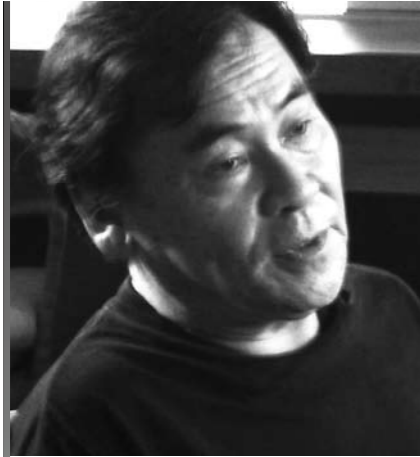


WANG Tung



Genre: Drama
Format: 35mm
Estimated Running Time: 100 min.

Budget:
US\$ 8,000,000 (HK\$ 62,400,000)
Funds Secured:
US\$ 1,000,000 (HK\$ 7,800,000)

Producers:
Terence CHANG
David TANG

Writing Credit:
KUO Cheng

Production Company:
Renaissance Films

HAF Goal:
Funds

Contact:
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INTRODUCTION

The Straits tells the story of the changes, struggles and hardships that the ordinary people of Taiwan have endured over the past six decades. It is intimate, depicting moving family sagas, tragic romances and lifelong friendships, and it is also an epic, showing the mass migration across the Strait, and the war between the Nationalist Army and the Chinese Communists. The commercial elements will encourage younger generations to learn more about the history of Taiwan and to honor the iron will demonstrated by the ordinary people of that extraordinary era. Written by KUO Cheng (scriptwriter of *Red Cliff*), *The Straits* will feature distinguished actors from Taiwan, Hong Kong and China and it will be an artistic film with huge box office potential.

SYNOPSIS

It is the end of 1949 and the Nationalist Army is being pounded by Chinese Communist artillery shells. Snow is falling on Shengpeng's unit, trapped in a small town while covering the Nationalist Army's retreat. Captain MA and Shengpeng are in command of a machine gun battalion, but when the Communist Army launches a massive attack, Captain MA panics and flees. Shengpeng threatens to shoot him if he doesn't stand his ground, but MA keeps running and Shengpeng is hit in the chest by a piece of shrapnel. Dazed, he raises his pistol and fires.

A mansion in the center of town has become the Nationalist Army's command center and the military chef, HUANG, and his two assistants are packing up as the shelling gets closer. The assistants desert just as a wounded Shengpeng stumbles into sight. Right at the same time, Private Fan runs out of the house shouting that has just found a kid hiding in a wardrobe.

Xiaofengxian starts telling his story: "On the day I walked out of that wardrobe I got three fathers." One is HUANG, one is Shengpeng and one is Private FAN. Xiaofengxian tells them he was playing hide and seek with his mother and fell asleep. Their hearts sink because they know that his family has fled. The shells are coming closer and so the wounded Shengpeng leads this ragtag band of survivors away from town.

2008. Xiaofengxian is 67 years old. He takes his son, Shengkui, on a train trip to Lanzhou. A Mongolian girl, Taogesi, is intrigued by their presence and so Xiaofengxian tells her his story.

1949. He arrives in Taiwan with his three fathers. HUANG and FAN get married, but Shengpeng remains single. Occasionally Xiaofengxian sees him brooding over a gold wedding band and assumes that he left his wife behind in China. This band of men become closer than blood relatives as they struggle to survive and make their way in Taiwan. Eventually they all settle down and start families. All except for Shengpeng.

Finally, 60 years later, Shengpeng tells Xiaofengxian the secret that has been gnawing at him all these years. Captain MA was his best friend and he shot him for desertion. Before he died, MA gave Shengpeng his wedding band, hoping he could return it to his wife one day. Now, Shengpeng hands that duty over to Xiaofengxian, and so Xiaofengxian embarks on a journey that unexpectedly finds him in the deserts of Northwest China.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

In 1949, CHIANG Kai-shek led the Nationalist Government's army and their families out of China, across the Formosa Strait and into Taiwan where he declared Taipei the capital of the Republic of China. My family was amongst the two million Chinese immigrants who followed him. I was seven years old and the feelings of separation and of taking refuge in a new land left an indelible mark on my mind.

In 2009, as the 60th anniversary of this mass immigration is approaching, many documentaries and television dramas are being made to commemorate that crucial year which proved to be a turning point in the history of modern China. For me, the time has come to do what I have been longing to do all my life and make a film set during this time, depicting the events of 1949.

DIRECTOR

WANG Tung is one of the most important modern Taiwanese film directors. During a career which spans three decades, he has directed eleven films and worked as production designer in over a hundred. He apprenticed under renowned Taiwanese directors including LI Hsing, King HU and LI Han-hsiang and gradually established his reputation as a production designer. He got his chance to direct the film *If I Were for Real* in 1980 and in 1983 his adaptation of HUANG Chun-ming's novel, *A Flower in the Rainy Night*, was a box-office hit that revived the career of its lead actress, LU Hsiao-fen. It was followed by *Run Away*, a realistic martial arts film that became WANG's signature work. In 2002, he began making 3D animated films and *Fire Ball*, released in 2005, was the first Taiwanese 3D animation. In addition to directing, WANG has served as the Chairman of the Golden Horse Awards and he received the National Award for Arts in 2007.

PRODUCERS

Terence CHANG worked for Johnny Mak Productions, D&B Films, and Tsui HARK's Film Workshop before forming Milestone Pictures with director John WOO in the 1980's. This inaugurated a 20-year partnership that saw them create the acclaimed films *Once a Thief*, *Hard-Boiled* and *Face/Off*. Producing films like *Mission: Impossible II*, *Anna and the King* and *The Big Hit*, CHANG has become the most successful Chinese producer in Hollywood. In 2008, he produced *Red Cliff* which has gone on to be one of the biggest Chinese box office successes of all time. In 2008, he established Stellar Entertainment Group, an artist management company with the goal of grooming the next generation of Asian stars.

David TANG was a film reporter for the *United Evening News* for twenty years, while also serving as a consultant to the Government Information Office. He started producing films in 2006 and in just three years he has produced several critical and commercial successes such as *Blood Brothers*, *Silk*, and *Red Cliff Part II*. In 2008, TANG established artist management company Stellar Entertainment Group Ltd. with actress Michelle YEOH and producer Terence CHANG. His most recent production is *My Fair Gentleman*, a romantic comedy starring Kelly LIN and SUN Honglei and martial arts film *Jianyu Jianghu*.

PRODUCTION COMPANY

Renaissance Films was founded by David TANG in July, 2009. The aim of the company is to produce quality, Chinese-language films and provide new opportunities for promising talent.