

Christmas Rose

Hong Kong

Charlie YOUNG



Genre: **Drama**
Format: **35mm**
Estimated Running Time: **90 min.**

Budget:
US\$2,000,000
(HK\$15,500,000)

Producers:
Oxide PANG

Writing Credits:
Charlie YOUNG

Production Company:
ERA International (HK) Ltd.

HAF Goals:
Funds

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INTRODUCTION

The main character in the story struggles to achieve more and more in his life, but the more he gets the more he wants. As his endless greed grows out of all proportion he loses his most precious possessions and finally loses himself. He muddles along, confusing truth with lies, good with bad, thinking that he's on the path of the angels when he's actually on the highway to hell. Struggling with his inner conscience, he starts to believe that there are two of him existing. However, he hasn't been chosen by the angels or by the devils, he made his own choices and decisions and has become a total stranger to himself.

Charlie YOUNG had portrayed many different touching roles as an actress, debuting as a screenwriter and director, along with Oxide PANG, acclaimed horror and suspense filmmaker as the producer. The chemistry of sensitivity and detail orientation of a female mix with suspense and mystery creates a cutting edge for "Christmas Rose", a project we should keep an eye on.

SYNOPSIS

Tim was a golden boy: the model student at his university law department, recruited by the best firm and soon became the city's hottest lawyer. With his drive and ambition, opening his own firm was inevitable and when it finally happens it's picture perfect. At the cocktail reception to celebrate his new firm, in front of all his friends and colleagues, he proposes to Megan, his girlfriend of seven years, his anchor and support. Tim wants to give Megan a perfect wedding and leave a seven-figure deposit with the wedding planner.

Tim made sure his new firm had the most extravagant offices on the market, but the pressure of meeting monthly expenses is slowly mounting and it's taking a toll on Megan whom he expects to tolerate his busy schedule and his neglect while he, being the boss, struggles to make enough money to get his firm off the ground. Fortunately, Eddy, his most trusted assistant, joins the firm, boosting Tim's confidence again and Eddy becomes his closest confidant. According to Eddy, starting his own firm was the best thing he ever did and his former firm is trying to undermine him by spreading rumors that he's going under. Whatever happens, Eddy is always there to encourage Tim.

One night, Megan runs into Eddy who tells her that Tim is doing the best he can and that they should postpone the wedding because it's too much pressure for him. Megan asks if this is Tim's decision and Eddy replies, "It's the best decision." Then Eddy tells Tim that Megan has used the refund from their wedding pictures to pay for more wedding costs, and Tim furiously calls off the wedding, using the partial refund to pay for office expenses for the month. At this point, Megan realizes Tim has become a total stranger.

Upon Tim's desperation, Eddy finds him a new case: a media-friendly sexual harassment case. The client is a grotesque ugly looking businessman from mainland China, Mr. Chow, who is accused of molesting a young beautiful wheelchair-bound. The media swarms and the beautiful victim becomes an overnight celebrity. On the contrary, the defendant is being painted by the media as an ugly heartless monster crowning him as the guilty criminal.

A case concerning a person's character, morals, and future, Tim did not use his normal professional practice to handle the case. Being emotionally unstable, Tim carries out the case with practice he never approves of, attacking the handicapped victim. Tim loses the case. The businessman's wife and daughter, Ting Ting holding each other sobbing uncontrollably after hearing the verdict in the courtroom. Ting Ting is being bullied and harassed in school after her father being pronounced guilty. A child's fragile emotion being pushed to the edge and she jumped off a building committed suicide. The police found a family photo in Ting Ting's pocket, on the back written: "Please believe me, my daddy is a good person." Tim believes that he indirectly is responsible for Ting Ting's death. Being hit hard emotionally, the two voices of Tim inner conscience keep hounding him. Wondering which voice is really the real Tim? After the defeat in this case, the firm is finally going under, everyone including Eddy left the firm. When everything around Tim is collapsing to ground zero, Megan is the one left consoling, supporting him being his anchor. Megan's steadfast support and continuous encouragement, Tim re-investigate the case and notice the crucial truth beneath the apparent evidence. He wanted to do the right thing and appeal the case on behalf of Mr. Chow. Winning back the verdict of THE TRUTH for the sake of Ting Ting.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Our society is saturated with fakes, counterfeits, crooks and copies leading us to be easily fooled by outward appearances. We judge everyone around ourselves carefully, but often the ones we thought were for us are actually the devil and the ones we thought were against us are angels guiding us along our path.

Cinematography will paint this story as a mixture of horror, suspense and drama. We'll use suspense to portray Tim's weak inner conscience, and to show the eerie side to Eddy's personality. With such a mixture of delivery I do not JUST WANT the audience to be moved or touched by the movie, but MOST OF ALL I want it to serve as a wake-up call, giving them the courage to step back and look at themselves and deal with their inner conflicts head on.

Even though SOMETIMES we made wrong choices in life, if we could still hear the weak small voice of our conscience, we still have a chance to choose again and live. This is the core of the story.

Choosing the Title "Christmas Rose" closely related to the core of this movie, a conflicting plant with healing properties to calm our emotions but when it is being use out of proportion; it will cause damaged to our heart. Like greed use in the right proportion can give us the drive to improve and the motivation to move forward. However, out of proportion it is damaging to our lives being portray by Tim in our story. The ability to strike this balance in life is the problem

we have to face and resolve just like Tim.

DIRECTOR

Charlie YOUNG is one of Hong Kong's most famous actresses. She made her debut in 1993 and has gone on to win acclaim in films by WONG Kar-wai (*Ashes of Time*, *Fallen Angles*), TSUI Hark (*The Lovers*, *Seven Swords*), Jacob CHEUNG (*Intimates*), Jackie CHAN (*New Police Story*) won her the nomination of Best Actress at the 28th Hundred Flowers Award, and Patrick TAM's award-winning *After This Our Exile* (2006) won her another nomination of Best Actress at the 2006 Rome Film Festival and at the 2006 Tokyo Film Festival; in 2008 co-starred with Hollywood acclaimed actor, Nicolas CAGE in Pang's *Bangkok Dangerous*. She has released nine solo albums, managed her own image consultancy business and has written many articles for magazines and newspapers, as well as several books. She is an ambassador for the World Wildlife Fund and UNICEF in Hong Kong.

PRODUCER

Oxide PANG started his career in Bangkok, at Kantana Group's film labs and became Asia best telecine colorist. Along with his brother, Danny PANG, they have written and directed numerous hit movies in Thailand, Hong Kong and Hollywood, including *Who is Running?* won the entry for the 71st Academy Award for Best Foreign Film for Thailand. *The Eye*, *The Eye 2* and *The Eye 10* created a new trend and height in horror and suspense production. *Bangkok Dangerous* in 1999 won the FIPRESCI Award at the 2000 Toronto International Film Festival. *Re-Cycle* which was the closing film of the Un Certain Regard section of the 2006 Cannes Film Festival. In 2008 *The Detective* and the Hollywood remake of *Bangkok Dangerous* starring Hollywood acclaimed actor, Nicolas CAGE and Charlie YOUNG. Currently, they are working on a big-budget sequel to the hit Hong Kong blockbuster, *The Storm Riders*.

PRODUCTION COMPANY

ERA International (HK) Limited under ERA Group is a leader in film production and distribution. They have worked with world class directors like Johnnie TO, HOU Hsiao-hsien and ZHANG Yimou producing such highly acclaimed films as *City of Sadness*, winner of the Golden Lion Award at the 1987 Venice Film Festival, *Raise the Red Lantern* which gained an Oscar nomination for Best Foreign Film and was the winner of the Silver Lion Award at the 1991 Venice Film Festival. *The Puppet Master*, recipient of the Jury Award at the 1993 Cannes Film Festival, and *Lifetimes*, another recipient of the Jury Award at the 1994 Cannes Film Festival.