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# ARE YOU LONESOME TONIGHT? 热带往事

A FILM BY WEN SHIPEI

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# Synopsis

A young man who believes he has caused a fatal accident develops an ambiguous relationship with the dead man's widow, while a policeman tries to resolve the investigation that will change his life forever.

95min – China – 2021 – Scope – 5.1

# Director's Statement

My father used to smuggle cars in the 1990s. He committed other small-time crimes, too. According to him, it was a good time for the “risk takers”, for someone like him with nothing to lose. During my childhood, there were times he had to “disappear” for a few weeks to hide from loan sharks, leaving my mother and me to deal with the consequences. However, I never doubted that he had a good heart. He was the most complicated yet the dearest criminal to me.

My mother also possessed a strange set of surviving skills. When I was 10, a group of gangsters knocked on our door and threatened to burn the house. I remember my fear turning into anger, but my mom remained calm, offered tea and had a long talk with them. I was amazed. Witnessing her unexpected approach indirectly planted the seed for this story. And by listening to the gangsters, I understood the complexity that had previously escaped me.

Now having finished my first feature, I understand myself better than before. I realize where the sympathy for “villains” comes from. In fact, we might all be born with “anti-hero” qualities. It just happens that the hero in my film exists in a No Man’s Land, where morals and reasons are disputable.

Humans are limited, imperfect, and sometimes do unreasonable things. I am attracted to the hidden impulses that lie behind these actions, because they reflect the deeper self. And yet, we live in a world where everything is interconnected. Our wrongdoing has an effect on others and often we can’t see the whole picture.

If my film has a point to make, I believe it is to raise this question: given our past, can we forgive ourselves? We must face the past if we are to live in the present. When memories have themselves become a form of punishment, how might we redeem ourselves?

- WEN Shipei, 2021

# Director Biography

## WEN SHIPEI – Director and Co-Writer

Wen Shipei is a Chinese writer and director. With a background in journalism and commercial production, Shipei attended the graduate film program at Columbia University, where he studied directing and screenwriting.

ARE YOU LONESOME TONIGHT is his feature debut, it participated in Shanghai International Film Festival's Project Market and won the Talent Highlight Award at Berlinale Talent Project Market.

# Director Biography

- 2021 Are You Lonesome Tonight?
- 2016 A Short Film About Nothing (short)
- 2015 Mr. Dodson (short)



## EDDIE PENG biography

Eddie Peng is one of the most versatile and sought-after Chinese actors. His preparation and dedicated focus have been rewarded by both audience reception and numerous award nominations throughout Asia.

Peng had his breakthrough performance in *Jump!Ashin* in 2011, and was nominated for Best Actor at the Golden Horse Awards. He earned further nominations for Best Supporting Actor and Lead Actor roles in *Unbeatable* (2013), directed by Dante Lam, and *Rise of the Legend* (2014). *Our Time Will Come* (2017), directed by Ann Hui, earned Peng a Best Supporting Actor nomination at the Asian Film Awards. In 2018, Peng took the lead role in *Hidden Man*, directed by Jiang Wen, which was selected to represent China for the Best Foreign Language Film at the Academy Awards®.

## Selected Filmography

- 2018 Hidden Man (dir. Jiang Wen)
- 2017 Our Time Will Come (dir. Ann Hui)
- 2014 Rise of the Legend (dir. Roy Chow Hin-Yeung)
- 2013 Unbeatable (dir. Dante Lam)
- 2011 Jump!Ashin (dir. Yu-Hsien Lin)





## **SYLVIA CHANG biography**

Sylvia Chang started her acting career in the 70s in Taiwan and Hong Kong. In a career that has spanned over 40 years, she has acted in more than 100 films. She earned her first Golden Horse Award for Best Supporting Actress with *Prosperity and Perplexity* (dir. Lee Hsing), and followed this honor with a Golden Horse Award for Best Leading Actress with *My Grandfather* (dir. Ko Chun Hsiung). Numerous nominations and awards, and widespread critical and popular acclaim have followed.

Sylvia is also an influential scriptwriter and film director. Since 1981, she has directed 13 films that have been well received both in Hong Kong and Taiwan and internationally. Her films have been invited to major international film festivals, including the Berlin International Film Festival, London Film Festival, Toronto International Film Festival, and Busan International Film Festival.

### **Selected Filmography**

- 2018 Long Day's Journey into Night (dir. Bi Gan)
- 2017 Love Education (dir. Sylvia Chang)
- 2015 Mountains May Depart (dir. Jia Zhangke)
- 2004 20•30•40 (dir. Sylvia Chang)
- 1986 Passion (dir. Sylvia Chang)
- 1981 My Grandfather (dir. Ko Chun Hsiung)
- 1976 Prosperity and Perplexity (dir. Lee Hsing)

## WANG YANHUI biography

Wang Yanhui, winner of the Wenhua Award, which is considered as the highest theatre honor in China, is the lead actor for Yunnan Modern Drama Troupe. In 2007, his excellent performance in *Trouble Makers* (dir. Cao Baoping) won a Chinese Film Media Award for Best Supporting Actor. Since his transition from theater into film, his acting has been widely recognized by the industry and audiences alike. Wang Yanhui delivers powerful performances by observing the nuance of the characters he portrays. His performance in *The Dead End* (dir. Cao Baoping) was particularly highly praised by Chinese critics.

## Selected biography

- 2019 Mosaic Portrait (dir. Zhai Yixiang)
- 2018 Dying to Survive (dir. Wen Muye)
- 2016 Cock and Bull (dir. Cao Baoping)
- 2013 The Dead End (dir. Cao Baoping)
- 2008 The Equation of Love and Death (dir. Cao Baoping)
- 2007 Trouble Makers (dir. Cao Baoping)

## JIANG PEIYAO biography

Jiang Peiyao, born in Beijing, is a fast-rising Chinese actress, who is pursuing her master degree in performing art at Beijing Film Academy. Jiang Peiyao has starred in several feature films, including *Line Walker 2: Invisible Spy* (dir. Jazz Boo), and *Sons of the Neon Night* (dir. Juno Mak), and the variety and power of her performances have been widely acclaimed by critics and audiences alike.

## Selected Filmography

- 2021 Eight Years Old Daddy (dir. Ha Zhichao)
- 2021 Sons of the Neon Night (dir. Juno Mak)
- 2019 Line Walker 2: Invisible Spy (dir. Jazz Boo)
- 2017 Ash (dir. Li Xiaofeng)





# Cast & Crew

## CREW

<i>DIRECTED BY</i>	Wen Shipei
<i>EXECUTIVE PRODUCER</i>	Ning Hao
<i>PRODUCERS</i>	Hu Jingxuan, Wang Jing
<i>SCREENWRITERS</i>	Zhao Binghao, Wang Yinuo, Wen Shipei, Noé Dodson
<i>DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY</i>	Andreas Thalhammer, Xiaosu Han, Cedric Cheung-Lau, Zhang Heng
<i>PRODUCTION DESIGNER</i>	Cheung Siu Hong
<i>ART DIRECTORS</i>	Hsu Kuei Ting, Lu Wei
<i>COSTUME DESIGNER</i>	Seven Chi Ching Chan
<i>COMPOSER</i>	Hank Lee
<i>EDITORS</i>	Zhu Lin, Will Wei, Dong Jie, Noé Dodson, Cao Hangchen
<i>SOUND SUPERVISORS</i>	Tu Duu-Chih, Li Dan-Feng, Chiang Yi-Chen

## CAST

Eddie Peng <i>as XUEMING</i>
Sylvia Chang <i>as MRS. LIANG</i>
Wang Yanhui <i>as DETECTIVE CHEN</i>
Zhang Yu <i>as BLIND SINGER</i>
Jiang Peiyao <i>as XUEMING'S GIRLFRIEND</i>
Lu Xin <i>as THE SHADOW KILLER</i>
Chen Yongzhong <i>as DANCING PARTNER</i>
Deng Fei <i>as CHEN'S ASSISTANT</i>