

CHANG Tso-chi



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

Budget:
US\$800,000
(HK\$6,200,000)

Producers:
CHANG Tso-chi

Writing Credits:
CHANG Tso-chi

Production Company:
Chang Tso Chi Film Studio

HAF Goals:
Funds, Co-producers, Sales agents

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INTRODUCTION

Many great directors have explored the theme of motherhood, for example, YAMADA Yoji in *Kabei*, a long drama that explores in depth the theme of motherhood. I want to show the multiple images of the mother through different short stories about motherhood, with different interpretations of what it means to be a mother from different actors. Hundreds of characters give us hundreds of different kinds of mothers, but what remains the same is their unconditional love of their children. It's an irreplaceable natural instinct.

SYNOPSIS

LOVING MOTHER KILLS HER SON

In court the judge is in tears watching the defense lawyer and his client, an elderly mother who killed her son. She had advanced cancer and was afraid that her handicapped son would be left with no one to take care of him after she was gone. Her husband is elderly and she couldn't leave the responsibility to him and so she suffocated her son with a quilt then drank pesticide to kill herself. However she was saved, and accused of murder.

The defense lawyer begs the judge to halt the proceedings and let the defendant live out her remaining life naturally and with dignity. The judge announced that the judgment on this case would be suspended, and with the end of this mother's life, the tragic murder case also came to an end.

MY MOTHER

A first grade teacher is correcting her students' essays entitled "My Mother." A young girl, always quiet, was asked to give a talk by the teacher because she wrote in her composition that her mother had been dead for six years and her father had been missing for three. The teacher was confused because she had just finished a home visit with the girl's mother, but after careful inquiry she was surprised to find out that the mother she met at the home visit was actually a man, who was the girl's father! Three years ago, the girl's father had a sex change.

THE BIRTH

An entrepreneur's mistress lives in a modern apartment with her six-year old daughter. The nine-month-pregnant mistress has just finished fighting and her emotions are high when her water breaks. Her daughter panics, running to the neighbors for help, but no one responded. She called her father and her grandmother for help, and with her grandmother's assistance she's able to deliver the baby. From the moment she saw the newborn child she gained a new understanding of what it means to be a mother.

MOTHER IS A THIEF

In the supermarket, a mother is mistakenly arrested for shoplifting. Her three

children see their mother taken away by the police and they are determined to do everything they can to find the real thief.

THE BLUE BALLOON

A strong wind blows a blue balloon. A middle-aged woman chases after it, determined to catch the balloon so she can pick up her daughter and take her home. A thirty year-old woman, with a mental handicap worries about missing her daughter when picking her up after school, so she brings a blue balloon and waits for her daughter at the school gates every day. The daughter worries about missing her mother so she always carries a blue balloon at the school gate while waiting for her mother. Now, she has to chase the balloon, so she can pick up her daughter.

THE COOKIE BOX

In an old-fashioned apartment, an old woman is talking to her son. She tells him where she has placed her insurance papers and where the key to the safe is. It's her son's birthday and he listens impatiently to his aging mother chattering away like a tape recorder, chattering while worshipping her ancestors, chattering while they have dinner, she doesn't even stop when they watch TV.

She tells her son not to worry about her, but after her son leaves she returns to her room, looks at her husband's photo and cries. An elderly mother lost her husband, the children grew up and left, her solitude is her only companion. We will continuously make more stories about our mothers, and while we are maintaining the general values of motherly love, we wouldn't sacrifice the dramatic tension.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

We know the sky is there without having to look up at it all the time and, in the same way, so are our mothers. If *How are you, Dad?* was a trial, then *I'm Good, Mom* is a challenge, because the mother's story is more difficult to narrate and interpret.

There are plenty of touching stories about mothers, there are dozens of gifts to celebrate mother's day, and commercials celebrating motherhood are numerous. We're becoming numb from too much mother love. Whether this film is touching or not is up to the audience to decide. I make movies about things that move me, and I hope they touch other people.

DIRECTOR

CHANG Tso-Chi was born in Jiayi, Taiwan, in 1961. He first majored in electrical engineering and then went on to study film and drama at the Chinese Culture University. In 1988, he worked as HOU Hsiao-Hsien's first assistant director on *A City of Sadness*. His first film *Ah Chung* used non-professional actors to demonstrate a special Taiwanese ceremony known as "Ba Jia Jiang" and it won the Special Jury Prize at the Asia-Pacific Film Festival and Pusan Film Festival. His film *Darkness and Light* won Best Film and received the FIPRESCI Award at the Singapore Film Festival. The film *Best of Times* was selected for the Venice Film Festival competition and was awarded Best Picture and Best Actor at the Singapore Film Festival. His most recent film is *Soul Of a Demon*. He is now producing a film series called *How Are You, Dad* which was nominated as a 2008 Pusan Promotional Plan project.

PRODUCTION COMPANY

CHANG Tso Chi Film Studio was founded by CHANG Tso-Chi in 1998, his second feature film, *Darkness and Light*, was the first film produced by this company. The studio has its own crew, technical staff and production and post-production equipment. It has produced three feature films, *Darkness and Light*, *The Best of Times* and *Soul of a Demon* as well as the TV series *The Car Is Chasing* and *Holy Ridge*. It is now shooting its newest project, *How Are You, Dad?*