

Chuyen BUI THAC



Genre: **Drama**
Format: **HD**
Estimated Running Time: **90 min.**

Budget:
US\$636,000
(HK\$4,900,000)

Funds Secured:
US \$320,750
(HK \$2,490,000)

Producers:
Tat Binh DANG
Claire LAJOURMARD

Writing Credits:
Dang Di PHAN

Production Company:
The Feature Films Studio No.1

Partner attached:
Feature Film Studio
Acrobates Films
Vietnam Media Corp
Hubert Bals Fund

HAF Goals:
Funds, Sales agents, Pre-sales

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INTRODUCTION

Do you still long for something? Have you ever been clearly aware of your own breath, truly in control of yourself, free and satisfied? Life always has moments of emptiness and absence. Life is full of restless obsessions that repeat themselves generation after generation, and in all individuals.

SYNOPSIS

Duyen and Hai get married. Hai is still very naive and innocent and although Duyen thought she was happy her married life seems empty. She and Hai don't make love like other couples and there's no passion, they're more like two good friends. Duyen's friend, Cam, a writer, is secretly in love with Duyen but in order to hide her feelings for Duyen, which are deemed deeply immoral in Vietnamese society, she pretends to be in love with a man named Tho.

One day Cam is heartbroken and she asks Duyen to deliver a letter to Tho, but when Duyen does so Tho tries to make love to her. Initially repulsed, his kiss shatters Duyen's empty life and she falls for him. Cam, it turns out, knew this would happen, she planned it because she wanted to destroy Duyen's marriage. Tho asks Duyen to be the interpreter for a group of Japanese students he is taking to the beach and there she and Tho make love. On that same trip, Vi, who is desperately in love with Tho sees them and she later drinks too much and dies, raving, in the sand.

Mien is Duyen and Hai's neighbor, a young girl who loves bathrooms. She and Hai have a lot in common, both of them as innocent as children. Hai asks Mien to stay with him because he's scared of a ghost in his bedroom. The next morning Mien can't resist taking a bath in Hai's bathroom and Duyen discovers her there when she comes back. She storms out, leaving for Cam's house, but then thinks better of it and returns to Hai. Now they are not just good friends, they are something more. The next time they get stuck in a traffic jam like they did at the beginning of the movie, they exchange smiles, hand in hand.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

A close relationship between two young women, Duyen and Cam, becomes complicated when Duyen gets married. Cam jealously pushes her friend into the arms of a crude and overly-sexual man whom Duyen cannot resist and she soon discovers her sexual side while being tortured by her innate traditional morality. This story reflects the doubts that millions of young people in Vietnam have about love and family. They have ambitions to become modern, but the weight of traditional family relationships is both a burden and a source of security. This film is also a profound look at the loneliness of human beings.

I have defended this project for many years because I believe in the relevance of its subject, in its originality and in the ambiguity of the characters and their relationships. I want to shoot this film in HD, with the collaboration of a very

talented director of photography, and with location sound recording. The framing will be precise, the light mainly cold and the film will be constantly wet as if it's caught in a tropical storm

DIRECTOR

Chuyen BUI THAC was born in Hanoi in 1968, and started his career as an actor. He studied directing at the Hanoi Institute of Theater and Cinema and in 2000 his 35mm graduation short film, *Night Run*, won a prize at Cannes, making him the first Vietnamese director to do so. His first feature film, *Living in Fear* (2005), won prizes at home and abroad. He is also interested in documentaries and has directed two award-winning ones, *The Digger* (2002), and *Hands Digging Land* (2001). In 2002 he helped to establish the first movie library in Vietnam, and he helps run the Center for the Assistance and Development of New Talents.

PRODUCER

Tat Binh DANG was originally an actor, whose career started in 1960. He worked with some of the most talented directors in Vietnam then, in 1994, he became a director, shooting TV serials in Vietnam. His most popular TV drama is the 1995 *People Around Me*, one of the most successful TV serials of the last 15 years. He directed feature films like *A Slap Behind the Tormentor* (2001). He has produced Chuyen BUI THAC's film, *Living in Fear*, and he is the director of Vietnam's Features Film Studio No. 1.

Claire LAJOURMARD is a producer, working for Acrobates Films, France. She has worked for 17 years as an executive producer, line producer and production manager.

PRODUCTION COMPANY

The Feature Films Studio No. 1 (FFS No. 1) was established in 1990 and is a state owned company which is a subsidiary of the Ministry of Culture and Information of Vietnam. The FFS No. 1 produces all types of film (feature films, music videos, documentary films and commercials) on both film and video. FFS No. 1 has been licensed to provide services to foreign partners in case they want to enter Vietnam to produce films. Every year, FFS No. 1 produces about 2 to 3 feature films, 30 to 40 video films, about 20 commercial films and 30 programs of music and stage performances. FFS No. 1 frequently services many film crews from the USA, France, Germany, Australia, Japan, South Korea and other foreign countries when they make films in Vietnam. The films made by FFS No.

1 have participated in and received a number of prizes at international film festivals (Montreal, Rotterdam, Göteborg, among others) including *Living in Fear* (Shanghai International Film Festival 2006, Asian-Pacific Film Festival 2006) and *The Story of Pao* (Asian-Pacific Film Festival 2006).