

BUS44



PRESS KIT 2002

WINNER – SPECIAL JURY AWARD
2001 VENICE FILM FESTIVAL

DIRECTORS' FORTNIGHT
2002 CANNES FILM FESTIVAL

WINNER – JURY HONORABLE MENTION
2002 SUNDANCE FILM FESTIVAL

WINNER – BEST SHORT FILM
2002 FLORIDA FILM FESTIVAL

OFFICIAL SELECTION
2002 EDINBURGH INT'L FILM FESTIVAL

OFFICIAL SELECTION – IN-COMPETITION
2002 SEATTLE INT'L FILM FESTIVAL

OFFICIAL SELECTION
2002 HONG KONG INT'L FILM FESTIVAL

OFFICIAL SELECTION
2001 PUSAN INT'L FILM FESTIVAL

BUS 44

車四十四

a short film by Dayyán Eng

CONTACT

COLORDANCE PICTURES
PO BOX 7291, BELLEVUE, WA 98008-1291
USA
TEL: +1 206 338-2588
FAX: +1 425 952-8052
E-MAIL: sales@colordance.com

FIRST-EVER CHINESE SHORT FILM TO BE SELECTED AND WIN AT:
VENICE, CANNES, SUNDANCE, FLORIDA

FILM SYNOPSIS

On the outskirts of a small town, a bus driver and her passengers encounter highway robbers. "Bus 44" carries a universal theme that travels across all boundaries and societies, trespassing the dark side and bright side of human behaviour.

PRODUCTION INFORMATION

Original Title: Che Si Shi Si
English Title: Bus 44
Language: Mandarin Chinese
35mm / Color / Dolby SR Sound
Aspect Ratio: 1:1.85
Kodak Film & Processing / Arri
Camera and Lenses
11 mins. / Completed in April, 2001
Production: Hong Kong / USA

PRINCIPLE CREDITS

Executive Producers: Dale ENG &
Nahid ENG
Bill YIP
FU Dong
GONG Beibi
Dhabih ENG
Producer: Dayyán ENG

Production Designer: Xiao HSU
Sound & Music: ZHANG Yang
Film Editor: Dayyán ENG
Cinematographer: Sam KOA
Writer & Director: Dayyán ENG

FILMMAKERS' BIOGRAPHY



DAYYÁN ENG
(WRITER, PRODUCER, DIRECTOR) who was born in Taiwan, is a young Chinese-American writer-director. He studied film arts at the University of Washington and transferred to the prestigious Beijing Film Academy where he finished his undergraduate studies in directing. A 35mm short film he wrote and directed in 1997 ("*East 22nd Street*") won awards and nominations at eight international film festivals, and was acquired by CANAL+ for exclusive rights in France. For the past four years, Dayyán has been directing TV commercial spots for the Asian market. In 1998, he became the first foreigner to shoot a music video in China. "Bus 44" is his second short film. He is currently in Asia where he is in pre-production with his first feature film.

BILL YIP (EXECUTIVE PRODUCER) was born in Hong Kong and has started working in the feature film production since 1986 in posts including assistant director, scriptwriter and production manager. He worked with internationally acclaimed directors like Wayne Wang, Pucchi Leong, Masashi Yamamoto, Sylvia Cheng, Francis Gerard, Lawrence Ah Mon and Marion Hansel. He set up his own production house in 1998 and specializes in commercial and corporate works. He is currently the president of Creative Horizon, a Hong Kong multi-media art group that organizes workshops, performances and art education in various art forms.



SAM KOA (CINEMATOGRAPHER) was born in Hong Kong. He has been working in the film industry for over 8 years, and began his career as a lighting

assistant on some of Tsui Hark's films in Hong Kong. After completing further studies at the Beijing Film Academy, Sam has worked as a cinematographer for a number of television commercials. Sam currently freelances in China.



ZHANG YANG (SOUND, MUSIC) was born in Beijing, and grew up in the film industry. His father is the head of the Central Film Studio,

and a well known cinematographer. Zhang Yang decided to follow in his father's footsteps in film arts, and graduated from the Beijing Film Academy in sound recording. His prior work has included sound for the award-winning films "*East 22nd*

Street", "*Xiao Wu*" and "*Platform*". He is also the guitarist of the Chinese rock group Sober.



XIAO HSU (PRODUCTION DESIGNER) was born in Taiwan and studied art and design at the National Art Institute in Taipei, before entering the directing program at the Beijing Film Academy. He is living in Beijing where he does freelance work. His prior work includes the Golden Horse Award nominated short film "*One Yuan*".

ACTORS' BIOGRAPHY



GONG BEIBI (BUS DRIVER) began her film career as a child actress. She graduated from the Central Drama Academy, where she became an instant star in China

after starring in several popular TV series. Due to her success while still a student, she became known in the media as "little Gong Li". She has starred in feature films in both China and Hong Kong. "*Bus 44*" is her first short film.



WU CHAO (YOUNG MAN) was born in Beijing. Not a professional actor, he was discovered in 1998 for the lead role in the feature film

"*Lunar Eclipse*" which went on to receive the Jury Prize at the 2000 Moscow Int'l Film Festival. "*Bus 44*" is his second film. He is a professional dancer in Beijing.



LI YIXIANG
(SHORT BANDIT)
graduated from the Beijing Film Academy in acting. He has taken on diverse lead and supporting roles

such as a policeman, farmer, soldier, historical figures etc. His prior work includes several TV series and feature films. He lives in Beijing.



ZHOU KUI (TALL BANDIT) graduated from Central Drama Academy in acting. A professional stage actor at the Central Children's Theatre Group with TV series

and feature film experience, he currently works in Beijing.

DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

I have always been interested in social psychology and wanted to do a film about how people react under certain stressful circumstances. The story attracts me not only because it has an interesting plot with a twist, but mostly because the underlying theme is even more haunting than the events that take place. I intentionally made this film with a certain ambiguity of time and place -- this story could have taken place anywhere in the world. Making films about people and human nature attracts me because I feel that people around the world have much more in common than they do differences. "*Bus 44*" carries a universal theme that travels across all boundaries and societies, trespassing the dark side and bright side of human behaviour.

THE MAKING OF "BUS 44"

"*Bus 44*" was written by Dayyán Eng in a week. "I had finished writing a feature-film screenplay, and was shopping it to producers. While waiting to hear back from people, the idea started stirring in my head to do a film about this supposed incident that took place. I got together with some friends and decided doing this short would be a great experience and a good break from TV commercials," Dayyán said.

Most of the key crew members have worked with Dayyán on various projects in the past. "It's funny because Sam, who shoots many of my commercials, was actually the lead actor in my last short film ("*East 22nd Street*"), and Li Yixiang dubbed Sam's voice because we didn't have a budget to shoot sync-sound back then," explained Dayyán. Zhang Yang, a frequent collaborator was all too happy to join in, "I was glad to see a director willing to mix the sound in stereo, many just opt to record in mono."

Sam said, "visually, Dayyán wanted this film to be more reality based. He usually has a very kinetic style, a lot of camera movements and quick cuts, but with this film, he set up the camera so that style wasn't there for the sake of 'style'. He wanted the audience to stay close to the story and characters. From a lighting standpoint, I went for a natural scheme and color tone, with a shift in color tone while the story progressed".

Gong Beibi was the first to sign on to this project. While she has been cast in many of the top TV shows in China and Hong Kong, she hadn't come across many roles that allowed her to show a different side to her acting abilities. "Usually directors and producers want to cast me as the romantic lead, or the 'good-girl'.

While these roles can be interesting sometimes, oftentimes they tend to be formulaic. I was excited about working on this film because it gave me a chance to explore a role that while simple in appearance was actually quite challenging – especially since in short films you don't have much time to convey the character to the audience," said Beibi.

Wu Chao came on-board just a day before shooting began. He was replaced after the original lead had to drop out at the last minute due to prior commitments. Dayyán said, "Chao turned out to be better than I hoped for. In retrospect, I think he was even better for the role than my original choice." Chao who came from a non-acting background first came to Dayyán's attention while he was editing the feature film "*Lunar Eclipse*". Dayyán explained, "a friend of mine asked me to help edit his feature after the original editor was fired by the studio. While working on the film, I remember thinking he (Chao) was quite a natural."

Li Yixiang, a long time friend of the director's from film school days had been planning to work together for quite some time. Li says, "we worked together before on a music video, and ever since then we've talked about doing a film – the last time around, I was just a voice in his movie. '*Bus 44*' had a chilling script, and I thought it was a chance to play the bad guy."

The film was shot in 5 days with post-production in Hong Kong taking a month. Bill Yip says, "I was very pleased with the results and amazed that Dayyán pulled it off on such a tight budget, everyone really worked quite hard on this film... I think the film has a very gripping story, and it also leaves one thinking about the theme which is quite universal in subject matter."

"*Bus 44*" world-premiered in-competition at the 2001 Venice Film Festival where it won the Special Jury Award. It later US-premiered at the 2002 Sundance Film Festival where it received the Jury Honorable Mention prize. "Bus 44" is also the first Chinese short film to ever be invited to the "Directors' Fortnight" of the Cannes Film Festival. Most recently "Bus 44" won the Grand Jury Award for Best Short Film at 2002 Florida Film Festival.

PRESS INFORMATION

For more information about "*Bus 44*" or to download photographs / production stills for use by accredited media organizations, please refer to the Colordance Pictures official website located at:

<http://www.colordance.com/bus.html>

REVIEWS & QUOTES

"A well-directed, well-paced film... Promising director with a talent for story-telling..." -- Wong Kar-Wai, filmmaker.

"Great performances and nicely rendered tension, composition, and editing..." -- Chris Lee, producer and former president of Tristar Pictures.

"Short-filmmaking at its best... One of the best short films I've seen..." -- Marie-Pierre Macia, artistic director of Cannes Film Festival Directors' Fortnight.

"...Korean directors are now noticing and paying more attention to young Chinese directors such as Dayyan Eng..." -- Ju Kyung-Jung, filmmaker.

"Bus 44 is one of those rare films that have all the ingredients of a truly great movie... The story is complete, and the self-restraint obviously needed to not spin this out into a longer piece is admirable. It is well paced,

intriguing, and defies any viewer to not react to the underlying message of the movie." -- Jo Lusby, City Weekend Magazine.

"A deep and moving tale about the ills of society." -- Man Yan, Beijing Evening News.

There have been over 1,000 articles about "Bus 44", the cast and/or the director in the Chinese media with interviews and profiles in newspapers, websites, magazines (such as *Cosmopolitan, Performing Arts, Weekly News*, etc.) and TV programs across the country.

SALES INFORMATION

For European, Korean, Japan territories, please contact our sales agent directly:

INDIESTORY Inc.
Attn : Jenna Ku
5FL. Boljae Bldg. 228, Wonseo-dong,
JongRoh-gu, Seoul, 110-280, Korea
TEL : +82 2 743 6051/3
FAX: +82 2 742 6051
e-mail : songfish@indiestory.com

All other territories, please contact
sales@colordance.com

COMPLETE CREDITS LIST

(in order of appearance on screen)

COLORDANCE PICTURES
presents

BUS 44

Based on a true story

Screenplay, Produced & Directed by
Dayán ENG

Cinematography by
Sam KOA

Sound & Music by
ZHANG Yang

Production Designer
Xiao HSU

Executive Producers
Dale ENG & Nahid ENG
Bill YIP
FU Dong
GONG Beibi
Dhabih ENG

Cast

GONG Beibi.....Bus Driver
WU Chao.....Young Man
LI Yixiang.....Short Bandit
ZHOU Kui.....Tall Bandit
SUN Qing.....Policeman #1
ZHANG Jianxin.....Policeman #2

Production Manager
WANG Zhibin

Assistant Director
ZHANG Yanjia

Script Supervisor
FENG Ying

Film Editor
Dayán ENG

Associate Producer
LI Yixiang

Assistant Production Designer
WANG Weiyuan

Makeup Artist
LI Lihua

Assistant Cameraman & Gaffer
Jimmy LUO

Camera Assistant
DANG Zhijun

Electricians
WEN Weimin
CHEN Jinzhong

Production Sound Assistant
ZHU Xiaojia

Boom Operator
WU Jianxun

Sound Editor
ZHANG Yang

Sound Mixer
ZHANG Yang
SHEN Jianqin

Sound Engineer
SHEN Jianqin

Still Photographer
SUN Zhaomin

Production Assistant
YANG Xiaoshan

Negative Cutter
WU Kee Charm

FULL DIRECTOR BIOGRAPHY

DAYYÁN ENG was born in Taiwan in 1975 into a multi-racial family (of Chinese, Scottish, and Persian heritage). At an early age he was exposed to many cultures, gaining a wide view of the world as his family travelled and he grew up in Taiwan, the U.S., Australia, Macau, and Canada. Dayyán completed two years of film studies at the University of Washington in Seattle, then moved to China after being accepted at the prestigious Beijing Film Academy where he finished an undergraduate program in Directing.

While still in college, he made many contacts and gained valuable professional experiences in the film and television industry. Dayyán began his career as a post-production intern at the Shanghai Film Studio; a few months later he wrote and hosted a television program for Beijing-TV. He then guest starred on a popular sitcom (*Temporary Family*) that was broadcast all over Asia on STAR-TV; Before finishing his studies, he completed a 35mm short film (*East 22nd Street*) that went on to receive nominations and awards at eight international film festivals (including Clermont-Ferrand) before getting picked up for exclusive television broadcast rights in France by CANAL+. The film was later invited to be included in France's Centre National de la Cinématographie film collection.

Upon graduating, Dayyán became a partner and in-house director at a Hong Kong production house based in Beijing. Six months later, he left the agency and became a freelance commercial director. Based out of Beijing where he feels most 'at home', he continues directing national TV commercials for the Asian market.

In early 1998, Dayyán was asked by China Central TV to direct a promotional spot for the national music station. The spot was a success and garnered him rave reviews which led to a music video project by one of China's top recording artists, Tu Honggang. The music video shot to the number one slot on the charts and was nominated for best video at the 1998 China Music Television Awards. Dayyán is to date the only foreigner to direct a music video for a singer in China.

In early 1999, Dayyán became involved with a Chinese feature film, *Lunar Eclipse*, as the film editor. His cut enabled the film to get distribution with the Beijing Film Studio. The film was awarded a jury prize at the 2000 Moscow International Film Festival.

Early 2001, Dayyán wrote, produced, and directed *Bus 44*, a short film about an incident that took place on the outskirts of a small town. The film has garnered the attention of top producers in Asia as well as studios in the US. It won the special jury award at the 2001 Venice Film Festival and the 2002 Sundance Film Festival. Most recently "Bus 44" won the Best Short Film Award at 2002 Florida Film Festival. The film was subsequently acquired for distribution in territories throughout the world.

Dayyán is currently in pre-production with a Chinese-language feature film comedy he wrote and is scheduled to direct later this year.



GONG Beibi as the Bus Driver



WU Chao as the Young Man



LI Yixiang as the Short Bandit



ZHOU Kui as the Tall Bandit