

孔秀

A WOMAN

王超导演作品

A Film by Wang Chao



Donostia Zinemaldia
Festival de San Sebastián
OFFICIAL SELECTION

Short synopsis :

From the late 1960s to the early 1980s, Kong Xiu, an ordinary female worker in a small industrial town in Hebei Province, China, worked hard, persevered and strived for self-improvement, bravely got rid of the shackles of two unfortunate marriages, and grew up to be a writer in her spare time in the heavy workshop work.

Long synopsis :

In 1967, during Mao Zedong's Cultural Revolution in China, Kong Xiu, an 18-year-old female worker, married Liu Hanzhang, a farmer who returned to his hometown from university. After marriage, her husband's family asked Kong Xiu to resign from the factory and return to the countryside to be a housewife. Kong Xiu refused and had no choice but to divorce. She reluctantly gave up her eldest son and raised her daughter alone.

Two years later, Kong Xiu married Yang Jinxia, a worker, and gave birth to his youngest son. Soon after, Yang Jinxia was paralyzed by illness, his temperament became more violent, often abused Kong Xiu, and exposed her opposition to the factory movement, and drove Kong Xiu's daughter out of the house. Kong Xiu endured humiliation to cure his illness and divorced him. In the early 1980s, when China began its reform and opening up, Kong Xiu was encouraged by Wu Beichen, a like-minded worker, to study and create, and became a writer. She opposed her daughter's first love. For this reason, there was a gap and contradiction between her and her daughter. When her eldest son would go to college, Kong Xiu returned to her hometown to see him, but she could not get his eldest son's understanding.







Director's statement

On two previous occasions, I made two films based on two of my own novels. This time «A Woman» is the first time that I have adapted someone else's novel into a film. I still remember the complex and exciting feelings when I read this semi-autobiographical novel.

Zhang Xiuzhen, the author of the novel, tells the story of her life as a Chinese woman, a dyeing and weaving factory worker in Shijiazhuang City, Hebei Province, China, from the Cultural Revolution to the early stage of China's reform and opening up. She reminds me of my mother, and her children remind me of me. I was born in 1964, almost the same age as her children, and almost as much as her children, I went through those extraordinary difficult times in China with my own mother.

The mother in the novel is more difficult than my mother, who has experienced two unfortunate marriages with two men with different personalities. What shocked me was the human nature characteristic of her two husbands, which not only had the personality of Chinese men, but also transcended the national character and became the common stubborn part of human nature, and became the dilemma that Kong Xiu, the heroine of the film, had to go through and overcome.

This is not only a film about the life of the author of the novel, but also a film about a Chinese woman. The film is about a woman struggling under the shadow of male discourse and how to live with dignity, which shows the common human nature of women and men in the contemporary world, especially women.

«A Woman», also from the perspective of ordinary people's lives, shows the progress of China from the special historical period of the Cultural Revolution to the era of reform and opening up. This also places my sincere hope for the future of my motherland.



WANG Chao

Wang Chao was born in Nanjing, China in 1964.
Chinese film director, writer, screenwriter and producer.

2001 THE ORPHAN OF ANYANG

54th Cannes International Film Festival «Directors' Fortnight»

2001 THE ORPHAN OF ANYANG

Prix FIPRESCI at 37th Chicago International Film Festival

2004 DAYS AND NIGHTS

Best Film, Best Director, Youth Jury Prize at Film Festival des 3 continents

In collaboration with ARTE

2006 LUXURY CAR

Best Film in «An Certain Regard» 59th Cannes international Film Festival

In collaboration with ARTE

2009 MEMORY OF LOVE

14th Busan International Film Festival.

In collaboration with TF1

2012 THE CELESTIAL KINGDOM

Best Director at 10th Roman Asian Film Festival

2014 FANTASIA

67th Cannes International Film Festival «An Certain Regard»

2015 LOOKING FOR ROHMER

20th Busan International Film Festival

2017-2018 RIVER'S EDGE

39th Cairo International Film Festival, the 21st Tallinn Black Nights Film Festival







Cast & Crew

Director : Wang Chao

Screenplay : Dong Yun Zhou, Wang Chao

Production : Hebei Fengcong Yuncong Culture Media Co. Ltd
Zhang Ali

Sales : Loco Films

Photography : Li Chun Yu

Edition : Wang Chao, Yao Xiao Peng

Music : Tian Tian

Sound : Yan Xue Lei

Cast : Shen Shi Yu, Zhu Dong Qing, Wang Xue Dong, Yu Qing Bin

Technical information

Country : China

Language : Mandarin Chinese

Subtitles : English/Spanish

Format : DCP 2k jpeg2000

Digital cinema name(s) (CPL) : AWoman_FTR-1_F_CMN-XX_51_2K_20220908_IOP_OV

Aspect ratio : 1.85:1

Resolution : 1998x1080

Sound : 5.1

Disk type : none

Duration : 1:58:23:16

Encrypted : yes

Dimensions : none

Speed (Frame rate) : 24

DCP size : 166 GB

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