

SUNDAYx2PRODUCTIONS presents · in association with SCHOOL OF VISUAL ARTS

CAI BAOFENG · CHEN JIANING · HANYAN “SHILO” REN

in a film by  
TERENCE W. YANG

# “ *A New Novel* ”

《小说》

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68min · United States, China  
in English and Mandarin · 2023 · 1.78 · Mono

# *SYNOPSIS*

Yangzi and Murph have been living in New York City for years, but as their time there came to an end, so were their friendship.

Five years later, one November, in an introverted town of Eastern China, Yangzi visits Murph in her apartment, carrying with him a new novel he had wrote - a story about a wandering man investigating NYC's hidden secrets. Night falls as they read the story, yet the text seems to be morphing as it is being told. At night, they take a stroll around town, crossing the eerily quiet streets, as if the uncertainty from the story is still lingering.

In March, Murph met a strange girl, who also took an interest in Yangzi's novel.

There are a number of stories, more or less tall tales: some told in reality, some told in imagery, some told just in text, with voice, and some can only be imagined, perhaps as Rivetteian conspiracies.







*"This is another story now."*



# *DIRECTOR'S NOTE*

The ideas of *A New Novel* came from a place of detachment: after spending a couple of years studying in New York City, I returned to my hometown of Ningbo, China, in the mist of the pandemic, with projects unrealized and life strands broken, although the rhythm of life somehow remained the same before and after. With this feeling, I decided to make a film about New York and also my distancing from it, using the stories I wrote inspired by the two cities. It's a seemingly uneventful film, but within it the fictional text(s) speak of a parallel life. I found there is an interesting connection, spatially and temporally, and through the voice of the text, we bring together stories and feelings from many places and times, forming between them a montage that informs the state of lives and dreams in these twenty-something characters.

This film is made with a skeleton crew, and I thank my first AD, Chuqiao, my camera crew, Xiaoping and Shuyang, my sound crew, Wang Chao and Zihao, for their professionalism and craft during our five-day shooting.

I hoped to create in the film a tiny utopia where we dive into stranger consciousness, away from the usual dynamics that dominate our lives, and I am lucky to have found my cast: Baofeng, a fellow filmmaker and artist; Jianing, whose presence alone speaks of her independence; and Shilo, who works in fashion design and a great enthusiast in the art of divination. This film wouldn't exist without their contributing of ideas, creating a collage of elements, mysteries, fantasies, all relating to the uncertainty of the world.

I consider it a luxury to make a film that doesn't have a fixed pitch, although sometimes one does wonder why would anyone need a film like this, but hopefully everyone can take away something from it, or simply just watch it without the need to.



place through this particular path, he shall have whatever he desired fulfilled. But he couldn't remember that person's name, maybe he didn't even bother to ask. A man or woman, I ask? He said he couldn't tell, [REDACTED]

"What time is it?" He asked. "One fifty." I answer. "We have plenty of time. Maybe too much time," he said. But then he senses something wrong. It was the light, the light had changed suddenly. I ask him what's wrong. He says: "how long was I here?" He tells me to look at my watch. It's now four thirty, and immediately, four thirty-one. "We overslept," he suddenly announced, and began to walk away, but after a minute he stopped again, and realized that he was holding the map backwards. So we went other way around. I looked at my surrounding, and I was certain this was no longer Central Park, but an entirely different one. We exit. [REDACTED] I don't know how



# CAST

CAI BAOFENG - Yangzi, the writer  
CHEN JIANING - Murph, the photographer  
HANYAN “SHILO” REN - the girl

and introducing  
“Nice” the Cat





# *CREW*



Writer / Director / Producer *TERENCE W. YANG* · Co-Writers *CHEN JIANING HANYAN “SHILO” REN CAI BAOFENG*  
Photography *LI XIAOPING ZHENG SHUYANG* · Sound *WANG CHAO ZHOU ZIHAO ZHOU YANG*  
First Assistant Director *CHEN CHUQIAO* · Film Editor *TERENCE W. YANG* · Original Music *JONE YANG*





*“... but you don’t even know how it started.”*

# *DIRECTOR*

Born in 1998, TERENCE W. YANG studied cinema at School of Visual Arts in New York City, and now works primarily as a freelance film critic and translator. He is currently based in the east coast of China, in his hometown of Ningbo, where he shot his first feature film, *A New Novel*.

## Selected Filmography

- *XIII* (Short / Fiction), 2018, 24min
- *The Grandmother Dream* (Short / Documentary), 2018, 27min
- *Screenplay for 'SUNDAY X 2'* (Short / Collage), 2019, 26min
- *Chronicle of a Strike* (Documentary), 2019, 41min



*“Which secret society are they belonged to?”*



# *PRODUCTION*

Filmed with Sony Alpha 7 sIII  
Zeiss Compact Prime cp.2 50mm / 85mm · Zeiss Distagon t 35mm *f*/1.4

Associate Producers

JONE YANG YE YING YE JIANYUN  
LIN QIBING SHEN XIAOGUANG ZHANG QIAN  
ZHANG LUOMING ZHOU FENGNIAN ZHOU ZIHAN

Thesis Advisor

GINA ABATEMARCO

Consultant on Production

HUANG ZHOUYING

Location Support

WANG WEIBING

NINGBO DRAMATIC THEATER - LIN YONG, director; CHEN AILIAN, manager

DCP created by

FRANK FANG

The filmmaker would like to thank all family and friends  
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