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Won 2 Best Actress Awards in Golden Horse Awards 2016

12 Nominations in Hong Kong Film Awards 2017



SOULMATE

Production

Producer : Peter Ho-sun Chan 、 Jojo Hui Yuet-chun

Director : Derek Tsang

Costume Designer : Dora Ng

Cinematographer : Jack Pollock 、 Jing-Ping Yu

Cast : Zhou Dongyu (*Breakup Buddies, The Ark of Mr. Chow*)

Ma Sichun (*The Left Ear*)

Toby Lee (*A Touch of Green*)

Production Budget : USD8millions

Release Date : 14 Septemeber 2016 (China)

25 September 2016 (North America)

27 October 2016 (Hong Kong)

10 November 2016 (Singapore)

Synopsis

[Adapted by Annie Baby's novel, *Qiyue and Ansheng*]

Set in the city, ***Soul Mate*** centers on a love-triangle between two women and one man. Due to a twist of fate, the two high school best friends fall in love with the same man, planting the seeds of tragedy.

The story chronicles the coming of age journey of two very different young women, who choose different paths in life. July and Ansen are flip sides of the same coin; one is calm like water and the other is passionate like fire. Although they endure the rites of passage together, from youth to adulthood, their friendship may only persist in the form of a long goodbye, until they part forever.

About the Author

Born in 1974 in Ningbo, Zhejiang Province, Annie Baby, or Anni Baobei, is a contemporary Chinese writer who is especially popular with artistic young people. Her real name is Li Jie, but she is also dubbed "The Flower in the Dark" due to her unique writing style. Before embarking on a literary career, Li worked in a bank, for an advertising company, an internet corporation and a publishing house. She started to write novels online in 1998, and her signature work is the novella "Goodbye Vivian" published in 2000.

Her earlier works mainly focused on the loneliness and isolation experienced by her characters in industrialized big cities. Her works have gradually developed into investigations into man's relationship with the outside world. Her works have been published in a number of countries, including Japan, Korea, Vietnam Germany and the UK.

Peter Ho-sun Chan (producer)



A leading figure in the Asian 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 300 nominations. He co-founded United Filmmakers Organization (UFO) and produced a string of commercial hits that include ***Comrades, Almost a Love Story*** (1997). His directorial debut ***Alan and Eric: Between Hello and Goodbye*** (1991) was awarded Best Film of the Year by the Directors' Guild of Hong Kong. ***Comrades*** won 9 Hong Kong Film Awards and was voted one of the 10 Best Movies of 1997 by TIME magazine. Subsequently, Chan directed ***The Love Letter*** (1999) for Steven Spielberg's DreamWorks SKG. In the same year, he was voted one of the top 10 directors to watch by Variety, in conjunction with Sundance Film Festival. In 2000, he established Applause Pictures and produced some of the most original films, including ***One Fine Spring Day*** (2001), ***The Eye*** series (2002, 2004, 2005), ***Three*** series (2002, 2004) and ***Golden Chicken 1 & 2*** (2002, 2003).

His musical ***Perhaps Love*** (2005) became the closing film at the Venice International Film Festival. It was honored with 29 awards and was selected as Hong Kong's Best Foreign Language Film entry to Oscar. ***The Warlords*** (2007) grossed US\$40 million across Asia and won 8 prizes in Hong Kong Film Awards, most notably Best Film and Best Director. He next produced Derek Yee's ***Protégé*** (2007) and Teddy Chen's ***Bodyguards and Assassins*** (2009). The latter garnered US\$50 million in Asia alone and scored 8 HKFA awards, including Best Film and Best Director. ***Wu Xia*** (2011), was the only Chinese language film to be invited into the Official Selection in the Cannes Film Festival, and scored 8 major trophies. Chan's directorial effort ***American Dreams in China*** (2013) took US\$90 million in China B.O., brought him the honor to be the only director that has garnered Best Director awards from China's Golden Rooster, Hong Kong Film Awards and Taiwan's Golden Horse. He is serving as an advisor on BAFTA's Asia advisory board and being selected as Chinese Cultural Figures (2013). His latest directorial award-winning film ***Dearest*** (2014) won 7 major film awards, following its World Premiere in 71st Venice International Film Festival; the film was also honored with The Audience Award in Tokyo FILMeX in 2015. Chan is the first Hong Kong director to receive the Best Director Award in Golden Rooster Awards and the only director who has garnered Best Director awards from China, Hong Kong and Taiwan.

Jojo Hui Yuet-chun (producer)

A versatile producer in her own right, Jojo Hui Yuet-chun 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 Ho-sun Chan on many of his earlier films, including the award-winning *Allan and Eric: Between Hello and Goodbye* (1991) and *He's a Woman, She's a Man* (1994). She also served as associate producer and assistant director on acclaimed films such as Chan's *Comrades, Almost a Love Story* (1997), Teddy Chen's *Purple Storm* (1999) (which she co-wrote) and *The Accidental Spy* (2000) starring Jackie Chan. Hui worked with international renowned filmmakers such as Wayne Wang on *Chinese Box* (1997) as assistant director, and Tsui Hark on *Knock Off* (1998) as a casting director.

Having joined Applause Pictures in 2002, Hui has since produced a series of smash hits such as *Jan Dara* (2001), *The Eye* (2001) (associate producer, writer), *Three: Going Home* (2001) (producer, writer), *Golden Chicken I & II* (2001, 2003), *The Eye 2* (2004) (producer, writer) and *The Eye 10* (2005). She moved on to producing blockbusters such as *Perhaps Love* (2005) (associate producer), *The Warlords* (2007) (co-producer, writer), *Bodyguards and Assassins* (2009), *Wu Xia* (2011), *The Guillotines* (2012), *American Dreams in China* (2013) and award-winning title *Dearest* (2015).

Garnering widespread accolades in 2016, *Soul Mate*, a cinematic portrayal of the agony and despair brought about by maturity, had seven nominations at 53th Golden Horse Awards (including Best Director and Best Screenplay), and made history with the two main actresses Zhou Dongyu and Ma Sichun sharing the Best Actress Award. *Soul Mate* is the front-runner with 12 nominations at the 36th Hong Kong Film Awards including Best Film and Best Director. In 2016, Hui is appointed as the Final-stage Jury in Golden Horse Film Project Promotion.

Derek Tsang (director)



Graduated from University of Toronto, Derek Tsang began working as an actor in Hong Kong and found himself in numerous film projects including *Golden Chicken* (2002), *The Eye 2* (2004), Pang Ho-Cheung *AV* (2005), *Isabella* (2006), *The Thieves* (2012), *Z Storm* (2014) and *From Vegas to Macau II* (2015).

Starting from 2010, Tsang also went on directing his own films and co-directed with Jimmy Wan for his directorial debut *Lover's Discourse* and was nominated in 15th BIFF New Currents section and competed for the Best New Director award in 47th Golden Horse Film Festival Award and awarded for Grand Prix (Best Picture Award) in 6th Osaka Asian Film Festival.

Tsang's directorial debut, *Soul Mate* (2016) was critically acclaimed and earned him Best Director nominations at 53rd Taipei Golden Horse Awards 2016, 11th Asian Film Awards 2017 and 36th Hong Kong Film Awards 2017.

Dora Ng (Costume Designer)

After graduating from The Hong Kong Polytechnic University in fashion design, Dora Ng immediately entered the film industry as the costume designer for Jacob Cheung's *The Twilight of Forbidden City* (1988). To date, she has been involved in over 60 productions, such as Ching Siu-Tung's *An Empress and the Warriors* (2008), Stephen Chow's *CJ7* (2008), Pang Brothers' *Storm Warriors* (2009), and Andrew Lau's *Legend of the Fist: The Return of Chen Zhen* (2010). She has garnered 5 Hong Kong Film Awards, 2 Golden Horse Awards and over 20 nominations for Best Costume and Makeup Design. Her award-winning design works have appeared in Peter Ho-sun Chan's *Comrades, Almost a Love Story* (1996), *Perhaps Love* (2005), Teddy Chen's *Purple Storm* (1999) and *Bodyguards and Assassins* (2009), Samson Chiu's *Golden Chicken* (2002) and Soi Pou-soi Cheang's *The Monkey King 2* (2016). Ng's other credits include Andrew Lau Wai-keung's *A Beautiful Life* (2011) and *The Guillotines* (2012), Peter Ho-sun Chan's martial arts film *Wu Xia* (2011) and drama *American Dreams in China* (2013), and Derek Hui's *This is Not What I Expected!* (2017). Her recent works in Derek Tsang's *Soul Mate* (2016) and Soi Cheang's *The Monkey King 2* bring her Best Costume & Make up Design Awards nominations in the Golden Horse Awards and Hong Kong Film Awards.

Jake Pollock (cinematographer)

A rising star in cinematography who is labeled the new Christopher Doyle, Jake Pollock started working as lighting technician for independent films after graduating from Film & TV Department of New York University. Being a huge fan of Taiwan cinema, he made a bold decision to relocate to Taiwan in 2002. His unique handheld style soon caught the eyes of Taiwan rising directors and it didn't take long before he earned industry recognition. He received the Special Jury Prize at the 8th Taipei Film Festival for his cinematography work in Ho Wi Ding's ***Respire*** (2005) (also winner of Kodak Short Film and Young Critics Awards at the 58th Cannes Film Festival). He was nominated for Best Cinematographer in the 4th Asian Film Award for his work in Cheng Yu-Chieh's ***Yang Yang*** (2009). His other works as cinematographer in espionage thriller ***The Message*** (2009) and crime saga ***Monga*** (2010) are massive success. ***The Message*** snapped up a staggering RMB225 million in China box office alone, while ***Monga*** totaled NT260 million to become the highest grossing Chinese film in Taiwan of 2010. Pollock's recent work in Derek Tsang's ***Soul Mate*** (2016) brings him Best Cinematography nomination in the 36th Hong Kong Film Awards.

Cast

Zhou Dongyu



Born in Hebei, China in 1992, Zhou Dongyu graduated from the Performing Arts Department of Beijing Film Academy in 2011. Her debut in Zhang Yimou's ***Love of the Hawthorn Tree*** (2010) garnered her both industry and public attention. For her performance in the film, she received the award for Best Actress at the 56th Valladolid International Film Festival, for Outstanding New Actress at the 14th China Huabiao Film Awards and for Best New Actress at the 20th Shanghai Film Critics Awards.

Zhou starred in Ning Hao's ***Breakup Buddies*** (2014) which premiered in 39th Toronto International Film Festival, ***My Old Classmate*** (2014, produced by Gao Xiaosong) grossed 460 million yuan (USD 66 million) in China, making Zhou the first millennial actress to star in a Chinese film that earned over 400M at the China box-office.

Zhou took on a range of roles including Barbara Wong's ***The Allure of Tears*** (2011), Xiao Yang's ***The Ark of Mr. Chow*** (2015), Lin Yu-Hsien's ***Never Said Goodbye*** (2016), ***Lost in White*** (2016, produced by Zhang Yibai) and Derek Tsang's ***Soul Mate*** (2016). Zhou gained great acclaim for her role as 'Ansen' in ***Soul Mate***, for which she nominated for Best Actress at the 36th Hong Kong Film Awards and won the award for Best Actress at both the 53th Golden Horse Awards, and the 23rd Hong Kong Film Critics Society Awards. She will next be seen in Yuen Woo-ping's ***The Thousand Faces of Dunjia*** (2017), a remake of his martial arts classic ***Miracle Fighter*** and Andrew Lau Wai-keung's martial arts fantasy ***When Robbers Meet The Monsters***.

Li Ansen (played by Zhou Dongyu)

In the eyes of most people, the young Ansen is a rebellious, unpredictable, independent spirit. She refuses to follow the rules and dares to challenge authority. She speaks her mind and takes direct action. Although she suffers from deep insecurities and fears rejection, she craves attention and hungers for affection. But she doesn't know how to protect herself; she throws herself into relationships and always gets hurt in the end.

When she reaches the age 26, Ansen begins to mature and become more confident, while still managing to preserve her innocence.

Ma Sichun



The prolific film and television actress made her screen debut at the age of 8 in ***The Winter of Three Persons***. In 2007, she became a household name when she was featured on the cover of Roa Xueman's romance novel, ***Sweet'n Sour***. In 2012, Ma won the award for Best New Actress at the 14th China Film Society of Performing Art Awards for her performance in ***Time Flies Soundlessly***. She has continued to showcase and refine her talents since. In 2014, Ma's performance in Alec Su's directorial debut, ***The***

Left Ear introduced her to an even wider audience and garnered her a Best Supporting Actress nomination at the 52th Golden Horse Awards. In 2015, Ma starred with Wallace Huo and Wang Jai in the television drama, ***Close Your Eyes and Close to Me***. Upon airing, the drama series boasted over 1.2 billions views on the internet, further establishing Ma Sichun as an up-and-coming starlet to look out for.

Ma gained great acclaim for her role as 'July' in ***Soul Mate*** that she shared Best Actress Award with co-cast Zhou Dongyu at the 53th Golden Horse Awards in 2016 and received nomination in the 36th Hong Kong Film Awards.

July Lin (played by Ma Sichun)

In the eyes of most people, the young July is a quiet, well-behaved girl. A filial daughter and grade-A student, July lives the protected life of an ivory tower. But deep down, she has a rebellious side that she must suppress in order to satisfy the expectations of those around her. In order to cope, July has planned out her "happy life" and set goals for each stage of her life. As long as she accomplishes her goals, life is bearable. She relies on intellectual reasoning for 80% of her dealing with relationships. Despite her fragile appearance, July rarely allows herself to get hurt emotionally.



Toby Lee

Initially attracted attention due to his resemblance to Taiwanese actor, Eddie Pang, Lee began his acting career in 2013 and soon became a popular actor in commercials and music videos. His expressive eyes and exceptional acting skills have not only made him one the most sought-after new actors in films and television, but also established him as a new heartthrob.

Su Jia-ming (played by Toby Lee)

Blessed with good looks, intelligence and a good family, Su has been a golden boy since childhood. Because everything comes too easily to him, Su feels unsettled. He is aware of his lack of dimension; he's essentially a bland and uninteresting person. Perhaps it explains his attraction to women with complex personalities. The rebellious spirit of Ansen and Qiyue fascinates him. Although one expresses it openly while the other suppresses it, Su loves both women and is unable to give up either of them. The two women form two halves of a complete circle.

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