

Technical Information

Working Title: Riddle
Director: Zhou Hao
Screenplay by: Zhou Hao, Philippe Bober
Nationality: France, China
Genre: Drama
Length: 100 min
Shooting location: China

Production: Coproduction Office,
Dream Factory,
Next Way Studio
Producers: Philippe Bober, Lou Ye
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Director's Filmography

Zhou Hao was born in 1992 in Chongqing, China. He attended Radio and Television Arts School of Media in Chongqing University of Posts and Telecommunications. Zhou Hao directed several short films before producing, directing and playing the main male role in his first feature ***The Night***. ***The Night*** was acclaimed as "one of the year's most astonishing debuts" at the 2014 Berlin Film Festival.

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Riddle

A Film by Zhou Hao



cinéfondation
LA RÉSIDENCE

Zhou Hao

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Since 2000, the Festival de Cannes has provided each year accommodation and support to twelve selected young directors in order to help them prepare their first or second feature film. A jury presided by a film director sits twice a year, selecting these young filmmakers on the basis of their short films, or

even first feature film, and the merits of their feature film project. During their 4-and-a-half-month stay in Paris, they work on the writing of their feature film project, have meetings with professionals and try, with the support of the Cannes Film Festival, to bring their project to co-production status.

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Synopsis

Riddle revolves around Wang, a writer who lives with his girlfriend Jade, in Chongqing. In “the mountain city”, wealthy people live in modern buildings on the Yangtze riverside, and poor ones in the old town, on the mountains.

The novel Wang is in the process of writing unfolds in front of our eyes, and the movie alternates between scenes from “reality” and scenes from the novel, which echo one another, enabling the viewers to follow and visualize the writer’s creative process. But in the course of the movie, reality and fiction become more and more intertwined.

Wang’s novel takes place in Chongqing and tells the story of Christal, a singer, and Lee, Wang’s doppelganger. During the writing process, Wang falls in love with Christal and joins her at a glossy Yangtze riverside

building. Meanwhile, Lee takes control of the story and forces Wang to join his characters in the book.

Riddle is a cinematic parable on eternal and modern China.

Statement of Intent

Riddle is a romance addressing the reality of love, and such was already the case with my first film *The Night*. More precisely, unrequited love is the main subject in the novel that *Riddle*’s protagonist is writing, a feeling that will resonate with almost all human beings.

The film is set in Chongqing, the cinematic city in which I was born, that has unique and inspiring landscapes, both natural (mountains, rivers, forests) and man-made

(buildings, bridges, monuments, highways). Some hundred meters away from five star hotels on the Yangtze riverside is one of the poorer districts of the province. The differences between the rich and the poor, the modern and the traditional, between Yangtze and mountains are visually striking in Chongqing.

In *Riddle*, this visible difference echoes the gap between the protagonist’s reality and the fiction he writes: the poor from the mountains envy the unreachable riverside people, while our main character, the writer Wang, falls in love with the equally unreachable fictional female character of his novel.

Synopsis

Riddle tourne autour de Wang, un écrivain qui vit avec sa petite amie Jade à Chongqing. Dans « la ville montagne », les gens riches vivent dans des immeubles modernes sur le bord de la rivière Yangtze, et les pauvres dans la vieille ville, sur les montagnes.

Le roman que Wang est en train d’écrire se déroule devant nos yeux, et le film alterne entre les scènes de la « réalité » et les scènes du roman, qui se font écho, permettant aux spectateurs de suivre et de visualiser le processus créatif de l’écrivain. Mais dans le déroulement du film, réalité et fiction deviennent de plus en plus imbriquées.

Le roman de Wang se déroule à Chongqing et raconte l’histoire de Christal, une chanteuse, et de Lee, le double de Wang. Durant le processus d’écriture, Wang

tombe amoureux de Christal et la rejoint dans un immeuble luxueux de la rivière Yangtze. Pendant ce temps, Lee prend le contrôle de l’histoire et force Wang à rejoindre ses personnages du livre.

Riddle est une parabole cinématographique sur la Chine éternelle et moderne.

Note d’intention

Riddle est un roman traitant de la réalité de l’amour, ce qui était déjà le cas avec mon premier film The Night. Plus précisément, l’amour non partagé est le sujet principal du roman que le personnage de Riddle écrit, un sentiment qui trouvera écho chez presque tous les êtres humains.

Le film se déroule à Chongqing, ville cinématographique dans laquelle je suis né,

aux paysages uniques et inspirants, tant naturels (montagnes, rivières, forêts) qu’artificiels (bâtiments, ponts, monuments, autoroutes). À quelques centaines de mètres des hôtels cinq étoiles sur le bord de la rivière Yangtze se trouve l’un des quartiers les plus pauvres de la province. Les différences entre les riches et les pauvres, le moderne et le traditionnel, entre Yangtze et les montagnes sont visuellement frappant à Chongqing.

Dans Riddle, cette différence visible fait écho à l’écart entre la réalité du protagoniste et la fiction qu’il écrit: les pauvres des montagnes envient les personnes inaccessibles du bord de la rivière, tandis que notre personnage principal, l’écrivain Wang, tombe amoureux du personnage féminin fictif tout aussi inaccessible de son roman.