



PRODUIRE AU SUD
FESTIVAL DES 5 CONTINENTS
HORDES

TROPICAL BLUE

(熱帶性憂鬱)

Taiwan

Taipei PAS workshop 2018

MAIN DATA

Category : Drama
Length : 100'
Language : Mandarin
Shooting format : 4K Red
Shooting location : Taiwan
Shooting dates : March 2019
Expected dates of completion : December 2019 – January 2020
Stage of production : development stage

PRODUCTION

Budget : 1 774 355 €
Financing in place : 0 €
Production company: Filmagic Pictures Co.
(executive producer)
Workshops and platforms attended : Golden Horse Project Promotion
Current situation : Development stage, seeking for partners

Vicki Tsai – PRODUCER

Tsai graduated with a BA in Communication from the National Chung Cheng University. She had several years of experience in film post production since 2011 (*Forêt Debussy, The Rooftop*) and in administrative production (*Lucy, The Crossing, Bleeding Steel*).



Chi Jan Hou - DIRECTOR

Having worked on the "Database of Taiwan Cinema" during his college days, Hou's works tend to be lyrical and stylish, and are often characterized by the themes of time and memory. His experimental short, *Stardust 15749001*, won the Grand Prix at the Taipei International Film Festival in 2003. His second short, *My 747*, won the Grand Prix of Hong Kong IFVA Independent Short Film & Video Award in 2006. His documentary work, *Taiwan Black Movies* was nominated for the Golden Horse Awards and invited to many international film festivals.

Hou Chi-Jan's first feature film *One Day* has been selected in Berlinale Forum 2010. In the same year, his short film *Juliet's Choice*, from the Pushing Hand Project produced by Khan Lee, is selected in Asian short film Competition in Busan International film festival and theatrical released in December 2010. Hou Chi-Jan's second feature film *When a Wolf Falls in Love with a Sheep* has released in Autumn 2012 and was nominated in Asian Film Award and Golden Horse Award, won the Best Technical Achievements at the Taipei International Film Festival.

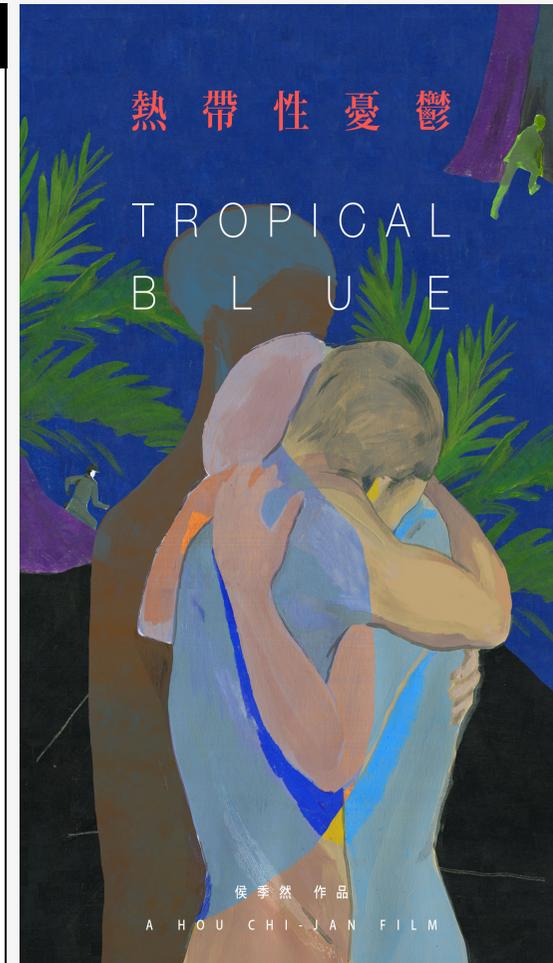


SYNOPSIS

In the early 1970s in Taiwan, B-52 bombers land and take off without pause at the U.S. military base. Bo, a young man, arrives at the South Night Club, a hangout for American soldiers. He comes to look for his mother, Pan Hsiu-tao, but no one in the club has ever heard of her. Lieutenant Colonel Stevenson promises Bo that he would help him find his mother. Underneath its harmonious and glamorous façade, the South Night Club serves as a ring in which people compete for power and sex. Jay, a club driver, is Stevenson's secret lover. The pair met in the "Black Forest", a gay cruising area, and have developed a clandestine sadomasochistic relationship. Jacqueline, the soul singer in the club, is forced into prostitution by the special agent since her father was a political prisoner. General Kong, a retired military officer who owns the club, tries to survive in the power struggle between the U.S. force and the local mafia. Later in a card game, General Kong offends the local gang boss Masha. Amy, a bar girl who is an alcoholic and drug addict, claims that Bo is her son. The soldiers cheer and congratulate them on their reunion. Amy and Bo spend a wonderful night together before Amy dies of drug overdose.

In fact, Bo is Jacqueline's son. Jacqueline is going to marry a Malaysian businessman and leave Taiwan for good, but General Kong threatens her with her secret of Bo and asks her to keep working in the club. Driven to despair, Jacqueline kills General Kong by accident.

Jay has fallen for Stevenson and asks Stevenson to take him to the U.S. Worrying that his homosexuality might be exposed, Stevenson turns Jay down. When the gangsters try to rob them in the "Black Forest", Stevenson runs away on his own, leaving Jay to face the darkness and violence alone. Jacqueline walks onto the stage after the fatal accident. With his cohorts, Masha comes to seek revenge and sets the club on fire. In the burning blaze, Jacqueline and Bo manage to escape. Jacqueline and Bo are taken to the police station for questioning, where mother and son finally meet each other. When they are released the next morning, Jacqueline brings Bo back to the military base and asks Stevenson to take Bo to the U.S..



DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

« Next door to my mother's *alma mater* is an extensive American barrack, built in the 1950s, now abandoned. It is a dream-like place, with grassy green lawns, white-washed walls, red tiled roof, clean and orderly. As a child, my mother would bring me to the barracks, on days when life required consolation. We would lie on the grass, staring past the white buildings at the clouds and the blue skies. Life would seem better. That was my first impression of America.

During the Cold War years, Taiwan received aid from the U.S. and became a way station for the American military resupply chain. From 1965 on, the island was a quintessential vacation destination for American troops, away from the battlefields of Vietnam. Every American soldier had a five-day leave. Everyday, five planes arrived in Taiwan from Vietnam. At the peak of this time period, 20,000 American soldiers roamed Taiwan daily, their sheer volume driving an economy based on temporary visits, the wealth of the American soldier a beacon of hope for the then-impooverished island. This era left behind complicated emotions and memories that marked many Taiwanese..» (...)

CONTACTS

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