

Luxian productions presents:

# RED FOREST HOTEL



A Finnish filmmaker travels to rural China to film a story about new green China's massive tree planting campaigns.



He plans to interview local farmers and their lawyer.

But suddenly he is stopped... by propaganda officials.



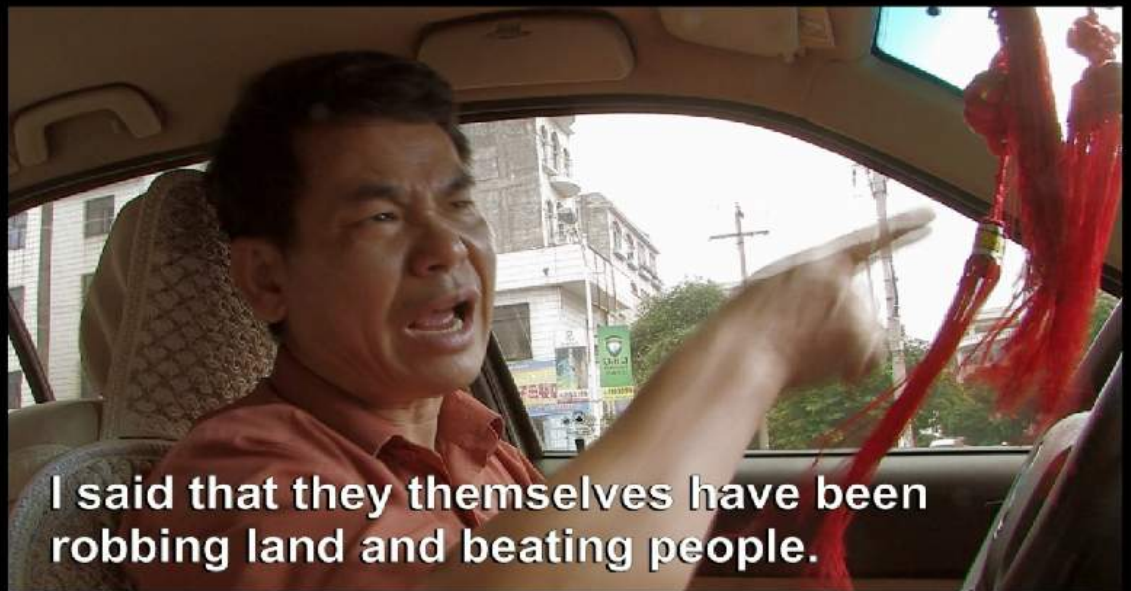
If you communicate with our officials they will tell you the truth.



They boast about their tight relationship with a Finnish-Swedish forestry corporation that plans to build a paper mill in the area.



In the  
meantime  
the police  
arrest the  
lawyer.



I said that they themselves have been robbing land and beating people.

The filmmaker is trapped...



... and placed under  
surveillance in an  
absurd situation lasting  
for days.

You are helping someone  
to kidnap people.



A year later he makes another attempt to find  
out what's really going on in the province.



Birds have all died here.



They said that the Finns are coming.  
The word Finland terrifies us.

## RED FOREST HOTEL

- a documentary about tree planting in China

## RED FOREST HOTEL – the documentary film

***A Finnish cameraman's attempt to make a film about new green China turns into a nightmare when he is confronted by officials determined to protect the reputation of a global forestry giant.***

A Finnish news cameraman who has worked for 15 years in Beijing starts to document China's massive tree-planting campaigns. Faced with the threat of climate change, the economic giant China is strongly investing in recycling, renewable energy and other environmental reforms. The filmmaker wants to explore whether authoritarian China, with its effective new environmental policies, could set a green example for the world. But the project takes a surprise turn when the filmmaker gets stopped by local government officials on his way to film tree plantations in Guangxi province, southern China.

Here, huge eucalyptus plantations are being developed by the world's second largest forestry corporation, Stora Enso, largely owned by the Finnish state. The eucalyptus trees will produce raw material for a planned paper and pulp mill. The filmmaker ends up trapped in a Kafkaesque situation: the officials praise the project's benefits, but prevent him from approaching the plantations and interviewing locals. Instead he gets isolated in a local hotel, and finds out that all his contacts have been detained. A year later he makes another attempt to find out what is really going on in the province.

The film records, often humorously, the Chinese officials' and the forestry company's efforts to avoid responsibility. Can the diversity of trees and cultures be protected in a "greening" global economy?

### **Director & screenplay**

Mika Koskinen

### **Photography**

Mika Mattila, Mika Koskinen

### **Editing**

Kauko Lindfors

### **Sound**

Janne Laine

### **Length**

87min. Tv-hour version 58 min.

### **Producers**

Luxian productions Oy  
Mika Koskinen & Risto Rumpunen

### **In cooperation with**

The Finnish Film Foundation / Miia Haavisto, Elina Kivihalme

AVEK (The Promotion Centre for Audiovisual Culture) / Pia Andell, Timo Korhonen

YLE / Iikka Vehkalahti, Erkki Astala

SVT Sweden – Axel Arnö

NRK Norway – Tore Tomter



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World premiere



**LENS POLITICA**  
Finland premiere

LUXIAN PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS  
A DOCUMENTARY FILM:

# Red Forest Hotel

A Finnish news cameraman travels by train from polluted Beijing to make a film about China's new green politics.

When Prime Minister Wen Jiabao gives a speech, everyone applauds:



The government demands: recycling, saving energy and resources...

...as well as national tree planting campaigns.



Every year, the Chinese plant more trees than all other countries combined. In Beijing, everyone contributes:



Meanwhile 2600 kilometers away, in Southern China, Finnish-Swedish forestry corporation Stora Enso is developing huge eucalyptus plantations:

Official

Everybody is highly supportive of this project.

Citizen

They said that if we don't cut our trees, they will burn them.

Official

We are all very democratic and we pay great attention to these things.

Citizen

I am not afraid of being shot to death.

What comes out is much noise, debate and trouble.

In Yunnan, a small ethnic group prefers a quiet peaceful life in the forest.

Trees can't talk. But they contribute so much to our life.

They know how to live in harmony with the environment. Do we?

**RED FOREST HOTEL**

- a documentary about tree planting in China.

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