

About "A Woman is A Woman"

【Logline】

Two transwomen, one at puberty and the other at midway of her life, both crave for integration and acceptance but experience tons and tons of difficulties.

Length: 93mins

Language: Cantonese with Chinese and English subtitle

【Synopsis】

Sung Chi Yu has been happily married for 10 years but has kept a secret from her husband Chi Hung and step-daughter Lai Kei: she is a transwoman. Everything falls apart when her husband discovers this secret. Meanwhile, Lai Kei develops her first emotions for love towards her male classmate Chiu Ling Fung who has been hiding his own battle with gender identity. Since childhood, he dares to think and behaves like a girl but never dares to reveal it to his religious and conservative parents who want him to act like a man. In his teenage years he finds himself exploring the notion of love and identity with the help of an imaginary ideal feminine image named Rose. She springs from his heart and walks by his side through many hardships. Both Chi Yu and Ling Fung have to overcome the prejudice of others to find happiness in themselves.

By interweaving the stories of two characters struggling to be themselves, the film helps the audience understand and empathise with transgender people and their quest for acceptance.

【Stills】







【Director's Statement】

For 23 years I have lived as a girl, a woman. Not once was my identity as a woman challenged. It was not until a few years ago that I realized how privileged I am, while there are people out there who live their lives and face objection from the public for simply being who they are. Gender identity and expression play a large and significant role in shaping our lives. It comes naturally to me, but the same could not be said for everyone. Everyday, transwomen have to fight for who they are, for acceptance and for the chance to simply, live.

These are human beings looking for themselves, looking for understanding, looking for life, living their lives; always trying, always searching for the light. And so I know without reservation that I must make this film and explore their stories.

A Woman is a woman. That's it.

My vision is to create cinema that provokes the audience to understand transwomen ; to create cinema that makes transwomen visible ; to create cinema that connects different gender groups to love and respect each other ; to create cinema that eliminates the age-old stigmatization on them.

【About Director】

Maisy Goosy Suen is a graduate of the Baptist University majoring in Film and Media Art and was on Dean's list for 4 consecutive semesters. She was also an exchange student at the Linnaeus University in Sweden under an exchange program between the two universities. She runs a video company called Feedthedog Production. She has been a director in 4 films, co-director in 2 film and second assistant director in another film, before taking on the role of directorship in "A Woman Is A Woman".

Year	Title	Runtime	Category			
2014	The writer	12	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fiction	<input type="checkbox"/>	Doc
2015	A man and a woman	15	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fiction	<input type="checkbox"/>	Doc
2015	Sex work	10	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fiction	<input type="checkbox"/>	Doc
2016	French Kiss	13	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fiction	<input type="checkbox"/>	Doc
2016	Hong Kong Transgender Stories	20	<input type="checkbox"/>	Fiction	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Doc
2017	Three	28	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fiction	<input type="checkbox"/>	Doc
2017	15	25	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fiction	<input type="checkbox"/>	Doc

【About Producer】

Mimi Wong used to be a senior IT professional. She transitioned from male to female 9 years ago, losing both her family and her job. She set up the Association of World Citizens Hong Kong China to advance mainly transgender rights in Hong Kong. A key objective of the Association is to produce videos to show the various facets of life of transgender people in Hong Kong. A total of 20 short stories and a documentary entitled "Hong Kong Transgender Stories" are her key productions. A Woman Is A Woman is her first attempt to produce a full-length feature film.

【Starring】

Amanda Lee as Sung Chi Yu
Tomo Kelly as Chiu Ling Fung
Buber Mak as Lee Lai Kei
Koyi Mak as Rose
Sunny Tang as Lee Chi Hung

A breakthrough on our starring is that we have the first ever transwoman actress in Hong Kong. Transwomen are given no opportunities at all in the local movie industry. Tomo Kelly is our bold attempt to give birth to the first ever transwoman actress in Hong Kong. Another breakthrough is the adoption of a cisgender woman to play the role of a transwoman. All local movies in the past used men to play the role of transwomen, resulting in wrong stereotyping in their images to the public. As our key message is "A Woman Is A Woman", transwoman is a woman and should not be any different from any cisgender woman. The hiring of Amanda Lee, a cisgender woman, to play the other transwoman role in the movie will change the stereotyped manly image of a transwoman. We believe this is the absolute right route to go. To demonstrate this further, this movie has invited over a dozen transmen and transwomen to appear in the movie without any mentioning of their transgender status. We leave the question of who are transgender and who aren't to the conjecture of the audience.

【Production Crew】

This is the first feature film production in Hong Kong where women occupy all the key production roles. Gender inequality in the film industry has been quite serious in Hong Kong where female film professionals are offered very few opportunities to demonstrate their abilities. Besides the director and producer listed above being female, the following is a list of the other key female members of our production crew:

Directing Department :
Scriptwriter: Jackie Wong
Assistant Scriptwriter: Maya Szeto

1st Assistant Director: Brenda Wong
2nd Assistant Director: Hiuby Chan
Script Supervisor : Ting Hoi Ling
Production Department :
Line Producer : Kathy Wong
Production Manager : Fok Ka Po
Production Assistants : Jessie Coo, Candace Tse
Camera and Lighting Department:
Director of Photography: Finn Chen
1st Camera Assistant: Cho Wing Ki
2nd Camera Assistant: Juliani Tam
Gaffer: Leung Ching Hei
Digital Image Technician: Lee Ka Yan
Art Department:
Production Designer: Monique Yim
Assistant Art Designers: Rochelle Li, Amanda Fung, So Wai Lan, Wiency Wong
Makeup Artist: Sakura Chow
Hair Stylist: Lee Pui Shan
Choreographer: Maxica Lui
Post Production:
Supervisor: Kathy Wong
Post Production Assistants: Fok Ka Po, Catherine Cheung, Dora Ng
Editors: Anita Chu, Maisy Goosy Suen
Music Composer: Yip Sau Man
Sound Designer and Mixer: Yuki Yip
Sound Editor: Joanne Lau
Sound Effects: Nacharee Cheung, Wong Chin Yan
Credit Scene: Lee Ka Yan
Subtitles: Down Wong
Men were hired to assist our women team to do heavy duty tasks that were better off handled by them.

【Exclusive Interviews】

<https://youtu.be/Kj1EvRcy4iE>

【Movie Trailer】

<https://youtu.be/pX26oXd59Fs>

【Film Festivals and Awards】

Opening Movie : Hong Kong Independent Film Festival on January 20, 2019
Official Selection : Osaka Asia Film Festival on March 8 & March 15, 2019
Finalist : Hong Kong LGBTQ+ Community Impact Award on May 14, 2019
Closing Movie : Osaka University Queer Film Festival on May 26, 2019
Official Selection : Hong Kong Independent Film Festival in Berlin on May 31 & June 1 2019
Audience Award : TranScreen Transgender Film Festival in Amsterdam on June 2, 2019
Official Selection : Shanghai Pride Film Festival on June 13, 2019
Official Selection : Bangalore Queer Film Festival on August 1, 2019
Official Selection : OMGwangju International Film Festival on August 13, August 2019
Official Selection : Aichi International Women's Film Festival on September 7, September 2019

Official Selection : Hong Kong Lesbian & Gay Film Festival on September 15, 2019

Closing Movie : Women Make Waves Film Festival on October 13, 2019

Official Selection : Kansai Queer Film Festival on October 18, 2019

Official Selection : Beijing Queer Film Festival on November 3, 2019

Official Selection : Chinese Visual Festival in London on November 8, 2019

Official Selection : South Taiwan Film Festival on November 9 and 15, 2019

Official Selection : Love Queer Week in Chengdu on December 14, 2019

In addition, we have qualified ourselves for nomination to the HK Film Academy Award 2020. We have nominated some of our front and back stage crew to receive various available awards.