

# Winter Vacation

Chinese mainland

## LI Hongqi



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

Budget:  
**US\$150,000**  
(HK\$1,160,000)

Funds Secured:  
**US\$90,000**  
(HK \$698,000)

Producers:  
**NING Cai**  
**ZHANG Lu**

Writing Credits:  
**LI Hongqi**

Production Company:  
**Inner Mongolia Official Film Studio**

HAF Goals:  
**Funds**

Contact:  
**Inner Mongolia Official Film Studio**  
(LI Hongqi)

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## INTRODUCTION

*Winter Vacation* is the third film from poet and novelist Li Hongqi. The film is produced by NING Cai and ZHANG Lu. Director Li explains it as follows: he shoots movies like people play chess. Many people think about how to play more brilliantly or more beautifully. But for me, I just want to move the chessmen off the chessboard.

## SYNOPSIS

Time: winter vacation. Place: An ordinary small town in Northern China. It's the day before the end of winter vacation and YANG Xiaobo, a student at the local grade school, discovers that his homework notebook is missing. He decides to go see his classmate, ZHANG Dali, to try to borrow his homework and make a copy so that he won't get in trouble with the teacher.

On the way to ZHANG's house, he meets a strange, middle-aged man walking a black pig. Judging by the way he walks, he's very worried. YANG is fascinated by this man and his pig and then, suddenly, as they pass each other the man asks YANG to stop. The man tells YANG that he is from far away and he hopes that Yang can tell him if anyone around these parts raises wild boars. YANG seems puzzled and the man explains that the black pig is a sow, and he wants to breed it with a boar. Hopefully then it can have a piglet with a black and white pattern, like a cow.

Very seriously, the man tells YANG that raising a pig with this kind of coloring pattern is his dream. Fortunately, YANG knows a guy who has a pretty white pig, but Yang's not sure if the pig is a boar or not, so he decides to go with the man and talk to the owner of the white pig. They find the owner and he tells them that his pig is definitely a boar, but too young to breed. But the stranger is begging him, imploring him, to let their pigs mate, and so finally the owner of the white boar gives in, but because his boar has no experience with copulation, and is very young, it takes no interest in the black sow. The owner of the boar, the stranger and YANG try hard to get the boar to mate with the sow and finally, after much effort, the pigs get down to business.

By the time the pigs finish it's almost dark. The stranger thanks YANG profusely and promises that after he has his black and white piglet he will invite YANG to come see it. Then, leading his black sow, he leaves town. When YANG gets home it's dark and he realizes that he forgot to borrow his homework from ZHANG Dali. He also realizes that he has no interest in seeing a black and white pig. Thinking about that, YANG suddenly feels terrible.

## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

I shoot movies the way I play chess. Many people think about how to play more brilliantly, more beautifully, more elegantly. As for me, I just want to move the chessmen off the chessboard.

## DIRECTOR

LI Hongqi, poet and novelist, born in Shandong Province, China in 1976. Wrote and directed DV movie of maiden work *So Much Rice* in 2005, and won the NETPAC award in the 58th Locarno International Film Festival. His second film, *Routine Holiday* (2008) nominated the FIPRESCI Critics Award in the 51th London Film Festival.

## PRODUCER

NING Cai, is China's best-known Mongolian actor. He graduated from the Shanghai Drama Academy in 1986 and is the chairman of the Official Film Studio of Inner Mongolia.

Zhang Lu was born in Jilin Province, China, in 1962. He studied Chinese Literature and wrote several novels before starting a career in cinema. He directed his first short film, *Eleven*, in 2001. His first feature film, *Tang Poetry* (2003) screened at numerous international film festivals. His second feature film, *Grain in the Ear* (2005), won the Pusan Film Festival's New Currents Award.

## PRODUCTION COMPANY

The Inner Mongolia Official Film Studio is a Chinese National Film Bureau studio, founded in 1958.