



Technical Information

Title: Home, sick 北纬四十七
Director: Xiwen Cong
Screenplay: Xiwen Cong
Nationality: China
Genre: Drama
Format: 1.66/1
Duration: 100 min
Shooting location: Jixi, China

Director's Information

Xiwen Cong grew up in a country town in Northeast China. She studied film directing at the Beijing Film Academy.

Her short film **Banished Love** (将爱放逐) was presented at the 77th la Cinéf, Cannes Film Festival and 26th Shanghai International Film Festival.

Xiwen is currently developing her first feature **Home, sick** at La Résidence du Festival de Cannes.

Home, sick
北纬四十七

A film by Xiwen Cong

Xiwen Cong

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Festival de Cannes, La Résidence

Since 2000, La Résidence du Festival de Cannes has provided each year accommodation and support to 12 selected young directors in order to help them prepare their first or second feature film. These young filmmakers are selected 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 Festival de Cannes, to bring their project to co-production status.

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Home, sick
北纬四十七

A FILM BY XIWEN CONG

Synopsis

After finishing her studies in Europe, 22-year-old Zheng Tian returns to her hometown in Northeast China – economically fading, with long, harsh winters. Life here, so unlike that in Europe, feels like walking a tightrope. Yet in the Western world, she had to keep asking herself the question, “Who am I?” She often felt that only death could free her from this feeling.

Now a videographer at a photo studio, she films schoolchildren reenacting the Anti-Japanese War victory celebrations – rituals laced with a subtly charged undertone –and police officers singing patriotically at the Chinese New Year Gala. Her happiest moments are spent with her cousins. Even though she struggles to keep her balance on the tightrope of her homeland, she clearly understands that, at least here, she is still alive.

Statement of Intent

I was born in a small town near the Russian border. The economy here is underdeveloped, and everyone who has the opportunity to attend school in China’s major cities tends to leave and rarely returns. From a young age, my parents instilled in me the belief that staying here meant failure. Yet, when I went to Beijing to study, I found myself missing my hometown and struggled to adapt to life in the city. After graduating, I sought every opportunity to return and spend time in my hometown.

There, I did not experience the alienation that many intellectuals face in a closed environment. Despite the various challenges that my hometown faces, I believe that the bond between people and their hometown is not easily severed. Is running away from home and abandoning it truly the only option?

Synopsis

Après avoir terminé ses études en Europe, Zheng Tian, 22 ans, retourne dans sa ville natale dans le Nord-Est de la Chine, dont l’économie est en déclin et les hivers longs et rigoureux. La vie ici, si différente de celle en Europe, lui donne l’impression de marcher sur une corde raide. Pourtant, dans le monde occidental, elle devait sans cesse se poser la question : « Qui suis-je ? ». Elle a souvent eu l’impression que seule la mort pourrait la libérer de ce sentiment.

Aujourd’hui vidéaste dans un studio, elle filme des écoliers célébrant la victoire de la guerre contre le Japon – dans des mises-en-scènes insidieusement connotées – ou des policiers chantant patriotiquement lors du gala du nouvel an chinois. Ses moments les plus heureux sont ceux qu’elle partage avec ses cousins. Et même si elle se sent funambule dans son pays d’origine, elle comprend qu’au moins ici, elle est bien en vie.

Note d’intention

Je suis née dans une petite ville près de la frontière russe. L’économie y est sous-développée et tous ceux qui ont la possibilité d’aller à l’école dans les grandes villes chinoises partent. Très tôt, mes parents m’ont inculqué la conviction que rester était synonyme d’échec. Pourtant, lorsque je suis allée étudier à Pékin, ma ville natale m’a manqué et j’ai eu du mal à m’adapter à la grande ville. Après avoir obtenu mon diplôme, j’ai cherché toutes les occasions de retourner dans ma ville d’origine.

Je n’y ai pas ressenti l’aliénation à laquelle sont confrontés de nombreux intellectuels dans un environnement clos. Malgré les divers défis auxquels j’ai été confrontée, je pense que le lien entre les gens et leur ville natale n’est pas facile à rompre. La fuite et l’abandon sont-ils vraiment la seule option ?