

TWO IS ENOUGH Press Kit

Synopsis

A mother contemplates keeping her third child during a time when families were given disincentives and pressured to have no more than two children in 1970s Singapore.

Director Statement

The 1970s and 80s was a time when the Singapore government was at its most controlling and one of its most well-known social campaigns was the “Two is enough” or “Stop at two” population control campaign. In researching this film, I questioned: *Whose decision is it to have a child? Why do people have children? How do you decide, when you are influenced by your government, society, family, and partner?* I specifically made this film in the Teochew dialect because such Chinese languages have been banned since 1979 over the preference of standard Mandarin – another example of social engineering. This film continues my interest in making films about the human consequence and impact of policy.

About the Teochew language

The writer/director is a Teochew and this film is made in the Teochew language, a Southern Min language spoken by the Teochew people of the Chaoshan region of eastern Guangdong province, China, and by their diaspora around the world. This language, along with other Chinese languages, were effectively banned in Singapore in 1979 in favour of standard Mandarin.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Teochew_dialect

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chaoshan_Min

Director Biography

Leon Cheo is the creator, writer and director of the Emmy®-nominated short form series “People Like Us”. Its first season won ‘Best Short TV Drama’ at the 2016 ITVFest, ‘Best Web Drama Series’ at the Formosa Festival of International Filmmaker Awards, and ‘Best Supporting Actor – Drama’ at the 2017 Indie Series Awards. His “SIN-SFO” won Best Live Action and Best Director at the 2019 National Youth Film Awards in Singapore and premiered in-competition at the Academy Award-qualifying 25th Austin Film Festival. Other highlights include “The Three Sisters” which won ‘Best Short Film’ at the 2012 NETPAC-Jogja Asian Film Festival; “Move Out Notice” which was nominated for Best Script at the Singapore Short Film Awards; “Nuts” which received honourable mention for the YOMYOMF Interpretations 2.0 competition, founded by Justin Lin (“Star Trek: Beyond”). Leon is an alumnus of Berlinale Talents (2014), Asian Film Academy (2013) and Talents Tokyo (2012).

Director Filmography

2021 – Two Is Enough

2019 – People Like Us: S2

2018 – SIN-SFO

2016 – Nuts

2016 – People Like Us: S1

2015 – Move Out Notice

2013 – Departure (*Asian Film Academy*)

2012 – The Three Sisters

2011 – Triple X

2010 – Swing
2008 – Four Dishes
2007 – Bu Ye Tian (Nightless Day)

Main Cast

Liew Li Ting as Yeo Mui Leng
Benjamin Josiah Tan as Chin Seng

Credits

Director & Writer: Leon Cheo
Producers: Chermin Teo, Leon Cheo
Co-Producers: Jen Nee Lim, Janice Ang Cai Wen
Executive Producers: Gabriel Lin
Co-Executive Producers: Ryan Tan, Valerie Wu
Cinematographer: Lee Fengnian
Production Designer: Lexi Li
Wardrobe Designer: Eve Tan
Hair & Makeup: Jeffrey Linus Lee
Editor: Kuang Zi Ling
Composer & Sound Editor: Teo Wei Yong

Stills: To be made available soon

Press/Sreeners/Distribution: Leon Cheo leoncheo@gmail.com

Technical Specs

Original Title	Two Is Enough
Shooting Format	4K, Canon C300M2
Exhibition Format	DCP, ProRes, H.264
Aspect Ratio	1.33:1
Sound	Stereo
Running Time	18:58
Original Language	Teochew, English
Year of completion	2021