

FILM SCHOOL
LASALLE College of the Arts
Putnam School of Film & Animation
1 McNally Street - Singapore 187940
www.lasalle.edu.sg



PUTNAM
SCHOOL OF
FILM & ANIMATION



a film directed by **SHREELA AGARWAL**, written by **XIAO PENG**
and produced by **HARIZ ZULKIFLI**

Short Fiction / 2018 / Singapore / Color / 15 mins / HD

CONTACTS: Hariz Zulkifli - muhammadhariz.zulkifli@mylasalle.edu.sg,
Shreela Agarwal - shreela1999@gmail.com

TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Original Title: 樸運
English Title: The Keeper
Year: 2018
Runtime: 14 minutes 37 secs
Country of Origin: Singapore
Languages(s): Mandarin, Cantonese & Hokkien with English Subtitles
Genre: Short Drama
Color: Color
Aspect Ratio: 16:9
Camera: Canon C100
Film Editing: Adobe Premiere Pro
Sound Mix: Pro Tools

Synopsis:

Rong lives with his ailing wife, Shan. One day, Ling, their daughter returns home for a visit.



DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

I sometimes believe finding materials that may resonate with a filmmaker coming from a different cultural background can be daunting from the start, especially for a young director like myself, who is at the early stage of their formation. It is ultimately in the screenplay 樸運 (The Keeper), predominantly a Chinese drama, scripted and based in a language that is entirely foreign to mine, I find the subject explored to be extremely relevant to my own culture in my own country. India, just as any former colony countries such as Singapore, has had both positive, and as well negative impacts on its socio-economic landscape even long after the colonization has ended. Having been raised by strong-willed grandparents myself, I find the story to be universal and yet personal; the writer has managed to enchant by its beautiful tapestry of relatable human behaviours and experience set in a very simple premise in a family. This has given me the confidence to trust and work with the material other than my own. Although the film was made with very limited resources and locations, we were very moved to be able to explore another facet of life in contemporary Singapore told from the point-of-view of a man who is trying to keep his family together. While making the film has also reaffirmed in me that filmmaking as a medium for communication, it truly has the ability to transcend the barriers of language, for we are constantly fraught with similar circumstances -- it really does not matter where we are or who we are.

DIRECTOR



SHREELA AGARWAL

Shreela Agarwal comes from Bombay, India and is currently completing a Bachelor's Degree in Film in the Puttnam School of Film & Animation in Singapore. The occasion to study film set within the traditional framework of a formal education has given her the opportunity to direct and complete a slew of short films, such as 樸運 (The Keeper), Mute Subconscious Moments and Shoe Box among others. She has also served as the director of photography and editor for other film projects. At 19 years of age, Shreela is a filmmaker, photographer and a certified mountaineer who enjoys travelling, meeting new people and learning different cultures of the world.

PRODUCER



HARIZ ZULKIFLI

Hariz Zulkifli has lived in Singapore up till now. Following his father's wish to be an engineer, he'd enrolled to study engineering in a Polytechnic in Singapore after his secondary school education. However it was this time that he realised the prospect of being an engineer is not for him; his passion is tied back to film and in the creative arts. After much deliberation, he applied to study film in the Puttnam School of Film & Animation and was offered a spot in the programme. During this time, he has written and directed several shorts, such as One One Mike, Mr H for Happy and also served as a director of photography for Grown Up. As a producer his credits include 樸運 (The Keeper), and Abu is another short film written by him that was completed in the same year.

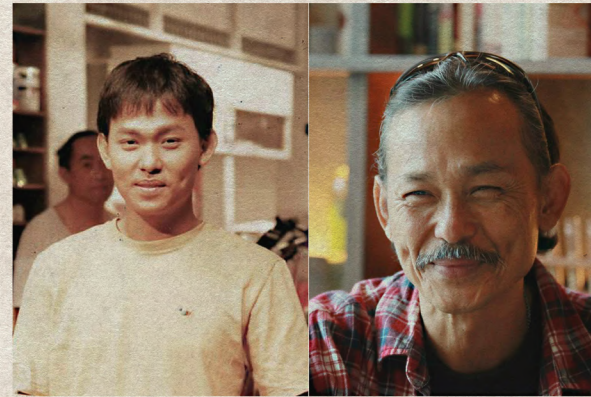
SCREENWRITER

蕭鹏 Xiao Peng



With a higher education in design Xiao Peng started work as a designer spanning from textiles and costume to prints and graphic design. He was invited as an artist-in-residence in 72-13; a hybrid art space founded by Theatreworks in Singapore, and has given workshops under DesignSingapore Council. His works were previously presented in public spaces, such as Musée Galliera in Paris and the Museum of Nationalities in Beijing. He was also trained in woodworking and Kasuri weaving under an apprentice-style system in Japan. During this time, he teaches himself film by training in selected workshops, such as film direction in NYU Tisch Asia, and theoretical courses and film production at the now defunct film.factory in Sarajevo. This will foster his interests in non-fiction films and he goes on to study documentary filmmaking in a workshop in EICTV Cuba and also joined the creative documentary class at the Independent Film Centre in Požega. Peng has made several short projects and one of which he co-directed, *Pelo Bueno Pelo Malo*, is a short documentary filmed in Cuba and was screened in several film festivals. *樸運* (The Keeper) is another fiction short that he has written when he was training in a year program in the Puttnam School of Film & Animation in Singapore.

CAST



Tuen Wai Meng (as Rong)

Wai Meng is a veteran actor in Singapore when he played the favourite coffee boy role Ah Cai in a TV series from 1986 to 1988 called *Neighbours* with the Singapore Broadcasting Corporation, now known as Mediacorps. He left the TV station in 1990 for a host of reasons, mostly financial, which he was only earning SGD\$900 a month. He needs to eke out a living by taking on all sorts of odd jobs, such as construction work in Taiwan and TV crew in Hong Kong, to continue acting. Currently, he is retired from acting and is a driver to a “gao fu shuai” (which means, rich and handsome in Chinese) businessman. When discussing about his acting, Wai Meng is similarly down to earth about his choices, he says, “Honestly, I didn’t study acting theories. I try to understand what the director is looking for in the role and I portray it.”

CAST



Chen Jingjing (as Ling)

Jing who is a beneficiary of the Möbius Fund is currently training as a theatre actor at the Intercultural Theatre Institute (ITI) in Singapore. She studied at South China University of Technology and receives her MA in Creative Practice & Direction from Guildford School of Acting (GSA) in UK. There, she combined her interest in physical theatre and contemporary dance with an exploration of text. Back home in Yangjiang, China, Jing is an active participant of the local theatre scene. She has worked in site-specific work *Body Space* in Yangjiang by Li Ning, and physical theatre piece *The Wind* by Jiangnan Ligu at Beijing Fringe Festival. Jing comes to Singapore to explore communication, understanding and creation in theatre in a time of interculturalism. 樸運 (The Keeper) is her first screen appearance.

CAST



Beatrice Chien (as Shan)

The 77-year-old actress is most notably known for playing a role in Eric Khoo's *Ramen Teh* in 2017 (Khoo is a known film auteur/& producer working in Singapore). Beatrice Chien is a self-taught actor who was trained on radio in the now defunct Rediffusion during her secondary school days. After finishing school, she was trained as a nurse and gave up acting to work on shifts and irregular hours in a hospital. She left the service in 1984 but continued working as a private nurse for another 16 years. She is a volunteer at the Association of Women for Action and Research and Sage Counselling Centre. It was not until 2003, she and a group of drama-loving seniors started The Glowers Drama Group under the auspices of DramaPlus Arts that Beatrice has once again caught the attention of TV producers, filmmakers and theatre groups. This will mark her return to acting and Beatrice has since been a regular in Singapore's burgeoning short film circuit.

CREDITS

Cast

Rong TUEN WAI MENG
Ling CHEN JINGJING
Shan BEATRICE CHIEN
Huat DANNY YEO

Crew

Screenwriter	XIAO PENG	Production Designer	AMANDA TAN
Director	SHREELA AGARWAL	Field-mixers	AASTIK BHASIN, CHAN SOO CHEE
Producer	HARIZ ZULKIFLI	Boom Operator	KHID ABDUL JALIL
Director of Photography	CHARIS YEO	Gaffer	FLORENT CORCHIA
1st AD	DIONE GOH	Film Editor	AMANDA TAN
2nd AD	CHAN SOO CHEE		

Sound Designer CHAN SOO CHEE
Colorists LEONG WEI CHING,
FLORENT CORCHIA

Camera Assistants JADE XIN,
BOEY HUI,
LIM JING
Key Grip LEONG WEI CHING
Best Boy JONATHAN CHOW
1st Grip KELLIE KUAH
2nd Grip CAMILLE PASQUIER
Art Directors XIAO PENG,
HARIZ ZULKIFLI,
SHREELA AGARWAL

Set Dresser & Prop Master ANGEL TEO

Art Assistants CHAN SOO CHEE,
TRUDY GOLD LUKAMTO,
JOSEPHINE L.W.,
DEEPA AYATHORAI,

Production Manager

Production Assistants

Production Drivers

CHEW YUN YAN,
GOH ZHEN LING
ONG SHU YANG

ANJA DIMOVA,
ELTON LOW

NASRULLAH ZAREN
ASHWIND MENON



ABOUT PSoFA

Puttnam School of Film & Animation (PSoFA) LASALLE College of the Arts

Puttnam School of Film & Animation is one of the leading film schools in Singapore. The school focuses on animation, broadcast media, and film. For film, the school offers a BA(Hons) Film programme validated by GOLDSMITHS University of London in UK. Boo Junfeng, as an alumnus of the Puttnam School has launched a successful career in filmmaking with his second feature film *The Apprentice*, screened at the Cannes Film Festival. Every year Lord Puttnam delivers masterclass to the body of students studying in PsoFA in Singapore. The Puttnam School is a full member of the regional association of the CILECT member of schools in the Asia-Pacific Region.



FILMMAKER CONTACTS

Director

Shreela Agarwal | shreela1999@gmail.com

Writer

Xiao Peng | peng.xiao115@gmail.com

Producer

Hariz Zulkifli | muhammadhariz.zulkif@mylasalle.edu.sg

LASALLE College of the Arts
Puttnam School of Film & Animation
1 McNally Street - Singapore 187940
www.lasalle.edu.sg