

The Shuttle

Press Kit



Contact Information

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Trailer: <https://www.facebook.com/lu.han.9843/videos/vb.100001650846256/1350578865007129/?type=2&theater>

SYNOPSIS

Wenhua, a Chinese immigrant living in Los Angeles runs a nail salon, while her husband, Yong drives the shuttle for the manicurists. Wenhua suffers from infertility, as well as Yong's repeated infidelity. Wenhua becomes suspicious when the shuttle arrives late yet again. She tests the water by asking Yong to teach her to drive, but he refuses. Wenhua notices her pretty, young manicurist Chun behaves oddly around Yong and grows certain that there is something more than friendship between them. Wenhua accuses Yong of having an affair. Yong denies it and attempts to leave the salon. In the midst of the commotion, Wenhua jumps into the driver's seat of the shuttle, and Chun, seeing this, scrambles into the passenger seat and locks the door. There, alone with Wenhua, Chun confesses the dire secret she's been holding.

LOGLINE

An infertile nail salon owner decides to confront her husband, the salon's shuttle driver, whom she suspects of sleeping with one of her employees.

WHY THIS STORY | WHY THIS TEAM

The Shuttle was made as Lu Han's thesis film for her MFA degree. As a female Asian filmmaker, I constantly feel that we don't see enough interesting Asian leading roles on the screen--especially females. When I started this project, I made the deliberate decision to focus my story on the emotional journey of an Asian woman.

This movie is 90% Mandarin and Cantonese, with a 100% Asian, 80% female main cast, and a female dominated creative team. Women comprised 13% of directors on the top 700 films, but just 7% on the top 250 films. The lack of women making hiring decisions leads to a less diverse workforce. Employment of men vs women in key behind-the-camera jobs is at a recent historical high for women, however it is still only 28%.

DIRECTOR NOTES

"The Shuttle is about love, womanhood and independence."

My mother got married and gave birth to me in her early twenties, and since then her roles as mother and wife chiefly define her identity. Even today, women are often expected to marry and have children for society to term them "good women." Many married and infertile women therefore suffer great distress because they cannot provide an offspring. Even though sterile men can be unfairly blamed, women disproportionately bear the brunt for failure to procreate. Moreover, many women feel they cannot divorce due to social stigma, and remain in unhappy marriages, a notion especially prevalent amongst the women from low socioeconomic backgrounds. I've personally seen many women suffer from these problems, and it makes me all the more determined to be a voice for these women. That's why I explored issues of infertility, infidelity, and immobilization of women in this short film.

In movies, the portrayal of the wife and mistress almost always follows the same line. The wife is the victim and the mistress is the devil. However, in relationships there is no absolute right or wrong. Often the wife, the mistress, even the husband can all be considered the victim in many regards. I want to explore these human relationships through a relatively unbiased lenses. All key characters have a reason or motivation for their action. Nobody is born pure evil or good; by moving the three characters along the spectrum closer mirrors the true state of humanity. When I write, I always weave social, political, and moral themes into the main narrative. My hope is to capture the unfolding stories of ordinary people; so the screen becomes a mirror or vessel to connect the dramas of their own lives lurking just below the surface. I believe good stories connect us all. I hope audiences will see themselves through the characters I created.



FILMMAKERS

Lu Han - Writer/Director/Producer

Lu Han currently attends the MFA film production program at Loyola Marymount University. Han, a writer and director, was raised in mainland China. She came to the United States seven years ago on scholarship, where, passionate about social studies, she received her bachelor's degree in anthropology and sociology. Always fascinated with the art of storytelling, Han chose to incorporate her compassion for humanity into her interest in filmmaking. She strives to deconstruct complicated social relationships between religion, class, race, culture, and ideology. Her works explore issues of morality while portraying daily life. Han's short films have screened in the United States, Canada, and China; her second short, *"The Kite,"* has screened at many film festivals, including the Oscar-qualified LA Shorts Fest.

Ahleea Zama - Co-Producer

Ahleea Zama was raised in Cleveland, Ohio as a first-generation Cameroonian-American. She earned her BA in theatre at East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania and her MFA at Loyola Marymount University in writing & producing for television. Her focus is crime dramas with stories that revolve around social issues and complex/taboo relationships. Working in development at AMC Networks has strengthened her portfolio of work. Ahleea's work has screened at film festivals and she holds multiple nominations and awards for writing and producing.

Matthew Ballard - Cinematographer

Matthew Ballard grew up in Washington State. After he moved to Los Angeles to attend film school, he quickly began shooting narrative, commercials, and music videos while taking a strong commitment to shooting on motion picture film. He now owns his own 16mm camera and works in commercials and music videos, occasionally taking a break to return to his love of narrative filmmaking.

Z.Khalilah – Production Designer

Received her Bachelors of Arts in Film and TV from Georgia State University. Currently, completing her Masters of Fine Arts from Loyola Marymount University. A writer, director and editor with a concentration in documentary. As a creative she enjoys building spaces and worlds through storytelling. She uses her passion for filmmaking to study human nature and tell stories of the under-represented.



CAST

Alice Ko - "Wenhua"

Hong Kong-born American actress Alice Ko is known for her dramatic roles in independent films "Contractor's Routine", "Locked in Stone", "Listen", and "Amy". She has always had a flair for the performing arts, landing her first "role" at the age of 4 in her school's production of "Three Little Pigs." However, it wasn't until she graduated from University of California, Berkeley with a degree in Chemical Engineering that she began to pursue her passion. She has studied the Meisner Technique at American Conservatory Theatre (San Francisco CA) and the Waterfront Playhouse and Conservatory (Berkeley, CA). She also studied piano, singing, dance, and stage combat with some of the top professionals in the field. Always the avid learner, Ko is currently expanding her skill set and studies comedy at Lesly Kahn & Company in Los Angeles, CA.

In 2014, she landed a supporting role in the TV movie "Exposed" directed by Patty Jenkins (Monster, Wonder Woman) and has since worked on various film and TV projects. You can see her films at various festivals around the world including Paris Short Film Festival, IFS Film Festival, San Diego Black Film Festival among others.

Ariel Zhang - “Chun”

Ariel Zhang is a Chinese actress currently living in Los Angeles. Ariel graduated from one of the top 9 colleges in China---Sichuan Conservatory of Music, where she worked in many theaters and film productions. She obtained the degree of Master in Fine Arts in Acting for Film at the New York Film Academy in Los Angeles. She has won multiple awards at film festivals: the Award of Merit – Leading Actress at the Best Shorts Competition 2017, the Festival Award – Best Actress at the Prestigious International Film Festival 2017, the Bronze Award – Best Actress at the NYC Indie Film Awards, and an Honorable Mention – Best Actress at the Los Angeles Film Awards. She is now working full time as an actress in Hollywood.

Zhan Wang - “Yong”

Zhan Wang is an actor currently living in Los Angeles, he has appeared in Film, TV and Theater in both the U.S and China. A member of Anthony Meindl's Actor Workshop, he has received his master's degree in Acting from the Central Academy of Drama in Beijing and bachelor's degree from the New England Conservatory in Boston, M.A. He served as the dramaturge for Edward Lam Dance Theater Company in Hong Kong from 2009-2012 while teaching theater in Beijing. Beyond acting, he's also a yoga instructor at the Corepower Yoga in Los Angeles.

Zhan Wang

Alice Ko

Ariel Zhang

The Shuttle

A FILM BY LU HAN

MUSIC BY SAM SOLINO MAZAHERY EDITOR SAM SOLINO MAZAHERY PRODUCTION DESIGNER Z. KHALILAH DIRECTION OF PHOTOGRAPHY MATTHEW BALLARD
SOUND DESIGNER LU HAN PRODUCTION DESIGNER DUANDUAN LI EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS YUWU HAN BING YU PRODUCED BY LU HAN AHILEEA ZAMA

LOYOLA MARYMOUNT UNIVERSITY

LMU|LA
Loyola Marymount
University

CREW

Writer/Director -- Lu Han

Executive Producers -- Yuwu Han and Bing Yu

Producers -- Lu Han and Ahleea Zama

Director of Photography Cinematographer -- Matthew Ballard

First Ac -- Jacob Fuller

Second Ac -- Victor Labarthe and Amina Zadeh

Production Designer -- Z. Khalilah W-windham

Art Director -- Adil Cem Albayrak

Assistant Director -- Shuaiyu Liu

Second Assistant Director -- Jiali Bao and Phoebe Chao

Editor -- Sam Solino Mazahery

Assistant Editor -- Yixia Li

Key Grip -- Joshua Carrasco

Grip -- Sam Solino Mazahery

Grip -- Tom Vatterott

Make-up -- Jade Vaughn

Upm -- Ahleea Zama and Vivek Rao Nipani

Sound Mixers -- Grace He And Eni William Njoku

Boom Operators -- Dj Ross

Script Supervisor -- Yuecheng Liu and Sophie Gao

Production Assistants -- Paige Prevost, Daniel, Chang Sun, Sarah Hamilton, Zihao Song, and Daniel Joseph De Boulay,

Still Photographers -- Kat Pan, Tian Tian, and Xinyang Li

Location Scout Manager -- Elsie Dortelus

Location Manager Assistant -- Micaela Hammond

Casting Director -- Paxton Eubanks

Casting Assistants -- Marlene Amalie Magerl, Kyle Hudson, Yiran Bai, Haotian Gao, Qingge Gao,
and Ellis Meng Meng

Writing Consultant -- David Techman

Sound Designer -- Lu Han

Final Mixer -- Sam Solino Mazahery

Poster Designer - Duanduan Li

CAST

Wenhua -- Alice Ko

Chun -- Ariel Zhang

Yong -- Zhan Wanzhan Wangg

Feng -- Monica Zhang

Lily -- Yvonne Zhao

Mrs. Evans -- Unique Mills

Mrs. Swan -- Yvonne Gartsman

Mr. Jefferson -- Aaron Diamond

SONGS

“Yi Xing Chuan”

Music Composed By -- Sam Solino Mazahery

Lyrics By Xiao Liang

“Ye Yu”

Music Composed By Sam Solino Mazahery

Lyrics By Hui Zhou Wang

PRODUCTION INFORMATION

Shooting location

Top 1 Nail Salon

3317 W Manchester Blvd, Inglewood, CA, 90305

Camera Info

Arri SR11

Film Stock

Kodak Vision 3 16mm film

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