



张侨勇作品

A film by Yung Chang

Screening Schedule

TIFF Press & Market Screening

- Thursday, Sept. 10
- 12:45 PM
- Scotiabank 9

World Premiere

- Thursday, Sept. 10
- 6:10PM
- Scotiabank 2
- Director + Team in attendance for Q&A

Public Screening

- Tuesday, Sept. 15
- 9:00PM
- Scotiabank 6
- Director + Team in attendance for Q&A



THE HIGHWAY

Press Kit

Toronto International Film Festival World Premiere — 2026

Logline

In Chongqing, China, a successful businesswoman encounters a highway hit-and-run victim discarded like roadkill. Haunted, she returns, confronting the moral line between action and inaction.

Runtime:	15 mins	Countries:	Canada, China
Sound Mix:	Stereo	Language:	Mandarin, Chongqing, English
Color info:	Color, B/W	Genre:	Psychological Drama/Horror
Aspect Ratio:	1.85:1	Location:	Chongqing, China

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Yungfilms

Synopsis



While driving to a business dinner on the outskirts of Chongqing, Boss Li passes the body of an elderly shepherd killed in a highway hit-and-run. Pressed for time, she continues on her journey—but the encounter refuses to leave her.

Unable to move on, she returns to the scene. What begins as an attempt to make sense of one stranger's death gradually becomes a disorienting journey where memory, guilt, and reality begin to dissolve into one another.

Set against the rapidly changing landscape of contemporary China, *The Highway* is a psychological drama that explores the moral ambiguities of progress and asks what responsibility we bear when another person's suffering becomes little more than an interruption to our own lives.

Press Materials

[Press Kit](#)[Publicity Stills](#)[Trailer](#)[Clips](#)

Director's Statement

More than a decade ago, I was traveling through Chongqing before dawn when our taxi slowed beside the body of a man who had been killed on a newly constructed highway.

The driver didn't stop.

He explained that local farmers often crossed the highway to reach their fields, and that accidents like this happened more often than people realized. Then we continued on our way.

I caught my flight.

For years, I kept returning to that morning.

It wasn't simply the man's death that haunted me. It was how easily life continued afterwards. The driver kept driving. I continued travelling. The world simply moved on.

I never wanted to recreate that accident. I wanted to imagine what might happen if someone couldn't leave it behind. What if conscience refused to let go? What if a single moment continued unfolding long after everyone else had forgotten it?

That question became *The Highway*.

Although this is my first fiction film, it grows directly out of my years working in documentary. Documentary taught me to observe before interpreting, to trust silence, and to resist explaining everything. Those instincts shaped every creative decision we made.

Over time, the highway itself became more than a setting. It became a metaphor for the promises of progress and the lives too easily left behind.

Above all, I wanted to make a film that stays with the audience after it ends.

Not because it provides answers.

But because it leaves behind a question.

Yung Chang — Director, Writer, Producer
Yungfilms Inc.



Yung Chang is a Chinese-Canadian filmmaker whose work explores the human consequences of social, political, and economic transformation through intimate, character-driven storytelling. His films include *Up the Yangtze*, *China Heavyweight*, *The Fruit Hunters*, *This is Not a Movie*, and the Emmy Award-nominated *Wuhan Wuhan*. *The Highway* marks his fiction debut and an important step toward his first narrative feature, *Eggplant*.

Selected Filmography

The Highway (2026)
Wuhan Wuhan (2021)
This Is Not a Movie (2019)
The Gatekeeper (2015)
The Fruit Hunters (2013)
China Heavyweight (2012)
Up the Yangtze (2007)

Selected Festivals

Toronto International Film Festival
Sundance Film Festival
Berlin International Film Festival

Recognition

Up the Yangtze
• Golden Horse Award (Winner)
• Canadian Screen Award (Winner)
• Independent Spirit Award (Nominee)
• News & Documentary Emmy Award (Nominee)

China Heavyweight
• Golden Horse Award (Winner)

Wuhan Wuhan
• News & Documentary Emmy Award (Nominee)

The Performers

Lu Huang — Boss Li



From her breakout performance as Bai Xuemei in *Blind Mountain*, to Xiao Man in *Blind Massage*, and the grieving mother in *The Crossing (San Fu Tian)*, Lu Huang has built a career playing complex, deeply human women. Widely regarded as one of China's leading arthouse actors, she is the only actress of her generation whose starring films have been selected for all three major European film festivals—Cannes, Berlin, and Venice. Western audiences may recognize her from her performance as Bebe Chow in the Hulu series *Little Fires Everywhere*, opposite Reese Witherspoon and Kerry Washington. Her distinctive screen presence and nuanced performances have earned her international acclaim, making her one of the most sought-after Chinese actors working with leading filmmakers around the world. In *The Highway*, her restrained performance anchors the film's quiet psychological journey.

Ryan Chen — Chinese Trump

Ryan Chen (Chen Rui) is a Chongqing-based performer and content creator known internationally as the "Chinese Trump" for his widely viewed Donald Trump impersonations. *The Highway* marks one of his first screen performances.



The Filmmakers

Yimin “Fanfan” Zhuang — Producer Flying Sparrow Films Ltd.

Yimin “Fanfan” Zhuang is a Beijing-based producer who has worked on more than fifty documentary and narrative productions with filmmakers from China and around the world. She oversaw the Chinese production and was instrumental in bringing together the film's Canadian and Chinese creative teams.



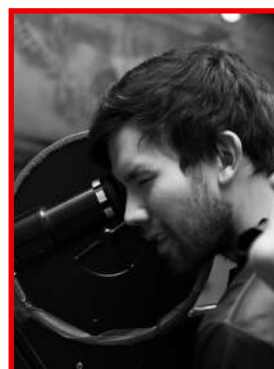
Dan Montgomery — Producer, MDFF

Dan Montgomery is a Canadian producer and co-founder of Medium Density Fibreboard Films (MDFF). His productions have screened at major international festivals including Cannes, Berlin, Venice, Locarno, SXSW, the New York Film Festival, and the Toronto International Film Festival. He helped guide *The Highway* from development through completion.



Christopher Lew — Director of Photography, CSC

Christopher Lew is a Canadian cinematographer whose work includes *Riceboy Sleeps*, *Quickenings*, *White Lie*, *Deli Love*, and *Closing Dynasty*. His naturalistic visual style and careful attention to atmosphere helped shape the distinctive visual language of *The Highway*.



Xi Feng — Editor

Xi Feng is an award-winning editor whose films have screened at Cannes, Berlin, Sundance, Visions du Réel, and DOC NYC. She received the Canadian Screen Award for Best Editing for *Universal Language*. Her measured editorial approach allows the emotional rhythm of *The Highway* to unfold with patience and restraint.



Alex Zhang Hungtai — Composer

Alex Zhang Hungtai is a composer, musician, and multidisciplinary artist whose film work includes *Godland*. His original score for *The Highway* moves subtly between atmosphere and memory, complementing the film's restrained emotional landscape.



Shing Pooi Goh — Art Director

Shing Pooi Goh is a Singaporean production designer and graduate of the Beijing Film Academy. Working across feature films, television, and commercial productions for more than thirteen years, she brings an international perspective grounded in a deep understanding of Chinese culture. For *The Highway*, she created a visual world defined by restraint, using carefully chosen details to reinforce the film's psychological tension and emotional realism.



Matthew Chan — Sound Supervisor & Re-Recording Mixer

Matthew Chan has collaborated on films by Sean Durkin, Atom Egoyan, Andrew Haigh, Brandon Cronenberg, Matt Johnson, and Agnieszka Holland, as well as acclaimed television series including *The Expanse* and *Halo*. His work on *The Highway* balances intimacy with a richly textured sense of place.



J.R. Fountain — Sound Designer

J.R. Fountain is an award-winning sound designer whose credits include *The Breadwinner*, *Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark*, and *Locke & Key*. His sound design for *The Highway* quietly blurs the line between physical space and psychological experience.



Production Notes

How twenty years of making documentaries influences directing fiction: On working with Lu Huang:

When I attended the Sundance Screenwriters Lab and Directors Lab in 2015, I wondered whether I was actually capable of directing fiction. But over those two weeks, I realized many of the skills I'd developed making documentaries were some of my greatest strengths.

Documentary teaches you to adapt. Locations change, time disappears, the weather shifts, and the unexpected happens. You learn to stay calm, solve problems in the moment, and never lose sight of the story.

Fiction is planned much more meticulously, but once production begins, things inevitably go sideways. That's where my documentary experience became invaluable. It taught me to stay flexible without compromising the integrity of the film.

I also loved the collaborative nature of fiction. Working with Christopher Lew, Xi Feng, Alex Zhang Hungtai, the cast, and crew reminded me that filmmaking is never a one-person endeavour. Everyone contributes to the same emotional truth.

On acting and directing:

Before filmmaking, I studied acting at the Neighborhood Playhouse School of the Theatre in New York, where I trained in the Meisner Technique. *The Highway* gave me the opportunity to reconnect with that part of my artistic education.

Meisner taught me to focus less on performance and more on behaviour—to listen, respond, and trust what happens truthfully between actors. That shaped the way I approached rehearsals and performances. Rather than asking actors to demonstrate emotion, I wanted to create an environment where they could simply inhabit the moment and trust the audience to meet them there.

I knew the film depended on finding someone who could communicate enormous emotional complexity with very little dialogue. Lu has that rare ability. She's incredibly precise but never mechanical. Even in silence, she's constantly thinking, and the camera captures it. So much of Boss Li's journey happens internally, and Lu trusted the audience enough not to explain it.

She's also a joy to work with. Despite her remarkable career, she fully embraced the realities of a very independent production. She brought warmth, energy, and a willingness to get down and dirty alongside the rest of us. That generosity of spirit made a real difference.

Chongqing as the setting:

I've been travelling to Chongqing for more than twenty years. I lived there in 2006 while filming *Up the Yangtze*, and even then the city felt surreal—like something out of *Blade Runner*. Returning over the years, I've watched it transform at an astonishing pace. Today it feels almost futuristic.

It was also in Chongqing that I witnessed the highway tragedy that inspired *The Highway*. The city has become deeply intertwined with both my personal life and my filmmaking.

Chongqing is the largest municipality in the world, with more than 30 million people. Known as the Detroit of China for its automobile industry, it fascinates me because extraordinary modernization exists alongside much older ways of life, sometimes only a few kilometres apart.

That tension is the heart of the film. I couldn't imagine setting *The Highway* anywhere else.

演员 Cast

(按照出场顺序 In order of appearance)

富婆李总 Boss Li	黄璐 Lu Huang
员工 Chinese Trump	瑞哥 Ryan Chen
富婆专职司机 Chauffeur	王涛 Tao Wang
老牧羊人死尸 Old Shepherd	龚和平 Heping Gong
丈夫 Husband	陈科 Ke Chen
保姆 House Keeper	周霞 Xia Zhou
女员工 Female Employee	方韵尧 Xiaoyun Fang
牧羊人鬼魂 Young Shepherd Ghost	彭易明 Yiming Peng
老牧羊人鬼魂 Old Shepherd Ghost	张家渝 Jiayu Zhang

制片组 Production

编剧、导演 Writer, Director	张侨勇 Yung Chang
制片人 Producers	庄一敏 Yimin (Fanfan) Zhuang 丹·蒙哥马利 Dan Montgomery 张侨勇 Yung Chang
摄影指导 Director of Photography	刘永强 Christopher Lew
剪辑师 Editor	凤兮 Feng Xi
电影配乐 Composer	张洪泰 Alex Zhang Hungtai
副导演 First Assistant Director	张楠 Nan Zhang
场记 Script Supervisor	郑然 Ran Zheng
助理制片人 Associate Producer	李佩倪 April Lee
制片主任 Production Manager	唐显勋 Xianxun Tang
场地制片协调 Location Coordinator	陈俊华 Junhua Chen
制片助理 Production Assistant	唐华举 Huaju Tang
场地制片协调 Location Coordinator	吴秀波 Xiubo Wu
故事板艺术家 Storyboard Artist	亚当·怀托 Adam Waito
选角导演 Casting Director	代芹 Qin Dai
选角团队 Casting Assistant	晏思驿 Siyi Yan
选角公司 Casting Agency	莞尔选角 Waner Casting
黄璐经纪团队 Lu Huang's Team	刘歆禾 Xinhe Liu 宋柯轩 Johnny Song

美术组 Art Department

美术指导 Art Director	吴芊霁 Shing Pooi Goh
道具组长 Props Leader	王金虎 Jinhu Wang
道具副组长 Assistant Props Leader	洪吉 Ji Hong
陈设领班 Lead Set Decorator	汪德钱 Deqian Wang
陈设助手 Assistant Set Decorator	佟大顺 Dashun Tong
现场主盯 On-Set	高刚 Gang Gao
油漆工 Painter	吴佳超 Jiachao Wu
木工 Carpenter	张征 Zheng Zhang

摄影组 Camera

摄影大助理 First Assistant Camera	张元培 Yuanpei Zhang
摄影二助理 Second Assistant Camera	沈咪 Mi Shen
数据管理 DIT	高攀 Pan Gao
摄影跟机员 Camera Technical Support	要茗鑫 Mingxin Yao

灯光及移动组 Electric and Grip

灯光师 Gaffer	刁滨 Bin Diao
灯光大助 Best Boy	陈基海 Jihai Chen
灯光二助 Second Electric	王龙 Long Wang
灯光助理 Lighting Assistant	高红宁 Hongning Gao
跟灯员 Lighting Technical Support	李明星 Mingxing Li
移动组长 Key Grip	王应 Ying Wang
移动大助理 First Assistant Grip	张建飞 Jianfei Zhang
移动二助理 Second Assistant Grip	路雄伟 Xiongwei Lu
移动跟机员 Dolly Grip	杨振中 Zhenzhong Yang

录音组 Sound

录音师 Location Sound Recordist	范立明 Liming Fan
录音助理 Boom Operator	白那日苏 Bai Ri Na Su

制片组 Production

服装师 Costume Designer	程思宇 Siyu Cheng
化妆造型师 Hair and Makeup Artist	王琛 Leona Wang
化妆造型助理 Hair and Makeup Artist Assistant	傅伊柔 Yirou Fu
场务头 Head Runner	邱泽洪 Zehong Qiu
场务01 Runner 01	张海卫 Haiwei Zhang
场务02 Runner 02	崔翔翔 Xiangxiang Cui

司机组 Drivers

王波 Bo Wang	林国坚 Guojian Lin
卓华中 Huazhong Zhuo	唐臣 Cheng Tang
陈鑫 Xin Chen	宗仁华 Renhua Zong
颜国庆 Guoqing Yan	闫金伟 Jinwei Yan
尹胜 Sheng Yin	刘传奎 Chuankui Liu
李伟 Wei Li	

设备租赁 Equipment Rental

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With the Generous Support from:

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Ontario Arts Council
Government of Ontario
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后期制作 Post Production

后期混录 Re-Recording Mixer	陈伟杰 Matthew Chan
声音指导 Sound Supervisor	
声音剪辑 Sound Designer	J.R. Fountain
音频后期制作机构 Post Production Audio Facility	Formosa Group
线上剪辑 Online Edit	Elemental Post
调色师 Colorist	David Tomiak
后期制片 Elemental Post Producer	Melissa Ziefflie
后期制作顾问 Post Production Consultant	Mark Hussey
视觉特效合成师 VFX Compositor	叶咏秀 Wing Sau Yip
片名书法 Main Title Calligraphy	书法家钟镝 Di Zhong

"Untitled 1"
Written by Alex Zhang Hungtai & Tashi Dorji
Performed by Alex Zhang Hungtai & Tashi Dorji
Live Recording by Roulette
Courtesy of Alex Zhang Hungtai

"Untitled 2"
Written by Alex Zhang Hungtai & Leo Chang
Performed by Alex Zhang Hungtai & Leo Chang
Live Recording by
Teerapat Parnmongkol
Courtesy of Alex Zhang Hungtai

Production Companies

Yungfilms Inc.
闪雀映画 Flying Sparrow Films
MDFF

本片于中国重庆拍摄。
Filmed on Location in Chongqing, China.

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张侨勇作品

A film by Yung Chang



THE HIGHWAY

主演黄璐

Starring Lu Huang

Yungfilms Inc., Flying Sparrow Films & MDFF with the Generous Support of the Canada Council for the Arts, Ontario Arts Council, and Toronto Arts Council Presents THE HIGHWAY a film by Yung Chang Starring Lu Huang Music by Alex Zhang Hungtai
Director of Photography Christopher Liu, CSC Editor Xi Feng Produced by Yung Chang, Yimin Zhuang, & Dan Montgomery
Written & Directed by Yung Chang



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