

67^e Internationale
Filmfestspiele
Berlin
Panorama

OFFICIAL SELECTION
GOLDEN HORSE
FILM FESTIVAL
2016

HOU HSIAO-HSIEN PRESENTS

SMALL TALK

A FILM BY HUI-CHEN HUANG

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY CHE LIN EXECUTIVE PRODUCER HOU HSIAO-HSIEN
ORIGINAL MUSIC LIM GIONG HSU CHIH-YUAN EDITOR JESSICA WAN-YU LIN
PRODUCER DIANA CHIAWEN LEE DIRECTOR HUI-CHEN HUANG



RIGINAL TITLE

Ri Chang Dui Hua

ENGLISH TITLE

Small Talk

LOG LINE

A few simple questions spark a series of talks, which reveal some things that neither my mother nor I are sure we're ready to face.

CONTACT INFO

Hui-Chen Huang | Director

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TECHNICAL INFO

Theatrical length*

TRT: 88 minutes

Exhibition format: DVD, Blu Ray, DCP

Aspect Ratio: 16:9

Shooting format: HD

Color | Taiwanese with English Subtitles | Stereo

(available in 54' broadcast length)

FESTIVALS AND AWARDS

2018 Taiwan International Documentary Festival, Grand Prize

2018 CinemAsia Film Festival, Audience Awards

2017 Teddy Award, Best Documentary

2017 Chinese Film Media Awards, Best Film

2017 Nashville Film Festival, Special Jury Prize for Outstanding Filmmaking

2017 Queer Lisboa International Queer Film Festival, Best Documentary

2017 Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival, Audience Awards

2017 Antenna International Documentary Film Festival, Best Film

2017 Network of Asian Women's Film Festival NAWFF Award, Best Film

2017 Chinese Documentary Festival, Feature length Best Film

2017 TLVFest, Tel Aviv's International LGBT Film Festival, Best Documentary

2017 32° Lovers Film Festival– Torino LGBTQI Visions, Best Documentary

2017 Hamburg International Queer Film Festival, Special Mention der Jury

2017 Women Make Waves Film Festival, Best Film, Audience Awards

2017 Taipei Film Festival, Best Documentary

Official selection 67th Berlinale Panorama

Official selection 53rd Golden Horse Film Festival

Nominated, Best Documentary Film for 53rd Golden Horse Awards

Nominated, Best Editing for 53rd Golden Horse Awards

SYNOPSIS

Every morning, my mother wakes up well before me, prepares my lunch, and takes off. Every evening, after eating out, my mom comes home, washes up, closes her bedroom door, and is asleep by 9PM.

We live in the same space, my mother and I. But for decades now, we are like strangers under one roof. The only exchanges are the meals she cooks and leaves for me on our dining room table. No hellos, no goodbyes, and no “I love you.”

Silence permeates our house as I watch her, knowing that beneath the deafening silence lies a secret that weighs heavily on her, keeping her from speaking; knowing that behind her tightly pursed lips is a shame so overbearing that it suffocates her.

One day, I finally summoned up the courage to sit her down and make her talk. My camera becomes a gateway and a tool in prying open the Pandora’s box and capturing my mother’s secrets. But am I ready to hear what she has to say? Are we ready to face what’s been buried for so long?

DIRECTOR’S STATEMENT

As a filmmaker, I’ve always told the stories of the marginalized, powerless, or underrepresented. I feel their pain, their suffering, their powerlessness, and their frustrations because those have also been my experiences.

When it comes to my own story, I haven’t had the courage or strength to utter a sound, because exposing myself is hard, asking if I’m loved is harder, and facing the truth is the hardest.

But I can no longer use my fears as an excuse because my role has evolved. Now that I’m a mother myself, I see my mom with a different perspective. And that new perspective forces me to reckon with my past and face my fears. I hope that this process can help both myself and my mother walk out of the shadows and away from the pain that has plagued us for so long.

THE TEAM

Hui-Chen HUANG | Director

Hui-chen is an activist, documentary filmmaker, and mother of a precocious little girl. Prior to embarking on her first feature doc, Hui-chen worked for NGOs such as the Taiwan International Workers Association and China Time’s Trade Union, advocating for labor rights and social justice. It was during this time that she began documenting the plight of the disadvantaged and the voiceless. Her intimate profiles of the less fortunate and the exploited became tools used for social change.

Most recently, Hui-chen served as Secretary General of Taipei Documentary Union, and is currently working on her memoir to be published in 2017.

Che LIN | Cinematographer

Che is a media maker and activist. In addition to *Small Talk*, he produced and shot for Hong Kong’s SunTV and Taiwan’s Daai TV, and was a part of the award winning documentary *Beyond Beauty: Taiwan From Above*. Lin received the Taiwan Labor Film Awards, and Golden Tripod Award for his cinematography and photography works. His works have shown on Voice of America, NHK, and several international outlets.

Lin is a dedicated environmentalist who represented Taiwan at the UN’s Framework Convention on Climate Change in Copenhagen, as well as an active founding member behind the preservation movement around military

dependent's village in Taipei, Taiwan. Born in Taiwan in 1981, Che has a BA in engineering and a Masters in Environmental Studies.

Jessica WanYu LIN | Editor

Lin is an independent filmmaker born in 1984 in Taiwan. She's working on various documentaries and video art projects. She often collaborates with sound-art performers, choreographers, and theater troupes, including Shu-Yi And Dancers, Very Mainstream Studio, and Kandala Records. She is particularly interested in arts and culture of minority groups and of the marginalized, and about different values of living.

CREDIT

Hui-Chen HUANG | **Director**

HOU Hsiao-Hsien | **Executive Producer**

Diana Chiawen LEE | **Producer**

Che LIN | **Director of Photography**

Hui-Chen HUANG | **Camera**

Jessica WanYu LIN | **Editor**

Chen-ching LEI | **Editorial Consultant**

LIM Giong | **Composer**

Point | **Composer**

Sound Mix & Design

Kiwi Inc.

Post Production

Modern Cinema