

Idyfilm Productions Present QIPAO

Music By ANIS ISAHAK Editor ANDY ZHANG Production Designer MASHA EMELIANOVA and ETHAN CURTIS
Executive producers CATALINA ALCARAZ- GUZMAN, JAMES ARNOLD, TIMOTHY COLLINS, DANIEL
BROWN, BRUCE FINN, ISAAC WEBB, and OLIVER YOUNG Cinematography by Karyna Lemash and Juan
Carlos Bernal Gavica Gaffering by Zane Booth Producers AMBER HU and RUSLAN KHROMIN

Written & Directed by ARIEL TSAO

Poster and Photoshop by YURI JIN

旗袍

— QIPAO —

A Film By ARIEL TSAO

Starring Belle Tsai

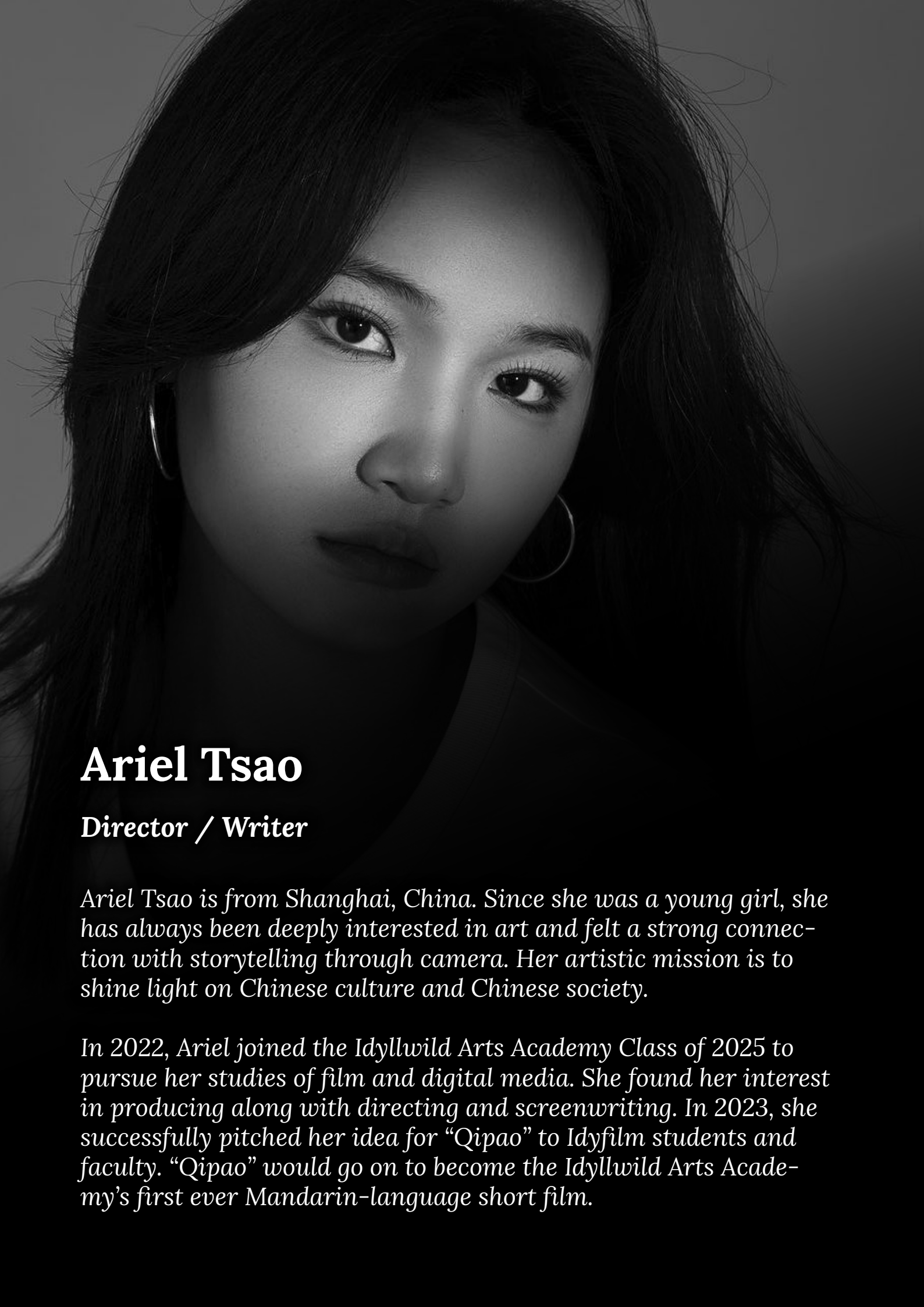
Glen Liao

Justina Li



SYNOPSIS

The story is set in Paramount, a nightclub in the 1990s Shanghai where wealthy men go to find beautiful women. These nightclubs are the pinnacle of class and sophistication. The story follows Yueyang, a typical young lady who dreams about marrying a wealthy man to raise her status. However, very soon, we see her desire change because of one mysterious man, who knows her secret story.



Ariel Tsao

Director / Writer

Ariel Tsao is from Shanghai, China. Since she was a young girl, she has always been deeply interested in art and felt a strong connection with storytelling through camera. Her artistic mission is to shine light on Chinese culture and Chinese society.

In 2022, Ariel joined the Idyllwild Arts Academy Class of 2025 to pursue her studies of film and digital media. She found her interest in producing along with directing and screenwriting. In 2023, she successfully pitched her idea for “Qipao” to Idyfilm students and faculty. “Qipao” would go on to become the Idyllwild Arts Academy’s first ever Mandarin-language short film.



DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

I want to deliver a story that can expose my culture in various ways. My film focuses on women's choices in my cultural history. Using the aesthetic design through cinematography and color to represent the aim of the ladies at that time period, "Qipao" explores stereotypes that women in the 1990s had to face.

The film's main character learns a thing or two about love and her real role in society that makes her feel differently about herself and inspires her to speak up in a way that changes her status in her community.

My goal as a director is to capture the beauty of the culture while speaking against the ugliness of misogynistic traditions.



Belle Tsai

as Yueyang

INTERVIEW WITH BELLE TSAI

1. Name one film that had a profound effect on you.

For this answer I have to say “In the Mood for Love” by Wong Kar-wai. It is one of the big inspirations for Qipao and a big personal favorite of mine. The unrequited love and the agony of it all in this movie is touching and reflective, and Wong Kar-wai did an amazing job at bringing his audience into this world with the slow pace and intricate production design and cinematography. It is a powerful but discrete film that leaves you aching for days.

2. You took home “Best Actress” at the 2nd annual Idyfilm Awards. Because of the time crunch, no winners could give a speech. What would you say in your speech if you had a chance?

If I had the chance, I would thank my peers but especially Ariel in this process for providing me with unconditional trust and support. She fully gave the role to me to bring it to life. I would also thank my peers and teachers in the theater department, they’ve taught me the importance of resilience and perseverance. Lastly I would just say that nothing is more important to me than create art that allows the world to see culture and understand knowledge that they might not have understood before. Qipao did a great job at that, and I am filled with gratitude.



3. What was your favorite moment on set?

My favorite moment on set is seeing everybody in their full costume on set for the first time. Chatting with the other actors, looking at the makeup they put on our desks, it really was like we travelled back in time and we were living through the lives of the women in Paramount.

Amber Hu

Producer

Amber Hu is from China. She has been a student at the Idyllwild Arts Academy's film and digital media department for three consecutive years, and is staying there for her senior year. Her interests range from make-up and costume design to cinematography and producing for film.



Ruslan Khromin

Producer

Ruslan Khromin is from Saint-Petersburg, Russia. Before coming to Idyllwild Arts Academy as a junior student, he made many short films and mini-series, working at different capacities at once.



His latest credits include "A Room Divided," a short conversational drama that he co-wrote and directed, as well as "Time," a self-portrait film about his experiences as a citizen of an authoritarian country.



Juan Carlos Bernal Gavica

Cinematographer

JC is from Los Cabos, Mexico. Growing up surrounded by photographers, producers, and film directors in his family, he always felt a deep interest for being behind the camera.

Studying film at Idyllwild Arts Academy, that interest grew into constant discipline in the camera and lighting departments, where he found his passion in the artistry of cinematography. JC is now studying Film and Television at SCAD in Savannah, Georgia.



Karyna Lemesh

Cinematographer

Karyna is from Kharkiv, Ukraine. As a child, she tried many different hobbies: drawing, dancing, acting, cooking, and sewing. But she always knew that her life would be connected with the world of cinema.

In 2022, when she was admitted to the Idyllwild Arts Academy in California, she found herself enchanted by the allure of cinematography and the many wonderful things one can create with a camera. She is also deeply interested in directing and screenwriting. Karyna is now studying media production at Emerson College in Boston.



CAST

Yueyang
Belle Tsai

Yanxi
Glen Liao

Yinqin
Justina Li

Qinma
Ting Song

Gao
Jerry Chen

KEY PRODUCTION CREDITS

Production Company
IDYFILM

Director / Writer
Ariel Tsao

Producers
Ruslan Khromin and Amber Hu

Directors of Photography
Juan Carlos Bernal Gavica and Karyna Lemesh

Production Designers
Mariia Emelianova and Ethan Curtis

Editor
Andy Zhang

DETAILS

Country of Origin
United States

Language
Mandarin Chinese

Date of Completion
May 2024

Format
Digital

Aspect Ratio
16:9

Duration
7 mins 9 secs

Genre
Drama

“QIPAO”

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