

# Teenage Wildlife

China

## LI Jingyi



Genre: Drama, Musical  
Format: HD  
Estimated Running Time: 100 min.

Budget:  
US\$ 1,100,000 (HK\$ 8,580,000)  
Funds Secured:  
US\$ 550,000 (HK\$ 4,290,000)

Producer:  
JIA Zhang-ke

Writing Credit:  
LI Jingyi

Production Company:  
Xstream Pictures

HAF Goals:  
Funds, Co-producers

Contact:  
Xstream Pictures  
(Eva Yee-wei LAM)

Address:  
Suite 303, Blk 7, Jin Qiu Jia Yuan,  
No. 6 Zhi Chun Road, Haidian,  
Beijing 100088, China

Tel: +86-10-82350984

Email: evalam267@163.com

## INTRODUCTION

This film is a musical about China's affluent second generation.

This is a generation of young people born after China's reform in the 1980's, about a generation whose parents are entrepreneurs who have worked hard and accumulated massive wealth. Wanwan, the hero of this film, is a typical representative of this second generation, growing up in Guizhou, Guangzhou and Beijing. Like all second-generation kids, he is disoriented and rebellious, but also an independent thinker. He tries to find his own life instead of following the way paved by his parents.

## SYNOPSIS

2002. Beijing. In a deluxe karaoke room, Jelly, a fashion editor, is introducing two rich second generation boys to some pretty models. All the girls swarm to the flashy Dawei, and Wanwan is left alone, bored and lost in thought. The next day Jelly gets yelled at by the girls: Dawei was wearing nothing but counterfeit designer clothing. Jelly ridicules them for not picking Wanwan, the true rich kid.

Wanwan decides to move to Beijing. In his luggage, he finds a diary he has kept since childhood.

1980's in Guiyang. His family ran a taxi company and one day Wanwan was kidnapped. Instead of being scared, he was excited to be on an adventure, escaping only when the kidnappers started fighting amongst themselves. After that, his parents sent him to a private elementary school in Guangzhou for his safety.

1988. Guangzhou. Wanwan thinks the guys who kidnapped him are cool, so he starts a gang at school. His sworn enemy is ZHANG, a teacher determined to give him detention. After organizing a singing and dancing strike at school, Wanwan becomes wildly popular. Even ZHANG becomes his friend and the two spend lots of time in ZHANG's office chatting. But when ZHANG starts catching other students doing wrong, Wanwan is blamed for ratting out his classmates and he realizes that ZHANG has taken revenge by framing him. All those kind conversations were a trap. He literally beats ZHANG's eyes out of his head and runs away.

In 1994, Wanwan's father has started a real estate business. Wanwan goes back to Guiyang and he starts another gang, carving out his own turf from local gangsters. At a party, Wanwan meets YANG Yu and soon he starts to date her. Later on Wanwan becomes increasingly wild. He leaves his family to live with YANG Yu. Wanwan is 16.

In 1997, Wanwan's father has expanded the family business to Hong Kong. To earn a living, Wanwan starts a model management company. As he fights dirty and has been in the modeling business, the boss at a night club asks him to be his manager. Since then, Wanwan works among bosses, gangsters and

whores. Once, Wanwan hides a friend from the cops, and he is then jailed for harboring a criminal. His family has to bail him out of jail.

1999. Wanwan is depressed and refuses to go out. His family sends him to the army. The life of a soldier is hard, but leaving never crosses his mind; because he dreams that one day he can be saluted by his own squad. However, a secret assignment – executing criminals and seeing dying people – has taken a toll on Wanwan's soul, and he leaves the army.

Afterwards, Wanwan's father tells him to learn English because the family business is going global. But Wanwan refuses, and starts traveling alone around the country. On a ship, he encounters a girl from his old modeling agency. Enrolled in a music academy, she tells him about life on campus. Wanwan is fascinated and he, too, decides to enroll in a music academy.

2002. Beijing. Jelly brings breakfast over to Wanwan's place and persuades Wanwan not to work too hard on the entrance exam. Frankly, Wanwan does not stand a chance of passing it. "Let your family pay for a passing grade," Jelly says.

Sitting on a bus, Wanwan sees sleepy commuters and college students earnestly reading. He writes in his diary, "I must succeed in at least one thing!" He looks up and seems to see other passengers dancing happily.

## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

This story is partly based on my life. I was born in the 80's and my parents struggled hard and set many expectations on me. They hope I can inherit their wealth, wisdom and life experience, but I was born rebellious. I wanted to find my own path outside the plans that they set for me.

The timeline of the story follows the growth of Wanwan in Guizhou, Guangzhou and Beijing. This film develops from narration without a beginning and an ending. I want its form to play against the theme. The cinematography, set design, editing, music and costumes highlight the contrast between essence and appearance. Important things are overlooked, while unimportant things are stressed. The hero feels lost in wealth, rebels because of love, and falls into sweet decadence. Goodness stands the test of tradition. Success and failure are just the passing whims

of youth.

The theme of the film is "belief". Despite others doubting you, you should always have faith in yourself and always believe there is a group of people just like you.

## DIRECTOR

LI Jingyi was born in Guizhou province in 1982. In 2006, he graduated from the department of Musical Theatre of the Beijing Dance Academy. He appeared in many television serials, taking the lead role in dramas like *Ma La Jiao Tao* and *You Are My Legend*. In 2008, his first song, *Phoenix*, debuted in the top ten on the charts.

## PRODUCER

JIA Zhang-ke the director, producer, and writer, was born in 1970 in Shanxi Province. He attended the Department of Screenwriting and Cinema Studies of the Beijing Film Academy in 1993 and became a screenwriter in 1995. His first feature film *Xiao Wu* won the Wolfgang Prize and the NETPAC Award of the 48<sup>th</sup> Berlin International Film Festival Young Filmmakers Forum. In 2004, he was awarded the French Literature and Art Knight Medal. In 2006, his film *Still Life* received the Golden Lion Award at the 63<sup>rd</sup> Venice Film Festival, followed by his short film *Cry Me a River* and Nelson YU Lik-wai's *Plastic City*, which JIA produced, were also premiered at Venice in 2008. In that same year, *24 City* and *Cry Me a River* were screened at BFI 52<sup>nd</sup> London Film Festival. JIA Zhang-ke's main filmography also includes *Platform*, *Unknown Pleasures* and *The World*. JIA's writings: *Jia's thought* and *Interviews with Chinese Workers*.

## PRODUCTION COMPANY

Xstream Pictures was created by JIA Zhang-ke, CHOW Keung and YU Lik-wai. It has offices both in Hong Kong and Beijing. Its aim is to explore and to promote talented Chinese directors. The first production of Xstream Pictures was JIA Zhang-ke's *The World*, a co-production of Office Kitano, Lumen Films and Shanghai Film Studio. The most recent production of Xstream Pictures: JIA Zhang-ke's *24 City* was in competition at the Cannes Film Festival in 2008. YU Lik-wai's *Plastic City* was in competition at the Venice Film Festival 2008. Emily TANG's *Perfect Life* won the Dragons and Tigers Award of Vancouver International Film Festival 2008.