

LI TIANYE

XHUGE BEICHEN

THE GIFT  
the gift

DIRECTED BY RINGO YE



WRITTEN BY LIANG PI  
PRESENTED BY HU JINGJUN MA CHUNLEI WANG JIANJUN RICHARD KIM  
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER ZHUANGYI DISTRIBUTION ZHUANGYI PRODUCED BY ZHUANGYI  
CO-PRESENTED BY SWS & YES FILMS  
SHANGHAI EWD ADVERTISING & FILM PRODUCTION CO., LTD PRODUCTION



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A close-up photograph of a man and a young boy. The man, on the right, has dark hair and is wearing a black leather jacket over a dark t-shirt. He is smiling and looking down at something in his hands. The boy, on the left, has dark hair and is wearing a red jacket. He is also looking down at the same thing. The background is blurred, showing what appears to be a public space with other people and structures.

# THE GIFT

## the gift

### Logline

Gao Ling, one of the patients with osteogenesis imperfecta, commonly known as "porcelain dolls" in China, sets out a "magnificent" adventure thanks to his "bold" move.

### Synopsis

Gao Ling, one of the patients with osteogenesis imperfecta, commonly known as "porcelain dolls" in China, sets out a "magnificent" adventure thanks to his "bold" move. That's also how a "weird" encounter seemingly becomes a "surprise". Is it a "trap" or a precious gift of life? We'll wait and see.



# STARRING



## LI TIANYE

Li Tianye, a Chinese actor graduated from Shanghai Theater Academy in 2002, acted in Big Movie (2006), a comedy film. In the period drama Empress Moon, Flowers of Evil (2007) Li played Nai Xiang, the eldest son of the Zhen's. Then, he was offered the role of A Peng in the feature film War of the Other Side (2008). Li was invited to play in I Do (2011) and Secret Garden (2012), two urban rom coms, before he was nominated the Best Actor at Tudou Festival, with his performance in Where to Go (2013), a micro short film. In 2014, he starred in Butterflies Come Tonight, the first theatrical film about the Qiang, one of China's minority groups.



## ZHUGE BEICHEN

Zhuge Beichen, a 14-year-old 7th grader at Shanghai Experimental School has always been interested in acting and is an experienced child actor of Shanghai Little Star Art Troupe.



# FILMMAKERS

A high-angle, slightly blurred photograph of a person in a wheelchair moving along a red running track. The track is bordered by green grass and trees. The person is wearing a red and black jacket and is seen from behind. The overall tone is contemplative and artistic.

## RINGO YE

Director, screenwriter. He graduated from Directing Department of Beijing Film Academy in 2005. He directed many films and short films. In 2008, his first urban comedy Super 50 was invited to participate in the exhibition units of Hawaii International Film Festival and Italian Far East International Film Festival. His short films, such as Hong Zhong's Diary and New Year, have also been well-received at both domestic and international film festivals. In 2013, Ye Kai's Balala Little Magic Fairy Big Movie with Alpha Animation won #1 at box office in the category of "Local Teen movie". The following year, Mr. Cartoon Pictures invited Ye Kai to direct I Love Big Big Wolf 2, which set a record of box office championship for the first day of the same type of film in summer. In 2016, Ye Kai won the Jury Award and the Audience Award in Hiroshima International Film Festival and the Most Popular Film Award for his film The Gift.

## LIANG PI

A veteran TV show producer, Liang Pi then turned to film and TV screenwriting. After years of making micro short films, fashion films, Liang Pi has crafted her screenwriting skills, formed unique aesthetic taste, which enables her to structure and navigate stories towards the right direction. She participated in many film and TV projects as writer and associate screenwriter.

## ZHUANG YI

Zhuang Yi graduated from Tongji University. Unlike most of the film producers, he gained actual corporate management experiences working for Fortune Global 500, which helps him to connect clients' demands and audience expectations through visual expression. Importing the production system from abroad, he strictly and efficiently supervises every step of filmmaking and safeguards the quality of the films.



# COMPLETE LIST OF CREDITS

<b>Directed by</b>	Ringo Ye	<b>CAST</b>	
<b>Presented by</b>	Hu Jingjun Ma Chunlei Wang Jianjun Richard Kim	Yu Meng by	Li Tianye
		Gao Ling by	Zhuge Beichen
<b>Associated Producer</b>	Lin Jun Song Jiongming Steven Qian	<b>Post-Production Services</b>	
<b>Administration</b>	Li Peihong	SHANGHAI EWD	
<b>Producer</b>	Wu Dan	ADVERTISING & FILM PRODUCTION CO., LTD	
<b>Executive Producer</b>	Lin Xujian	<b>Editor</b>	Qiao Le
<b>Press Supervisor</b>	Crystal Young Li Yang	<b>Additional Editing</b>	Gao Ye Zheng Jiajie Huang Jiong
<b>Produced by</b>	Zhuang Yi	<b>Colorist</b>	
<b>Written</b>	Liang Pi	Mao Mao	
<b>Story by</b>	Jing Yin	8 Studio Post Production Office LTD.	
<b>1st Assistant Director</b>	Zhan Chenglin	<b>Sound Mix Studio</b>	
<b>Production Coordinary &amp; Script Supervisor</b>	Yuan Haobin	Shanghai Mute Recording Studios	
<b>Casting Director</b>	Wang Yunjie	Project Manager	Yvette
<b>On-set</b>	Feng Jijun	<b>MUSIC</b>	
<b>Production Manager</b>		<b>Written</b>	Gavin Clark
<b>Director of Photography</b>	Pan Wenjun	<b>Distribution</b>	
<b>B Camera</b>	Min Pengcheng	Universal Music Digital Services	
<b>Gaffer</b>	Hu Jie	<b>VI Designer</b>	Sunny Lion Pictures
<b>Production Designer</b>	Xing Wenhun	<b>Co-Presented by</b>	
<b>Prop Master</b>	Jiang Shangkun	SWS & YES FILS	
<b>Costume Designer</b>	He Rui	SHANGHAI EWD	
<b>Make-up Artist</b>	Yoko	ADVERTISING & FILM PRODUCTION CO., LTD	
<b>Hair</b>	Shen Jun		
	Xiang Zi		
<b>Sound</b>	Sheng Yong		
	Han Qibing		
<b>Extra Features</b>	Guan Le		
	Liu Jiajun		



# DIRECTOR'S TREATMENT

## **A topic of public benefit**

At the beginning, I decided to tell a story of rare diseases out of curiosity. I had never really paid attention to this group of people, who are often seen as the most miserable ones in the world, suffering osteogenesis imperfecta, myasthenia, cerebellar atrophy, hypersomnia and other rare diseases due to genetic mutation or disorder. In order to live, they have to go through many more cruel challenges in daily life.

When I finally talked to the patients at the Rare Disease Care Center, I got moved by their determination, perseverance and optimism. Sometimes I feel that they are more positive than me. Knowing the diseases are incurable or worsening, they still help each other, sparing no effort to share information and experiences with other patients.

They even made fun of themselves as powerful X Men mutants.

I was immediately inspired and determined to tell this story so that the audience can get to know them, and understand that we are different, and the same.

Just like us, they also have pursuits, goals and dreams. Just like us, they might feel lonely, depressed and sad. We shouldn't be afraid of, shy away from, pity or disdain them. We can all make a difference by showing our understanding and tolerance, giving a smile or a helping hand.

Perhaps, we can be good friends with them.

This is how I picked the theme.



## Screenwriting

I wanted to make a children's film, which should also be a road movie.

It is fair to say that from the very beginning, I've given up the idea of telling a story only for a certain concept. Instead, I planned to create a story of good structure, with a beginning, middle and end, just like a feature film. It might not be easy, but I was driven by it. Therefore, I began to explore potential ideas.

Later on, I came up with the story of a "porcelain doll" saying goodbye to his friend who lives in the other side of the city before going to Beijing for his surgery. This is the first time that he travels alone. I hoped to bring the audience into his inner world and to learn how to interact with the patients with rare diseases. Also, I'd like to show how people in my city can give him some help during the journey, while presenting the outside world that the boy yearns for.

The only thing that I wasn't sure when developing the story is whether the gift is delivered or not. If so, who should deliver it. In order to come up with an unexpected ending, I kept rewriting the script. I rewrote the second half of it two days before shooting, only for a better ending. (But of course, thinking back, this decision had huge impact on me, as director of the film, and on other crew members.) And changing the entire second half when we were about to start shooting was not easy at all.

I intended to make it lighter. It should not only be a film to raise public awareness, but an interesting one to watch. And the coming-of-age story is about an adult who's unreliable and a clever boy who's ahead of his peers. They support, help, heal each other and grow together during the journey.

## Shooting

Once I decided to make this short film, the nostalgic memories of the children's movies that I watched when I was a kid always popped up in my mind. Those simple and pure images portrayed characters that I could resonate with, and told stories of our daily life. The cinematography and art design of our film also followed the same style, bringing the audience to where the story takes place, because I don't want the story be outshined by exaggerating visual style.


When I did film analysis of *I Wish* (2011) by Hirokazu Koreeda, one of the greatest aesthetic masters, I immediately knew this was what I wanted. (I thought it wouldn't be difficult, until I finished our short film and realized that I was wrong.)

The story required us to shift locations, from downtown to Joy City (a shopping mall), from a subway hub to Fuxing Island. We even travelled to Chuansha County, located at the other side of Shanghai. The logistics caused us a lot of difficulties. For instance, we only got one day shooting in the Joy City and I had to shorten the scenes. We could have made it better, given more time. (And I also realized that there's still a lot to learn as a director.) Even so, I insisted to keep all of the locations, because our protagonist must take every and each step to complete the coming-of-age journey.

It turned out that I was right. When we finished the last scene of the farewell by the sea, in a sudden, we all felt as if following the boy through the whole adventure. I got something special at that very moment and that's exactly what this film is about.



# FESTIVAL SPECIFICATIONS

A young boy with dark hair, wearing a maroon polo shirt and light blue sweatpants, is sitting in a wheelchair on a paved ramp. He is looking off to the side with a thoughtful expression. A black bag with 'HAMPSHIRE' written on it is slung over his shoulder. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with a building and a person in the distance.

<b>Original Title</b>	The Gift
<b>International Title</b>	The Gift
<b>Original language of film</b>	Mandarin
<b>Genre</b>	drama
<b>Running Time</b>	25min
<b>Image Format</b>	16:9
<b>Completed:</b>	2016
<b>World Premiere</b>	
<b>Exhibition Formats</b>	DCP

**Contact** Yuk Zhuang  
(+86)13817635094  
yuk\_zhuang@ewdfilm.com

## Link to film

[https://www.dropbox.com/s/lkiqjnr7lrbgft8/%E6%B4%9B%E6%9D%89%E7%9F%B6%E6%96%B0%E9%94%90%E7%94%B5%E5%BD%B1%E4%BA%BA2020%E5%B9%B4infocus%E5%B1%95%E6%98%A0%E6%B4%BB%E5%8A%A8\\_%E3%80%8A%E7%A4%BC%E7%89%A9%E3%80%8B.mp4?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/s/lkiqjnr7lrbgft8/%E6%B4%9B%E6%9D%89%E7%9F%B6%E6%96%B0%E9%94%90%E7%94%B5%E5%BD%B1%E4%BA%BA2020%E5%B9%B4infocus%E5%B1%95%E6%98%A0%E6%B4%BB%E5%8A%A8_%E3%80%8A%E7%A4%BC%E7%89%A9%E3%80%8B.mp4?dl=0)



# LAURELS

