



60th Internationale
Filmfestspiele
Berlin
Competition

A
W O M A N ,
A G U N A N D
A N O O D L E S H O P

A FILM BY
Z H A N G Y I M O U



BEIJING NEW PICTURE FILM CO., LTD. / FILM PARTNER (2009) INTERNATIONAL, INC.
PRESENT

A WOMAN, A GUN AND A NOODLE SHOP

DIRECTED BY
ZHANG YIMOU

STARRING
**SUN HONGLEI
XIAO SHENYANG
YAN NI**

CHINA • 2009 • RUNNING TIME 90MIN • COLOUR • SCREEN RATIO 2.35:1 • DOLBY DIGITAL 5.1

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A WOMAN, A GUN AND A NOODLE SHOP

A FILM BY **ZHANG YIMOU**

A WOMAN, A GUN AND A NOODLE SHOP is a remake of the 1985 directorial debut of Joel and Ethan Coen, BLOOD SIMPLE. Transposing the Coen Brothers' celebrated mix of dark humor and riveting suspense to China, the film is helmed by ZHANG YIMOU (THE RED SORGHUM, TO LIVE, HERO, HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS and other masterpieces), one of the most eminent directors of the "Fifth Generation". This black comedy thriller is an exposé of how intense desires can consume humanity, and of the irony that life never submits to our calculation.

CREDITS

*Beijing New Picture Film Co., Ltd. / Film Partner
(2009) International, Inc. present*

A Zhang Yimou film

A WOMAN, A GUN AND A NOODLE SHOP

Based on the motion picture **BLOOD SIMPLE**
Starring **SUN Honglei**

XIAO Shenyang

YAN Ni

Co-starring **NI Dahong**
CHENG Ye

Mao Mao

Special Guest Appearance **ZHAO**
Benshan

Editor **MENG Peicong**

Original Music **ZHAO Lin**

Sound Designer **TAO Jing**

Production Designer **HAN Zhong**

Director of Photography **ZHAO Xiaoding**

Production Manager **HUANG Xinming**

Executive Producer **ZHANG Zhenyan**

Produced by **ZHANG Weiping**
Bill KONG

GU Hao

Story Consultant **ZHOU Xiaofeng**

Screenplay by **XU Zhengchao**

SHI Jianquan

Directed by **ZHANG Yimou**

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

I love all the works of the Coen Brothers. Some twenty years ago at a film festival, I saw their directorial debut BLOOD SIMPLE, which left a great impression. The film keeps coming back to my mind, although I haven't seen it for a second time.

One day, a curious idea struck me: what if BLOOD SIMPLE was made as a Chinese story? That was how A WOMAN, A GUN AND A NOODLE SHOP began to take shape.

I gave the remake a rich Chinese flavor, casting Xiao Shenyang – a young comic actor who shot to fame in China recently – to add a sense of farcical humor at the beginning. The fun soon turns into riveting suspense. I also adopted the aesthetic style of an old Chinese opera piece, SAN CHA KOU. The result is the confinement of all the characters within the same space, each of them switching roles with one another and making similar mistakes. This lays bare the absurdity of life – something ironically repetitive, always beyond our control.

I would like to thank all the actors for their wonderful performances. I truly appreciate the effort and commitment of every member of the crew.

SHORT SYNOPSIS

Wang is a gloomy, cunning and avaricious noodle shop owner in a desert town in China. His neglected, sharp-tongued wife is involved in a secret affair with Li, one of Wang's employees.

A timid man, Li reluctantly keeps the gun his lover has bought to kill her husband. But Wang is watching their every move. He bribes patrol officer Zhang to murder the illicit couple. It seems like a perfect plan: the affair will come to a cruel, bloody but satisfying end... or so he thinks. The equally wicked Zhang has an agenda of his own - as the plot twists, more blood will flow, and ever greater violence will erupt...

LONG SYNOPSIS

In a small desert town near Jiayu Pass in China (the first pass at the west end of the Great Wall), Wang owns a noodle shop that also houses his employees, his wife and himself. Not exactly the loving boss type, he spends every penny to his own advantage, owing his workers their wages for months.

Suffering his black temper, Wang's wife has an affair with Li, who can spin sheets of noodle dough nimbly but never shows the same confidence outside the kitchen. Every time Li drives her to buy rouge, the two have sex in the carriage. One day, to Li's dismay, she purchases a gun from a Persian merchant, claiming that only Wang's death can guarantee their happiness. Never a match for her biting tongue, Li agrees to hide the weapon.

Meanwhile, waiter Zhao and patrol officer Zhang – both bribed by the cunning Wang – inform him of the gun and the affair respectively. After catching his wife red-handed and grappling with her during one of her rouge trips, Wang resorts to paying Zhang to kill the illicit lovers.

The following day, Zhang returns, carrying a bloodstained piece of clothing and a woman's underwear. In his client's secret chamber, Zhang waits for his reward then, all of a sudden, shoots Wang with Li's gun. As Wang lies completely motionless, Zhang struggles to open the safe but fails. Outside, Zhao and waitress Chen are arguing about whether they should sneak in and 'steal' their wages. As the door squeaks and a ray of light seeps through the crack, Zhang loses his nerve and escapes through the window, leaving the gun behind... Will someone discover Wang's body? What will be done with his money? Who will lay hands on the gun? Nobody can say for sure because everyone is either silently plotting or plotted against...

THE CAST

SUN Honglei (Zhang)

A 1997 graduate of The Central Academy of Drama, Sun Honglei is an acclaimed character actor both on stage and on screen. Having started his film career in Zhang Yimou's *THE ROAD HOME* in 1999, he won the 2000 Plum Blossom Award – the most prestigious accolade in Chinese theater – with his performance in *THE THREEPENNY OPERA*. Due to the confident ease with which he identifies with the characters he portrays, Sun has attracted comparisons to veteran actor Jiang Wen. Since the new millennium, he has featured in a great number of popular productions, including Tsui Hark's *SEVEN SWORDS* (2004), Alexi Tan's *BLOOD BROTHERS* (2006) and Chen Kaige's *FOREVER ENTHRALLED* (2007). Sun is also a beloved television personality, starring in celebrated drama series such the thrilling spy story *LURK* (2008). He is a two-time winner of the Shanghai Television Festival Magnolia Award.

Selected Filmography

2009	A WOMAN, A GUN AND A NOODLE SHOP
2009	MY FAIR GENTLEMAN
2007	FOREVER ENTHRALLED
2006	BLOOD BROTHERS
2006	MONGOL
2005	SHANGHAI RED
2004	SEVEN SWORDS
2001	MANHOLE
2001	ZHOU YU'S TRAIN
1999	THE RIVER
1999	THE ROAD HOME

XIAO Shenyang (Li)

Born in Liaoning Province, Xiao Shenyang developed his singing and other musical talents in performing groups during his teenage years. A student of renowned comedian Zhao Benshan, he rose to fame with his charismatic mimicry of pop singers at China Central Television's 2008 Spring Festival Gala. He kicked off his acting career in the entertainment industry with the TV series *LOVE IN A VILLAGE 2*, later appearing in another series, *GUANGDONG DA XIANSHENG*. In 2009, he returned to CCTV's Gala and participated in its short comedy, *GOT THE MONEY ANYWAY*. *A WOMAN, A GUN AND A NOODLE SHOP* is his first feature film.

YAN Ni (Wang's wife)

An actress at the Television Art Center of the People's Liberation Army Air Force, Yan Ni garnered wide recognition with her role as an endearing tavern owner in the period drama series *MY OWN SWORDSMAN* (2005), which won the 26th Flying Apsaras Award for Top Drama. The Chinese screen industry watched her popularity soar further when she received the Plum Blossom Award for Best Actress with *THE NORTH WIND* in 2009. Yan has also been cast in numerous films, notably the Hua Biao Award-winning comedy *BIE NA ZI JI BU DANG GAN BU* (2007) and the starry coproduction *KUNG FU DUNK* (2008).

Selected Filmography

2010	TRUE LEGEND
2009	A WOMAN, A GUN AND A NOODLE SHOP
2009	COW
2008	KUNG FU DUNK
2007	CALL TO DESTINY
2007	BIE NA ZI JI BU DANG GAN BU
1999	COG AND HEN

NI Dahong (Wang)

An eminent actor on the Chinese stage, in films and television, Ni Dahong graduated from The Central Academy of Drama in 1986. He is a leading player with The National Theatre Company of China, and has received two of the highest honors in Chinese theater, the Plum Blossom Award in 2000 and the Wenhua Award in 1999. His theater work includes both the Chinese and Western classical repertory. His film work includes roles in Zhang Yimou's *TO LIVE* (1994), which won the Grand Prize at the 47th Cannes Film Festival, and *JOURNEY TO THE WESTERN XIA EMPIRE* (1997) directed by Lu Wei, a prizewinner at the 50th Locarno International Film Festival. He has also been seen in numerous leading roles on Chinese television.

Selected Filmography

2010	SI DA MING BU
2009	A WOMAN, A GUN AND A NOODLE SHOP
2009	BIRTHDAY
2009	TOUXI
2006	CURSE OF THE GOLDEN FLOWER
2005	LOACH IS FISH TOO
1997	JOURNEY TO THE WESTERN XIA EMPIRE
1994	TO LIVE

CHENG Ye (Zhao)

Cheng Ye has been devoted to folk performing arts since childhood. An avid entertainer, he is one of the most skilled students of Zhao Benshan. He has mesmerized a vast audience with his vivacious appearance in *Guo Nian Le* at Liaoning Television's 2008 Spring Festival Gala, as well as the TV series *GUANGDONG DA XIANSHENG*.

Mao Mao (Chen)

Mao Mao has performed in various TV shows such as China Central Television's 2009 Spring Festival Gala. She played Ya Dan Er in the Gala comic piece, *GOT THE MONEY ANYWAY*.

THE FILMMAKERS

ZHANG Yimou (Director)

Ever since his directorial debut, RED SORGHUM (1987) won the Golden Bear Award at the Berlin Film Festival, Zhang Yimou has established his reputation as one of the most talented and influential directors working today.

Zhang Yimou was born in China in 1950 and studied cinematography at the Beijing Film Academy. He became a leading member of China's Fifth Generation Filmmakers, the first group to graduate following the turbulent Cultural Revolution. He is an accomplished actor, starring in RED SORGHUM as well as earning the Best Actor Award at the Tokyo International Film Festival for his performance in OLD WELL (1986). Zhang Yimou is also a skilled cinematographer, with credits including YELLOW EARTH (1984), OLD WELL (1986), and THE BIG PARADE (1986).

Zhang Yimou has received multiple honors as a director. He is the first Chinese filmmaker to receive Motion Picture Academy recognition, being nominated for Academy Awards® in the Best Foreign Film category for JU DOU in 1990, RAISE THE RED LANTERN in 1991, and HERO in 2003. He has earned numerous top honors, including the Silver Lion at the 44th Venice International Film Festival for RAISE THE RED LANTERN (1991), the Golden Lion Award at the 45th Venice International Film Festival for THE STORY OF QIU JU (1992), the Grand Jury Prize at the 47th Cannes International Film Festival for TO LIVE (1994), the Golden Lion Award at the 52nd Venice International Film Festival for NOT ONE LESS (1999), the Silver Bear at the Berlin International Film Festival for THE ROAD HOME (1999) and the Alfred Bauer Prize for HERO (2003).

HERO went on to sweep the board at the 22nd Hong Kong Film Awards, winning awards for Best Action Choreography, Best Art Direction, Best Cinematography, Best Costume Design, Best Music, Best Sound and Best Visual Effects.

Zhang Yimou's box office hit HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS is the recipient of multiple international awards as well as BAFTA and Golden Globe nominations for Best Foreign Film. He followed up with 2005's RIDING ALONE FOR THOUSANDS OF MILES and 2006's CURSE OF THE GOLDEN FLOWER.

Zhang Yimou has mastered new realms of creativity in recent years. On the stage of New York's Metropolitan Opera in December 2006, he directed Plácido Domingo in the world premiere of composer Tan Dun's original opera THE FIRST EMPEROR. He also acted as the chief director of the spectacular opening and closing ceremonies of the 29th Olympic Games in Beijing, 2008.

Films as Director

2009	A WOMAN, A GUN AND A NOODLE SHOP
2006	CURSE OF THE GOLDEN FLOWER
2005	RIDING ALONE FOR THOUSANDS OF MILES
2004	HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS
2002	HERO
2000	HAPPY TIMES
1999	THE ROAD HOME
1999	NOT ONE LESS
1997	KEEP COOL
1995	LUMIERE AND COMPANY
1995	SHANGHAI TRIAD
1994	TO LIVE
1992	THE STORY OF QIU JU
1991	RAISE THE RED LANTERN
1990	JU DOU
1989	THE PUMA ACTION
1987	RED SORGHUM

Bill KONG (Producer)

Bill Kong is head of Edko Films, one of Hong Kong's longest-standing independent film companies. Kong's production debut, *THE BLUE KITE* (1993), received multiple awards including Best Feature Film at the Hawaii and Tokyo International Film Festivals. Bill Kong's production credits include Yim Ho's *THE DAY THE SUN TURNED COLD* (1994), which won Best Picture and Best Director at the Tokyo International Film Festival, and the Academy Award® winning epic, *CROUCHING TIGER, HIDDEN DRAGON* (2000 Best Picture).

CROUCHING TIGER, HIDDEN DRAGON became not only one of the biggest hits of 2000, but also the most popular foreign film in US cinema history. It went on to earn a roaring US\$210 million at the box office and win multiple awards including four Academy Awards® in Best Foreign Language Film, Best Art Direction, Best Original Score and Best Cinematography, as well as two Golden Globe Awards for Best Foreign Language Film and Best Director.

In 2002 alone, Bill Kong produced Sun Zhou's acclaimed love story *ZHOU YU'S TRAIN*, starring Gong Li, Tian Zhuangzhuang's remake of the Chinese classic film *SPRINGTIME IN A SMALL TOWN*, which won the San Marco prize at the 2002 Venice Film Festival, and Zhang Yimou's martial arts drama, *HERO*.

HERO smashed box-office records when it opened in China, grossing more than US\$1.45M in a single day from 200 screens, then opened to a staggering US\$18M in the U.S. in 2004. Winner of the Alfred E. Bauer Prize for innovation at the 2003 Berlin Film Festival, *HERO* has been nominated for a host of awards, including Best Foreign Language Film at the 75th Annual Academy Awards®, Best Foreign Film at the Golden Globe Awards, and 14 nominations at the Hong Kong Film Awards, including Best Film, Best Director, Best Screenplay and Best Actress for Maggie Cheung.

Bill Kong's 2004 projects include *WINDSTRUCK*, the first Korean film to open day and date in Korea, Hong Kong and China, and Zhang Yimou's Academy Award® nominated *HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS*, which premiered at the 58th Cannes Film Festival to great acclaim. 2006 has seen three Bill Kong productions released in the US: *FEARLESS*, directed by Ronny Yu and starring Jet Li, Zhang Yimou's *RIDING ALONE FOR THOUSANDS OF MILES*, *CURSE OF THE GOLDEN FLOWER*, and now *A WOMAN, A GUN AND A NOODLE SHOP*.

Bill Kong's recent projects include Yuen Woo Ping's *TRUE LEGEND* and Tian Zhuangzhuang's *THE WARRIOR AND THE WOLF*.

Films as Producer

2010	TRUE LEGEND
2009	A WOMAN, A GUN AND A NOODLE SHOP
2009	THE WARRIOR AND THE WOLF
2009	MURDERER
2009	SUBARU
2009	BLOOD: THE LAST VAMPIRE
2007	LUST, CAUTION
2006	CURSE OF THE GOLDEN FLOWER
2006	FEARLESS
2005	RIDING ALONE FOR THOUSANDS OF MILES
2004	HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS
2004	WINDSTRUCK
2003	ZHOU YU'S TRAIN
2002	HERO
2002	SPRINGTIME IN A SMALL TOWN
2000	CROUCHING TIGER, HIDDEN DRAGON
1994	THE DAY THE SUN TURNED COLD
1993	THE BLUE KITE

ZHANG Weiping (Producer)

Before launching his career in the film industry as a producer, Zhang had worked in various businesses ranging from property to pharmaceuticals. Since Zhang Yimou's 1997 KEEP COOL, he has produced many of the director's works, including the beautifully crafted epic HERO (2002). Zhang is now the president of Beijing New Picture Film Co., Limited.

Films as Producer

2009	A WOMAN, A GUN AND A NOODLE SHOP
2006	CURSE OF THE GOLDEN FLOWER
2005	RIDING ALONE FOR THOUSANDS OF MILES
2004	HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS
2002	HERO
2000	HAPPY TIMES
1999	THE ROAD HOME
1998	NOT ONE LESS
1997	KEEP COOL

GU Hao (Producer)

Holding a master's degree in Arts and Media, Gu has accumulated a solid knowledge of film theory, as well as film law and regulations. A winner of over 20 awards, he boasts a professional experience of over 30 years in filmmaking and distribution. He is also well known for producing outstanding genre films.

Gu is now the Executive President of Huaxia Film Distribution Co., Ltd.

XU Zhengchao (Screenplay)

While working as a screenwriter for the Liaoning Provincial Department of Culture, Xu Zhengchao acts as the Vice President of Benmountain Media Group, a Liaoning-based group that oversees various performing troupes in Liaoning. The originator of the sitcom JIN RE SHENG TANG, he has written comic sketches for China Central Television's annual Spring Festival Gala since 2007, namely CE HUA (2007), THE TORCHBEARER (2008) and GOT THE MONEY ANYWAY (2009).

Zheng has directed two TV series, GUANDONG DA XIANSHENG (2008) and LOVE IN A VILLAGE 3 (2009). He is also the author of the 2009 novel, CHUANG DANG.

SHI Jianquan (Screenplay)

Shi is a graduate of the Art Department of Capital Normal University, specializing in oil painting. He has worked as art editor for a number of newspapers and magazines, while writing several popular television series such as the spy story NO REGRETS (2003). He was also one of the screenwriters of the acclaimed black comedy, DEVILS ON THE DOORSTEP. The film premiered at the 2000 Cannes Film Festival and garnered the Grand Prize, as well as the France Culture Award for Foreign Cineaste of the Year.

ZHOU Xiaofeng (Story Consultant)

A Beijing-born graduate of the Chinese Department of Shangdong University, Zhou worked as an editor of children's literature for 8 years. In 2000, she joined the Beijing Publishing House as a magazine editor. She is also the author of several award-winning prose works.

ZHAO Xiaoding (Director of Photography)

Zhao Xiaoding graduated from the prestigious Beijing Film Academy in 1987 with a degree in cinematography. Zhao shot his first feature film, *SOUL OF THE THUNDERING MOUNTAIN* (1987) straight out of college and has since been extremely prolific, averaging at least one film a year. His other works include the critically acclaimed *A SEASON OF FLOWERS AND RAIN* (1999) and *SPRING SUBWAY* (2001).

In 2001, Zhao Xiaoding began his collaboration with director Zhang Yimou, working as the cameraman on the martial arts epic, *HERO* (2003). The two struck up a great working relationship, and when Zhang began preparations for the *HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS*, the helmer quickly asked Zhao to be DP on his new film. Zhao's work on the film earned him his first Academy Award® nomination for Best Cinematography.

Aside from his big screen commitments, Zhao Xiaoding is a refined and experienced cinematographer of commercials. He has shot advertising campaigns for some of the world's leading brands including Coca Cola, Armani Perfume, Toyota and the Bank of China.

Zhao Xiaoding was Director of Photography on the successful publicity film for Beijing's Olympic bid, the Shanghai Expo bid and the Beijing 2008 Logo Unveiling publicity film.

Films as Director of Photography

2010	TRUE LEGEND
2009	A WOMAN, A GUN AND A NOODLE SHOP
2008	KUNG FU DUNK
2008	THE CHILDREN OF HUANG SHI
2008	AN EMPRESS AND THE WARRIORS
2006	CURSE OF THE GOLDEN FLOWER
2005	RIDING ALONE FOR THOUSANDS OF MILES
2004	HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS
2003	HERO
2001	SPRING SUBWAY
1999	A SEASON OF FLOWERS AND RAIN
1998	THE PROSPEROUS QUEEN MOTHER
1997	LOVE FOOL

HAN Zhong (Production Designer)

Han Zhong is a 1993 graduate of the Department of Art Direction (Art Design) at the Beijing Film Academy. He was the Supervising Art Director of Zhang Yimou's *HERO* (2002) and *HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS* (2004). In 2007, he won the Grand Bell Award for Best Art Direction with *THE RESTLESS* (2006).

Films as Art Director

2009	A WOMAN, A GUN AND A NOODLE SHOP
2009	A TALE OF TWO DONKEYS
2009	EMPIRE OF SILVER
2006	THE RESTLESS
2004	HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS
2002	HERO

TAO Jing (Sound Designer)

A veteran of the prestigious Beijing Film Academy, Tao Jing was nominated for the Best Sound award at the 8th Golden Rooster Awards for work on his debut project, Chen Kaige's *THE KING OF CHILDREN* (1988). This proved to be an auspicious start to a career that includes work on Chen Kaige's Palme d'Or winner, *FAREWELL, MY CONCUBINE* (1993) and Zhang Yimou's BAFTA and Cannes Grand Jury Prize-winning *TO LIVE* (1994). In 1989, Tao Jing supervised the sound for Mu Deyuan and Liang Ming's *LONELY SOUL IN A BLACK CHAMBER*, the first film in China to be mixed in Dolby Stereo.

A long-time collaborator of director Zhang Yimou's, Tao Jing was awarded the Golden Reel Award for *SHANGHAI TRIAD* in 1995, the Best Sound Award at the 22nd Hong Kong Film Awards for *HERO* (2003), and a BAFTA nomination for *HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS* (2004). Tao Jing is a two-time winner of the Golden Rooster Award for Best Sound: for Chen Kaige's *THE EMPEROR AND THE ASSASSIN* (1999) and *HERO* (2003). He has published widely on the subject of sound in film and is a Visiting Professor at the Beijing Film Academy.

Films as Sound Designer

2010 TRUE LEGEND
2009 A WOMAN, A GUN AND A NOODLE SHOP
2009 EMPIRE OF SILVER
2008 THE FORBIDDEN KINGDOM
2006 CURSE OF THE GOLDEN FLOWER
2005 RIDING ALONE FOR THOUSANDS
OF MILES
2004 HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS
2003 HERO
2003 BEAUTIFUL SHANGHAI
1999 THE EMPEROR AND THE ASSASSIN
1997 KEEP COOL
1995 SHANGHAI TRIAD
1994 TO LIVE
1993 FAREWELL MY CONCUBINE
1992 MORNING BEIJING
1991 LIFE ON A STRING
1990 OH SNOW OF FRAGRANCES
1989 LONELY SOUL IN A BLACK CHAMBER
1988 THE KING OF CHILDREN

ZHAO Lin (Music Composer)

Zhao Lin graduated from the Central Conservatory of Music in 1996 with a specialization in composition. The deeply moving score of Chen Kaige's *TOGETHER* (2002) is one of his celebrated works. He also composed the theme songs for the 2003 TV series *LEGEND OF THE EAGLE SHOOTING HERO*.

Films as Composer

2009 A WOMAN, A GUN AND A NOODLE SHOP
2005 GIMME KUDOS
2004 ELECTRIC SHADOWS
2003 GODDESS OF MERCY
2002 SPRINGTIME IN A SMALL TOWN
2002 TOGETHER
2001 THE MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE
1999 YEUNG YUET LAU STORY
1998 GOING TO SCHOOL WITH DAD ON
MY BACK