



The Speech

AFI CONSERVATORY presents THE SPEECH
Starring HARMONIE HE, GLORIA XIONG and CHEDI CHANG
Edited by LUQI ZHAO
Production Design by MENGHAN QI
Cinematography by ANTON SHAVLIK
Produced by XIAOXIAO LI
Written and Directed by HAOHAO YAN

An aerial photograph of a schoolyard. Several children in red and white uniforms are scattered across the paved area, many of whom are jumping rope. The ropes create long, looping patterns on the ground. In the background, there are green trees and a blue structure, possibly a playground or sports equipment.

The Speech

黄真真的演讲

25'25"/USA/2019

Logline

During the SARS epidemic in Beijing, China, 2003, three eight-year-old girls uncover small truths in an afternoon of school.

Synopsis

May 2003, Beijing, China.

Under the pressure of WHO, the Chinese government announced that the SARS (Severe acute respiratory syndrome) outbreak is real. The city is closed. Most students have been sent home. During a lockdown inside a private boarding school, three eight-year-old girls have to find a way to make sense of the world.

Director's Statement

It was a hot summer day at a boarding school in the outskirts of Beijing, China. During activity time, the principle made an announcement over the loudspeaker: nobody would be going home anymore, the school was to be locked down because of the outbreak of SARS. I was eight years old, sitting in my classroom, struggling to memorize the lines for my first public speech ever. Too young to have the knowledge to make sense of the world, something I still suspect was absent in adults in that period of time, I felt for the first time the urgency to search for something real, something that could help me make sense of the world and make sense of my own life.

Moments like this keep coming back to me as I've grown up. I have constantly found myself in similar situations despite the passing of time and the changes in my body. The only difference is that as I get older and older, I'm not as honest about my feelings as when I was a kid. With this film I want to capture the raw emotions stimulated by childhood discoveries, the urgency to make sense of the ambiguous and arbitrary world, the bold decisions, the awkward fantasies, the rare moment of finding our place on the map of the world.



The Talent

Harmonie He

Harmonie is an nine-year-old actress in Hollywood. She has been active in TV series and movies. Recently she played the young version of Lucy Lu' s character in CBS show Why Women Kill as Young Simone.



Chedi Chang

Chedi is a seven-year-old rhythmic gymnast and fashion model living in Los Angeles, California.



Gloria Xiong

Gloria is a eleven-year-old straight A fifth grader who likes to sing, swim and try all kinds of food.

The Filmmakers



Haohao Yan

WRITER/DIRECTOR

Haohao is a writer-director based in LA. Born and grew up in Beijing, China, she came to the U.S to pursue her B.A. in Film and Television Production at UCLA School of Theater Film and Television. After graduation, she stayed in LA and worked as a freelancer with a focus on Chinese-American coproduction film and commercials. In 2019, she graduated from the directing program at American Film Institute.



Xiaoxiao Li

PRODUCER

Xiaoxiao Li is an award-winning producer, director. Graduate of Producing at the American Film Institute. Specialized in U.S. China co-production, film distribution and marketing. Working with Huaxia Film Distribution, Vogue, New York Documentary Festival, MassMutual Financial Group, etc., earning her Filmmaking MFA degree at 2016, also was invited by Featured Candidate of International Youth Leadership Summit as the filmmaker representative. Her film “SUPERCAR MAN” won more than 20 categories in International Film Festivals and has been highly acclaimed by critics and film festivals alike while garnering distribution worldwide.



Anton Shavlik

Cinematographer

Anton is an American cinematographer who received his masters degree from the AFI. He has worked in Europe, Asia and the Americas and his films have played at festivals such as Sundance and Palm Springs. He has a degree in political science.



Menghan Qi

Production Designer

Born and raised in the North region of China, she received traditional art training from an early age and graduated from LuXun Academy of Fine Art. Prior to moving to the US, she pursued her M.F.A in Painting at Savannah College of Art and Design. Working with drawing, painting and installations, Qi's work has been wildly shown internationally and nationally in the U.S, Europe, Canada and China. including: Katzen Art Center, Mi gallery, Crossing Art Space, Gallery 50, Laney Contemporary Fine Art and more.



Luqi Zhao

Editor

Luqi Zhao is from Kunming, a city in Southwest China. She graduated from University of North Carolina Wilmington with a major in Film Studies. During undergrad, she developed a strong interest in editing which led her to pursue her dream to become a film editor. She then moved to Los Angeles and worked in post-production along with graphic design at Market Street Productions in Venice, California for a year. In 2019, she graduated from American Film Institute.

Behind the Scenes



Stillls



AFI Conservatory Presents

The Speech

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY
Haohao Yan

PRODUCED BY
Xiaoxiao Li

CINEMATOGRAPHY BY
Anton Shavlik

PRODUCTION DESIGN BY
Menghan Qi

EDITED BY
Luqi Zhao

CAST
(In Order of Appearance)

ANQI'S MOM	Audrey Yu
ANQI'S DAD	Jamie Zhang
ANQI	Gloria Xiong
PLAYGROUND GIRLS	
QINGQING	Kaitlyn C Wang
LIAN	Lotus Yong
XINYI	Yuxinyi Wang
LITA	Rita Yong
AILI	Alicia Yu
OLD STAFF	Jason Wang
YOUNG STAFF	Joseph Huang
DANCE TEACHER	Mona Arkin
BOY AT GATE	Ethan Xiong
GIRL AT GATE	Phoebe " Ka Tung "Zhang
PE TEACHER	Xiaodong Wang
DANCE GIRLS	
TIAN	Amy Song
JIAN	Jane Kang
DUODUO	Doris Tseng
ZOU	Zoe Chen
MEILI	Amelie Guo
MALE TEACHER	Todd Lien
YEZI	Chedi Chang
DORM TEACHER	Lei Wang
DORM KIDS	
LI YANG	Danae Gao
LU	Wenona Wenb
JIAJIA	Verna Li
YAO	Shiqi Tan
WANG	Sean Pan
ZHENG	Eric Song
YUXIN	Jason Chen
WEN	Evan Rong
TAI	Taven Rong
FEMALE NEWS HOST	Charles Sun
MALE NEWS HOST	Briana Liu
ZHENZHEN	Harmonie He
LUXI	Lucy Lu
CICI	Christina Cheung
ANNE	Annabella Chou
YOUNG COOK	Lina Bai
OLD FEMALE COOK	Lee Chen
CLASSROOM KIDS	
RAN	Alisa Chang
QIN	Nelson Qin
JIEFU	Jeffery Liu
LIAO	Leo Zhao
GAI	Gavin Zhao
CHANG	Eric Chang
TIANHAO	Thomas Liu
XIXI	Selina Zhai
SHUIJING	Crystal Zhao
SUO	Sophia Zhai
AILIN	Avlin Liu
KAIWEN	Kevin Yuan Zhang
BO	Bobby He
CHINESE TEACHER	Yan Lan
BACKSTAGE STUDENTS	
GIRL WITH RED HAIRTIE	Sunny Liu
HOST	Maggie Yu
KANDI	Kandeey Meng
YIXIANG	Michael Ma
TEACHER WALKING WITH STUDENTS	Yan Wang
STUNT COORDINATOR	Duy Beck



CREW

LINE PRODUCER	Siyi Ren
UNIT PRODUCTION MANAGERS	Xianqi Crystal Du Jinkui Jervis Li
FIRST ASSISTANT DIRECTOR	Taylor Maxwell
SECOND ASSISTANT DIRECTORS	Jane I-Chen Chung Joseph Huang
CASTING DIRECTOR	Kara Sullivan
CAMERA OPERATOR	Motiejus Barauskas
FIRST ASSISTANTS CAMERA	Jackie Bao Riley Shen Celine Layous
SECOND ASSISTANTS CAMERA	Ai Chung Darell Ham
LOADERS	Jay Cheng Lucia Rinaldi Royce Gao
STILL PHOTOGRAPHER	Brian Lau Xian Yang
SCRIPT SUPERVISOR	June Jin
PRODUCTION COORDINATOR	Kimberly Moore
ACCOUNTANT	Siyi Ren
GAFFER	Teck Siang Lim
BEST BOY ELECTRIC	Joel Schaeffer
KEY GRIP	Andras Roder
BEST BOY GRIP	C. Vaughn Greve
GRIPS	Aiden Keltner Chi Min Matt Kleppner Gabriel Lee Augie Escalara Kemarin Khim
ELECTRICIANS	Saulius Lukosevicius Rachel Beedee Neelix Ramirez Colin Moore Daniel Short
LOCATION MANAGER	Jiayu Liu
LOCATION CONSULTANTS	Tim Hilman Jimmy Hang
2ND SECOND ASSISTANT DIRECTORS	Joseph Huang Xiaoxiao Zhang Vasha Narace
ASSISTANT EDITORS	Yuxi Han Maria Freire
PRODUCTION SOUND MIXER	Mr. Woody
BOOM OPERATOR	Speed Ratliff
PLAYBACK OPERATOR	Yang Wang
ART DIRECTORS	Yuan Wang Zelia Peng Shivangi Singh
SET DECORATOR	Hanrui Wang
PROPERTY MASTER	Siwei Lu
LEAD MAN	Jie Song
SET DRESSERS	Jill Colcol Sofia Ribeiro Yue Yin Xiaotang Wang Mufeng Han Zheng Huang
COSTUME DESIGNER	Nan Zhou
COSTUMERS	Qiyu Zhou Jianan Ma Xiaowen Wang Yang Wang
MAKE-UP & HAIR	Jasmine Min
SOUND DESIGNER	Nathan Ruyle
RE-RECORDING MIXER	Nathan Ruyle
SUPERVISING SOUND EDITOR	Nathan Ruyle
DIALOGUE EDITOR	Jedy Xu
FOLEY ARTIST	Mike H. Miller
ADR / FOLEY MIXER	Robert Louis Howley
SOUND STUDIO MANAGER	Robert Louis Howley
COLORIST	Tom Reiser
SPECIAL EFFECTS ON SET SUPERVISOR	Caleb Knueven
SPECIAL EFFECTS ARTIST	Anton Shavlik
TRANSPORTATION COORDINATOR	Michael Hellerstein
DRIVERS	Walter Spohn Tim Edmond Timothy Bushika José A Vides
ASSISTANT PRODUCTION COORDINATOR	Corey (Yuxuan) Wang
CASTING ASSISTANTS	Joseph Huang Xiaoxiao Zhang
EXTRAS CASTING	Liang Zhao
KEY SET PA	Tim Edmond

PRODUCTION ASSISTANTS

Shah Anshu
Timothy Bushika
Yang Wang
Alex Ramsan
Lita Van Houten
Chloé Caldasso
Kylie Kozar
José A Vides
Anthony Ojeda

STUDIO TEACHERS

Stella Pacific Mgmt
Tom Porter
Amy Stanoszek
Jeffrey Scott Nuttall
Guy Flint
Belinda McCormick
Rose Stuart
Shauna Poutre
Louisa B. Caucia

CATERING

IT Catering
Little Donkey

CRAFT SERVICE
FIRST AID

Anthony Ojeda
Grady Hallaian
Cindy Giles

RESHOOT CREW

LINE PRODUCER Jinkui (Jervis) Li
UNIT PRODUCTION MANAGER Anthony Ojeda
FIRST ASSISTANT DIRECTOR Jane I-Chen Chung
SECOND ASSISTANT DIRECTOR Joseph Huang

FIRST ASSISTANT CAMERA Riley Shen
SECOND ASSISTANT CAMERA Darell Ham
LOADER Antoine Combelles

PRODUCTION COORDINATOR CJ Hwang

GAFFER Andrash Roder
BEST BOY ELECTRIC Dae Hyun Kim
KEY GRIP Tom Meredith
BEST BOY GRIP Ryan Kerr
GRIPS Ethan Xie
Chir Yan Lim

ELECTRICIANS Hector Ruiz
Jordan Wills

2ND SECOND ASSISTANT DIRECTORS Zoe Zou
Muyin (Angel) Tang

PRODUCTION SOUND MIXER & BOOM OPERATOR Joy Yang

ART DIRECTORS Yuan Wang
Danna McDonald
Zelia Peng
Jill Colcol

SET DRESSER

DRIVER Anthony Ojeda

PRODUCTION ASSISTANTS Shujia Li
Eva Zheng

STUDIO TEACHER Eileen Sterling

"Sowing a Sun"

Written by: Bingxue Li
Performed by: Galaxy Junior Television Art Troupe
Courtesy of: Peidong Xu

EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS

王羽
Michelle Chung Ho Ho
Jessica Q. Yang
洛尼山庄
Jingming Chen
Yunlong Zhang
Xiaoyi Zhang

For Further Inquiries

The Speech

黄真真的演讲

Director&Writer

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Producer

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