

WEI Te-sheng



Genre: Drama
Format: 35mm
Estimated Running Time: 180 min.

Budget:
US\$10,000,000
(HK\$ 77,600,000)

Producers:
Jimmy HUANG

Writing Credits:
WEI Te-sheng

Production Company:
ARS Film Production

HAF Goals:
Funds

Contact:
ARS Film Production
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INTRODUCTION

Seediq Bale is the story of the Wushe Incident, a 1930 Seediq uprising led by Mona Rudao against the Japanese during the period when they had colonized Taiwan. Director WEI Te-Sheng has had this project in mind for several years. In 2004 he raised US\$7,700 to shoot the teaser trailer for this project, the first step towards raising the US\$10 million necessary to finance the shooting of the complete film. With the success of his film *Cape No. 7* in 2008, this project can finally be realized.

SYNOPSIS

Mona Rudao, the son of a Seediq chief, became famous amongst his people when he claimed two heads during his first time out as a headhunter. He was so young that this made him famous with his people and so when the Japanese Army occupied his people's land in Taiwan he was expected to do battle with them. Unfortunately, he was eventually set up by the Japanese and lost his father.

Now after more than twenty years, Mona Rudao has grown up. During a wedding reception, his firstborn son gets in a fight with the Japanese police. A few days later, a group of young men beg for Mona Rudao to lead them against the Japanese. For the prosperity and pride of his people, he takes it into serious account, but when he sees the clean faces of these young men without tattoos, he tells them that he is determined to get them the access to cross the rainbow bridge and meet their ancestors.

One day, when their tribesmen gather at the school to witness the Japanese ensign rising up slowly, Mona Rudao leads his men on a charge and they attack the Japanese, decapitating them one by one. It's the largest insurgency that the Japanese have met since they occupied Taiwan. Thousands of soldiers and policemen are mobilized to suppress these tribesmen. Seediq women hang themselves so that their sons and husbands don't have to worry about them, allowing them to focus on the fighting. All the men bearing Seediq tattoos fight the Japanese desperately and furiously.

Finally, Mona Rudao demands that his family commit suicide, and he personally takes the responsibility of shooting his wife, then he climbs up an unknown cliff and shoots himself.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

I love reading history because history repeats itself again and again. When a period ends, people are always quick to scrub that era away, destroying it completely, ready to start over. But I believe that we should accept the new era with an open mind, while at the same time refusing either to abandon the past or to fear the future, because the past will be a perfect match with the new era. Past and present are not necessarily opposed. That is why I propose a new era of tolerance.

DIRECTOR

WEI Te-Sheng began his career working for a small production company and in 1995 he became a grip for Edward YANG's company at the same time that Yang was shooting *Mahjong* (1996). WEI was promoted from grip assistant to assistant director and from 1995 –1998 he shot a number of shorts, three of which won the Golden Harvest Award for Film and Digital Video. His first film, *About July* (1999) was well received by film critics in Taiwan; and WEI was also the associate producer of *Double Vision* (2002). In 2008 he directed *Cape No. 7*, a romance that is the highest-grossing Chinese language film in Taiwanese history and it went on to become a massive blockbuster across Asia and Taiwan's submission to the Academy Awards for Best Foreign Language Film. In 2000 he wrote the script for *Seediq Bale* about Taiwan's Wushe Incident in 1930. In 2004, he raised US\$7,700 to shoot the trailer for *Seediq Bale*, the first step towards raising the US\$10 million necessary to finance the complete film.

PRODUCER

Jimmy HUANG is the producer of *Silk*, the biggest-budgeted Taiwanese film ever made. He was the production secretary of *Love is Elsewhere* and the executive producer of *Lonely Hearts Club*, *Accidental Legend*, *The River*, *The Hole* and *March of Happiness*. In 2002, he was production manager of the Columbia Pictures film *Double Vision* which was shot in Taiwan.

PRODUCTION COMPANY

ARS Film Production is a new film production company established in 2004, its passion and ambition for films are so immense that it has its own points of view and ideas about the planning, plots, style, special effects and marketing of the films. WEI Te-Sheng, the sole founder of the company, has his creative ideas and unique viewpoints, and his short film *Seediq Bale* has attracted lots of attention, supported by the audience via the internet. It was also awarded Best Screenplay by the Government Information Office. WEI's most recent film is *Cape No.7* which was released in 2008 which set box office records in Taiwan.