, and as the director for her third documentary film *Like a River Runs*.



## YANG ZHENGFAN - DIRECTOR

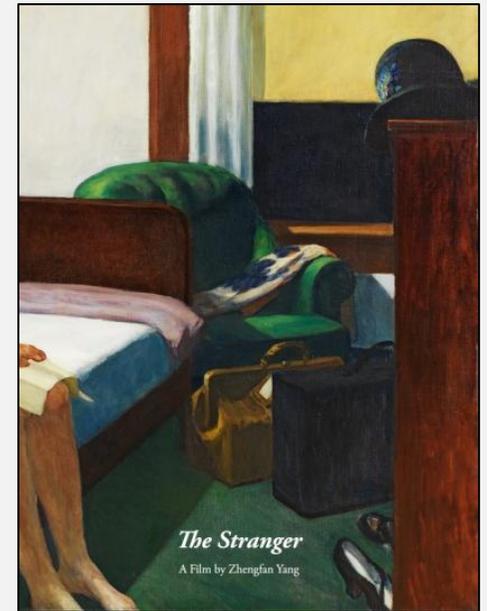
Yang Zhengfan was born in 1985, China. After graduating from law school, he co-founded Burn The Film in 2010 with Zhu Shengze. His debut feature *Distant* (2013) premiered at the Festival del Film Locarno and screened internationally at the Vancouver IFF, Warsaw FF and 3 Continents Film Festival in Nantes, among others. His second feature *Where Are You Going* (2016) premiered at Rotterdam International Film Festival and received the Jury Award at the China Independent Film Festival. He is also the producer and cinematographer for Zhu Shengze's two documentary films. Yang is currently developing a fiction film, *The Stranger*, which received support from the Hubert Bals Fund and is the last part of *The Outsider Trilogy*.



## SYNOPSIS

« *The Stranger* is the last part of *The Outsider Trilogy*, following on from my two previous films *Distant* and *Where Are You Going*. It comprises thirteen stories that take place in thirteen hotel rooms, each shot in a single long take. Set in Beijing, this film portrays the states of different Chinese people who come to the capital city from different parts of the country and stay in hotel rooms for a variety of reasons: two lamas who were born and raised in Tibet come to Beijing to see the flag-raising ceremony at Tiananmen Square; a group of farmers whose farmland was illegally occupied by the local government gather in a gloomy basement in search of justice; a middle-class couple take their severely ill father to Beijing to seek better medical treatment... They feel like strangers not only in the hotel rooms but also in their home country. »

– Yang Zhengfan



## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

« One day, when I was walking out of the hotel, I encountered a group of policemen checking around in the lobby and several journalists taking photos by the entrance. After seeing the news on the television later that day, I realized that something happened in one of the rooms in the preceding night - an unemployed, homeless, middle-aged man murdered a dropout-of-school, teenage prostitute and then committed suicide. For the rest of my stay there, I could not stop thinking about this. How do they look like? What happened to their families? How did they meet each other? What happened to them after they meet? What was the man thinking when he was killing the girl? What was the girl thinking when she was being killed by the man? Do they feel nostalgic for the past or this world? [...]

I was thus inspired to consider hotel room as the space to signify the theme of *The Outsider Trilogy*: separation, alienation, and isolation. Hotel room implies coming and going, people stay for only a short while, leaving us only a fragment of their lives, and we have to imagine the rest of the stories. *The Stranger* captures these moments when people stay in the rooms and their feeling of being separated, alienated, or isolated is thus intensified. [...]

I have a stronger feeling of being a stranger in my home country than in a foreign country. I don't feel at home here or elsewhere, and I would rather consider myself homeless in this world. Eventually, I decided to examine the country where I am from as a stranger, and I want to share my experience and express my feeling as an outsider not from the 'outside' but from the 'inside'. »

## CONTACTS

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