

The End of the Tunnel

Taiwan / Hong Kong

CHANG Rong-ji



Genre: Drama
Format: HD
Estimated Running Time: TBC

Budget:
US\$1,100,000
(HK\$8,500,000)

Producers:
Jacky PANG Yee-wah

Writing Credits:
CHANG Rong-ji

Production Company:
Jet Tone Films Ltd

HAF Goals:
Funds, Co-producers, Sales agents

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INTRODUCTION

Taking director CHANG Rong-ji's award-winning short film as its starting point, *The End of the Tunnel* is a carefully conceived project built on a long period of rehearsal and improvisation. Written so that it can be performed by a mixture of actors and non-actors, the film is both scripted and shaped through the performers' improvisations and their genuine reactions to dramatic situations. The result is a carefully layered, multi-faceted project that attempts to erase the line between acting and being.

SYNOPSIS

One day when he was three, Yuxiang went to the beach with his mother. He knew it was a bright day, yet when he raised his eyes to the sky the sun seemed very dim.

This is the last thing he remembers seeing.

Years later, Yuxiang is the only blind student at a college for music and arts. Though he stands apart from the other students, their raucous sounds fill him with joy. When the school empties, he finds solace by practicing piano late into the evening. Sounds are his only companion... until someone reaches into the darkness of his blindness and extends a hand.

"It's over." Just two words from a boyfriend shatter the world of Xiao Jie, a pretty dancer at the same school. Unable to find someone with whom to share her heartbreak, her world becomes enveloped in silence. Then wandering the halls, she hears a song.

It comes from Yuxiang's piano. Its melody flows with her changing moods. The player seems to understand her, though they are separated by the practice room door, though they have never met.

Yuxiang and Xiao Jie become fast friends. Her voice adds lyrics to his piano's melody. Together they make a plan to return to the beach where Yuxiang lost his sight... *The End of the Tunnel* celebrates the friendship between a boy trapped in sightless darkness and a kind dancer who leads him to the end of the tunnel.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

A film is not finished after its premiere. Its ideas continue to ferment; its images and sounds linger on. Beyond the film lie more ideas for the curious to continue exploring the areas the film could not.

In 2005, I made a documentary about a visually-impaired young man who went completely blind at a very early age. Yet his congenital disability nurtured a talent for music, and thus gave him a goal and a reason to perform in life's symphony. He says, "Without sound, the world would lose all flavor." After this first encounter with the visually impaired, my ideas continued to ferment.

I've always believed that the story behind the camera is inevitably more moving than the one in front. The film screen is more than just a frame; it is a shelter, allowing those who pass through it to live on. I want to create a script that can burst through the cage of the documentary structure, and by infusing realism into a drama, attempt to create a true-to-life cinematic form.

DIRECTOR

CHANG Rong-ji was born in 1980 and received a Master's Degree at the Graduate School of Applied Media Arts at the National Taiwan University of Arts. His first documentary film, *Harbor* (2001), was a piece that was assembled out of the collected sounds and images of everyday life. In 2006, *My Football Summer* won Best Documentary at the Golden Horse Film Awards and was also presented at the Pusan International Film Festival.

The End of the Tunnel is inspired by his short film of the same name. It was nominated for Best Short Film at the 45th Annual Golden Horse Awards and participated in the 13th Pusan International Film Festival's Wide Angle program and won Best Short Film at the 10th Taipei Film Festival.

PRODUCER

Jacky PANG Yee-wah got her start in commercials. She is one of the founders of Jet Tone Films. She has worked with WONG Kar-wai for many years and has been one of the main forces behind the scenes on his films, including *Chungking Express* (1994), *Fallen Angels* (1995) and *Happy Together* (1997). In 2000, she was Associate Producer of *In the Mood for Love* (2000) and was Co-Producer of Wong Kar-wai's follow-up films *2046* (2004) and *Eros* (2005). In 2007, acted as Producer for WONG Kar-wai's first English language feature *My Blueberry Nights* (2007), which starred Norah JONES, Jude LAW, David STRATHAIRN, Rachel WEISZ and Natalie PORTMAN.

Besides working on the films of WONG Kar-wai, she has also produced *Chinese Odyssey 2002* (2002) by Jeff LAU, *The Sound of Colors* (2003) by Joe MA and *Miao Miao* (2008) by CHENG Hsiao-tse.

PRODUCTION COMPANY

Jet Tone Films was founded by internationally renowned filmmaker WONG Kar-wai and producer Jacky PANG Yee-wah. It is devoted to producing high quality films. Films

produced by Jet Tone have won countless awards at film festivals around the world, and have been released with many international distributors. In addition, Jet Tone has shot many acclaimed commercials for some of the most famous brands in the world. It has produced all of WONG Kar-wai's films since *Chungking Express* (1994).