

Arena Films & Homegreen Films present

天邊一朵雲

TORONTO
INTERNATIONAL
FILM FESTIVAL®
OFFICIAL SELECTION
2005



a film by
TSAI MING-LIANG

The Wayward Cloud

 55th Internationale
Filmfestspiele
Berlin
Competition

WINNER
FIPRESCI AWARD

WINNER
SILVER BEAR FOR
BEST ARTISTIC
CONTRIBUTION

WINNER
ALFRED BAUER
AWARD

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Synopsis

Taiwan is beset by a terrible water shortage. TV stations are advising the population to economise drastically, and to drink watermelon juice. But, as always, people are finding their own solutions to the drought.

Shiang-Chyi secretly fills discarded bottles in public toilets, while Hsiao-Kang takes midnight baths in rooftop storage tanks. They drift like clouds, never touching. Survival is hard, but loneliness is impossible to bear.

Shiang-Chyi finds a watermelon, and on the same day encounters Hsiao-Kang. She remembers buying a watch from him when he worked as a street vendor. He's a porno actor now, but she doesn't know that yet. She hasn't seen him since, and has no idea what he is doing near her apartment building.

They fall in love. Two clouds, touching...

Surreal, erotic, outrageous, Tsai Ming-Liang's **THE WAYWARD CLOUD** is a ravishing, vibrant, truly original musical, a radical development from the internationally-acclaimed director of **GOODBYE, DRAGON INN**, **THE RIVER** and **THE HOLE**.

Cast and Crew

Lee Kang-Sheng
Chen Shiang-Chyi
Lu Yi-Ching
Yang Kuei-Mei
Sumomo Yozakura
Hsiao Huan-Wen
Lin Hui-Xun
Jao Kuo-Xuan
Peggy Wu Jazz Dance Company

Director: Tsai Ming-Liang
Screenplay: Tsai Ming-Liang
DP: Liao Pen-Jung
Editor: Chen Sheng-Chang
Sound: Tu Duu-Chih, Tang Shiang-Chu
Production Designer: Yip Kam-Tim
Art Director: Lee Tian Jue
Costume Designer: Sun Hui-Mey
Choreography: Peggy Wu
Production Manager: Yeh Ju-Feng
Gaffer: Lee Long-Yu
Executive Producer: Vincent Wang
Producer: Bruno Pesery

an Arena Films - Homegreen Films -
Arte France Cinema co-production

Director's Statement

**"His lonely hours pass like wilting flowers
As he watches life drift by
A sole shadow, with the world below
Like a wayward cloud"**

"The Wayward Cloud"

Artist: Bai Guang

Original Music: The Wayward Wind

Composer: Stanley R. Lebowsky & Herbert Newman

The first time I heard this song, the lyrics were different - "...a broken heart, a lonely person. Who will comfort this broken heart? I look at the sky in silence..." - I was only in elementary school but I can still remember the first few lines of that song. It was translated from an English song, "The Wayward Wind". Cowboy movies were in fashion at that time and many Chinese popular songs were translations from the West. Bai Guang, a famous songstress from that era also sang a different version. This is the version she sang.

In 1999, I left Taipei for Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia to prepare for a film about foreign workers. Strangely, having been away from my hometown in Malaysia for many years, this return suddenly inspired a story about the kind of wandering life that I had been leading. The title for this story that came straight to my mind was "Cloud At The Edge Of The Sky". The wayward cloud.

Chen Shiang-Chyi

She is a gallery tour guide at the National Palace Museum. She has only one line of dialogue - the only line of dialogue in the entire film. She asks Hsiao-Kang, "Are you still selling watches?". She puts her head in the refrigerator and stares at a watermelon lovingly. She kisses it and licks it, almost wanting to swallow it whole. Then she cries. But I cut that part out. It wasn't time for her to cry yet.

Lee Kang-Sheng

He strips naked and performs for a porn film. I even made him dye his pubic hair a golden colour, like a lion's mane. There was a scene where he couldn't get an erection. He went to the bathroom to try and sort it out, but just couldn't do it. Finally, he grew angry and shouted at me, "What the hell are you thinking of?"

Lu Yi-Ching

Before, she played Hsiao-Kang's mother. This time, in her very first scene, she has semen squirted all over her face, then sings, "I have no money, I only have a heart". After that, she told me, "I feel like my soul's been emptied out. I don't want to act any more. It's enough!" I am sorry but at the same time very grateful to her.

Yang Kuei-Mei

I originally intended for her to act as one of the porn stars. She struggled for a long time and finally agreed to just a cameo appearance in one of the musical sequences. She got a huge shock when she arrived on set...

Sumonu Yozakura

She came from Japan, a professional stripper. At first, we didn't dare to look directly, but soon grew numb to her nakedness. She left after only eight days, and left us a pair of high heels as props. She also left us wondering about the body. What exactly is the body?

BODIES

Beautiful bodies. Ugly bodies. Smooth-skinned bodies. Wrinkled bodies. Precious bodies. Cheap bodies. Bodies that can be raped. Bodies that can be sold. If the body were a container, what could possibly fill it up? Water, food, love, money, sex... And every other human desire. Why does the human body roam and wander endlessly? Why doesn't it stop? Is anyone able to pause for someone for just one moment? One body. Many desires. Penetrating or being penetrated by another body. Like two clouds meeting, then falling as rain, moistening the earth.

PORNOGRAPHY

There's always an ordinary-looking door - a secret door that you'd push open whenever no one's looking. You've never met anyone else inside, so you think you're the only person in the world who watches pornography.

LOVE

In this age of consumerism, is there anything that can't be sold for profit? Nothing. Music videos, adult magazines, romantic comedies, phone-sex services, porn films, used lingerie, social escorts, hookers, kidneys, chest hair. Nothing except love. Can you buy love? Do you still believe in love?

TSAI MING-LIANG

Director

Tsai Ming-Liang is one of the most erotic, sexual and sensual filmmakers of our time. To him, the human body is a mystery. While it can be flexible, strange and vulgar, it can also be like a machine: a machine that constantly carries out the functions of eating, drinking, smoking, excreting, vomiting and ejaculating. His films are filled with imagery that suggests some form of leaking: the leaking of water, the leaking of the human body, disappearance and disintegration. The characters in his films are always washing or bathing, actions which never seem to offer them any real comfort but only serve to accentuate their sense of loneliness. They seldom touch and almost never speak; they observe one another. Tsai Ming-Liang knows perfectly well how to express the pain of the human body, yet he doesn't forget to poke fun at it. Thus his films are able to retain a lighthearted mood while at the same time delving deep into dark issues of the human condition.

Filmography

Goodbye, Dragon Inn (2003)
The Skywalk Is Gone (2002)
What Time Is It There? (2001)
The Hole (1998)
The River (1996)
Vive l'amour (1994)
Rebels of the Neon God (1992)