

兩個 星球

AFTER THE RAIN

a **Jian Fan** film

produced by **Richard Liang & S. Leo Chiang**



After an earthquake razed a Chinese city to the ground in 2008, more than six thousand parents were encouraged to replace the children they lost and move on with their lives. AFTER THE RAIN follows two of these families for over a decade. Haunted by fear, resentment, and unspeakable grief, the families find hope beyond intergenerational trauma to build towards an uncertain tomorrow.

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“两个星球” 2021, Color, 2.35:1, 104 minutes, Chinese (Sichuan dialect)



SYNOPSIS

Logline [40 words]

After an earthquake razed a Chinese city to the ground in 2008, more than six thousand parents were encouraged to replace the children they lost and move on. AFTER THE RAIN follows two of these families for over a decade.

Short [148 words]

After an earthquake razed a Chinese city to the ground in 2008, over 6,000 parents are encouraged to replace the children they lost and move on. Due to the One-Child Policy, most of these parents lost the only children they had. AFTER THE RAIN follows the two couples who become close friends through the shared experience of introducing new children into their shaken families. In 2017, parents Mei and Sheng live with their 6 year-old son Chuan, and a framed photo of their deceased little girl. Their friends Ying and Ping are raising their 11 year-old daughter Ran-ran, after Ying and Ping lost their first daughter. The parents' search for the strength to raise these second children becomes complicated as Chuan and Ran-ran grow older and wiser. Haunted by fear, resentment, and unspeakable grief, the families find hope beyond intergenerational trauma to build towards an uncertain tomorrow.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Jian FAN, Director

When a major disaster strikes, the world pays attention during the brief period when the destruction takes place, but few understand the long-term human cost from these disasters. Out of the over 7,500 sets of parents who lost their only children in the Sichuan Earthquake, approximately 3,500 couples went on to have another child. This irreversible shift in their life trajectories not only impacts those who experienced the trauma, but also their children born after the disasters. Our longitudinal, immersive investigation into the lived realities of these families will provide much needed insights into the psychological effects of major disasters.

After The Rain is a quintessential Chinese story, scrutinizing the parent-child relationship, the foundation of Chinese society. And, unlike much of Western literature and thinking, traditional Chinese culture does not celebrate individuality. Many in older generations do not fully comprehend that one person—one child—cannot substitute for another. This puts tremendous pressure on the younger generation, but does not deter them from finding their own identity. This film leads our audiences through a complex examination in the evolving value of individual life and identity.

When I made *The Next Life* back in 2011, I spent a year in this community of parents through the darkest time in their lives. Because of this experience, Mei, Sheng, Ying, and Ping now treat me like a member of their families. *After the Rain* will be the second film in a trilogy on the Sichuan Earthquake. I have built a body of nuanced, character-driven work that examines the intricacy of the human condition around these social issues. Through these films, I hope that both domestic and international audiences are able to think deeply about China, especially the life and fate of its ordinary people, beyond the news headlines.

FESTIVAL SCREENINGS

2021

FIRST International Film Festival (Xining, China) - ***World Premiere***

DMZ Docs (Goyang, South Korea) - ***International Premiere***

FILMMAKERS



Jian FAN (Director) is a documentary director who focuses on Chinese social issues through character-driven storytelling. He has directed six feature-length documentary films, most recently STILL TOMORROW, winner of a Special Jury Award at IDFA 2016. His other films include MY LAND (Berlinale 2016; supported by Sundance Documentary Fund) and THE NEXT LIFE (IDFA 2011; Jury Prize at Guangzhou Documentary Film Festival 2011). His work has screened in competition at Hot Docs, Full Frame, Sheffield, Busan, and dozens of other film festivals around the world. Jian studied at the Beijing Film Academy and is based in Chongqing, China.



Richard LIANG (Producer) has been working on documentaries for over 10 years. Richard has produced several Chinese documentaries with international partners, most recently THE ROAD (IDFA 2015, co-production with DR, SVT, IKON, and NHK) and previously THE NEXT LIFE (dir. Jian Fan, co-production with NHK & Al Jazeera). Richard has been scouting Chinese films for IDFA since 2013 and was a jury member at IDFA 2015.



Leo Chiang (Producer) is a filmmaker based in San Francisco and Taipei. His new film, OUR TIME MACHINE has played at over 50 film festivals worldwide, winning 10 awards. He recently directed two episodes of the landmark 5-part PBS series, ASIAN AMERICANS. His previous films include the Emmy Award-nominated A VILLAGE CALLED VERSAILLES, OUT RUN, MR. CAO GOES TO WASHINGTON, and TO YOU SWEETHEART, ALOHA. Leo has been a Sundance-Time Warner Fellow, a Rockwood JustFilms Fellow, and a Co-Chair of New Day Films. He has served as a mentor/trainer for the Hot Docs CrossCurrent Fellowship, the CNEX Chinese Documentary Forum, and the CAAM Fellowship. He is the co-founder of A-Doc, the Asian American Documentary Network, and a documentary branch member of the Academy of Motion Pictures and Sciences.



JEAN TSIENT, Executive Producer, ACE, is a veteran documentary editor, producer, and consultant. Her editing credits include the 2001 Academy Award nominee, SCOTTSBORO: AN AMERICAN TRAGEDY, and the Peabody Award-winning film, MALCOLM X: MAKE IT PLAIN. She executive produced and edited PLASTIC CHINA, the winner of the 54th Golden Horse Award for Best Editing. Tsien also executive produced OUR TIME MACHINE and PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF DESIRE, Grand Jury Award winner, 2018 SXSW Film Festival. She consulted on many award-winning films, such as AMERICAN FACTORY, CRIME + PUNISHMENT, and HOOLIGAN SPARROW. Tsien is a recipient of the Art of Editing Mentorship Award at the 2018 Sundance Film Festival.

CREDITS

Directed by

Jian Fan

Produced by

Richard Liang

S. Leo Chiang

Editors

Isabella Zang

Matthieu Laclau

Executive Producer

Jean Tsien

Cinematographers

Jian Fan

Xue Ming

Supervising Producer

Chuanju Wei

Co-Producers

Isabella Zang

Jia Zhao

Ken-ichi Imamura

Betsy Tsai

Associate Producers

Yiwen Liang

Sound Recordist

Isabella Zang

Camera Assistants

Penghui Yuan

Ke Wu

Assistant Editors

Yannshan Tsai



Sound Designer & Re-recording Mixer

Danfeng Li

Post-Production Sound Services

Mofei Pictures

Digital Intermediate Colorist

Transcriber

Bixuan Ji

Jing Xie

Final Cut Translator

Eric Abrahamsen

Rough Cut Translator

Dong Han

Yuhong Pang