



# Director Statement

In the early hours of September 21, 1999, a magnitude 7.3 earthquake tore through Taiwan. Over 2,400 people lost their lives, tens of thousands were injured, and hundreds of thousands of homes collapsed or were damaged. Entire cities fractured, and time seemed to stop. That night, prayers and running began together.

This short film is inspired by my family's experience—my uncle was awakened from sleep, faced with a collapsing building, he could only grab his wife and children to escape. He heard cries, shattering glass, and neighbors calling for help, but he could save no one. That helplessness and regret shadowed his life, reminding us how precious every second is in a disaster.

The film also embraces children's fantasies: "Are the people who never returned taken by aliens?"

"I wish scientists could invent floating houses, floating cars, or a UFO to save us all." In the ruins of reality, these imaginings shine like faint lights—not as escapism, but as gentle resistance.

"10 Seconds" symbolizes not only the golden window of earthquake warnings, but also the decisive, vital moments in life.

Facing fate, can we still remember to embrace, to love, to cherish?

I constructed this short with black-and-white hand-drawn animation and white noise, letting the images speak like a silent film.

The final Taiwanese voice-over is both a homecoming and a prayer; it is the voice of this land, for those who still wish to embrace life.

Though the story unfolds in Taiwan, it belongs to the world.

Earthquakes, tsunamis, wars, nuclear disasters... different places, shared sorrows and hopes.

Looking at the ruins is also looking at the fragility and courage of humanity.

This is a letter to the world—a meditation on time, memory, and the human heart.





In a fleeting instant, the world changes. Some run, some pray, some never wake again.

This is not only a night in Taiwan—it is a universal memory of humanity confronting disaster.

Time is brief, yet enough to remind us of love, life, and the act of remembering.

*Chih Hao  
Shen*  
*Director*