







BLIND MESSAGE

directed by **LOU YE** screenplay **MA YINGLI**

CHINA / FRANCE — RUNNING TIME: 115 MIN

IMAGE: 1:1.85 — SOUND: DOLBY

INTERNATIONAL SALES

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SYNOPSIS

Nanjing. At a massage centre run by the blind, damaged bodies find relief beneath sensitive fingers. A new couple comes to work at the centre. The others are drawn to them.

Within this community, we witness seduction, suffering and - above all - the search for love.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

When I asked Mr. Bi Feiyu why he wrote his novel "Blind Massage", instead of giving me a direct answer, he told me a story.

At one time, when he was suffering from writer's block and couldn't work, he would wander about every day, doing very little. During this period he often visited a massage centre close to his home, where all the masseurs were blind. As they grew familiar with each other, he and his masseur would talk about various topics. One day, Bi was the last customer in the centre. As he was leaving with the workers, he took the hand of a blind masseur to guide him down the stairs. When they were halfway down, the power went suddenly, plunging the building into darkness. Bi was forced to stop until the blind masseur led him safely down to the bottom of the stairs. Just like that, a blind man showed a sighted man the way, leading him to the light.

Bi didn't tell me if this story was the reason he suddenly started to write "Blind Massage" instead of picking up his previous unfinished novel, and I didn't ask. I knew the story didn't appear in the published edition. But in the end, my screenwriter Ma Yingli and I put it into the film:

"It's a power cut," the blind masseuse Kong says to Gao Wei, the fully-sighted receptionist. "Eyes do different jobs. Some can see in the light, some can see in the dark. You'd better follow us now."

In the dark, we all need the guidance of the blind.

LOU YE, 2014

LOU YE BIOGRAPHY

Lou Ye, born in 1965, is a Chinese screenwriter, director and producer.

The son of actors, Lou Ye graduated in 1983 from the Shanghai School of Fine Arts (in animation) then joined the Beijing Film Academy (Filmmaking Department) in 1986. Lou Ye is part of a new generation of Chinese filmmakers who are open to the West and ready to tackle themes issuing from all cultures.

He worked as an assistant before directing his own debut film in 1994: WEEKEND LOVER. A portrait of disaffected youth in Shanghai, the film was banned for two years in China, but received the Rainer Werner Fassbinder Prize for Best Director at the Mannheim-Heidelberg International Film Festival in 1996.

Also interested in production, Lou Ye initiated the "Super City" project for television, with contributions from 10 of the most promising Chinese directors of the time, and established the production company Dream Factory.

In 2000, western audiences discovered Lou Ye through his second feature, SUZHOU RIVER, which he wrote, directed and co-produced. Secretly shot on the streets of Shanghai, the film attracted widespread international acclaim and was banned in China for having been presented at the Rotterdam Film Festival without permission from the Chinese authorities.

In 2003, Lou Ye was recognized for the ambitious PURPLE BUTTERFLY, starring Zhang Ziyi, which portrayed the conflict between China and Japan in the 1930s. The film was selected in Official Competition at the Cannes Film Festival, as was SUMMER PALACE three years later. In this latter film, Lou Ye revisited the Tiananmen Square events through the story of the erotic relationship of two students. For breaking this taboo, the director was banned again from making and producing films in China for five years.

Shot clandestinely in China and bearing French and Hong Kong nationality to avoid censorship, SPRING FEVER received the Best Screenplay Award at the Cannes Film Festival in 2009. Two years later, Lou Ye returned with LOVE AND BRUISES, shot in France, and starring Tahar Rahim. The film was presented at the Venice Film Festival.

In 2012, MYSTERY was selected for the opening night of Un Certain Regard in Cannes. MYSTERY marked the official return of Lou Ye in China, after 5 years of censorship.

In 2013, Lou Ye began shooting BLIND MESSAGE in Nanjing. The film is selected In Competition at the Berlin Film Festival.

CAST — SELECTED FILMOGRAPHIES

GUO XIAODONG — *Doc Wang*

- 2013 **FORGETTING TO KNOW YOU** by Quan Ling
- 2012 **MOTORWAY** by Pou-Soi Cheang
- 2010 **TRUE LEGEND** by Woo-Ping Yuen
- 2010 **REGION OF ASSASSINS** by John Woo
- 2008 **CRY ME A RIVER** by Jia Zhangke
- 2008 **MISSING** by Tsui Hark
- 2006 **SUMMER PALACE** by Lou Ye

QIN HAO — *Sha Fuming*

- 2013 **TOKYO NEWCOMER** by Jiang Qinmin
- 2013 **THE NIGHTINGALE** by Philippe Muyl
- 2012 **MYSTERY** by Lou Ye
- 2012 **THE ZODIAC MYSTERY** by Sheng Zhimin
- 2010 **CHONGQING BLUES** by Wang Xiaoshuai
- 2009 **SPRING FEVER** by Lou Ye
- 2005 **SHANGHAI DREAM** by Wang Xiaoshuai

ZHANG LEI — *Kong*

Non-professional, visually impaired actor and professional masseuse.

JIAN DAN — *Jin Yan*

Non-professional, visually impaired actor and professional masseuse.

HUANG JUNJUN — *Xu Taihe*

Non-professional, visually impaired actor and professional masseur.

MEI TING — *Du Hong*

2013 **UNBEATABLE** by Dante Lam

2012 **BUNSHINSABA** by Byeong-Ki Ahn

2011 **1911** by Jackie Chan, Zhang Li

2009 **JUDGE** by Liu Jie

2008 **DESIRES OF THE HEART** by Ma Liwen

HUANG XUAN — *Xiao Ma*

2014 **GOLDEN TIMES** by An Hsiu (post-production)

2014 **BREAKING THE WAVES** by Liang Bojian (post-production)

2013 **QING YAN** by Qiu Litao

2010 **BLUE BONE** by Jian Cui

2009 **DRIVERLESS** by Zhang Yang

2009 **CHENGDU, I LOVE YOU** by Jian Cui

2009 **SPRING FEVER** by Lou Ye

HUANG LU – *Mann*

- 2013 **HOW TO DESCRIBE A CLOUD** by **David Verbeek**
2013 **A FALLIBLE GIRL** by **Conrad Clark**
2012 **A POLITICAL ROMANCE** by **Xie Junyi**
2012 **LUCKY DOG** by **Song Wang**
2009 **DISTANCE RUNNERS** by **Robert Vicencio**
2009 **SHE, A CHINESE** by **Guo Xiaolu**
2007 **THE RED AWN** by **Cai Shangjun**
2007 **BLIND MOUNTAIN** by **Yang Li**

MU HUAPENG – *Zhang Yiguang*

Non-professional, visually impaired actor, professional masseur
and actor in a blind theatre troupe.

WANG ZHIHUA – *Zhang Zongqi*

Non-professional, visually impaired actor, professional masseur
and director of a blind theatre troupe.



CAST

Guo Xiaodong – *Doc Wang*
Qin Hao – *Sha Fuming*
Zhang Lei – *Kong*
Mei Ting – *Du Hong*
Huang Xuan – *Xiao Ma*
Huang Lu – *Mann*
Jiang Dan – *Jin Yan*
Huang Junjun – *Taihe*
Mu Huaipeng – *Zhang Yiguang*
Wang Zhihua – *Zhang Zongqi*

CREW

Directed by
LOU YE

Screenplay
MA YINGLI

Based on the novel
“**Blind Massage**” by **BI FEIYU**

DP
ZENG JIAN

Sound
FU KANG

Original Music
JÓHANN JÓHANNSSON

Editors

KONG JINLEI

ZHU LIN

Wardrobe

ZHANG DINGMU

Make-up

SHI HUILING

Casting

ZHANG RONG

Assistant Director

LU YING

Production Designer

DU AILIN

Production Manager

AN ZI

Producers

WANG YONG for SCG, YINHAI

LOU YE, NAI AN, LI LING for DREAM FACTORY

KRISTINA LARSEN for LES FILMS DU LENDEMAIN



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