

# Detour

## Alexi TAN



Genre: Action  
Format: 35mm  
Estimated Running Time: 120 min.

Budget:  
US\$6,000,000  
(HK\$46,800,000)

Producer:  
Terence CHANG

Writing Credits:  
Alexi TAN (screenplay)  
Tony CHAN (screenplay)

Production Company:  
Lion Rock Productions

HAF Goals:  
Co-producers, Sales agents, Pre-sales,  
Funds

Contact:  
Lion Rock Productions  
(Terence CHANG)

Address:  
190 Prince Edward Road West,  
1st Floor, Kowloon, Hong Kong

Tel: +852-2397-1631

Email: tcnoir@gmail.com

## INTRODUCTION

Alexi Tan first gained recognition for his television commercials, which brought him to the attention of the Hollywood director John Woo. Tan then directed his feature debut *Blood Brothers* (2007), which was co-produced by John Woo and was selected as the closing night film of the Venice Film Festival that same year. *Detour* is also produced by Woo's production company and will be the second feature film from Tan. The story is set in a situation familiar to us all: traffic jams. A killer and his target are both trapped in the middle of one of the most terrible traffic jams in Macau. But that doesn't stop them from breaking all the rules as they each attempt to accomplish their bloody goals.

## SYNOPSIS

Travis Lee has to kill someone. His target: a big time loan shark operating in a Macau casino. Travis has thought out every possibility, calculated every detail. Except...he gets stuck in the worst traffic jam in history. Time is running out. Just when he is sure he will fail, he spots his target stuck in the same traffic.

Travis, mid-thirties, an ex-bodyguard. He thought he had a perfect family but one day his wife took his daughter and left him. Her last words: "You are always protecting other people but you never protect your own family." Depressed, he started to drink and developed a serious drinking problem. Now, knowing his wife and daughter need money, he took this job hoping that it will be his redemption.

Macau. The Las Vegas of the East. Travis' target: Vincent, a mid-40s, half-Portuguese loan shark. He is always racing - every minute he is calculating his loans, money coming in and going out. He is meticulous and paranoid, like a mad genius.

After many days of stalking his prey, Travis is ready to do the job. He gets in a taxi. The taxi turns from a small street onto a major avenue, and WHAM! He finds himself in the worst traffic jam in history. A fifteen-minute ride has turned into hell.

Scorching sun. A never-ending sea of automobiles. Honking. Blaring. Tempers fraying. Around him mopeds go by, sirens wail, and traffic cops are stuck in the same mess. Tourists demand to get off the casino bus in the middle of the street. Total chaos.

As Travis' taxi crawls along, Vincent's car pulls up alongside him. Travis recognizes his target. Do the math; why not take him out here? A dangerous game of cat and mouse begins. Gun battles between cars. Exciting chases through narrow alleyways. In the midst of the chaos a rookie cop going to the hospital to tend his pregnant wife gets caught up in the battle between Vincent and Travis without knowing what is going on. All of these characters criss-crossing in the maze of traffic make it a thrilling detour.

This traffic jam will become their battleground. And who will survive?

## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Traveling has become essential to modern living but every major city in the world faces a common problem: traffic. What person at one point or another has not had to sit through a traffic jam? To sit there in a vehicle and watch time pass by and not be able to do anything about it is hell. The idea for *Detour* came to me in just such a situation – I was stuck in a traffic jam.

We set out to tell the story of two men, both in very different situations but both caught in the same traffic. A common event puts two people who would otherwise never ever cross paths in the same place at the same time and it becomes their battlefield.

The traffic jam itself will not only create physical obstacles but human stories as well. We set out to put everyday touches into the plotline, the kind of things that happen to everyone stuck in traffic. In *Detour*, we slowly watch our main characters reach their limits and hit their boiling points.

We hope not only to tell a gripping story but one that relates to the mass audience. What would you do if you were in this very same situation?

## DIRECTOR

Alexi Tan was educated in London and at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts. He started his career as a still photographer working for international publications and advertising companies. In 2000, Alexi directed his first short film, *17.17.*, an experimental short, which premiered at the Brooklyn International Film Festival.

In 2002, Alexi moved to Asia to pursue a career in film directing more seriously. He started to direct TV commercials and music videos, winning many international awards. His work subsequently caught the attention of film legends, John Woo and Terence Chang, who produced his first feature film, *Blood Brothers* (2007), a Mandarin language film that features the top tier of rising Chinese stars: Daniel Wu, Shu Qi, Liu Ye and Chang Chen. *Blood Brothers* (2007) was the closing night film of the 64th Venice Film Festival, followed by a gala presentation at the 32nd Toronto International Film Festival.

## PRODUCER

Terence Chang studied architecture at the University of Oregon before switching his focus to filmmaking at New York University. In 1978 he returned to his native Hong Kong to become a production manager for two Golden Harvest films, *Itchy Fingers*

(1979) and *Game of Death II* (1981). He joined Rediffusion Television (RTV) in 1979 and for two years he supervised the operations of all RTV's television productions. In 1981 he joined Johnny Mak Productions and produced *Lonely 15* (1982), *Dragon Force* (1982), and *Everlasting Love* (1984), which was selected to participate in the Directors' Fortnight of the Cannes Film Festival in 1984.

In 1988 he joined Film Workshop as general manager, and was the executive in charge of production for *The Killer* (1989), *Love and Death in Saigon* (1989), *Swordsman* (1990), *Spy Games* (1990) and *A Chinese Ghost Story II* (1990). He also successfully marketed these films internationally.

In 1990 Chang formed Milestone Pictures with director John Woo, and together they created *Once a Thief* (1991) and *Hard-Boiled* (1992). At the same time he also became the manager of Asia's superstar Chow Yun-fat. In 1993, Chang co-produced John Woo's American film debut *Hard Target*. In 1994 he and John Woo formed their first Hollywood company, WCG Entertainment and later Lion Rock Productions, producing a number of films including *Broken Arrow* (1996), *Face/Off* (1997), *Replacement Killers* (1998), *The Big Hit* (1998), *The Corruptor* (1999), *Anna and the King* (1999) and *Mission: Impossible II* (2000).

Woo and Chang most recently produced *Blood Brothers* (2007) and the animated feature *Ex Machina*, scheduled for a 2008 release. They are currently in production in Chinese mainland on John Woo's epic war film *Red Cliff*.

## PRODUCTION COMPANY

Lion Rock Productions was founded in 1998 by director John Woo and his producing partner Terence Chang. Its film credits include *Blood Brothers* (2007), *Paycheck* (2003), *Bulletproof Monk* (2003), *Windtalkers* (2002), *Mission: Impossible II* (2000) and *Face/Off* (1997). Lion Rock's next major release will be John Woo's *Red Cliff*, which is currently finishing production in the Chinese mainland.

In addition to its slate of film projects, Lion Rock also produces animated feature films, video games, and comic books. Its first animated project, the highly anticipated *Ex Machina*, is due for release in early 2008. Lion Rock also has several feature film projects in active development, including *Ninja Gold*, *Hard-Boiled 2*, *Stranglehold*, *Wooden Men Chamber* and *1949*.