

WIP J Still Human



COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Hong Kong

GENRE | FORMAT | LANGUAGE | RUNNING TIME: Drama | Digital Format | Cantonese | 100 mins

DIRECTOR:

Oliver CHAN Siu-kuen

PRODUCER:

Fruit CHAN

WIP GOALS:

Funds, Sales agents, Pre-sales, Festival screening

PRODUCTION BUDGET:

US\$ 416,000

DIRECTOR'S FILMOGRAPHY

First Feature Director

ONE-SENTENCE SYNOPSIS

A paralyzed and hopeless man meets his new Filipino domestic worker who has put her dreams on hold; together, they are going to learn what to do with life.

SYNOPSIS

The story starts with another hopeless day of Cheong Wing's life but with a slight difference – a new helper will be here today. He goes to the bus stop to pick her up, only to realize that this woman, Evelyn, doesn't speak Cantonese. And NO, Cheong Wing doesn't speak English either. The two strangers don't start on good terms: Cheong Wing has too much of a temper and Evelyn is constantly nervous and scared around him.

He hates how useless he is now and how his ex-wife and son are far away from him, living a great life without him in it. Evelyn sees how fragile and kind he actually is and wants to support him. At the same time, Cheong Wing also gradually learns that Evelyn is not "the Filipino maid" that he always stereotypes. She has a dream of becoming a photographer. He also wants to help her out. The two people gradually become closer and instead of just employer and employee, they are like friends, family and even lovers. Together, they learn about love, dreams, desire, and what to do with their lives that seem so broken.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

The whole project started because of two people I saw on the street of Hong Kong one day. There was a man in his wheelchair and a Southeast Asian woman standing on the footrest behind his chair. She was taking a ride on it as he drove the electric wheelchair. They were so intimate and they seemed so natural and close together. I immediately thought they were employer and domestic worker. But then I thought that they could be friends. They could be lovers, too. No matter how developed our city or country is, stereotypes and discrimination still exist, and we don't realise it.

I can't forget about the scene as they traveled through the street with smiles on their faces: it was stunningly beautiful. I was very curious about them and I imagined their lives, and gradually a story is developed in my mind. The story is about how these two people overcome their differences and just get to know and appreciate each other's souls. I believe that everyone should have the freedom and courage to pursue wonderful things in life, like dreams, love, and desire, despite their jobs, age, background, and physical condition.

DIRECTOR

Oliver CHAN Siu-kuen

Oliver Chan Siu-kuen graduated from The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Global Business Studies. She later studied at Hong Kong Baptist University for the Master of Fine Arts (Film, TV and Digital Media) degree. She is now a short film and commercial video director, as well as a television drama and feature-film scriptwriter. Having been selected in the 3rd First Feature Film Initiative held by the HKSAR government, she is now working on her first feature, *Still Human*.

PRODUCER

Fruit CHAN

Fruit Chan is an independent Hong Kong Second Wave screenwriter, filmmaker and producer. His films have been selected by many local and international film festivals and have received many rewards including Best Director and Best Script in the Hong Kong Film Awards and the Taipei Golden Horse Film Festival. His works include: *Made in Hong Kong* (1997), *The Longest Summer* (1998), *Little Cheung* (1999), *Durian Durian* (2001), *Hollywood Hong Kong* (2001), *The Midnight After* (2014) and others.

PRODUCTION COMPANY

No Ceiling Film Production Limited

No Ceiling Film Production Limited was founded in 2017. Its first project, *Still Human*, has won the 3rd First Feature Film Initiative (Higher Education Institution Group) organized by Create Hong Kong of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.