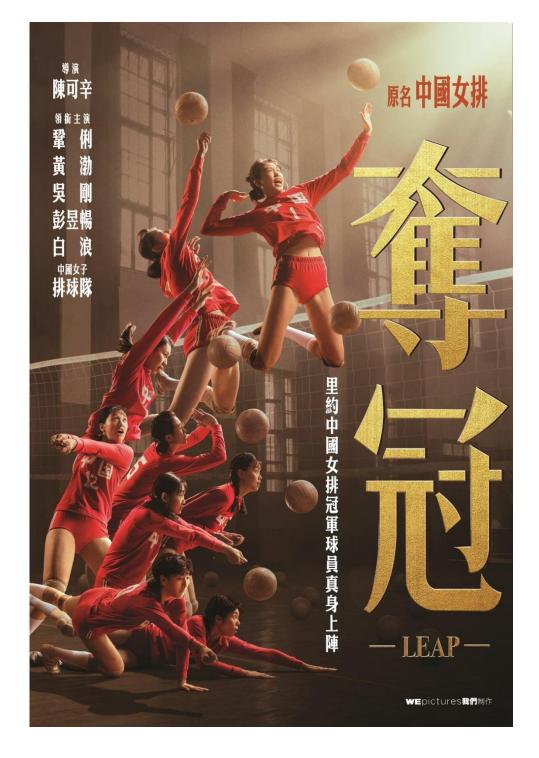


### "LEAP"

### A film by Peter Ho-sun Chan





### **Production**

Director: Peter Ho-sun Chan (Dearest, American Dreams in China)

Producers: Jojo Hui Yuet Chun (Better Days, Soul Mate)

**Zhang Yibai** (Us and Them)

Scriptwriter: Zhang Ji (The Island, Dearest)

Director of Photography: **Zhao Xiaoshi** (*This Is Not What I Expected*)

Art Director: Sun Li (Dearest, American Dreams in China)

Costume Designer: **Dora Ng** (Better Days, Us and Them)

Editor: Zhang Yibo (Better Days)

Starring: Gong Li (Saturday Fiction, Going Home)

**Huang Bo** (The Island, Dearest)

Wu Gang (A City Called Macau)

Peng Yuchang (An Elephant Sitting Still, Our Shining Days)

**Bai Lang** 

**China Women's Volleyball Team** 

Production Company: We Pictures Limited

Production Budget: US\$18 million

Languages: Mandarin, English

Release date: 25 Sep 2020 (China)



### **Synopsis**

With glorious days from 5 consecutive championships in the 1980s, the women's national volleyball team of China had transcended the conventional definition of sports in the hearts of Chinese people. When the Chinese team was pitted against the US team led by Lang Ping at the 2008 Beijing Volleyball Game, everyone knew that it was a match that China could not lose, and certainly could not afford to lose. Defeated, the Chinese team plunged into the deepest abyss in three decades. As Lang Ping returned to her country to coach the team, many mused aloud as to whether China women's national volleyball team would be able to retrieve lost grounds.

The film recounts the ups and downs, the sweat and sacrifice of the team over the past four decades. While the team's persistence and teamwork became a national inspiration and collective memory in the 80s, whether the team spirit can be passed down to the new generation as China goes through rapid changes?

### The Unwavered Faith of China Women's National Volleyball Team

Circumstances in 1980 did not work in the favour of the China women's national volleyball team. But with its undaunted spirit, the team left its mark in history by winning its first victory at the 1981 FIVB Women's Volleyball World Cup, followed by four more championships titles at the 1982 FIVB Volleyball Women's World Championship, the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics, the 1985 FIVB Volleyball Women's World Cup, and the 1986 FIVB Volleyball Women's World Championship. The success of China women's national volleyball team was as unstoppable as it was unsurpassable, finding itself an emblem of pride in the Chinese populace.

Then came a period of descent from the podium and the limelight, as the team trudged ahead amidst defeats. Under the leadership of then-head coach Chen Zhonghe, the team again advanced to the forefront, snatching championship titles at the 2003 FIVB Volleyball Women's World Cup and the 2004 Athens Olympics. With the return of Lang Ping as head coach in 2013, the team went on to win championships titles at the 2015 and 2019 FIVB Volleyball Women's World Cup, and the 2016 Rio Olympics. The history of the China women's national volleyball team may not be one of a winning streak, but it certainly was written with the intrepid spirit to soldier on.



#### The Passion that Withstands the Passage of Time

The composition of the movie plot that celebrates the three glorious phases of the China women's national volleyball team spanned four decades, from 1979 to 2016, says director Peter Ho-sun Chan, who first encountered the team in 1978: "I was 16, among the spectators at the 1978 Asian Games in Bangkok, where the 18-year-old Lang Ping made her international debut. Approaching 60 years of age now, I am intriguingly in the position of making a film about the story of the China women's national volleyball team. Life is interesting like that sometimes."

Capturing the passion that generations of Chinese people have had for their women's national volleyball team in a two-hour movie is no mean feat, but Chan was undeterred, just like the women's national volleyball team, in spite of hardships and the prospects of defeat. "Victory was never guaranteed, but they invariably put their best foot forward. I hope I am able to convey my interpretation of the team's spirit through the movie." In the history of the China women's national volleyball team, Lang Ping is the only person who has won the Olympic gold medal as a player and head coach. Once a core member of the team with 5 consecutive championships in the 1980s, Lang Ping kickstarted her coaching career in the United States, and with that experience and expertise, she returned to China to lead the China women's national volleyball team in 2003. The system reform under her leadership saw the team again enrapturing the international arena with its victory at the 2016 Rio Olympics. Casting for this legendary character was admittedly crucial and challenging.

Eventually, Chan decided on Gong Li, the *Red Sorghum* (1987) actress known for accolades at the international film festivals in Berlin, Cannes and Venice. Prior to filming, Gong Li made personal visits to the Ningbo Beilun Sports and Arts Center to observe the training sessions, bringing along with her a pen and a notepad, and the insistence on involving in daily practices. "Lang Ping is a hero, a real character who is still active in the field. There are the technicalities of volleyball also, but I love a challenge, and I'm honoured to be chosen for the role of Lang Ping," said the actress, lauded for her vivid depiction of the legendary coach.

To Chan, no actress would offer much conviction for the role of the teenage Lang Ping in the 80s, except her daughter, Bai Lang. Not only is Bai the embodiment of Lang Ping's very essence, she is also a critical member of a volleyball team in the United States. A phenomenal heritage, to say the least, but Bai's participation in the movie was only sealed with her mother's persuasion. "My mother has never really told me about the stories of her youth.

Thankfully, with the opportunity of playing the role of her young self in *Leap* (2020), I can now see how tough and yet wonderful she and her teammates were then." To portray the slim, young Lang Ping, Bai shedded 30kg in merely 4 weeks. Despite volleyball training since her tender age, Lydia endeavoured to give her best at every filming session, fearing her performance may not be up to par by her mother's standard.

Playing the roles of the 2 other head coaches of the China women's national volleyball team would be heavyweights Huang Bo and Wu Gang, while the budding new actor Peng Yuchang will be playing the role of the hitting partner alongside the teenage Lang Ping.

# Silver Screen's First Ever Star-studded Cast of Professional and Olympic Gold Medal-winning Volleyball Athletes

**Leap** (2020) will reenact multiple crucial championships, including the China women's national volleyball team's defeat of the Japan team at the 1981 FIVB Volleyball Women's World Cup, its losing to the United States team at the 2008 Beijing Olympics, and the applaudable victory at the 2016 Rio Olympics.

Cognizant of the need to cast actresses capable of professional techniques essential to the sport, with a build that matches the standards of volleyball athletes, Chan decided to incorporate professional athletes to the cast, including those from the Tianjin Bohai Bank women's volleyball team and college volleyball teams, among the national best, to play the China women's national volleyball team in the 80s. Additionally, playing the roles of the team in the championship against the United States in 2008 are all professional athletes, including veteran Chen Zhan.

Among the most-anticipated cast is perhaps the team at Rio 2016, a star-studded list of top-notch China women's national volleyball team athletes, including Zhu Ting, Hui Ruoqi, Xu Yunli, Ding Xia, Zhang Changning, Yuan Xinyue, Lin Li, Liu Xiaotung, Yan Ni, Gong Xiangyu, Yao Di (as Wei Qiuyue), Zeng Chunlei, Liu Yanhan, Wang Mengjie, Zheng Yixin, Yang Hanyu, Wang Yuanyuan, and Wang Lujia.

Casting for the opposing teams was just as meticulous a process. For the 1981 China-Japan FIVB Volleyball Women's World Cup, for Japan's national team member Nakamichi Hitomi was recruited, and likewise, for the game against the United States in 2008, volleyball buffs will recognize the familiar face of Tom Rogan, one of the athletes on the United States team

that year. Meanwhile, the three Brazilian professional volleyball athletes, Jaqueline Carvalho, Marianne Steinbrecher, and Paula Marques Pequeno, who represented the Brazil team at the 2008 Beijing Olympics, with Carvalho actually among the players at 2016 Rio Olympics, will bring immense excitement to the reenaction of the decisive match.

Chronicling the rise of the China women's national volleyball team in the 80s, the movie will evoke memories of China in that particular time in history, with detailed depiction of the team's base in Zhangzhou, and the athletes' daily living quarters such as the canteen and dormitory. Certain parts of the movie were filmed at the training centre in Zhangzhou for this very purpose, with the tiles of the training centre transported to Beijing to construct the flooring later.

### **Creative Team**



# Peter Ho-sun Chan (director)

A leading figure in the Chinese language film industry, Peter Ho-sun Chan has been able to merge art and entertainment with commercial and critical success, winning over 200 film awards out of more than 400 nominations. Chan is the first Hong Kong director receiving the Best Director from the China's Golden Rooster Awards, and also the only filmmaker who has garnered both best director and best picture awards from the Taiwan's Golden Horse Awards, Hong Kong Film Awards (HKFA) and Golden Rooster Awards in history.

Chan has directed a string of critical and commercial hits since making his directorial debut *Alan and Eric: Between Hello and Goodbye* (1991). He co-founded United Filmmakers Organization (UFO) in 1992, and directed films such as *Tom, Dick and Hairy* (1993) and *He's a Woman, She's a Man* (1994). Chan received international acclaim for *Comrades, Almost a Love Story* (1996) which held the record of winning 9 HKFA awards until 2013 and was voted one of the Top 10 Best Movies of 1997 by *TIME* magazine.

Subsequently, Chan directed *The Love Letter* (1999) for Steven Spielberg's DreamWorks SKG. In 2000, he established Applause Pictures and produced some of the most original Asian films, including *Jan Dara* (2001), *One Fine Spring Day* (2001), *The Eye* series (2002, 2004, 2005), *Three* series (2002, 2004), *Golden Chicken 1 & 2* (2002, 2003) and *McDull, the Alumni* (2006).

Chan's musical *Perhaps Love* (2005) became the closing film at the 62nd Venice International Film Festival and was selected as Hong Kong's Best Foreign Language Film entry to Oscar. The film was one of the highest grossing films in China, Hong Kong and Taiwan of the year, honoured with 29 awards. Chan next directed *The Warlords* (2007) and produced *Protégé* (2007) were the top 2 grossing China-Hong Kong co-productions of the year. *The Warlords* (2007) grossed US\$40 million across Asia and won 8 HKFA prizes and 3 Golden Horse Awards, most notably Best Film and Best Director.



In 2009, Chan produced Teddy Chen's *Bodyguards and Assassins* which garnered US\$50 million in Asia alone and scored 8 awards at the 29th HKFA, including Best Film and Best Director, Best Supporting Actor (Nicolas Tse) and Best Action Choreography. The film also won Best Actor (Wang Xueqi) at the 4th Asian Film Awards and at the 16th Hong Kong Film Critics Society Awards.

In 2011, Chan's first directing martial arts film **Wu Xia** was the only Chinese language film to be invited into the Official Selection in the 64th Cannes Film Festival, and became Chan's second film as *Time*'s pick for the Top 10 Best Movies after **Comrades, Almost a Love Story** (1996).

Chan's next directorial work, *American Dreams in China* (2013) took US\$90 million in China box office and won Best Film, Best Director and Best Actor (Huang Xiaoming) at the 29th Golden Rooster Awards.

**Dearest** (2014), directed by Chan and starring Huang Bo and Zhao Wei, not only entered the Official Selection at the 71st Venice International Film Festival, but also received more than 15 film awards including Best Actress (Zhao Wei) at the 34th HKFA, Best Film, Best Director and Best Actress (Zhao Wei) at the 16th Huading Awards, as well as Audience Award at the 16th Tokyo FILMeX International Film Festival.

In the spirit of supporting and fostering emerging filmmakers, Chan produced Derek Kwokcheung Tsang's drama *Soul Mate* (2016), which made history at the Golden Horse Awards with a joint Best Actress win and received 12 nominations from the 36th HKFA. He then produced his long-term collaborating editor Derek Hui's directorial debut *This Is Not What I Expected* (2017) starring Takeshi Kaneshiro and Zhou Dongyu. The film received 6 nominations at the 12th Asian Film Awards and 37th HKFA.

Recently, Chan produced Sandra Ng's directorial debut *Goldbuster* (2017), Iwai Shunji's first Chinese language title *Last Letter* (2018), and Derek Hui's second directorial film *Coffee or Tea?* (2020). He latest directorial films include *Leap* (2020) and *Li Na* (working title), a biographical drama feature on the first Asian tennis player to win a Grand Slam title. *Leap* (2020) is representing China to compete for the 93rd Academy Awards in the International Feature Film category.

# Jojo Hui Yuet Chun (producer)

A versatile producer in her own right, Jojo Hui Yuet Chun has served in various filmmaking positions and received 2 nominations for Best Screenplay at the 22nd and 27th Hong Kong Film Awards. Hui was appointed as the Final-stage Jury in Golden Horse Film Project Promotion in 2016, and SIFF PROJECT Jury of the 21st Shanghai International Film Festival in 2018.



Hui began working as an assistant director in Samson Chiu's *Yesteryou, Yesterme, Yesterday* (1993) and soon found herself in numerous film projects. She collaborated with Peter Hosun Chan on many of his earlier films, including the award-winning *Allan and Eric: Between Hello and Goodbye* (1991), *Tom, Dick and Hairy* (1993), *He's a Woman, She's a Man* (1994) and *Comrades, Almost a Love Story* (1996). She also worked with other renowned directors for acclaimed films, such as Teddy Chen on *Purple Storm* (1999) (which she co-wrote) and *The Accidental Spy* (2000), internationally celebrated filmmakers Wayne Wang on *Chinese Box* (1997) and Hark Tsui on *Knock Off* (1998).

Since joining Applause Pictures established by Peter Ho-sun Chan in 2002, Hui has produced a series of critically acclaimed titles including *Jan Dara* (2001), *One Fine Spring Day* (2001), *The Eye* series (2002, 2004, 2005) (also as writer for the first 2 episodes), *Three* series (2002, 2004) (also as writer for *Three: Going Home*), *Golden Chicken 1 & 2* (2002, 2003). It wasn't long before she moved on to producing award-winning blockbusters such as *Perhaps Love* (2005) (associate producer), *McDull, the Alumni* (2006), *The Warlords* (2007) (co-producer, writer); *Bodyguards and Assassins* (2009), *Wu Xia* (2011), *The Guillotines* (2012), *American Dreams in China* (2013) and *Dearest* (2014) after joining We Pictures in 2009.

Ones of the top grossing films of the year in China, Hong Kong and Taiwan, *Perhaps Love* (2005), *The Warlords* (2007) and *Bodyguards and Assassins* (2009) garnered various film awards in Asia. Hui then produced *Wu Xia* (2011), the only Chinese language film officially selected for the 64th Cannes Film Festival; *American Dreams in China* (2013) which received 3 Golden Rooster Awards; and *Dearest* (2014), an Official Selection of 71st Venice International Film Festival.

Hui's more recent portfolio consists of film productions for a new generation of directors, including Derek Kwok-cheung Tsang's sole directorial debut *Soul Mate* (2016), as well as award-winning editor Derek Hui's directorial debut *This Is Not What I Expected* (2017) starring Takeshi Kaneshiro and Zhou Dongyu. Garnering widespread accolades in 2016, *Soul Mate* (2016) made history with Zhou Dongyu and Ma Sichun sharing the Best Leading Actress award at the 53rd Golden Horse Awards, and also received most nominations among the 12 categories at the 36th Hong Kong Film Awards.

In 2019, Hui reteamed with Derek Kwok-cheung Tsang as producer for *Better Days*, which has grossed over USD220 million in China. The film received 8 awards from the 39th Hong Kong Film Awards including Best Film, Best Director and Best Actress (Zhou Dongyu), 3 awards at the Hong Kong Film Directors' Guild Awards 2019, Film of Merit at the 26th Hong Kong Film Critics Society Awards, as well as the top prize, Golden Mulberry and Black Mulberry awards at the 22nd Far East Film Festival. Hui is now working on Peter Ho-sun Chan's latest titles *Leap* (2020) and *Li Na* (working title).

## Zhang Yibai (producer)

A celebrated film director and producer in China, Zhang Yibai is a graduate of Beijing Central Academy of Drama with a literature degree. His television drama, *Cherish Our Love Forever* (1998) created a new sensation and appetite for romantic drama featuring star-studded casts in the Chinese market. In 2001, *Spring Subway* (2002) became the launchpad for Zhang's debut as a film director and won him the Best New Movie at the Chinese Film Media Awards. Zhang's subsequent directorial works include *Above Love* (2005) co-directing with Shimoyama Ten (Japanese) and Yee Chin-yen (Taiwanese), *Curiosity Kills the Cat* (2006), *The Longest Night in Shanghai* (2007), *Lost Indulgence* (2008) with international premiere at the 7th Tribeca Film Festival, *Eternal Moment* (2011), *Fleet of Time* (2014), *I Belonged to You* (2016). His works as producer include *Us and Them* (2018) and *Kill Mobile* (2018), a China's adaptation to Paolo Genovese's *Perfect Strangers* (2016).

Curiosity Kills the Cat (2006) received the Best Actress Award (Carina Lau) at the 26th Golden Rooster Awards and Best Actress nomination (Carina Lau) at the 43rd Golden Horse Awards. The Longest Night in Shanghai (2007) earned the Grand Jury Prix and College Student Most Favorite Actress Award (Zhao Wei) at the 14th Beijing College Student Film Festival. In 2014, Fleet of Time made Zhang the College Student Most Favorite Director at the 22nd Beijing

College Student Film Festival. In 2016, *I Belonged to You*, his adaptation of Zhang Jiajia's best-selling internet novel, topped box office with a colossal USD112 million of revenue, breaking records in China's romantic drama film market. Zhang was also nominated for Best Director and Best Feature at 17th Huabiao Film Awards. In 2019, Zhang directed "Passing by" in *My Motherland and I* (2019), a seven-part anthology drama film directed by 7 renowned Chinese directors such as Chen Kaige, Guan Hu and Xu Zheng. Zhang's latest TV series *Run For Young* is planned for release in 2020.

# Zhang Ji (screenplay)

Chinese screenplay writer Zhang Ji first gained critical acclaim for notable works for television, including China-Korea co-production *You Are My Dream* (2008), several period drama TV series *Su Dong Po* (2012), *Grand Legal Advisor* (2013) and *The Empire Warrior* (2013). Zhang began his career in film for Peter Ho-sun Chan's *American Dreams in China* (2013), earning nominations for Best Screenplay at the 33rd Hong Kong Film Awards and Best Original Screenplay at the 50th Golden Horse Awards, and receiving the Most Outstanding Original Screenplay at the 15th Chinese Movie Huabiao Awards and Best Screenplay at the 5th China Film Association Awards. He reteamed with Chan for *Dearest* (2014), for which he was again nominated for Best Screenplay at the 34th Hong Kong Film Awards, and received another China Film Association Award for Best Screenplay. Zhang also awarded Best Screenplay at the 21st Hong Kong Film Critics Society Awards.

Recently, Zhang reteamed with actor Huang Bo after their collaboration in *Dearest* (2014) as one of the script writers in Huang's directorial debut *The Island* (2018). He also worked with Chan for his directorial works, *Leap* (2020), *Li Na* (working title), and his produced title *Coffee or Tea?* (2020).



# Zhao Xiaoshi (director of photography)

A graduate of cinematography at the Beijing Film Academy, Zhao Xiaoshi won Best Cinematography at the 6th Golden Rooster Awards for his debut feature *Swan Song* (1985). Zhao has collaborated with numerous renowned Chinese directors, including Jiang Wen for *Devils on the Doorstep* (2000), Chen Kaige for *Forever Enthralled* (2008), He Ping for *Wheat* (2009), Huang Jianxin and Han Sanping for *The Founding of a Republic* (2009) and *Beginning of the Great Revival* (2011), and with Feng Xiaogang in *Personal Tailor* (2013). Zhao was noted for his work in He Ping's *Wheat* (2009), earning nominations for Best Cinematography at the 46th Golden Horse Awards and 27th Golden Rooster Awards.

Zhao's recent film projects include *So Young 2: Never Gone* (2016) produced by Zhang Yibai, Derek Hui's *This Is Not What I Expected* (2017), Xu Shunli's directorial debut *The Longest Shot* (2019), and Peter Ho-sun Chan's *Leap* (2020).

# Sun Li (art director)

Graduated from Beijing Film Academy majoring in Art Direction, Sun Li served as art director for Sun Zhou's *Zhou Yu's Train* (2002) starring Gong Li and Tony Ka-fai Leung, Yimou Zhang's *Riding Alone for Thousands of Miles* (2005), Chris Nahon's *Blood: The Last Vampire* (2009), Ding Sheng's *Little Big Soldier* (2010) written by and starring Jackie Chan. In 2011, Sun worked with Peter Ho-sun Chan for the first time for *Wu Xia*, receiving the Best Art Direction from the 48th Golden Horse Awards and Best Production Designer from the 6th Asian Film Awards. He has become a long-term collaborator with Chan for several projects including *American Dreams in China* (2013), *Dearest* (2014), *Leap* (2020) as well as *Li Na* (working title).

Sun's recent projects include Feng Xiaogang's *Back to 1942* (2012), the Chinese entry for the Best Foreign Language Film at the 86th Academy Awards; and Ding Sheng's *Railroad Tigers* (2016) pulling in US\$103 Million in China alone. Sun was nominated for Best Visual Effects at the 11th Asian Film Awards.



### Dora Ng (costume designer)

Upon graduating in fashion design from Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Dora Ng joined the film industry as costume designer for Jacob Cheung's *The Twilight of Forbidden City* (1988). To date, she has been involved in over 70 productions, including Pang Brothers' *Recycle* (2006) and *Storm Warriors* (2009), Ching Siu Tung's *An Empress and the Warriors* (2008), Stephen Chow's *CJ7* (2008). Ng has garnered 6 Hong Kong Film Awards, 2 Golden Horse Awards, and over 20 nominations for Best Costume and Makeup Design. Her awardwinning designs have appeared in Peter Ho-sun Chan's *Comrades, Almost a Love Story* (1996) and *Perhaps Love* (2005); Teddy Chen's *Purple Storm* (1999) and *Bodyguards and Assassins* (2009); Samson Chiu's *Golden Chicken* (2002). Ng's other notable projects include Andrew Lau's *Legend of the Fist: The Return of Chen Zhen* (2010) and *The Guillotines* (2012); Peter Ho-sun Chan's martial arts film *Wu Xia* (2011), drama *American Dreams in China* (2013), *Dearest* (2014); and Longman Leung and Sunny Luk's *Helios* (2015).

Recently, Ng earned 1 award and 1 nomination for Best Costume and Makeup Design in the 36th HKFA for Cheang Pou Soi's *The Monkey King 2* (2016) and Derek Kwok-cheung Tsang's *Soul Mate* (2016) respectively, 1 nomination in the 37th HKFA for Derek Hui's *This Is Not What I Expected* (2017), and 1 award at the 39th HKFA for Derek Kwok-cheung Tsang's *Better Days* (2019). Her latest film projects include Rene Liu's directorial debut *Us and Them* (2018), Peter Ho-sun Chan's directorial works *Leap* (2020) and *Li Na* (working title) and his produced title *Coffee or Tea?* (2020).

# Zhang Yibo (Editor)

Garnering attention for his work, produced with an iPhone X for film director Peter Ho-sun Chan's microfilm, *Three Minutes* (2018), Zhang Yibo is celebrated for his impeccable portrayal of China's human spirit. Zhang later became a film editor with his participation in director Derek Kwok-cheung Tsang's *Better Days* (2019), and was nominated for Best Film Editing at the 39th Hong Kong Film Awards. *Leap* (2020) is the cinematographer's second feature film.



#### Cast

### Gong Li (as Lang Ping)



Gong Li is the only actress in Chinese cinema history who has starred in films that garnered the most coveted prizes at 3 major international film festivals in Europe.

With her distinguished achievements in cinema, Gong was honorably invited as jury president and jury member for numerous international film festivals, including serving as Jury President of the 50th Berlin International Film Festival, the 59th Venice International Film Festival, the 16th Tokyo International Film Festival, the 17th Shanghai International Film Festival, and the 55th Golden Horse Awards, and also Jury Member of the 50th Cannes Film Festival.

Gong made her first appearance on the silver screen in Zhang Yimou's directorial debut *Red Sorghum* (1988), which won the Golden Bear Award at the 38th Berlin International Film Festival. Her poignant performance in *The Story of Qiu Ju* (1992) was yet another of Gong's triumphant act as she was awarded the Volpi Cup for Best Actress at the 49th Venice Film Festival, while the film was honoured with the highest prize of Leone d'Oro (Golden Lion). She next starred in Chen Kaige's *Farewell My Concubine* (1993), which won Palme d'Or at the 46th Cannes Film Festival. For her role in *Breaking the Silence* (2000), Gong received Best Actress and a special award – the world film artist achievement at the 24th Montreal World Film Festival.

On the home front, Gong has garnered 2 Golden Rooster Awards and 3 Hundred Flowers Awards - essentially the holy grail of film awards in China. Gong's impeccable artistry as an actress, as demonstrated in her role in *Breaking the Silence* (2000), brought home the Best Actress award at the 24th Hundred Flowers Awards and the 20th Golden Rooster Awards. Seven years later, the celebrated actress reteamed with Zhang Yimou for *Curse of the Golden Flower* (2006), which won her the Best Actress awards at the 26th Hong Kong Film Awards and 13th Hong Kong Film Critics Society Awards. More recently, Gong received Best Actress at the 12th Changchun Film Festival and the 6th China Film Director's Guild Awards for her performance in *Coming Home* (2014).

For her cultural achievement, Gong became the first Chinese actress to be appointed the Ordre des Arts et des Lettres (the Commander of Order of Arts and Letters) by France's Minister of Culture in 2010. Gong was also nominated for Artist for Peace by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in 2000, and was honoured by the Union Nations as one of the 16 global thinkers and artists who contributed to the common good of humanity and stood up for the most vulnerable in 2015. In 2019, she became the first person of Asian descent to win the Cannes's Women in Motion Award.

Gong's recent films include action fantasy film *The Monkey King 2* (2016), Lou Ye's competition title at the 76th Venice Film Festival *Saturday Fiction* (2019), Disney's live action remake *Mulan* (2020), and Peter Ho-sun Chan's latest directorial work *Leap* (2020).

### **Huang Bo**

### (as Former Head Coach of China's Women's Volleyball Team)

A graduate of the Performance Department in Beijing Film Academy, Huang Bo is a Chinese actor and director known for his widely acclaimed filmographic productions. In 2018, he was the Best New Director at the 27th Shanghai Film Critics' Awards for his directorial debut *The Island*, which grossed over US\$200 million of box office in China. In the same year, Huang was elected Vice-Chairman of the China Film Association.

Huang has starred in numerous films, including *Crazy Stone* (2006), *Cow* (2009), *Design Of Death* (2012), *Lost in Thailand* (2012), *No Man's Land* (2013), *Dearest* (2014), *Mojin: The Lost Legend* (2015), *The Conformist* (2017) and



My People, My Country (2019). Huang received multiple local and international film awards for his excellent performance. He was honoured as Best Leading Actor at the 46th Golden Horse Awards and the 17th Beijing College Student Film Festival for Cow (2009); Best Actor at the 4th China Film Director's Guild Awards for Design Of Death (2012); Best Supporting Actor at the 4th Asian Film Awards for No Man's Land (2013); and Best Golden Goblet Award for Best Actor at the 20th Shanghai International Film Festival for The Conformist (2017).

Huang also received 2 Society Awards at the 12th and 15th Golden Phoenix Awards held at the China Film Performance Art Academy.

Huang's recent passion sees him nurturing emerging filmmakers and promoting public interest in environmental litigation. He initiated the "HB+U" programme to support youth directors in 2016, and was invited to be the Forest Ambassador for World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) in China. His latest film production work sees him teaming up with Peter Hosun Chan to star in *Leap* (2020) with Gong Li.

### **Wu Gang**

### (as Head Coach of China's Women's Volleyball Team in the 80s)



Graduated from Beijing People's Art Theatre, Wu Gang is one of China's most esteemed top-rank performers. Wu is known for his roles in TV Series *Dui Ji Qing Gan* (2000), *The Black Ants* (2004), *Qiu Hai Tang* (2007), *Lurk* (2009), and *The Stand-In* (2014). Films in which he was cast include *Iron Man* (2009), *The Founding of a Republic* (2009), *The Message* (2009), *The Bullet Vanishes* (2012), *The Great Magician* (2012), and *Wolf Warrior 2* (2017). The seasoned actor's major achievements in film and television include Best Actor at the 27th Golden Rooster Awards for his performance in *Iron Man* (2009), Best Supporting Actor at the 23rd Shanghai Television Festival for his role in *In the Name of People* (2017). In 2017, Wu received the Special

Committee Award for Performing Arts Contribution at the 1st Marianas Film Festival. His latest film projects are *A City Called Macau* (2019), directed by Li Shaohong, and *Leap* (2020), directed by Peter Ho-sun Chan.



### **Peng Yuchang**

### (as Hitting Partner for China's Women's Volleyball Team in the 80s)



A graduate from the Shanghai Theatre Academy in 2016, with a major in puppetry, Chinese actor Peng Yuchang first gained attention for his performance as a eunuch in his debut web series *Go Princess Go* (2015). Peng next appeared in the web series *Stardom* (2016) and *Men with Sword* (2016), TV series *My Mr. Mermaid* (2017) and *All is Well* (2019), and films *Our Shining Days* (2017) and *An Elephant Sitting Still* (2018), *Go Brother!* (2018) and *The Last Wish* (2019). His debut in the musical *Our Shining Days* (2017) won him nominations for the Asian New Talent Award for Best Actor at the 20th Shanghai International Film Festival, and Best Newcomer award at

the 25th Beijing College Student Film Festival. He was also named Best Newcomer of the year at the 2017 Weibo Award Ceremony and 2017 Weibo's TV Influence Awards. In 2018, Peng was nominated for Best Leading Actor at the 55th Golden Horse Awards for his performance in Hu Bo's *An Elephant Sitting Still* (2018). In 2020, Peng starred in TV series *Run For Young* directed by Zhang Yibai, films *Leap* and *Coffee or Tea?* directed and produced by Peter Ho-sun Chan respectively.

### Lydia Bai Lang (as teenage Lang Ping)

Born on 27 May 1992, standing at 189cm all, Lydia Bai Lang is the daughter of "Iron Hammer" Lang Ping, former star player and current head coach of China's Women's National Volleyball Team. Bai graduated from Stanford University and is currently working at an investment bank in the United States. After starting volleyball at age 14 in 2005, Bai became one of the 12 members of the U.S. Women's Junior National Team at the age of 17. Bai makes her acting debut in *Leap* (2020) as the teenage Lang Ping.





### **International Sales**

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