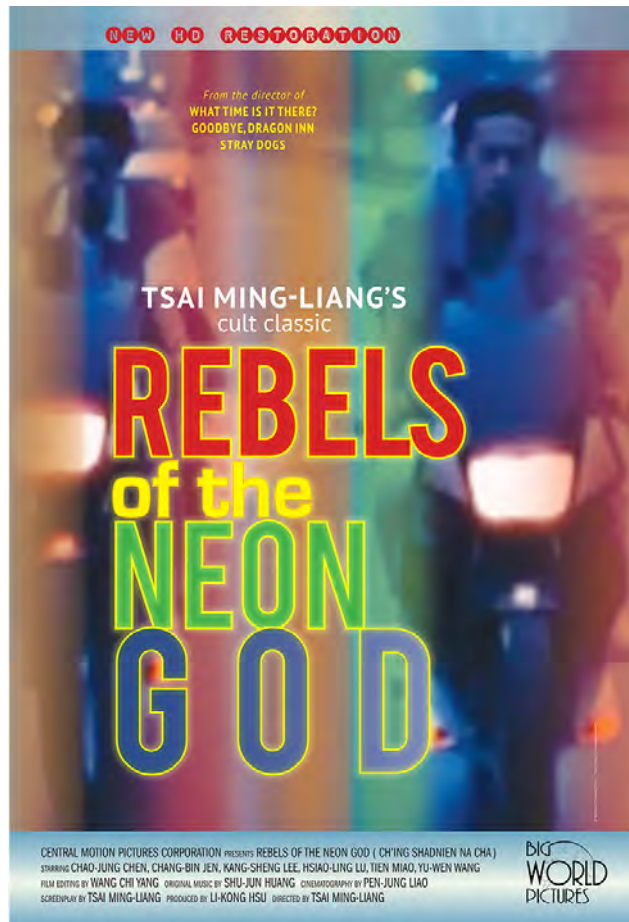


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**NY THEATRICAL RELEASE: APRIL 10<sup>TH</sup>**  
**LA THEATRICAL RELEASE: JUNE 12<sup>TH</sup>**

## SYNOPSIS

### ***REBELS OF THE NEON GOD***

*(QUING SHAO NIAN NE ZHA)*

Dir. Tsai Ming-liang

Taiwan / 1992/2014 / 106 min / DCP

In Mandarin, with English subtitles

Aspect ratio: 1.85:1 Sound: Dual Mono

*Best First Film* – Nantes Three Continents Film Festival

*Best Film – International Feature Film Competition* – Torino Intl. Festival of Young Cinema

*Best Original Score* – Golden Horse Film Festival

Tsai Ming-liang emerged on the world cinema scene in 1992 with his groundbreaking first feature, *REBELS OF THE NEON GOD*. His debut already includes a handful of elements familiar to fans of subsequent work: a deceptively spare style often branded “minimalist”; actor Lee Kang-sheng as the silent and sullen Hsiao-kang; copious amounts of water, whether pouring from the sky or bubbling up from a clogged drain; and enough urban anomie to ensure that even the subtle humor in evidence is tinged with pathos.

The loosely structured plot involves Hsiao-kang, a despondent cram school student, who becomes obsessed with young petty thief Ah-tze, after Ah-tze smashes the rearview mirror of a taxi driven by Hsiao-kang’s father. Hsiao-kang stalks Ah-tze and his buddy Ah-ping as they hang out in the film’s iconic arcade (featuring a telling poster of James Dean on the wall) and other locales around Taipei, and ultimately takes his revenge.

*REBELS OF THE NEON GOD* is a remarkably impressive first film that hints at the promise of its director: a talent confirmed by Tsai’s equally stunning second feature, *VIVE L’AMOUR* (Golden Lion, Venice), and continuing to his most recent film, *STRAY DOGS*, which ranked high on many “best of” lists last year. Though showing such diverse influences as the French New Wave, Wong Kar-wai’s early films—and, yes, *REBEL WITHOUT A CAUSE*—Tsai’s film is most remarkable for introducing his startlingly unique vision to world cinema.

## **PRESS**

“No director since Fassbinder has such insight into the lives of lost young men in crumbling inner cities as Tsai Ming-Liang delivers in this devastating first feature. Brilliantly observed, with dialogue kept to a minimum, and as tender as a Lou Reed elegy.”

–Tony Rayns, *Time Out London*

"A near-masterpiece, and one of the most assured and accomplished debuts of the 1990s."

–Ignatiy Vishnevetsky, *The Chicago Reader*

## **SELECTED FILMOGRAPHY**

2013 STRAY DOGS

2009 FACE

2006 I DON'T WANT TO SLEEP ALONE

2005 THE WAYWARD CLOUD

2003 GOOD BYE, DRAGON INN

2001 WHAT TIME IS IT THERE?

1998 THE HOLE

1997 THE RIVER

1994 VIVE L'AMOUR

1992 REBELS OF THE NEON GOD

## CAST

Chen Chao-jung  
Jen Chang-ben  
Lee Kang-sheng  
Lu Hsiao-ling  
Tien Miao  
Wang Yu-wen

Ah-tze  
Ah-ping  
Hsiao-kang  
Mother  
Father  
Ah-kuei

## CREDITS

Director & writer  
Tsai Ming-liang

Producer  
Hsu Li-kong

Cinematography  
Liao Pen-jung

Art direction  
Lee Pao-lin

Editor  
Wang Chi Yang

Music  
Huang Shu-jun

Sound  
Hu Ting-yi

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