Shanghai Film Group Corporation  
Xstream Pictures  
NCU Group Ltd.  
Star Art Vision  
and  
Bojie Media  

Present  

A film by Jia Zhang-Ke

I WISH I KNEW

63rd Cannes Film Festival Official Selection - Un Certain Regard

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Director – JIA ZHANG-KE
Screenplay – JIA ZHANG-KE
Executive producers - REN ZHONGLUN, CHOW KEUNG, AN GANG, LI PENG, LI PENG
Producers – WANG TIANYUN, YU LIKWAI, MEG JIN, LIN YE, XIONG YONG
Associate producers - XU WEI, ZHANG DONG, MARIA JIN, LI JINGYI, LIU XIAODONG
Advisors - LIN XUDONG, CHEN DANQING
Director of photography - YU LIKWAI
Sound designer - ZHANG YANG
Composer – LIM GIONG
Editor - ZHANG JIA

Cast
ZHAO TAO
LIM GIONG

Interviewer
LIN XUDONG

Interviewees
CHEN DANQING
YANG XIAOFO
ZHANG YUANSUN
DU MEI-RU
WANG PEIMIN
WANG TOON
CHANG LING-YUN
LEE CHIA-TUNG
CHANG HSIN-I
HOU HSIAO-HSIEN
ZHU QIANSHENG
HUANG BAOMEI
WEI RAN
WEI WEI
BARBARA FEI
REBECCA PAN
YANG HUAIDING
HAN HAN

Production company - SHANGHAI FILM GROUP CORPORATION, XSTREAM PICTURES, NCU GROUP LTD., STAR ART VISION and BOJIE MEDIA
Production year: 2010
Synopsis

Shanghai, a fast-changing metropolis - a port city where people come and go.

Shanghai has hosted all kinds of people – revolutionaries, capitalists, politicians, soldiers, artists, and gangsters. Shanghai has also hosted revolutions, assassinations, love stories.

After the Chinese Communists' victory in 1949, thousands of Shanghaiers left for Hong Kong and Taiwan. To leave meant being separated from home for thirty years; to stay meant suffering through the Cultural Revolution and China's other political disasters.

Eighteen people from these three cities - Shanghai, Taipei and Hong Kong - recall their lives in Shanghai. Their personal experiences, like eighteen chapters of a novel, tell stories of Shanghai lives from the 1930s to 2010.

An eternally wandering soul returns to Shanghai and, walking along the banks of the Huangpu River, awakens to all the changes the city has undergone.

Director’s Note

After examining China's historic changes through my films for over a decade, I've developed a growing interest in history. It has dawned on me that the causes of almost all of the problems facing contemporary China can be found taking shape in the depths of its history.

In mainland China as well as in Taiwan, the true nature of many events in China's modern history has long been hidden, blocked from view by those in power. Like an orphan anxious to learn the truth about where he comes from, I felt an urgency to learn just what lies behind the familiar official historical narratives. What in fact have individuals really experienced?

So I came to Shanghai with my movie camera and traced the footsteps of Shanghaiers who left this city for Taiwan and Hong Kong. Shanghai is closely tied to the lives of almost every important historic figure in the modern history of China. And events of national significance in the life of the city also destined Shanghaiers for lives of painful, life-long separation.

I hope that I Wish I Knew can transcend party politics (whether it be the Communist Party of China or Taiwan's Nationalist KMT) and directly touch the sufferings of the Chinese people.

A complicated lexicon of historical terms is inscribed on Shanghai's history: from "colony" in the 19th century to "revolutionary" in the 20th; from 1949's "liberation" through the "cultural revolution" of 1966 to 1978's "reform" and Pudong's "opening up"
in 1990.

What I care about, however, is what lies behind these abstract terms: the individuals buffeted by politics, and details of their lives forgotten by time.

When I sat face-to-face with characters in my film, and listened to them talk ever so calmly about the hair-raising events in their pasts, I suddenly realized what it was that I captured with my camera: - "a dream of freedom" twinkling in their eyes.

This moved me to tears.

Introduction of Characters (In order of appearance)

Yang Xiaofo (Son of Yang Xingfo)

Yang Xiaofo, born in 1919, is the son of Yang Xingfo. In 1933, 15-year-old Yang Xiaofo, riding in a car with his father, witnessed his father's murder by four gunmen.

In 1943, Yang graduated from Economics Department of Shanghai Fudan University Law School. In December 1945, he started to work in the Shanghai Maritime Administration Bureau under Ministry of Transport of the Nationalist Government.

After 1949, Yang served successively as a Member of the CPPCC National Committee, a Member of the Standing Committee of the Shanghai Municipal Committee of the KMT Revolutionary Committee, and as a Counselor in the Shanghai Municipal People's Government.

Related Figure: Yang Xingfo

Yang Xingfo (1893-18 June 1933)

Born in Qingjiang, Jiangxi Province, Yang Xingfo was an economic management scientist. A pioneer in China's human rights movement, he joined the Chinese Revolutionary Alliance in 1910. In January 1912, Sun Yat-sen assumed the office of President of the Republic of China, and Yang Xingfo served as Director of the Correspondence Office of the Presidential Secretariat in Nanjing. After the resignation of Sun Yat-sen, Yang Xingfo went to the United States to study at Cornell University, and received a business degree from Harvard University.

In 1924, he served as Sun Yat-sen's secretary in Guangzhou. After Sun Yat-sen's death in 1925, he served as Director-General of the Sun Yat-sen Funeral Committee. In April 1928, he was appointed Director-General of the Academia Sinica. In December 1932, he was appointed Director-General and Executive Member of the Preparatory Committee of the China League for Civil Rights. His participation in the democratic movement and in rescuing arrested CPC Members and democrats irritated the Chiang Kai-shek Government. On 18 June 1933, Yang Xingfo was shot to death by KMT spies while riding in a car with his son Yang Xiaofo on Yaerpei Road, Shanghai.

Zhang Yuansun (Grandson of Zhang Yiyun)

Zhang Yuansun, born in Shanghai in 1930, is a grandson of "MSG King" Zhang Yiyun.
Related Figure: Zhang Yiyun

Zhang Yiyun (1871-1933), born in Zhenhai, Zhejiang Province. In 1890, the 11th year of the reign of the Qing Dynasty Emperor Guangxu, he was a successful candidate in the provincial level imperial examinations at the age of 19. He then took over his family's sauce making factory in Shanghai. In 1923, he cooperated with condiment researcher Wu Yunchu and founded Tian Chu MSG Factory to produce "Foshou Brand" MSG products. These were later sold at home and abroad, breaking the monopoly the Japanese "Ajinomoto Brand" held the Chinese market. To remove the dependence on sourcing raw materials from abroad, Zhang Yiyun and Wu Yunchu co-founded Tian Yuan Chemical Plant, Tian Li Nitrogen Plant and other enterprises which together constituted Tian Chemical Enterprise Group. During the 1932 January 28th Incident in Shanghai, he donated two aircraft, a fighter and a trainer worth 100,000 yuan to support the War of Resistance against Japan.

Tian Chu MSG was exhibited at the 1926 Philadelphia World Expo and was granted a "Grade A Award". In the 1933 Chicago World Expo, it won the same award.

Du Mei-Ru (Daughter of Du Yuesheng)

Du Mei-Ru was born in Shanghai in 1930, and was the eldest daughter of Du Yuesheng. She moved to Hong Kong with her father in 1949, then moved to Taiwan in 1954. In 1969, she moved to Jordan and is now running a Chinese restaurant in Amman.

Related Figure: Du Yuesheng

Du Yuesheng (1888-1951), born in Gaoqiao, Pudong District, Shanghai, was a member of the "Green Gang" triad society, and one of the most notorious gangsters in the history of modern Shanghai. Du Yuesheng, Huang Chin-jung, and Zhang Xiaolin were known as "three Shanghai tycoons".

In 1925, they co-founded the Sanxin Company to distribute opium, which provided huge profits for the French Concession Administration. In view of this, Du Yuesheng was appointed President of Associated Chamber of Commerce in the French Concession and Supervisor of the Association of Chinese Taxpayers.

After KMT’s April 12 Coup in 1927, Chiang Kai-shek appointed Du Yuesheng as an adviser to the General Command of the Armed Forces, Executive Officer (Major General Rank) of the Military Commission, and Executive Officer of the Executive Yuan.

In 1929, he became President of Zhonghui Bank. In 1933, he established Dayun Company with the support of KMT Secret Police Leader Dai Li. In 1934, he was appointed President of the Shanghai Local Association.

During the Anti-Japanese War, he served as a member of the Shanghai Anti-Japanese Association Presidium and as Director of the Funding Committee. He moved to Hong Kong before the fall of Shanghai and served as Vice President of the China Red Cross and Director of the Standing Committee of the Relief Committee. After the outbreak of the Pacific War, he moved to Chongqing where he established
the Constant Club and organized anti-Japanese activities behind enemy lines.

After the victory against the Japan, Du returned to Shanghai, where was elected Speaker of Shanghai Senate. He held more than 60 social titles, including as chairman, president, managing director, director, and manager, in Shanghai's industry, commerce, finance, transport, culture, education, and news sectors. In August 1948, he was elected Chairman of the Shanghai Industry Association.

In 1949, he moved to Hong Kong on the eve of the liberation of Shanghai.

**Wang Peimin (Daughter of Wang Xiaohe)**

Wang Peimin was born in Shanghai in 1948, the second daughter of the underground Chinese Communist Party member Wang Xiaohe. Wang Peimin served as an editor of the publication *Shanghai Yearbook*. She spent most of her life collecting information relating to his father.

**Related Figure: Wang Xiaohe**

Wang Xiaohe (1924-1948) was born into a worker's family in Shanghai in 1924. Admitted to Shanghai Lizhi English Language College, he joined the Chinese Communist Party in 1941 and started to work at the Meishang Shanghai Electric Power Company in January 1943. In January 1946, a general strike broke out at the Shanghai Electric Power Company. Wang Xiaohe actively organized the strike movement and was elected Executive Director of the Labor Union of the Shanghai Electric Power Company. On April 21st 1948, he was arrested by KMT Military Police. On the morning of September 30th 1948, 24-year-old Wang Xiaohe was shot to death on the execution grounds of Shanghai's Tilanqiao Prison.

**Wang Toon (Son of Wang Zhonglian)**

Wang Toon (aka Wang Tung), a son of Wang Zhonglian, was born in 1942. After moving to Taiwan from Shanghai with his family in 1949, he became one of Taiwan's best known film directors. His famous works include *Days to See the Sea*, *Scarecrow*, *Banana Paradise*, *Silent Hill*, and *Red Persimmon*.

**Related Figure: Wang Zhonglian**

Wang Zhonglian (1903-1991) was born in Xiao County, Anhui Province, and was admitted to the Whampoa Military Academy in spring of 1924. After the outbreak of the Anti-Japanese War, he was appointed the 85th Army Commander, and promoted to Army Lieutenant General in July 1939. He then served as deputy commander of the 31st Army Group, commander of the 2nd Su-Lu-Bian Army, Director of the Security Office of Jiangsu Province, Executive Commissioner of the 4th District of Anhui Province, Security Commander of Anhui Province, commander of the 19th Army Group, member of the Jiangsu Provincial Government Committee, director of the Xuzhou Administrative Office, and commander of the 31st Army Group. In 1946, he served as commander of the 26th Army and of the 4th Corps. In winter of 1947, he was arrested by the KMT for failing to fight against the People's Liberation Army during the civil war. Later, he was released on bail and rested at home. He moved to
Taiwan in 1949 and wrote his memoirs, *Zheng Chen Memories*, in his retirement.

**Chang Hsin-I (Great-granddaughter of Zeng Guofan, Granddaughter of Nie Jigui, Daughter of Zhang Qihuang)**

Chang Hsin-I, born in Shanghai in 1916, was a well-known translator and writer and wife of Taiwan's former Minister of Finance Fei Hua. In 1935, she was admitted to Yenching University, then transferred to Shanghai Hujiang University where she graduated in 1939 with a Bachelor of Arts. After the victory against the Japanese Army, she worked as a journalist, founding the weekly *News World* and the magazine *Spring & Autumn*. Chang served successively as president of the Yunnan *Journal of Civilians*, chairman of the Bangkok *Democratic Daily*, and chairman of the Hong Kong *Central Daily*. She wrote *A History of Northern Warlords* and translated *Lincoln's Biography*, *Linden*, and *Wonderful Father* into Chinese.

**Related Figure: Zeng Guofan**

Zeng Guofan (1811-1872), born in Xiangxiang County, Changsha, Hunan Province, was a Qing Dynasty military strategist, philosopher, statesman, calligrapher and writer, and was the founder and commander of the Xiang Army. He was appointed Viceroy of Liangjiang, Viceroy of Zhili, Scholar of Wuying Palace, and Marquis Yiyong, First Class.

Zeng raised the Xiang Army to fight effectively against the Taiping Rebellion and restore the stability of Qing Dynasty. He fought against Taiping Rebellion for nearly 20 years, and his ultimate victory against the Taiping Army was the peak of his career. Zeng lived in an era of chaos when Qing Government suffered both internal and external crises. However, Zeng turned the tide and contributed to the emergence of the "Tongzhi Restoration", and thus is considered as both an outstanding and an extremely controversial historical figure in modern Chinese history.

Zeng, who inherited a traditional Chinese cultural outlook with Confucianism as its core, advocated the principle of "Making Western Things Serve China" as a way to combine Chinese and Western cultures. He was the leader of China's first modernizing "Westernization Movement" and a pioneer of China's modernization.

**Related Figure: Nie Jigui**

Nie Jigui (1855-1911), born in Hengshan, Hunan Province, was a son-lin-law of Zeng Guofan. Nie was a bureaucratic capitalist during the late Qing Dynasty. In 1884, in the 10th year of the reign of Qing Dynasty Emperor Guangxu, Nie was appointed Director-General of the Shanghai Manufacturing Administration. In 1890, he was promoted to Intendant for the Shanghai Region Circui, and was involved in preparatory work for the establishment of public-private joint venture Huaxin Textile Bureau.

**Related Figure: Zhang Qihuang**

Zhang Qihuang (1877-1927), born in Yongfu County, Guangxi Province, was a successful candidate for the highest level of the imperial examinations in 1904, the
30th year of the reign of Qing Dynasty Emperor Guangxu.

During the chaotic military conflicts between the warlords of the 1920s, Zhang served as Secretary-General under Warlord Wu Peifu. In October 1926, the Northern Expeditionary Army took over Wuhan, and Wu Peifu's main force was destroyed, Zhang Qihuang fled to Zhengzhou with Wu Peifu. On 2 July 1927, he fled to Xinye County and was killed by the local Red Gun Team.

Barbara Fei (Daughter of Fei Mu)

Barbara Fei is a famous soprano in Hong Kong, a niece of the Hong Kong daily Ta Kung Pao president Fei Yimin, and the daughter of the celebrated film director Fei Mu. She moved from Shanghai to Hong Kong with her family in 1949, began to study vocal music in 1950 and went to France for further studies. After returning to Hong Kong in 1960, she held many solo concerts and pursued a career as a teacher of vocal music.

Related Figure: Fei Mu

Chinese director Fei Mu (1906-1951) was born in Shanghai. His major works include City Night, Life, Sea of Fragrant Snow, Family, Bloodshed on Wolf Mountain, and Confucius.

In 1947, he directed China's first color film Remorse at Death starring Peking Opera Master Mei Lanfang.

In 1948, Fei directed Spring in a Small Town a film considered to be the first exemplar of Chinese poetic cinema. Fei Mu's artistic achievements were recognized by Chinese critics when they rediscovered Spring in a Small Town again in the late 1980s. The film was recognized as "a milestone in Chinese film art history" and "the aesthetic peak of Chinese films during 1930s and 1940s". Fei Mu's greatness as a film director lies in his perfect combination of traditional Chinese aesthetics with modern film language.

Fei Mu moved to Hong Kong from Shanghai in May 1949 and died in Hong Kong in 1951.

Wei Ran (Son of Shangguan Yunzhu)

Wei Ran, born in Shanghai in 1951, is the son of the performing artist Shangguan Yunzhu and her third husband Cheng Shuyao. Wei studied oil painting and worked as an editor in the China Construction Industry Press, which covered business affairs in Shanghai.

Related Figure: Shangguan Yunzhu

Shangguan Yunzhu (1920-1968), born in Jiangyin, Jiangsu Province, was one of China's best-known actresses.

In 1937, she escaped from the scourge of war and arrived at Shanghai. In 1940, she was admitted to the Shanghai Huaguang Drama School, then studied in the Actor & Actress Training Class of the Xinhua Film Company. She started her career as an actress in 1941; her premiere in the play "Thunderstorm" was a great success. Later
she entered the film industry and starred in many classic films including "A Spring River Flows East", "Myriads of Lights", "Two for the Road", "Crows and Sparrows", "Early Spring in February", and "Two Stage Sisters".

In 1952, after "Crows and Sparrows" won the Gold Medal in the first nationwide appraisal of outstanding films, Mao Zedong and Zhou Enlai granted Shangguan Yunzhu an audience.

She suffered persecution during "Cultural Revolution" and committed suicide at 3 o'clock on November 23rd 1968.

Zhu Qiansheng (A member of Shanghai crew for Michelangelo Antonioni's Chung Kuo – Cina in 1972)

Zhu Qiansheng, born in Guizhou in 1942, was news reporter for Shanghai Television, and was awarded as one of “Shanghai's Top Ten Reporters” in 1988. He was a member of Shanghai crew for Michelangelo Antonioni when the latter directed Chung Kuo - Cina in 1972.

Related Figure: Michelangelo Antonioni

Michelangelo Antonioni (1912-2007) was an Italian director, and a pioneer of Italian neo-realism in the 1940s. His major works include L'avventura, Night, Eclipse, Red Desert, Zoom, Zabriski Point, Profession: Reporter, and Beyond The Clouds.

In 1972, Antonioni filmed his documentary Chung Kuo - Cina in China at the invitation of the PRC Government. However, the "Gang of Four" severely condemned this film as "anti-China" and "anti-communist" and launched a national campaign against it.

Chen Danqing

Chen Danqing is a painter and writer, born in Shanghai in 1953. During the Cultural Revolution, he left Shanghai and settled in a village in northern Jiangsu Province, and studied painting on his own. In 1978 after the Cultural Revolution, he was admitted to the Oil Painting Department of Central Academy of Fine Arts, and became one of the first Chinese postgraduates. In 1980, Chen Danqing made his mark with his work "Tibet Paintings in Series" and became an outstanding figure in China's artistic circles.


Chang Ling-Yun

Chang Ling-Yun, born in 1927, currently serves as the head of Zhongzhen New Village, Hsinchu City, Taiwan.

Chang was a pilot in the Kuomintang 8th Air Force and served in Shanghai in 1948. In the same year, he flew to Taiwan on a B-24 KMT Air Force bomber. This was the first aircraft of the KMT 8th Air Force to arrive in Hsinchu City, Taiwan.

Lee Chia-Tung

Lee Chia-Tung, born in Shanghai in 1939, graduated from the Department of
Electrical Engineering of Taiwan University in 1961. In 1963, he received a master's degree in Electrical Engineering from the University of California, Berkeley and in 1967, received a doctorate from the same university. He then served as Acting President of Taiwan Tsinghua University and President of Providence University and Chi Nan University, and as Professor of Information Engineering and Information Management in Chi Nan University. He was appointed as an advisor to the Taiwan Government in 2009. He currently teaches in Taiwan Tsinghua University.

**Hou Hsiao-Hsien**

Hou Hsiao-Hsien, born in Mei County, Guangdong Province in 1947, moved to Taiwan with his family in 1948. He is the most important figure of Taiwan's new generation of film makers. His major works include *The Boys From Fengkuei, A Summer at Grandpa's, A Time to Live, A Time to Die, Dust in the Wind, A City of Sadness, The Puppetmaster, Goodbye South, Goodbye, Café Lumière, and The Flight of the Red Balloon.*

In 1998, Hou adapted Shanghai writer Han Bangqing's novel *The Sing-song Girls of Shanghai* into the film *Flowers of Shanghai.* The film recounts a love story between a man deeply restrained by feudal ethics and a prostitute from a high-class brothel located in the British concession of Shanghai, where Chinese and foreigners lived together.

**Huang Baomei**

Huang Baomei was born in Shanghai in 1931, and was a worker in the Shanghai 17th Cotton Factory. She was awarded various titles, including model worker of Shanghai, model worker of the national textile industry and model worker of China seven times. Huang attended three international conferences, and met with Mao Zedong, Zhou Enlai and other leaders eight times. In 1958, Xie Jin directed the documentary *Huang Baomei* with Huang Baomei as the central figure. She was 37 years old at the time.

**Wei Wei**

Wei Wei, born in Zhongshan, Guangdong Province in 1918, played Zhou Yuwen in China's classic film *Spring in a Small Town*, directed by Fei Mu.

She grew up and studied in Shanghai, and began her career as an actress in Shanghai in 1941. Wei Wei entered the film industry in 1947 and debuted in the film "Nightclub". In 1948, she starred in *Spring in a Small Town*, and moved to Hong Kong in the same year.

After 1951, she starred in such Hong Kong films as *Sons of the Earth, A Year's Plan, Sister Song,* and *A Married Woman's Secret.*

Wei Wei retired from public life in 1960.

**Rebecca Pan**

Rebecca Pan is a singer and actress. Born in Shanghai in 1931, she moved from Shanghai to Hong Kong with her mother in 1949.
She started her singer career in a nightclub in 1960s, and became the first local singer signed by EMI Music in Hong Kong.

Pan has often played Shanghai woman in Wong Kar-Wai's films. She was awarded best supporting actress at the 36th Asia Pacific Film Festival for her work in Wong's *Days of Being Wild*. She also starred in *In the Mood for Love* and *Flowers of Shanghai*.

**Yang Huaiding**

Yang Huaiding, born in Shanghai in 1950, was nicknamed "Millionaire Yang". He was originally a worker in the Shanghai Ferroalloy Factory. In 1988, he earned his first bucket of gold by trading treasury bonds. He subsequently became one of first securities investors in Shanghai and is an important figure in the stock market.

His story was widely reported by *Time Magazine*, *Newsweek* and other media around the world.

**Han Han**

Han Han, born in Shanghai in 1982, is a famous writer and racing car driver.

In 1998, he won the first prize in the "New Concept" essay contest. In 1999, he wrote the novel *Triple Door* which later became a best seller, with sales of more than 1.9 million copies. Han Han dropped out of middle school on his own initiative and became a professional race car driver. He won the individual championship at the 2007 China Circuit Championship and the Group N championship at the 2009 China Rally Championship.

Han Han's blog is the most popular Chinese-language blog. He published numerous articles on his blog, commenting on social phenomena and current affairs, and thus has become a widely influential public intellectual.

In 2010, he was listed at number 24 among *Time Magazine*'s "Top 100 Most Influential Artists".

**Cast**

Zhao Tao

Born in Shanxi province of China, famous Chinese actress, graduated from the Department of Chinese Folk Dance of Beijing Dance Academy in 1998, Zhao Tao obtained several awards in domestic dancing competitions and began to work with director Jia Zhang-Ke as heroine in five of his films. She was also one of the producers of Jia Zhang-Ke’s documentary *Useless* (2007).

**Filmography:**

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<th>Title</th>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Director</th>
</tr>
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<td><em>Ten Thousand Waves</em></td>
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<td>Issca Julien</td>
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<td>2008</td>
<td><em>24 City</em></td>
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<td>Jia Zhang-Ke</td>
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<td>2008</td>
<td><em>Wait</em></td>
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<td>(as producer)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td><em>Still Life</em></td>
<td></td>
<td>Jia Zhang-Ke</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Production Crew

Director: Jia Zhang-Ke

Jia Zhang-Ke was born in 1970 in Fenyang, Shanxi Province of China. He was graduated from Beijing Film Academy and made his first feature film *Xiao Wu* in 1998. He is now settled in Beijing and actively involved in filmmaking over China. His *Still Life* won the Golden Lion Award (Best Film) of 63rd Venice International Film Festival in 2006.

Filmography:

2008  
**24 City**  
61st Cannes Film Festival Official Selection in Competition

2007  
**Useless**  (documentary)  
64th Venice Film Festival Venice Horizons Documentary Award

2006  
**Still Life**  
63rd Venice Film Festival Golden Lion Award

2006  
**Dong**  (documentary)  
63rd Venice Film Festival Official Selection in Horizon

2004  
**The World**  
61st Venice Film Festival Official Selection in Competition

2002  
**Unknown Pleasure**

2001  
**In Public**  (documentary)  
13th International Documentary Film Festival of Marseilles Grand Prix

2000  
**Platform**  
57th Venice Film Festival Official Selection in Competition

1998  
**Xiao Wu**  
48th Berlin International Film Festival Young Filmmakers Forum, Netpac Award Wolfgang Prize

Director of Photography: Yu Likwai

Born in 1966 in Hong Kong, Yu Likwai graduated from INSAS (Institut National Superieur des Arts de Spectacle, Belgium) in 1994, majoring in cinematography. He made his directional debut in 1996. He is now actively involved in productions both in Hong Kong and mainland China.

Filmography as Cinematographer:

2008  
**24 City**  Director: Jia Zhang-Ke

2007  
**Useless**  Director: Jia Zhang-Ke

2006  
**Going Home**  Director: Zhang Yang
2006 **Still Life**  Director: Jia Zhang-Ke  
Best Cinematography, 2008 Los Angeles Film Critics Association Awards

2006 **Post Modern Life of Aunt**  Director: Ann Hui

2004 **The World**  Director: Jia Zhang-Ke  
Best Cinematography, Festival Internacional de Cine Las Palmas de Grand Canaria

2002 **Unknown Pleasure**  Director: Jia Zhang-Ke

2000 **Platform**  Director: Jia Zhang-Ke

2000 **In the Mood for Love**  (2nd Unit Cinematographer)  
Director: Wong Kar-Wai

1998 **Ordinary Heroes**  Director: Ann Hui

1997 **Xiao Wu**  Director: Jia Zhang-Ke

Filmography as Director:

2008 **Plastic City**

2003 **All Tomorrow’s Parties**

1999 **Love Will Tear Us Apart**

1996 **Neon Goddesses**  (documentary)

Sound Designer: Zhang Yang

Sound designer and composer, born in 1972. In 1991, he established the band “Sober”. In 1993, he started studying in Beijing Film Academy Sound Design Department for a degree. In 1997, he entered the China Beijing TV Station for work.

Main Filmography:

2008 **24 City**  Director: Jia Zhang-Ke

2007 **Useless**  Director: Jia Zhang-Ke

2006 **Still Life**  Director: Jia Zhang-Ke

2006 **Dong**  Director: Jia Zhang-Ke

2004 **The World**  Director: Jia Zhang-Ke

2003 **Uniform**  Director: Diao Yinan

2003 **The Story of Er Mei**  Director: Wang Quan’an

2003 **All Tomorrow’s Parties**  Director: Yu Likwai

2002 **Chicken Poets**  Director: Meng Jinghui

2001 **Unknown Pleasure**  Director: Jia Zhang-Ke

2000 **Platform**  Director: Jia Zhang-Ke

1998 **Lunar Eclipse**  Director: Wang Quan’an

1996 **Neon Goddesses**  Director: Yu Likwai

Music Composer: Lim Giong

Lim Giong, born in 1964 in Zhanghua, Taiwan, is a musician artist, DJ, composer, songwriter, music producer, music director and also an actor. He has acted Hou Hsiao-Hsien’s films Good Men, Good Women, The Puppet Master, Goodbye South, Goodbye. He has been engaged on film score for many years and was awarded by the Golden Horse Film Awards in Taiwan three times.
Main Filmography (Original Score):

2008  
24 City  Director: Jia Zhang-Ke

2007  
Useless  Director: Jia Zhang-Ke

2006  
Dong  Director: Jia Zhang-Ke

2006  
Still Life  Director: Jia Zhang-Ke

2006  
Do Over  Director: Zheng Youjie

- Best Original Score of 43rd Golden Horse Film Awards

2004  
The World  Director: Jia Zhang-Ke

2001  
Millennium Mambo  Director: Hou Hsiao-Hsien

- Best Original Score of 38th Golden Horse Film Awards

1996  
Goodbye South, Goodbye  Director: Hou Hsiao-Hsien

- Best Original Film Song of 33rd Golden Horse Film Awards

Editor:  
Zhang Jia

Previously working for Cinerent Beijing Limited post production department as editor. She has been an independent editor since 2004.

Main Filmography:

2010  
Tu Fa Shi Jian  Director: Lang Chen

2010  
An Ye  Director: Zhu Yili

2010  
Go Lala Go!  Director: Xu Jinglei

2009  
Liang Tian Liang Ye  Director: Lang Chen

2008  
Yeshi of Distant Land  Director: Zhao Fei

2008  
Out of Control  Director: Yuan Weidong

2007  
Useless  Director: Jia Zhang-Ke

2006  
Dong  Director: Jia Zhang-Ke

2006  
Dreams may Come  Director: Xu Jinglei

Artistic Consultant: Lin Xudong

Lin Xudong was graduated as a Master from Department of printmaking in China Central Academy of Fine Arts in 1988. He is mainly engaged on the theory studies and education of film history and documentary production. In 1995, he was invited to be the advisor of CCTV program “Oriental Horizon”. He also has been invited to several film festivals as rater such us the 6th Yamagata International Documentary Film Festival in 1999, Hong Kong International Film Festival in 2003. In 2005, he was invited to be the editing advisor of the Film Summer Camp of Pusan International Film Festival.

Artistic Consultant: Chen Danqing

(Please see the information in the Introduction of Characters)

Executive Producer:  
Chow Keung
Born in Hong Kong in 1966. Chow Keung studied Anthropology, Sociology and Media Studies in Hong Kong and New York respectively. He had worked for Hong Kong Arts Centre and Hong Kong Film Critics Society before he turns to be a full-time filmmaker in 1997. Since then, he has produced 19 Chinese films with directors Jia Zhang-Ke, Emily Tang, Yu Likwai, Han Jie, Diao Yinan and David Verbeek.

Filmography:

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Introduction to the film excerpts in *I Wish I Knew*

*Suzhou River* / Director: Lou Ye / 1999

*Suzhou River* contrasts old Shanghai-style love affairs with present-day Shanghai's luxury life.

Ma Da delivers goods by car along Shanghai's Suzhou River. One day, his delivery consists of Mu Dan (Peony), a pure and innocent girl. They eventually fall in love. To everyone's surprise, Mu Dan is kidnapped and held for ransom. She later discovers that Ma Da himself was behind the kidnapping. Mu Dan, furious, jumps into Suzhou River, leaving behind these words: “I will transform myself into a mermaid and come back to look for you!”

After his release from prison, Ma Da meets a girl named Mei Mei in a bar. She looks exactly like Mu Dan, and makes a living performing there dressed as a blonde mermaid. Mei Mei claims, however, that she can not recall Ma Da and Mu Dan. Who on earth is Mei Mei...

*Suzhou River* begins with snapshots from 1999 of people's daily lives along Suzhou River. *I Wish I Knew*, shot in 2009, also shows scenes of daily life shot along both banks of the same river. Through editing, *I Wish I Knew* juxtaposes these scenes, old and new, along the river over a span of ten years.

*To Liberate Shanghai* / Director: Wang Bing / 1959

Produced by the People's Liberation Army's August First Film Studio, this film tells
the story of how the Third Field Army of the PLA besieged Shanghai and, fighting against 300,000 Kuomintang Soldiers, liberated the city in 1949.

*I Wish I Knew* uses excerpts of *To Liberate Shanghai* to illustrate the victors' account of that historical moment.

**Red Persimmon / Director: Wang Tung /1966**

Produced by the Central Motion Pictures Corporation, Red Persimmon features an optimistic and outgoing grandmother as its heroine. The film narrates her and her family's life after they moved to Taiwan following the retreat of her son-in-law, a Kuomintang general, from the Chinese mainland.

Although goods and materials were in short supply in Taiwan, Grandma nevertheless managed to educate eleven grandchildren and create a warm sense of family for them. Father was always busy with military strategy exercises at Yangmingshan, preparing for the KMT's counterattack on the mainland. Since mother was also occupied making ends meet, Grandma became the children's best playmate. Grandma always recalled the huge fruit-bearing persimmon tree in her hometown on the mainland.

Taiwanese director Wang Tung's autobiographical film reflects on a family's life in Taiwan after they moved there from Shanghai.

Wang Tung is interviewed in *I Wish I Knew.*

**Flowers of Shanghai / Director: Hou Hsiao-Hsien /1999**

*Flowers of Shanghai* is adapted from The Sing-Song Girls of Shanghai, a novel written in the local Wu dialect by Shanghai writer Han Bangqing. The film recounts several love stories between Chinese men, who were deeply shackled by ethical principles, and the girls who lived in a high-class brothel in the British Concession. This was a district of Shanghai where both Chinese and foreigners lived together during the end of the Qing Dynasty (1644 - 1911).

Director Jia Zhangke believes the atmosphere of the Shanghai foreign concessions in the late Qing Dynasty finds its best expression in *Flowers of Shanghai.*

Hou Hsiao-Hsien, the director of the film, was interviewed in *I Wish I Knew.*

**Huang Baomei / Director: Xie Jin / 1958**

This film, by the famous Chinese director Xie Jin, was shot during the “Great Leap Forward” Movement (1958-1959).

The film describes the life of Huang Baomei, a national model worker at Shanghai's No.17 Guomian Factory. She devoted herself whole-heartedly to her work, insisted on learning advanced techniques, and imparted her experience to her colleagues without reservation. The heroine in the film was played by Huang Baomei herself.

Huang Baomei was interviewed again in *I Wish I Knew* in 2009.

**Two Stage Sisters / Director: Xie Jin / 1964**

This film narrates the separations and reunions of two Shaoxing Opera actresses.
Both came to Shanghai from Zhejiang Province. They discover, during the course of their lives, that they are divided by their outlooks and values. While elder "sister" Chunhua refuses to compromise with evil forces, younger "sister" Yuehong can not resist the temptations of a luxury life in Shanghai. After Shanghai's liberation in 1949, both sisters, now reconciled, relaunch their stage careers.

The actress Shangguan Yunzhu played the role of Shang Shuihua in Two Stage Sisters; her son Wei Ran is interviewed in I Wish I Knew.

Chung Kuo – Cina / Director: Michelangelo Antonioni / 1972

At the invitation of the Chinese Government, the famous Italian director Michelangelo Antonioni travelled to China in 1972 to shoot the documentary Chung Kuo – Cina. Produced during the Cultural Revolution (1966-1976) the film is in three parts.

The first part presents scenes of daily life in Beijing. Antonioni was taken to Hongqi (Red Flag) Canal and a collective farm in Linxian County, Henan Province, and then to the ancient cities of Suzhou and Nanjing in Jiangsu Province. Rather than merely showcasing these places, the second part of the film presents the faces of Chinese people recorded randomly during the director's visit.

The third part reflects the director's observations of Shanghai during his short stay there, objectively showing ordinary people's daily life - from street scenes to the birthplace of the Communist Party of China, from the newly-built residential apartments to tenements constructed during the colonial period for the poor, from a teahouse to a huge factory, and from the Bund to boat people living on the river.

The documentary, however, was severely denounced during the Cultural Revolution by the "Gang of Four" as an "Anti-China" and "Anti-Communist" film. A nationwide campaign was even launched to criticize the documentary.

Zhu Qiansheng, who accompanied Antonioni during his stay in Shanghai, was interviewed in I Wish I Knew. The interview was held at the Mid-lake teahouse at Yuyuan Garden, a scenic spot that appears in Antonioni's film.

Days of Being Wild / Director: Wong Kar-Wai / 1990

Yuddy is a Hong Kong immigrant from Shanghai. Brought up by his foster mother, he has never met his biological mother. He grew up to be a rebellious young man yearning to travel to faraway places, living as playboy, breaking the hearts of every woman in his life. He lives together with Su Lizhen, a girl selling soda water, but leaves Lizhen when she asks for marriage.

Yuddy deliberately defies his foster mother when she refuses to reveal the whereabouts of his birth mother. He travels to the Philippines after discovering that his birth mother lives there. However, his she refuses to meet him.

A policeman who secretly loves Lizhen decides to become a sailor after he witnesses her breakup with Yuddy. He meets Yuddy again in the Philippines, after Yuddy is severely injured in a fight. Yuddy dies on a train bound for his hometown in the company of the policeman.
Rebecca Pan, who played the foster mother of Yuddy in the film, was interviewed in _I Wish I Knew_.

**About Xstream Pictures**

Xstream Pictures was created by Jia Zhang-Ke, Chow Keung and Yu Likwai in 2003. It has offices both in Hong Kong and Beijing. It’s aim is to explore and to promote talented Chinese directors.

The first production of Xstream Pictures was the latest film of Jia Zhangke, _The World_, a co-production with Office Kitano, Celluloid Dreams and Shanghai Film Studio. Its second production is _Walking On The Wild Side_, a co-production with Les Petites Lumiere, directed by first time director Han Jie. The film won the Tiger Award (Best Film) in Rotterdam International Film Festival 2006. In the same year, the company produced Jia Zhang-Ke’s _Still Life_, which won the Golden Lion Awards in Venice Film Festival. In 2007, another production of the company, Jia Zhang-Ke’s _Useless_, won the Horizons Documentary Award.

In 2009, Xstream Pictures launched “Wings Project” for investing in the works of Chinese young directors. Director Han Jie’s _Hello, Mr. Tree!_ is the first film of the project.

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