

# 海上浮城

PRESENTED BY FAN LUYUAN, CI YIP, SONG GE. EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS: JIA ZHANGKE. PRODUCED BY PRODUCER ALI WONG. SUPERVISOR PRODUCER FAN LUYUAN. COORDINATOR PRODUCERS SHIRLEY LAU, JOE ZHANG. PRODUCED BY CLARISSA ZHANG, JANE ZHENG. PRODUCED BY YANG LIAN. CO-PRODUCED BY WYMAN WU. STARRING YANG HAOTI, LI MENG, MASON LEE, DAVID KYDOAH, JAMES ANGLADES, CAO XUYAN, ZAZIE BIEZ, DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY FEDERICO CESCA. EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS JOE YAO. EDITOR ALEXANDER KOPIT. COSTUME DESIGNER ATHENA WANG. MUSIC BY ANDREW ORKIN. SOUND DESIGNER MARIUSZ GLABINSKI. CASTING BY MIAO LIANG (CHINA), BRETTE GOLDSTEIN, CSA (US). ANIMATION PRODUCERS XU XIAOJUN, JERRY LI. LINE PRODUCERS WU JINGLIN. EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS AMY ANICETO, MICK ANICETO. ZHEJIANG DONGYANG MICROCOSMIC PICTURES CO., LTD., MEDIA ASIA ZEXIN FILMS SHANGHAI LTD., BEIJING JINGDI CULTURE & TOURISM CO., LTD., PRESENT. A SEESAW ENTERTAINMENT LTD., PRODUCTION BEIJING JINGDI CULTURE & TOURISM CO., LTD. MAINLAND CHINA DISTRIBUTION MEDIA ASIA FILM DISTRIBUTION (HK) LTD., INTERNATIONAL DISTRIBUTION REWILD PRODUCTIONS.

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# DEAD PIGS

A FILM BY CATHY YAN



FILM MOVEMENT

WINNER  
SUNDANCE  
FESTIVAL

# PRESS KIT

## DEAD PIGS



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# SYNOPSIS



Based on remarkable true events, *Dead Pigs* is a bitingly humorous social satire about the trials and tribulations connecting a disparate group of characters in the midst of a baffling nationwide mystery.

Shifting between Shanghai and the neighboring provincial town of Jiaxing, the film centers on the intersecting stories of five characters, whose loose connections begin to fatefully intertwine: a down-on-his-luck pig farmer; a feisty home-owner defending her property; a lovestruck busboy; a rudderless rich girl; and an American expat pursuing the Chinese Dream. Their fates converge and collide as thousands of dead pigs are found floating down the Huangpu River.

A universal human story set against the backdrop of globalization, drastic social change and increasing wealth inequality, *Dead Pigs* is the masterful feature debut of exciting filmmaker Cathy Yan (*Birds of Prey*), starring an international ensemble including Vivian Wu (*Away*), Mason Lee (*Lucy*), Zazie Beetz (*Atlanta*), Meng Li (*A Touch of Sin*), Haoyu Yang (*The Wandering Earth*), and David Rysdahl (*The Family*). Executive Produced by Jia Zhangke (*Still Life*) and Ali Wong (*Always Be My Maybe*).

# DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT



This is a deeply personal story years in the making.

*Dead Pigs* is a reunion of sorts -- a way for me to better understand my birth country, a place that has enthralled and confounded me ever since I left it in 1990 at the age of four. In my lifetime, China has undergone such immense change, lifting close to a billion people out of poverty amidst the fastest urbanization in world history. But there is another side to this massive transition. Deng Xiaoping's famous words -- "To get rich is glorious!" -- have compromised everything from food safety to the environment to the souls of its citizens. All this made contemporary China a fascinating, exaggerated, complicated, ridiculous and wonderful setting for my first film.

I made *Dead Pigs* in 2017 and it premiered at Sundance in 2018. To my surprise and glee, it was well received. But the film had a hard time finding a distributor willing to bet on a predominantly Chinese language indie from an unknown director. In the years since -- and what a few years it's been! -- a new world is upon us. *Parasite* won Best Picture, #MeToo swept through a dysfunctional Hollywood, and my second feature *Birds of Prey* released just before a global pandemic and a summer of intense racial reckoning. Suddenly, there was this acute realization among many Americans that Gordon Gecko's famous words -- "Greed is good" -- has compromised not only the environment and its citizens, but the very soul of our nation.

Four years after I made *Dead Pigs*, this is another type of reunion. By examining my past, the film has actually become a prescient lens for our present and future -- not just in China but in America and around the world. All around us, the conflict between those who move forward and those who get left behind has never seemed so pronounced.

# DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

*Dead Pigs*'s five main characters come from all walks of life, ranging from a rural pig farmer to an American architect. Yet, they are more alike than they are different -- all lost among the shuffle, full of ambition but without a way to get there, just trying to stay afloat against the currents of change.

Like these characters, we have all felt displaced and isolated. In these crazy times, when everything feels so far apart, when differences are amplified between fathers and sons, cities and towns, wealthy and poor -- what are the things that connect us? When everything is changing so quickly, what are the things that don't? And in our moments of dark nihilism, of which I'm sure we have all experienced of late, what happens when you keep pulling at the edges until the threads start to tear and there's nothing left? *Dead Pigs* doesn't offer any straight answers. But it is hopeful, as I was hopeful, and am still hopeful, that while forces larger than any individual will keep pushing us down and along and away from each other, the sun will shine again, the birds will fly and the people will come together, even if for one brief moment, even if just to sing a song.

# TOP CREDITS



**PRESENTED BY**  
Fan Luyuan, Ct Yip, Song Ge

**WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY**  
Cathy Yan

**EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS**  
Jia Zhangke  
Ali Wong

**SUPERVISING PRODUCER**  
Fan Luyuan

**CO-EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS**  
Shirley Lau  
Joe Zhang

**PRODUCERS**  
Clarissa Zhang  
Jane Zheng  
Yang Lan

**CO-PRODUCER**  
Vivian Wu

**STARRING**  
Vivian Wu  
Yang Haoyu  
Li Meng  
Mason Lee  
David Rysdahl

**GUEST APPEARANCE**  
Cao Kefan  
Zazie Beetz

**DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY**  
Federico Cesca

**PRODUCTION DESIGNER**  
Joe Yao

**EDITOR**  
Alexander Kopit

**COSTUME DESIGNER**  
Athena Wang

**MUSIC**  
Andrew Orkin

**SOUND DESIGNER**  
Mariusz Glabinski

**CASTING**  
Miao Liang (China)  
Brette Goldstein, CSA (US)

**ADMINISTRATIVE PRODUCERS**  
Xu Xiaojun  
Jerry Li

**LINE PRODUCER**  
Wu Jinglin

**ASSOCIATE PRODUCERS**  
Amy Aniceto  
Mick Aniceto

# FESTIVALS & AWARDS



**AFI FEST**

• 2018 | New Auteurs

**ATHENS INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL**

**BFI LONDON FILM FESTIVAL**

**CAAAMFEST**

• 2018 | SF Film Critics Award

**DALLAS INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL**

• 2018 | Narrative Feature Competition Grand Jury Prize

**GÖTEBORG FILM FESTIVAL**

**MIAMI INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL**

**PALM SPRINGS INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL**

• 2019 | Ricky Jay Magic of Cinema Award

**PHILADELPHIA FILM FESTIVAL**

• 2018 | Archie Award for Best First Feature

**PINGYAO CROUCHING TIGER, HIDDEN DRAGON INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL**

**SEATTLE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL**

• 2018 | New Directors Competition Grand Jury Prize

• 2018 | China Stars Best First Film

**SUNDANCE FILM FESTIVAL**

• 2018 | World Cinema Dramatic Special Jury Award for Ensemble Acting

**TAIPEI FILM FESTIVAL**

**TORONTO REEL ASIAN INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL**

• 2018 | Best Feature Film

**ZURICH FILM FESTIVAL**

# CATHY YAN

## DIRECTOR



Cathy Yan is a filmmaker known for her distinct aesthetic and a love for subverting typical genre rules and telling unconventional stories.

Her debut film, *Dead Pigs*, which she wrote and directed, premiered to critical acclaim at the Sundance Film Festival in 2018, where it won a Special Jury Award for Ensemble Acting, and garnered numerous awards throughout its festival run. Based on remarkable true events, the film is a biting humorous social satire about the trials and tribulations connecting a disparate group of characters as thousands of dead pigs mysteriously float down river towards a rapidly modernizing Shanghai, China. *Dead Pigs* will be released globally on MUBI on February 12, 2021, and stars an international ensemble including Vivian Wu, Mason Lee, David Rysdahl, and Zazie Beetz, with executive producers Jia Zhangke and Ali Wong.

The excitement around her first feature landed her the job of directing the 2020 DC Comics film, *Birds of Prey (and the Fantabulous Emancipation of One Harley Quinn)*, starring Margot Robbie as the titular character Harley Quinn in the first ever female team-up comic book film. Directing this film made her the first Asian woman to direct a studio superhero film and only the second female to ever direct a studio superhero film. The film was critically acclaimed and Yan was praised as a “creative force to be reckoned with” for her first major studio feature.

Yan studied at Princeton University, where she earned her BA, and New York University, where she received a dual MFA and MBA in film. Previously, she was a reporter for the Wall Street Journal in New York, Hong Kong and China, and brings her sharp, journalistic instincts to her filmmaking. Yan was born in China and is currently based in New York.

# CAST

VIVIAN WU  
CANDY WANG



Vivian Wu was born in Shanghai, China as Wu Jun Mei (邬君梅). She started acting at age 15 with the Shanghai Film Studio, and then later studied Travel Industry Management at Hawaii's Pacific University. After that she played 'Wen Hsiu' in the Academy Award-winning *The Last Emperor*, directed by Bernardo Bertolucci. In 1993 Vivian was cast by director Oliver Stone in *Heaven & Earth* and *The Joy Luck Club*. Since then she has been working constantly in film and television and was cast by director Peter Greenaway in *8 ½ Women* and *The Pillow Book*, in which she starred alongside Ewan McGregor. Vivian also played Soong May-ling in the hit film *The Soong Sisters* and was chosen by People magazine as one of the most beautiful people in the world in 1990. She continues to work prolifically in both China and the U.S., and recent works include hit Chinese series *Wo Ju*, *Ru Yi Zhuan*, and *Hot Mama* as well as the Netflix series *Away* where she starred opposite Hilary Swank.

# CAST

**MASON LEE**  
**WANG ZHEN**



Mason Lee is a Taiwanese-American actor best known for playing the roles of Foo in Ang Lee's *Billy Lynn's Long Halftime Walk*, and Teddy in *The Hangover Part II*. As the son of three-time Academy Award-winning director Ang Lee, Mason has long pursued his interest in the film industry, and is also an alumnus of New York University. Lee made his screen debut when he was 2 years old in his father's film, *The Wedding Banquet*.

# CAST

LI MENG  
XIA XIA



Li Meng (Vivien Lee) is a Chinese actress who received her acting training in Beijing Film Academy. She is best known for *Dead Pigs* (2018), *Hidden Man* (2018), *Young Lost Love* (2017), *Saving Mr. Wu* (2015) and *A Touch of Sin* (2013) which won 'Best Screenplay' during the 2013 Cannes Film Festival.

# CAST

**HAOYU YANG**  
**OLD WANG**



Born in Chongqing, Haoyu Yang is a Chinese film and theatre actor. He is best known for *The Ditch* (2010, dir. Wang Bing) which premiered during the Venice and Toronto International Film Festivals, *The Wandering Earth* (2019), and *Young Love Lost* (2015).

# CAST

DAVID RYSDAHL  
SEAN LANDRY



David's latest project, Edson Oda's feature film *Nine Days*, just premiered at Sundance 2020, where he stars opposite Winston Duke, Zazie Beetz, Benedict Wong, and Bill Skarsgard. He portrays Jeff Sharlet in the Netflix docuseries *The Family*. David also completed work in a lead role on Patrick Letterii's independent feature film *The Land of Owls* alongside starring in Cathy Yan's dark comedy, *Dead Pigs*, opposite Mason Lee and Zazie Beetz, which premiered at Sundance Film Festival in 2018. He has guest starred on CBS's *Bull*, and can be seen in the independent feature *Revival*. David is also set to star in Hulu/Fox's next film *No Exit*, which will shoot in New Zealand this spring.

David is based in New York.

# CAST

## ZAZIE BEETZ ANGIE



The German-born, American actress Zazie Beetz is best known for her co-lead role as Donald Glover's on-and-off-again girlfriend "Vanessa," in FX Networks' Golden Globe-winning series, *Atlanta*. The show, which premiered its second season in March 2018, earned Beetz an Emmy-nomination for Best Supporting Actress in a Comedy Series, and will return for a highly anticipated Season 3 in 2021. The critically acclaimed series has also scored an early Season 4 pick up by FX.

Next, Beetz will star alongside Winston Duke in the Sony Classic's feature *Nine Days*, an existential fantasy that ponders purgatory, the afterlife, and the fate of unborn souls. The Edson Oda directorial debut film premiered at the 2020 Sundance Film Festival, and is slated to release in theaters in Summer 2022. The ensemble cast also includes Bill Skarsgard, Benedict Wong, Tony Hale and David Rysdahl.

Recently, she wrapped production on the upcoming American Western feature from Netflix, *The Harder They Fall*. She appears alongside an all-star cast including Regina King, Idris Elba, LaKeith Stanfield, Jonathan Majors and Delroy Lindo among others.

In 2019, Beetz appeared in the Oscar-winning DC Comic's thriller, *Joker* alongside Joaquin Phoenix and Robert De Niro. The film premiered in competition at the 2019 Venice Film Festival, where it won the coveted Golden Lion Award, before receiving 11 Academy Award nominations, including Best Picture.

Additionally, Beetz returned to the television screen in Jordan Peele's anthology reboot of *The Twilight Zone* on CBS All Access. She appeared in the season finale, which premiered on May 30, 2019.

Beetz's recent film credits include: Amazon's *Seberg*, FOX Searchlight's *Lucy in the Sky*, Annapurna Pictures' *Wounds*, Netflix's *High Flying Bird*, Marvel Studios' blockbuster *Deadpool 2* opposite Ryan Reynolds, A24's *Slice* opposite Chance The Rapper, and *Sollers Point*.

Beetz will also be making an appearance in the 87North for Sony Pictures Entertainment feature *Bullet Train*, which currently has Brad Pitt, Joey King and Aaron Taylor-Johnson set to star.

Beetz is a native New Yorker.

# FILMMAKERS

## JANE ZHENG PRODUCER

Jane Zheng is the founder and producer of Seesaw Entertainment, a Beijing-based production house. She worked in radio and television as presenter and producer for many years before studying her MA in TV journalism at Goldsmiths College, University of London. Her film credits as producer include *The Farewell* (dir. Lulu Wang, Independent Spirit Awards 2020), *Dead Pigs* (dir. Cathy Yan, Special Jury Award at Sundance 2018), *King of Peking* (dir. Sam Voutas, 2017 Tribeca Film Festival), *Red Light Revolution* (dir. Sam Voutas, People's Choice Award at Singapore International Film Festival 2011) and *Gasp* (dir. Zhong Zheng, starring Ge You, John Savage, Liu Hua and Kelly Lin).

## CLARISSA ZHANG PRODUCER

Clarissa Zhang is a Shanghai-based independent film producer with BA in scriptwriting and directing from Shanghai Film Academy of Shanghai University. Her producer work credits include *Dead Pigs* (dir. Cathy Yan, Special Jury Award at Sundance 2018), National Geographic Channel's documentary series *Route Awakening* (dir. Sohkiak Chang, Asian Television Award). Currently she's developing her directorial debut feature-length documentary *When Clouds Gather* (selected at HAF 2021) and producing *Fading Youth with Fresco* (dir. Monica Zhu, Li Zhe, selected at GZDOC pitch 2019, Pitching du Réel of Visions du Réel 2020). Recently she was selected for Berlinale Talents 2021.

## JIA ZHANGKE EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

Jia Zhangke is regarded as a leading figure of the "Sixth Generation" movement of Chinese cinema. He graduated from Beijing Film Academy and made his first feature film *Xiao Wu* in 1998, which received great critical acclaim. The following *Zhan Tai* (*Platform*, 2000) and *Ren xiao yao* (*Unknown Pleasures*, 2002) screened in Competition respectively at Venice and Cannes. His film *Still Life* won the Golden Lion Award at the Venice Film Festival in 2006 and his film *A Touch of Sin*, was selected in Competition at the Festival de Cannes 2013 and won the Best Screenwriter Award, *Mountains May Depart* competed for the Palme d'Or at the 2015 Cannes Film Festival. and *Ash Is Purest White* (2018) competed for the Palme d'Or at the 2018 Cannes Film Festival, *Swimming Out Till the Sea Turns Blue* (2020) premiered at the 70th Berlin Film Festival as part of the Berlinale Special. Jia Zhangke is now settled in Beijing and is actively involved in filmmaking all over China.

# FILMMAKERS

## ALI WONG EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

Ali Wong is a stand-up comic from San Francisco, now living in Los Angeles. Her first Netflix stand-up special *Baby Cobra* was filmed when she was 7 months pregnant. According to the *New York Magazine*, "The special's arrival on Netflix is the sort of star-making moment that unites the tastes of the unlikeliest fans." *Elle* applauded it as a "comic genius gem" while *Vogue* called it "The special that everyone is talking about." Emily Nussbaum hailed it as "funny and refreshingly rude." The day before its premiere, Wong's interview with Marc Maron on his podcast *WTF* was released. He called the special "the most honest, rawest, funniest special I've seen in years."

On September 11, 2016, Wong spoke and walked the runway during New York Fashion Week for Opening Ceremony's show. She has also joined the cast of Kate Spade's "Miss Adventure" films. Her book, "Dear Girls: Intimate Tales, Untold Secrets & Advice for Living Your Best Life" was published in 2019 and quickly became a New York Times best-seller.

Ali's second stand-up special, *Hard Knock Wife* premiered on Netflix on Mother's Day, 2018. She most recently toured her show, *The Milk and Money Tour*. Tickets to see Wong headline live are now known to sell out within two minutes.

Ali most recently co-wrote, produced and starred in her first feature, *Always Be My Maybe*, co-starring Randall Park and Keanu Reeves and directed by Nahnachka Khan for Netflix.

## FEDERICO CESCA DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

Federico Cesca's credits as cinematographer include the feature films *Patti Cake\$* (met with praise at Sundance, Cannes and SXSW in 2017), *Roxanne Roxanne* (U.S. Dramatic Competition at Sundance 2017) and *Yomeddine* (selected in competition at Cannes in 2018). Always a collaborator, curious and never too concerned with beauty as a final result, his style and visual grammar varies according to the needs of each story as well as the director's vision. *Dead Pigs'* five converging storylines and the backdrop of modern day Shanghai clashing with the traditional suburbs presented him with a great chance to explore the use of color and framing of the architecture in ways that felt genuine to the world of the film. He holds a MFA from NYU Tisch and was awarded the 2014 ARRI-CSC Volker Bahnemann Award for Cinematography. He also holds a BA in Architecture.

## ALEX KOPIT EDITOR

Alex Kopit cut his teeth in the editing room on the shifting story perspectives of legendary film editor Walter Murch. Kopit's films have received awards and nominations at Sundance, AFI, Atlanta and Urbanworld film festivals, among others. His edited features include *Europa Report*, *Somewhere in the Middle*, *Love is Blind*, *Kill Chain* and recently, Cathy Yan's Sundance award winning film *Dead Pigs*. As an assistant and associate editor, Kopit's credits include Sam Mendes's *Jarhead*, Michel Gondry's *Be Kind Rewind* and *Tokyo*, Anna Boden & Ryan Fleck's *It's Kind of a Funny Story* and the HBO series *Treme*. As a graduate of Dartmouth College and son of an acclaimed playwright, Alex has loved story as long as he can remember.

# TECHNICAL DETAILS



**TITLE**  
Dead Pigs

**YEAR**  
2018

**RUN TIME**  
122 minutes

**COUNTRY OF PRODUCTION**  
China

**LANGUAGE**  
English and Chinese  
(Mandarin/Shanghainese)