

Where Dreams Rest

夢歸處

TRT時長: 15:41 min



Film Contact

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Logline

In this poetic, impressionistic, realistic coming-of-age film, Ah Wei, a young woman from rural China, decides to cross the US-Mexico border through the underground tunnel to reunite with her husband in the United States. She soon realizes the journey is not about the crossing, but about mending the discrepancies between expectations and reality once she gets there.

故事概要

透過已到美國的丈夫在電話上的描述和自己的幻想，阿微在腦海中構建出一個美麗而夢幻的加州夢。可惜，當一步一步的靠近夢時，難免會發現，夢最好是以夢的最原始姿態存在。如飛蛾撲火的道理一樣，夢想著地的一刻，也是期望落空之時。

故事大背景是美墨邊境的華人偷渡情況，但故事探索的是，夢與造夢者之間的糾纏不清...



The Story

From mainstream media, it is well-known that thousands from Central and Latin America attempt to cross the U.S.-Mexican border every day. But as a Chinese immigrant myself, I was shocked to learn of the complex stories behind Chinese migrants who endure this dangerous journey. By paying large sums of money to Snakeheads (smugglers), they make their way through China to enter the U.S. through the Mexican border.

Through a personal contact, I learned of a Chinese migrant who survived this very crossing by lying fully immersed in a water tank, with only a straw to breathe through. Luckily, she made it, but many in the same journey did not. That story, her journey, lingered with me.

I couldn't help but wonder isn't the Chinese economy booming? Aren't there other methods to come to the U.S.? Why would someone risk his/her life just to come to the U.S.? What happens if they get caught? How can they continue to stay in America?

With more research, I found that the majority of those who take this daring route are from a particular region in China called Fuzhou. When traveling there this past summer, I was able to conduct more research and interview the people there. Filled with nearly vacant villages, Fuzhou is curiously fabricated with Westernized homes. Those that I encountered shared stories of family members who had left for America ten to twenty years ago, but are unable to come back. They send money back to care for their families and build homes but, they themselves are unable to travel back due to their complicated/undocumented status in the U.S.

Under the current political climate, it will only be more difficult for those who want to go to the U.S. for a better life. While many immigrants are becoming more open about their status and struggles, the undocumented Chinese tend to be quieter and are often disregarded. It is my hope to raise awareness to the plight of Chinese migrants through this film.

Although *Where Dreams Rest* is a story about immigration, the story I want to tell is, in essence, also a coming-of-age story. I know first-hand what it is like to leave a hometown, to experience the cost of immigrating, and dealing with the continual struggles to make sense of one's identity while assimilating to this country.

Despite the cost of immigration, I always believe that as human beings, we have strengths that are beyond ourselves. Only when we're utterly devastated, crushed, and broken, we can truly find our inner strength again—when we rebuild from the ground up, something beautiful always emerges.

故事背后

从美国媒体报道中，穿越边境的都是从墨西哥和拉丁美裔的移民，鲜少有报道指出其实当中包括中国来的移民。作为一个移民，当我得知中国移民透过蛇头穿山越岭冒生命危险要过来时，我被震惊到了。究竟是什么迫使这些移民如此千辛万苦想要过来的呢？

然后当我做更详尽的资料搜集后，就发现大部分透过这困难险境来美国的大部分都是从福州一带出来的。所以过去这个暑假，我特地飞到福建省长乐市，去采访一些当地居民。很多受访者含着泪和思念，跟我分享他们的家人偷渡去美国的故事，然而因为他们签证申请一直被拒，他们很多都已经存10年或以上的长时间无法与已经在美国的家人见面或重聚了。

其实，现实是美国的无证移民中，有很多是华裔。只是大部分人以为无证移民只是在说墨西哥或拉丁美裔的人士，因为大多数无证华裔比较沉默。不过我希望透过这个电影，提高大家对华人移民状况的了解。

而为什么我要讲这故事呢。作为一个移民，我深切感受过离乡别井，远在异乡的感受。我十四岁那年从香港移民美国，在移民后的第一年，我透过电话收到爷爷过身的噩耗；其次，我与7岁的小妹妹用书信联系，却仍避免不过后来因距离产生的陌生；另外，我一直很大努力去实践“美国梦，”但由于文化和语言障碍，我的成长总是掺杂着不安与自我怀疑。

甚至到现在，我都继续挣扎着。作为一个编剧和导演，我过去三年在美国南加大修读电影学院。这个电影学院多年来一直被评为全美第一的电影学院。可是我却因为感到与电影学院所教的好莱坞模式感到有脱离感。甚至在写这个剧本时，我会发现自己会下意识的迎合美国好莱坞的一套而改变自己一些内心的想法。不过幸好过去一个学期我休学时，终于能安静下来思想。这时候，我终于能听到自己内心那把微小而且很容易便被埋没的声音。

「身在海外，心系祖国。」成长，对于我来说一直不是件容易的事情。我从小是充满着幻想充满着憧憬的女孩，一直向往着美好，可现实总不免与梦想背道而驰，但与其就此落寞沉沦，倒不如用另一个方式面对。所以，梦归处其实也是一个非常个人，非常梦幻的故事。梦或许不是我们想象的，但我们可以选择改变梦的形状，梦的方向。

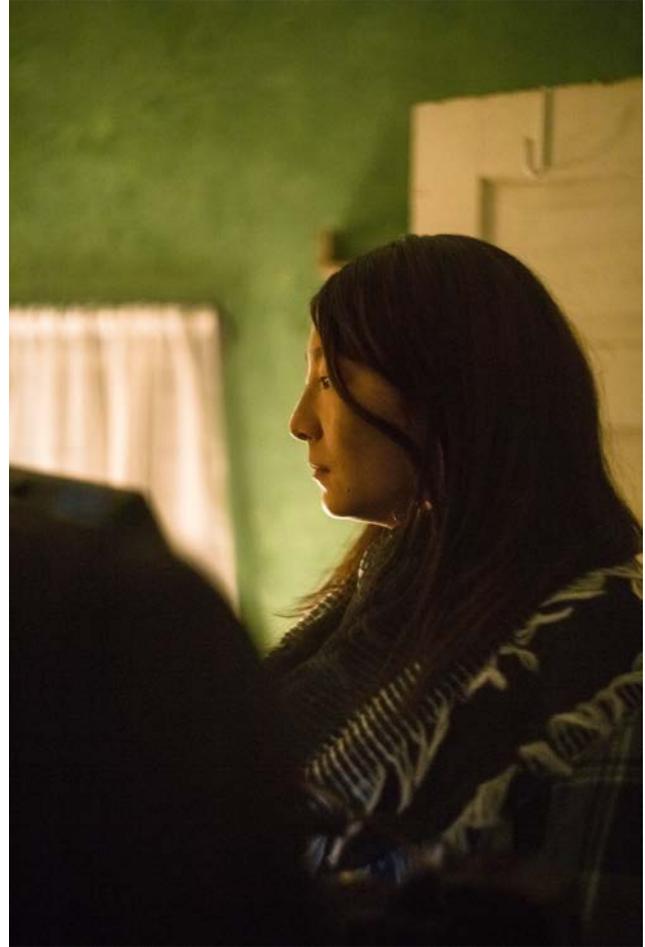
Cast 主演

Michelle Sun 孙小雪

Michelle Sun was born in China, grew up in Tokyo, Japan and New York, United States. She pursued acting and psychology BFA degrees in college, then started performing in Off-Broadway show and commercials after her graduation.

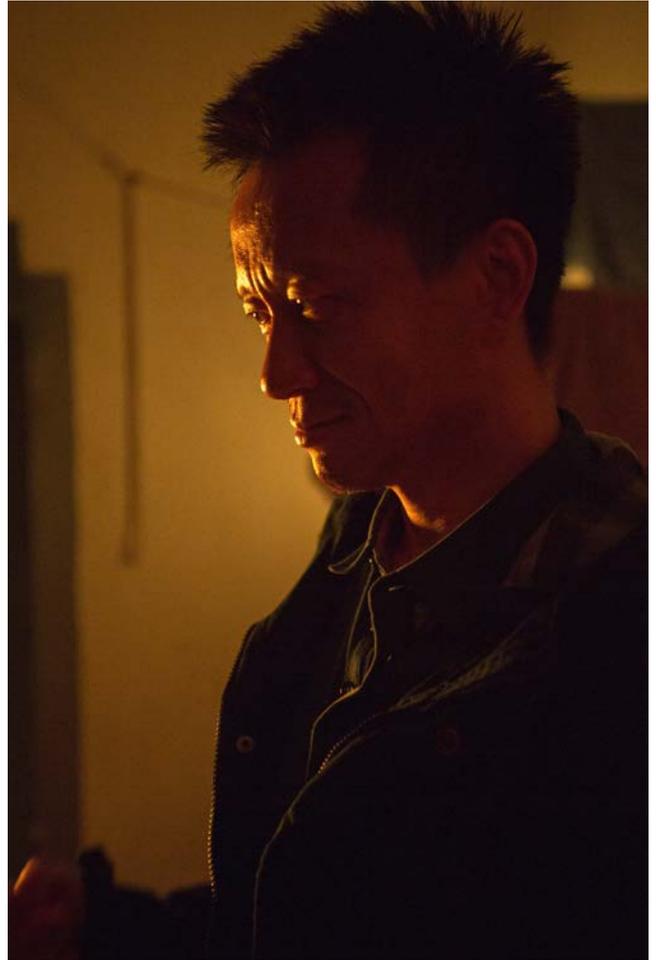
Michelle Sun visited China in 2014 and acted her first principal role in a globally distributed commercial film - "Forever Young" which screened in June, 2015. Summer of 2015, she shot "BaiNiao (White Bird)" which was nominated as Official Selection of Berlinale Shorts 2016, it was the only Chinese short film that was nominated in 2016. She also participated in many other Awards winning projects such as "Gold Fortune", which won 2017 New Era Film Festival - Best Drama.

She produced and co-wrote a comedy sketch in the summer of 2017 with her writing partner - "F - Is For Fetish", which was featured on the home page of "Funny Or Die" and "Whohaha" websites. AsAmNews also wrote an article about the sketch as well. She currently lives and works in Los Angeles, acting for commercials, films and television.



Zhan Wang 王展

Zhan Wang, born in China and raised in U.S, he finished his education from both the New England Conservatory in Boston and the Central Academy of Drama in Beijing, China. He worked extensively in theater before moved to Los Angeles 3 years ago to pursue acting, since then, he has played the lead in more than 13 short films, most recently appeared in Fox/Marvel's "Legion" as well as played a key role in Anthony Meindl directed feature film "Binghamton".



Team 團隊



ELAINE WONG 黃怡

Writer/Director

Elaine graduated from University of California, Irvine in 2010 where she earned a Bachelor of Art degree in Literary Journalism. Elaine worked as a news writer and reporter for three years. She has interned for Scott Hamilton Kennedy, an Academy Award nominated filmmaker, and has also interned for producer Janet Yang and was involved in the development of several projects, all of them are China-Hollywood co-productions. Elaine is a MFA Graduate in Film and Television Production at University of Southern California. Her previous short films have premiered at festivals in San Francisco, Los Angeles, Sacramento, New York, and Portland. She now works in development at Sun Entertainment culture, Ltd.



ANTE CHENG 程安德

Cinematographer

Ante is from Taipei, a USC film production MFA grad. His narrative works include *Gook* (Sundance 2017 NEXT audience award), *Miss Purple* (Sundance 2019), and *Afuera* (LA Film Festival 2016). He has worked on advanced projects at USC and has had commercial success as a cinematographer. Ante is currently a Project Involve Independent cinematography fellow.



Yuelin (Jolene) Zhao 趙曉琳

Production Designer

Yuelin (Jolene) Zhao was born and raised in Beijing, China, and left her hometown for Portland, Oregon at the age of 16. With a strong passion in storytelling, she decided to go on an adventure in filmmaking without hesitation since she made her first short video in high school. She then majored in Visual Art Media and minored in Communication at University of California San Diego. She is now a LA based director and production designer, and also a MFA Film Production candidate at University of Southern California. Jolene believes that film is a medium where her imagination can come alive. She loves a wide range of stories - from building worlds of dystopias and fantasy to observing people and ordinary things.



Mengxue Hou 侯夢唐

Editor

Born and raised in mainland China, Mengxue Hou is an international filmmaker in USC School of Cinematic Arts. Her experience of journalism study in undergraduate school inspired her to documentary filmmaking. As a student who is focusing on editing, directing and cinematography, she likes to experiment between fiction and non-fiction. She is a winner of student academy award for her editing in *Spring Flower*.



Longwei Deng 鄧龍威

Sound Supervisor

Longwei Deng was born in Henan, China. Then he moved to Shanghai with his family when he was nine. He came to U.S. in 2010. He studied Television, Radio Film and Mathematics in Syracuse University for four years. After graduation, he went back to China. He worked in Beijing as a scriptwriter for two years. He co-wrote a Chinese hit TV show Lao Ba Dang Jia and also multiple film scripts with other A-class writers. He always wanted to pursue his dream in directing, so he joined SCA in 2016 Spring. During his first year in SCA. He made three short films. His third project, a 508 project, Thunder Lake won Best Student Film at London Independent Film Award in March 2017 and it was also picked as official selections in other film festivals. Besides directing, he also focused on sound, including production sound, post production sound editing and sound mixing. He did sound on a 546 project The Craftsman last semester. He wants to continue his work in directing and sound for the rest of his stay at SCA.



Peter Lam 林永鏗
Composer

Born in Hong Kong, musically-trained in London and now based in Los Angeles, Peter's multicultural experiences and distinctive sensibility are reflected in his diverse yet unique musical works. He has composed music for over fifty film and television projects ranging from major festivals selections such as Cannes, Palm Springs, and Vancouver, to viral Youtube videos that gained over five million views. He has also been part of the music team for acclaimed shows such as Star Wars: Rebels, Jane the Virgin, and Netflix's Making a Murderer. Peter is a graduate of USC's film scoring program.



Lareina Joelle Wong

Co-Producer

Lareina is a student Emmy Award nominated filmmaker and is currently finishing up her MFA in Production at USC School of Cinematic Arts. Most recently, she produced a short film for Pepsi, Beth Hooper and the Super Awesome Dance Battle that Saved the World!



Ariel Du 杜佳懿

Co-Producer

Ariel is an international student from China, majoring in Creative Producing and minoring in Film Studies. She aims to be culturally educated, create and support conscious films that bridge different gaps in our society, and offer more compassionate understanding towards different communities. She is currently working as a short film programmer for the LA Asian Pacific Film Festival, past internships include BBC Worldwide Productions, Film Independent (Spirit Awards 2016 and LA Film Festival 2016), and assisting international distribution of Hunger Games in China.

「是夢，就不應該讓它著地。」

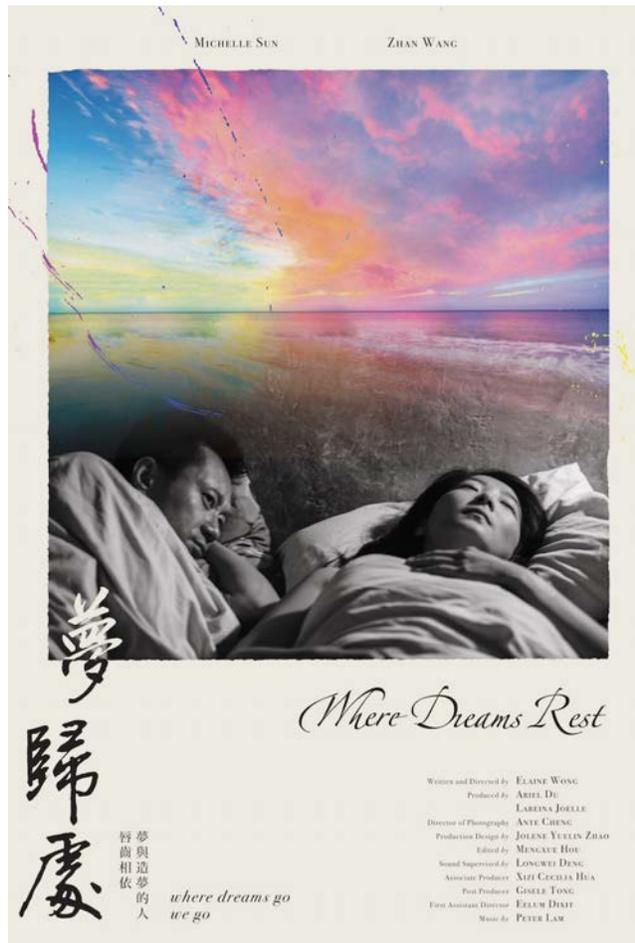


「天際落魄心願像那星困倦。」

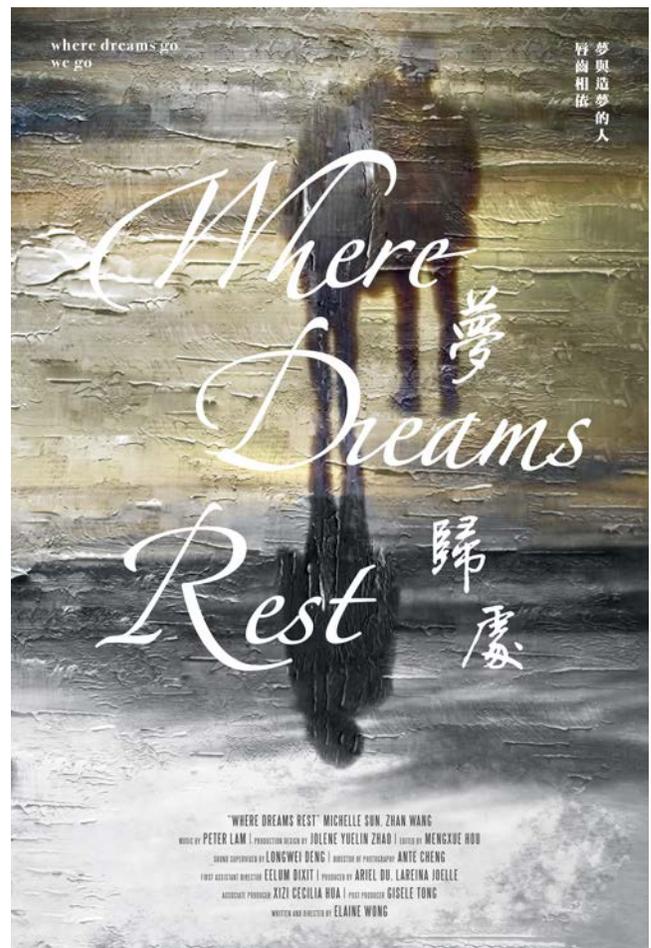
「夢與造夢的人，唇齒相依。」



AWARDS and OFFICIAL SELECTION



- 2019 Madrid International Film Festival, Madrid, Spain
- 2019 Dances with Films, Los Angeles, CA
- 2019 NOT FILM FEST, Italy
- 2019 Woods Hole Film Festival, Cape Cod, MA
- 2019 Hong Kong Puff Underground Film Festival, Hong Kong



- 2019 DC Asian Pacific American Film Festival, Washington D.C.
- 2019 USC First Look Festival, Los Angeles- Outstanding Achievement in Screenwriting
- 2018 Watersprite: Cambridge International Student Film Festival, U.K. - Best Cinematography Award
- 2018 Lady Filmmakers Festival, Beverly Hills, CA - Best Supporting Actor - Zhan Wang

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