

Women and Children First

Malaysia / Japan

HO Yuhang



Genre: Film Noir
Format: HD
Estimated Running Time: 85 min.

Budget:
US\$ 500,000 (HK\$ 3,900,000)

Producers:
ONO Kousuke
SUGINO Kiki

Writing Credit:
HO Yuhang

Production Company:
WA Entertainment Inc

HAF Goals:
Funds, Sales agents, Pre-sales

Contact:
WA Entertainment Inc
(ONO Kousuke)

Address:
6-9-14 Tsujido, Fujisawa-shi,
Kanagawa-ken 251-0047 Japan

Tel: +81-9016021599

Email: kousuke@waentertain.com

INTRODUCTION

A woman lives a serene family life with her husband and their child. After a strange abduction incident involving their child, she realizes that her life is being invaded by an invisible stranger. The stranger then becomes a blackmailer who pries into her secret past. To protect her family from knowing anything about it, she will do anything, including killing.

SYNOPSIS

Ana lives a happy and stable but slightly boring life as a housewife. Her seven-year-old autistic son is the light of her life. Her husband has worked for the same company for the last eight years. While his busy schedule exhausts him, he is a devoted family man.

They have heard about a possible treatment for autism. It is called animal therapy. So one day the couple brings the son to a pet shop to look for a dog. The kid soon disappears. Moments later, they find the kid locked inside a car. No one is able to obtain any information from the kid about what had actually happened. No suspect is found. The only information they could get from the police is that the car is stolen.

After this strange episode, Ana senses that something has changed in her daily life. She could be overreacting but she definitely feels that there is an invisible stranger stalking and watching her. Her husband, however, senses nothing. Since none of it is life-threatening the police can't do anything and dismiss it all as harmless pranks.

Many years ago, she was the girlfriend of a four-person gang who pulled a heist on another band of thieves. It was a dog-eat-dog scenario. After the heist, the gang split up and disappeared for good in different parts of the country. Ana and her boyfriend, the gang leader, started a new life together. And one fine day, he choked to death on a fishbone. Ana took their remaining money, changed her name, moved to a new place and met her present husband. She used to think giving birth to an autistic child was some kind of a punishment for her former life of crime, but her love for the child overcame everything. She loves being a mother. She loves every single thing about her totally ordinary life.

Now, a vicious and vengeful man from her past has found Ana. He is her dead lover's younger brother who was also part of the gang. He had squandered his loot and had murdered the remaining gang members to steal their shares. He hated his brother and he had always wanted Ana to be his.

All alone and with her family at stake, Ana will have to put a stop to this madness and settle her past problems once and for all. To protect her family against this new threat she will do anything, even if it means planning the perfect murder...

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

The female protagonist in the story, though obviously a femme fatale, has some interesting atypical qualities unlike what this role usually calls for. The black humor lies in the terrible work a mother/housewife has to do so that she could get her normal life back. The terrible work involves quite a bit of bloodshed, which is necessary to shield her man (husband) from knowing the damning secret past of hers. At the end, it is indeed very bloody to live and maintain even a mundane and serene life.

DIRECTOR

HO Yuhang was born and raised in Petaling Jaya, just outside the Malaysian capital of Kuala Lumpur. He worked in television production and in 1999 he made the six-part documentary series *Semangat Insan: Masters of Tradition*. His debut feature, *Min*, followed in 2003 and although it was made for television, it was invited to many film festivals and won the Special Jury Prize at the Festival des 3 Continents in Nantes, France. His subsequent features and shorts have been invited to an ever-widening circle of festivals and have won several more prizes, including the NETPAC and the Tiger Award for Best Short at the Rotterdam International Film Festival. His 2006 film, *Rain Dogs*, was widely seen across Asia and was also an official selection of many international film festivals. In 2008, he was one of three finalists for Martin SCORSESE's mentorship in an arts initiative sponsored by Rolex. His new film *At the End of Daybreak* won the NETPAC prize in the Locarno Film Festival 2009 and also the Taipei Golden Horse Award for Best Supporting Actress.

PRODUCERS

Born in Tokyo, 1963, ONO Kousuke worked for Toho, in charge of merchandising and publishing. He won the Kadokawa Angel Award in 2006 for the planning of the film *Tea Fight*. In 2008, he produced two films, *Clearness* directed by SHINOHARA Tetsuo, and the Japan-Taiwanese co-production *Tea Fight*. In 2008, he founded a movie production company WA Entertainment with actress / producer SUGINO Kiki.

Born in 1984 in Hiroshima, Japan. SUGINO Kiki graduated at Keio University, majoring in economics. She is an actress repped by Stardust Promotion, who made her screen debut in the Korean film *One Shinning Day*, followed by KIM Kiduk's *Time*. In 2008, she starred in her first Japanese film *Clearness* by SHINOHARA Tetsuo and produced a short film called *Exhalation* by Malaysian director Edmund YEO, in which she also had a starring role.

PRODUCTION COMPANY

WA Entertainment was founded in 2008 by SUGINO Kiki a Japanese-Korean actress /producer and ONO Kousuke, a Japanese producer. It is a production company mainly for the international co-production of movies. Their film project *Forget-me-not* with the late Yasmin AHMAD, was selected for the Pusan Award of the Pusan Promotion Plan in 2008. They have just finished shooting the short film *Exhalation* directed by Malaysian director Edmund YEO, produced and starring SUGINO Kiki.