



Peccadillo Pictures Presents

A film by Kit Hung

Soundless Wind Chime

Lu Yulai

Bernhard Bulling

TEDDY AWARD NOMINEE - 59th Berlin International Film Festival



DVD Release Date: 28th February Running Time: 110 mins Cert: TBC

**Extras: Short Film, Soundtrack, Deleted Scenes, Making Of,
MP3 download of Sepiasonic soundtrack**

Ricky, a new Chinese immigrant in Hong Kong; and Pascal, a 27 year old Swiss rebel escaped from his traditional boundaries, are a young couple in Hong Kong. Although Ricky makes it easier for Pascal to immerse himself into local culture, the pair are tortured by the dilemma of whether their relationship is built on true love or only dependency on each other and the fear of being lonely. When Pascal tragically passes away in an accident, Ricky carries his grief and sorrows to Switzerland, looking for hints of Pascal in a nameless village. When he visits a ramshackle thrift store, Ricky meets Ueli, a man that looks identical to Pascal, but has a totally different personality.

Kit Hung's debut feature is a poetic exploration of love and loss, complete with gorgeous visuals and a music score from cult clarinettist Claudio Puntin and Insa Rudolph performed by Sepiasonic.



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Director's Note

In China it is believed that when someone passes away, his soul will return home on the 7th day after his death. His soul is offered a soup for erasing memory as a preparation to rebirth. After drinking the soup, all his memories will be wiped off and his soul will reincarnate and start a new life as a baby. In 2003, three Swiss persons who were important in my life passed away one by one – my lovers' parents who lived in a small village, and my best friend who committed suicide. After all the tears and funerals, sometimes I still wake up in the morning wanting to give them a call or wanting to visit them at their beautiful farm. But my reason tells me that they have gone.

This battle of the conscious knowing that somebody has passed away and the unconscious wanting to get in touch with them has become the motivation for this production, and I believe this feeling is common to people who experience the death of their beloved.

How long does it take for someone to truly recognize and accept the death of his beloved? *Soundless Wind Chime* is a film about letting go. It contextually presents the differences between Eastern and Western culture on the philosophy of life, death and the afterlife. It also presents the integration of Eastern and Western mentality. *Soundless Wind Chime* is partly autobiographical. It seeks to blur the boundary between ethics, race and sexuality...

CAST:

<u>Ricky</u>	<u>Aunt</u>
Yulai Lu	Wella Zhang
<u>Pascal / Ueli</u>	<u>Marcus</u>
Bernhard Bulling	Hannes Lindenblatt
<u>Popo</u>	<u>Father</u>
Wong Siu Ying	Gilles Tschudi
<u>Restaurant Owner</u>	<u>Mother / Fairy</u>
Li Fong	Ruth Schwegler

Director: Kit Hung

His first narrative short film, *[:nv:s:b/e peop/e]* (2000), won a distinguished award at the Hong Kong Independent Film and Video Awards. His second film *I Am Not What You Want* (2001), won the Special Jury Prize in the Golden Dragon Film Festival in Belgium. His first Swiss-Sino production *Buffering* (2003) won the Special Jury Prize at the Turin Gay & Lesbian Film Festival in Italy. Kit's films have been selected to show at more than 60 international film festivals. Kit (1977) graduated from the MFA program in the Department of Film, Video and New Media at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. *Soundless Wind Chime* was developed during his studies in Chicago and it is his debut feature, which he has been working on for 5 years.

Full Synopsis

Soundless Wind Chime is the poetic journey of Ricky, searching for the lost soul and the past of his deceased Swiss lover – Pascal. The film shows a battle of love, lust, reality, memory and illusions and the grief everybody bears every day.

Ricky – a new Chinese immigrant in Hong Kong; and Pascal – a 27 years old Swiss rebel escaped from his traditional boundaries, meet in Hong Kong. Ricky works as a waiter in a local restaurant and lives with his aunt who is a street prostitute. Pascal is a thief and enjoys the advantages of his European status in this post-colonial Asian city.

After being abused by his roommate, Pascal moves in with Ricky. Although Ricky makes it easier for Pascal to immerse himself into local culture, life is never easy for these rootless hearts. They are tortured by the dilemma of whether their relationship is built on true love or only dependency on each other and the fear of being lonely. While Pascal is tempted by the glamorous and lustful gay world in Hong Kong, Ricky is holding onto his belief and waits for a sign of true love.

Without even saying goodbye, Pascal passes away in an accident. Ricky carries his grief and sorrows to Switzerland, looking for hints of Pascal in a nameless village. When he visits a beautiful thrift store, Ricky meets Ueli, a man that looks identical to Pascal, but has a totally different personality...

Mise-en-scene

Body language and emotions play a very important role in this film. On the other hand, since this is a film with the context of cultural differences, dialogues are all under laid with subtext. This film tells a story through gestures and subtle facial expressions.

The selection of the landscape/cityscape of Hong Kong, Switzerland and Beijing already gives a very rich visual impact to the film. Cinematographically, by taking advantage of digital video production, the Swiss scenes will be comparatively more static than the Hong Kong scenes, and the Beijing scenes are most realistic.

This film was shot in Switzerland in winter to capture the emptiness of the silent landscape. In contrast, the shooting in Hong Kong was in summer, where we have captured high-rise buildings and city life. This contrast represents the loosely connected emotion of Ricky and Pascal between time and space.

Editing Structure

This film is about memories and reality, therefore it is best to present the film in a non-chronological fashion. Fragments of Hong Kong (i.e. memories) will inter-cut between the Swiss and Beijing parts (i.e. presence). The bridge between spaces and time will be linked by similar emotions of the characters, atmosphere of the events and the sensitivity of the music.

Lu Yulai – Ricky

Born in 1982 in Sichuan, China and graduated from the Central Academy of Drama, Beijing, Yulai has been leading the important roles in some recent significant film works from China. They include *Peacock* (Silver Bear, 2005 Berlinale) and *Courthouse on the Horseback* (Awarded in Horizons Section, 2006 Venice International Film Festival). *The Red Awn* has just won the FIPRESCI Award in Pusan International Film Festival, Korea, 2007.

Bernhard Bulling – Pascal / Ueli

Bernhard was born in Venezuela, raised in Switzerland and is currently based in Berlin and Zurich. Bernhard participated in numerous short film projects before he graduated from European Film Actors School in Zurich. He appeared in TV commercials for Bank Coop, SWISSCOM, etc. In 2007, Bernhard Bulling played the leading role in *Black Forest* helmed by Grimme-Award winning director Gert Steinheimer, released in 2009. *Soundless Wind Chime* is Bernhard's second feature project.

Crew

Producers:	Jacqueline Liu	Kit Hung
	Min Li Marti	Liliane Ott
	Philip Delaquis	Stefan Zuber
Screenplay and Editor:	Kit Hung	
Director of Photography:	Alex Shi Yue	
Visual Consultant:	Phoebe Wong	
Production Designers:	Nam Lau (Hong Kong) Gill Wong (Switzerland)	
Music produced by:	Claudio Puntin and Insa Rudolph of Sepiasonic	
Performed by:	Sepiasonic and Chet Lam of LYFE	
Sound Designer:	Robert Porter of Yellow Frog Media	
Post-production Supervisor and Colourist:	Michael Ruepp of Schwarz Film	
Visual Effects/Special Effects:	Dino Zizzari	Martin Beck
	Thomas Schmidt	