

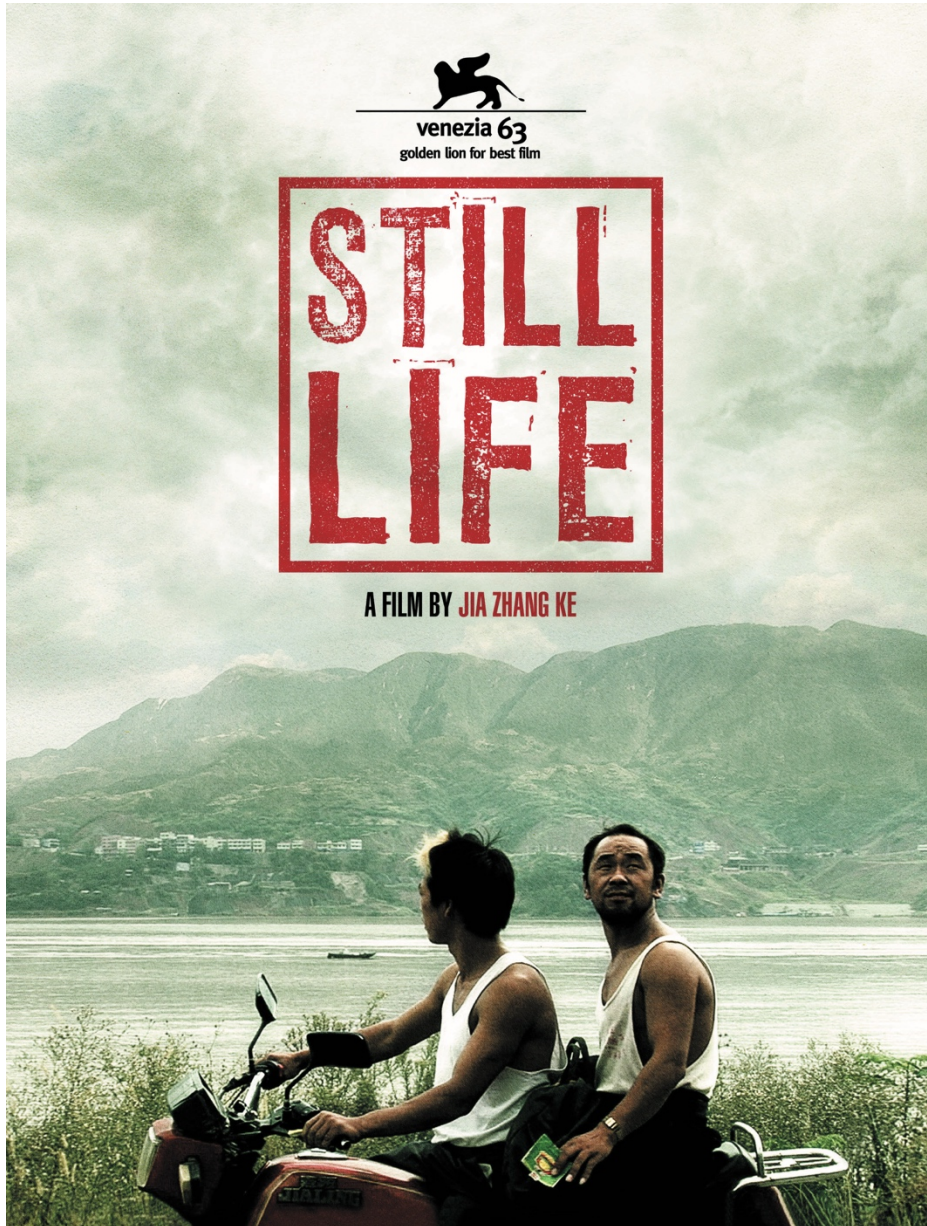
BIG
WORLD
PICTURES



venezia 63
golden lion for best film

STILL
LIFE

A FILM BY JIA ZHANG KE



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Still Life

CREDITS

Written and Directed by	JIA ZHANG-KE
Associate Screenwriters	SUN JIANMIN GUAN NA
Director of Photography	YU LIKWAI
Editor	KHUNG JINLEI
Art Directors	LIANG JINDONG LIU QIANG
Production Director	WANG YU
Music Composer	LIM GIONG
Artistic Consultant	LIN XUDONG
Producers	XU PENGLE WANG TIANYUN ZHU JIONG
Executive Producers	CHOW KEUNG DAN BO REN ZHONGLUN

CAST

Sanming	HAN SANMING
Shen Hong	ZHAO TAO
Guo Bing	LI ZHU BING
Wang Dong Ming	WANG HONGWEI
Missy Ma	MA LIZHEN
Huang Mao (Motorcycle Taxi Driver)	LAN ZHOU
Guo Bin	LI ZHUBIN
Mr. He	XIANG HAIYU
Brother Pony	ZHOU LIN
Little Yong	HUANG YONG
Old Ma	LUO MINGWANG

www.BigWorldPictures.org

Press photos are available for download through
<http://bigworldpictures.org/films/stilllife/index.html>

Hong Kong/China, 2006	108 min., Color
In Mandarin with English subtitles	1.85, Dolby SRD

SYNOPSIS

Still Life, winner of the Golden Lion at the Venice Film Festival in 2006, is an empathetic portrait of those left behind by a modernizing society and, as in director Jia Zhang-ke's earlier films (*Platform*, *Unknown Pleasures*, *The World*), it is a unique hybrid of documentary and fiction.

In *Still Life*, great changes have come to the town of Fengjie due to the construction of the Three Gorges hydro project: Countless families that had lived there for many generations have had to relocate to other cities. Fengjie's old town, which has a 2000-year history, has been torn down and submerged forever, but its new neighborhood hasn't been finished yet. There are still things that need to be salvaged and yet there are also things that must be left behind. In *Still Life*, such life-changing choices face both Sanming, a miner traveling to Fengjie in search of his ex-wife of sixteen years, and Shen Hong, a nurse who has come to Fengjie to look for her husband who she hasn't seen in two years. Both Sanming and Shen will find who they're looking for, but in the process they too will have to decide what is worth salvaging in their lives and what they need to let go of.

Jia Zhang-ke on *Still Life*: "I once walked into someone's room by accident and saw dust-covered articles on the desk. Suddenly it seemed the secrets of still life fell upon me. The old furniture, the stationery on the desk, the bottles on the windowsills and the decorations on the walls all took on an air of poetic sorrow. *Still Life* represents a reality that has been overlooked by us. Although time has left deep marks on it, it still remains silent and holds the secrets of life. I entered this condemned city with my camera and I witnessed demolitions and explosions. In the roaring noise and fluttering dust, I gradually felt that life really could blossom in brilliant colors even in a place with such desperation."

The Three Gorges Hydro Project

The Yangtze River is the longest river of Asia, stretching 3,900 miles in length East to West across China. The river passes through the Yangtze Gorges where during periods of heavy rains, floods caused by the river have occasionally left a wake of great destruction.

The Three Gorges Hydro project on the Yangtze River was first conceived by the Chinese leader Mr. Sun Yat-Sen who ordered engineering prospects at the beginning of the 20th century. Soon after the foundation of the People's Republic of China, Mao Tzedong proposed the Three Gorges Project again and did surveys in the Three Gorges area in person. The prospect, design and argumentation of the Project took about 4 decades to complete. In 1994, the construction officially began.

Scheduled for completion in 2009, the dam will measure about 600 feet high and about 1.5 miles wide. It is expected to help control the flooding of the Yangtze River Valley while also utilizing river flow to make the Three Gorges the largest electricity-generating facility in the world. However, the completion of the Project will leave a lake about 400 miles long formed behind the dam, which will force the relocation of more than 1 million people and permanently flood many historical sites.

Biographies / Filmographies

Writer/Director JIA ZHANG-KE

Jia Zhang-ke was born in 1970 in Fenyang, Shanxi Province of China. He graduated from the Beijing Film Academy and made his first feature film *Xiao Wu* in 1998. He lives in Beijing and is actively involved in independent filmmaking throughout China.

Select Filmography

2020 *Swimming Out Til the Sea Turns Blue*
2018 *Ash Is Purest White*
2015 *Mountains May Depart*
2013 *A Touch of Sin*
2010 *I Wish I Knew*
2008 *24 City*
2006 *Still Life (Sanxia Haoren)*
2004 *The World (Shijie)*
2002 *Unknown Pleasures (Ren Xiao Yao)*
2000 *Platform (Zhantai)*
1998 *Xiao Wu*

Director of Photography YU LIKWAI

Born in 1966 in Hong Kong, Yu Likwai graduated from INSAS (Institut National Supérieur des Arts de Spectacle, Belgium) in 1994, majoring in cinematography. He made his directional debut in 1996. He is now actively involved in productions both in Hong Kong and mainland China.

Filmography (Cinematographer)

2020 *Swimming Out Til the Sea Turns Blue*
2015 *Mountains May Depart*
2013 *A Touch of Sin*
2010 *I Wish I Knew*
2008 *24 City*
2004 *Still Life (Sanxia Haoren)* Dir. Jia Zhang-ke
2002 *Unknown Pleasures (Ren Xiao Yao)* Dir. Jia Zhang-ke
2000 *Platform (Zhantai)* Dir. Jia Zhang-ke
2000 *In The Mood For Love* (2nd Unit Cinematographer) Dir. Wong Kar Wai
1998 *Ordinary Heroes* Dir. Ann Hui
1998 *Xiao Wu* Dir. Jia Zhang-ke

Filmography (Director)

2008 *Plastic City*
2003 *All Tomorrow's Parties*
1999 *Love Will Tear Us Apart*
1996 *Neon Goddesses*

ZHAO TAO (as Shen Hong)

Zhao Tao graduated from the Folk Dance Department of Beijing Institute of Dance in 1998.

Her beautiful stature and techniques had granted her numerous awards. After graduation, she became the dance instructor in Normal University of Shanxi. Jia Zhang-ke discovered Zhao Tao while scouting her school in 1999. In 2003, she furthered her studies by pursuing a Master of Dance Education at the Beijing Institute of Dance.

Filmography:

2018 *Ash Is Purest White*
2015 *Mountains May Depart*
2013 *A Touch of Sin*
2008 *24 City*
2006 *Still Life (Sanxia Haoren)*
2004 *The World (Shijie)* Dir. Jia Zhang-ke
2002 *Unknown Pleasures (Ren Xiao Yao)* Dir. Jia Zhang-ke
2000 *Platform (Zhantai)* Dir. Jia Zhang-ke

HAN SANMING (as Sanming)

Born in Fenyang of Shanxi Province in 1971. He is a miner in the local coal mines who in 2000 began starring in Jia Zhang-ke's films.

Filmography:

2015 *Mountains May Depart*
2013 *A Touch of Sin*
2006 *Still Life (Sanxia Haoren)*
2004 *The World (Shijie)* Dir. Jia Zhang-ke
2002 *Unknown Pleasures (Ren Xiao Yao)* Dir. Jia Zhang-ke
2000 *Platform (Zhantai)* Dir. Jia Zhang-ke

Festival Play/Awards

- 2007 Tribeca International Film Festival
- 2007 Hawaii International Film Festival
- 2007 Durban International Film Festival
- WINNER Best Director**
- 2007 Tromso Festival
- WINNER FIPRESCI Award**
- 2007 Valdivia International Film Festival
- WINNER Best International Feature Film, Best Actor**
- 2007 Rotterdam International Film Festival
- 2007 New Zealand International Film Festival
- 2007 Karlovy Vary Film Festival
- 2007 Sydney International Film Festival
- 2007 Midnight Sun Film Festival
- 2007 Taipei Film Festival
- 2007 Adelaide Film Festival
- WINNER NATUZZI International Award for Best Feature Film**
- 2007 Dauville Asian Film Festival
- 2007 Sarajevo Film Festival
- 2007 Brisbane International Film Festival
- 2007 Kolkata Film Festival
- 2007 Wisconsin Film Festival
- 2007 Sofia International Film Festival
- 2007 Istanbul International Film Festival
- 2007 Buenos Aires International Film Festival
- 2007 Vilnius International Film Festival
- 2007 Jeonju International Film Festival
- 2007 New Dehli Osian's Cinefan
- 2007 Melbourne International Film Festival
- 2007 Casablanca International Film Festival
- 2006 Venice Film Festival
- WINNER Golden Lion/Best Film**
- 2006 Toronto International Film Festival
- 2006 Nantes Festival of Continents
- 2006 Marrakech International Film Festival
- 2006 Human Rights Film Festival
- 2006 London Film Festival
- 2006 Asian Film Awards
- WINNER Best director**
- Best Picture and Best Composer Nominees
- 2006 São Paulo International Film Festival
- 2006 Stockholm International Film Festival
- 2006 Tokyo Filmex
- 2006 Dubai International Film Festival