



SEMAINE
DE LA CRITIQUE
CANNES 2021

AN INVITATION

A FILM BY HAO ZHAO & YEUNG TUNG

2 站台 Platform 2
车厢顺序
1 ← 11 → 18

站内限速
5 km

BASIC INFO

ORIGINAL TITLE

访客

ENGLISH TITLE

An Invitation

RUNTIME

13min

COLOR

Color

GENRE

Drama

ASPECT RATIO

1.33:1

LANGUAGE

Cantonese, Mandarin

SUBTITLES

English/French

COUNTRY OF PRODUCTION

China



SYNOPSIS

In the summer of 2008, an 8-year-old boy visits his estranged father to apply for a permanent identity card. As the visit comes to an end, they find it increasingly difficult to ask what they want from each other.

DIRECTORS' BIOGRAPHY

Hao Zhao is a Chinese director/screenwriter/cinematographer. Since completing his grad film education at New York University Tisch School of the Arts, Hao has been working as an independent director, making short films and documentaries. His previous shorts include *Serve the People* (2014), *SHE* (2013). In 2021, his most recent short film *访客 Fang ke*, which he wrote, directed with Yeung Tung, was selected for the short film competition at the 60th SEMAINE DE LA CRITIQUE Cannes Film Festival 2021.

His feature directorial debut, *15 Seconds of Spotlight*, was selected as a 2020 Shanghai International Film Festival Film Project Finalist and is under preproduction for principal photography in September 2021. The film is about the end of a long journey of a teenaged goalkeeper to professional soccer as his window of opportunity closes. Hao is also working on a documentary feature in which he looks into the youth soccer development system in a small town near Shanghai.

HAO ZHAO'S FILMOGRAPHY

2014, *Serve the People*, Short

2013, *SHE*, Short

2020, *An Invitation*, Short

2022 (expected), *15 Seconds of Spotlight*, Feature
Unnamed documentary (In progress,), DOC Feature

Yeung Tung is a director/writer born and raised in Mainland China currently a Graduate Film MFA candidate at New York University Tisch School of the Arts. He completed his studies in Film and Television at Boston University's College of Communication where he began his directorial journey developing short films. Yeung directed several theatre works with the Red Star Theatre Club at Boston University as well as Wuming Theatre Club at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). In 2019 Yeung wrote and directed *访客 Fang ke* with Hao ZHAO. The film has been selected for the short film competition at the 60th SEMAINE DE LA CRITIQUE Cannes Film Festival 2021.

Yeung's next short film project, *Strawberry Rider*, will return to his hometown Zengcheng, China. The story is about a delivery driver, "I," who fell into a dream after a random conversation with a strange woman. The story is inspired by Zhuangzi's "The Butterfly Dream," emphasizing the necessary connection among young generations in nowadays Chinese society and the lag of it.

YEUNG TUNG'S FILMOGRAPHY

2020, *An Invitation*, Short



DIRECTOR'S NOTES

This story had been brewing in us ever since an unexpected summer trip shaped our lives for good. We seek to ruminate on a conversation that surrounds a subject of separation and its implications to a relationship.

The conversation about the divorce that occurred in the story never happened in real life. So in a way it's about us asking our fathers a question we always wanted to ask. It doesn't have to be answered, perhaps it can't be.

Fang Ke is personal but not biographical. It is nurtured and inspired by our own memories of a not so distant past and our shared emotions towards the relationship between a child and his/her parents in general. We are privileged to witness a story between a father and a son taking shape in the most simple form: a boy longing for his father, and his father wanting him.



CAST

FATHER Bing Hei Chim

BOY Yuxuan LIU

FATHER'S PARTNER Ling TANG

IMMIGRATION OFFICER Tiangui LI

CREW

WRITER/DIRECTOR Hao ZHAO & Yeung TUNG

PRODUCERS Xuli Cao, Hao ZHAO, Yeung TUNG

CINEMATOGRAPHER Hao ZHAO

PRODUCTION DESIGNER Heng ZHENG

EDITORS Guangxin NIE & Hao ZHAO

SOUND DESIGNER Xueqian PANG

COLORIST Yaohui CAI

CONTACT

PRODUCTION COMPANY

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