

THECOMMONIST, AFTERNOON PICTURES, AKANGA FILM ASIA, LA FABRICA NOCTURNA CINEMA
present

with the support of MYCREATIVE VENTURES, SINGAPORE FILM COMMISSION,
L'AIDE AUX CINEMAS DU MONDE, CENTRE NATIONAL DU CINEMA ET DE L'IMAGE ANIMÉE, INSTITUT FRANCAIS,
BERLINALE WORLD CINEMA FUND, PURIN PICTURES, TALENTS TOKYO - NEXT MASTERS SUPPORT PROGRAM,
OPEN DOORS HUB - LOCARNO FILM FESTIVAL, ARTEKINO INTERNATIONAL

project developed at SEAFIC SOUTHEAST ASIA FICTION FILM LAB and PRODUIRE AU SUD and presented at
TALENTS TOKYO, SGIFF SOUTHEAST ASIAN PRODUCERS NETWORK, BERLINALE TALENT PROJECT MARKET,
TORINO FILM LAB NEXT - AUDIENCE DESIGN WORKSHOP

world sales DIVERSION

OASIS OF NOW

a film by

CHIA CHEE SUM



BUSAN
International Film Festival

WORLD SALES

Diversion

220/4 Soi Ladprao 42, Lane 4-1, Bangkok Thailand
www.diversion-th.com

Sales: sales@diversion-th.com

Festivals: festivals@diversion-th.com

TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Written & Directed by	CHIA Chee Sum
Produced by	LEE Yve Vonn Fran BORGIA Xavier ROCHER CHIA Chee Sum
Director of Photography	Jimmy GIMFERRER
Editor	Chloe YAP Mun Ee CHIA Chee Sum
Re-recording Mixer	Laure ARTO
Sound Designer	NG Chor Guan
Music Composer	TEO Wei Yong
Art Director	Ivy CHOONG Kah Min
Wardrobe Stylist	Momo WOON
Countries	Malaysia, Singapore, France
Year of Production	2023
Duration	90 minutes
Language	Cantonese, Vietnamese, Malay, Mandarin
Subtitle	English
Image	Colour
Screening Format	2K DCP / 5.1 mix / 1:1.85
Shooting Format	ARRI Alexa Mini
Shooting Location	Malaysia
World Sales	Diversion

LEAD CAST

Hanh	TA Thi Diu
Ting Ting	Aster YEOW Ee
Azmi	Abd Manaf Bin REJAB

LOGLINE / SHORT SYNOPSIS

A woman is secretly meeting a small girl at the corner of a stairwell in an old Kuala Lumpur apartment. They see each other occasionally here, sharing a moment together before returning separately to their homes, but nothing is quite what it seems.



SYNOPSIS

In an old apartment complex in Kuala Lumpur, we see lives in unseen corners. The stairwell of a near-abandoned floor of this apartment is one of these corners, where a woman and her daughter take refuge for their secret meetings. They meet at the top of this stairwell, play games and attempt to interact in this stolen time and place they share.

The mother thinks she knows what is best for the daughter, while the daughter longs for a promise from the mother. Later, they'll have to return separately to their own homes in the same apartment complex. The woman will continue her chores and she will live her life in between spaces she is so familiar with.

But nothing is quite what it seems.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

OASIS OF NOW is based on my personal connection to an old apartment complex – the very location used for the filming – and the people who call it home. It's a place that has made me feel both close and distant in various ways. While in the film, there are questions of family and being an outsider, yet it's more of an attempt to open up, both for me and for the lead character, sharing our personal feelings on a very simple human level with the possibilities of closeness, distance, and how this is affected by our environment, about the situation of who we are. To me, genuine closeness hinges on the extent to how we are seen or not seen by others. After all, how can we pass judgement when we only know part of the whole?



THE CAST



Ta Thi Diu is a Vietnamese professional nail artist who has lived in Malaysia for many years. Fluent in Cantonese, Mandarin and Malay languages. *OASIS OF NOW* marks her screen debut.



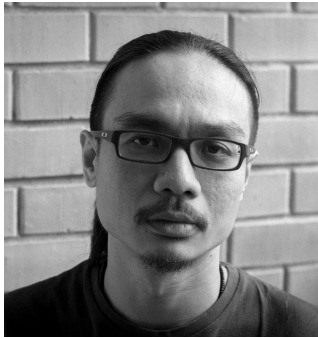
ASTER YEOW EE is a young actress from Malaysia. She has played several roles in TV dramas and movies, passionate in traditional dance and singing.



ABD MANAF BIN REJAB is a well-respected Malay village chief from the filming location, highly regarded by the community. He makes his screen debut in *OASIS OF NOW*.



THE CREW



CHIA CHEE SUM

Director / Writer / Editor / Producer

CHIA Chee Sum is a Malaysian filmmaker, an alumnus of the Asian Film Academy (Busan), FIRST Training Camp (Xining), and recipient of Talents Tokyo 2020 Award. His short film HIGH WAY (2018), won the Jury Prize at the Busan International Short Film Festival. He is co-founder of theCommonist, a film and animation production company based in Malaysia and Thailand. His feature film debut, OASIS OF NOW, was developed at the SEAFIC Southeast Asia Fiction Film Lab and presented at Locarno Open Doors Hub, Talents Tokyo and Berlinale Talent Project Market.



LEE YVE VONN

Producer

LEE Yve Vonn is a Malaysian producer, an alumna of Busan Asian Film School (AFiS) and Berlinale Talents. She produced OASIS OF NOW by CHIA Chee Sum, a Malaysia-Singapore-France co-production supported by MyCreative Ventures Malaysia, Singapore Film Commission and Aid aux cinemas du monde. Yve Vonn also co-produced HUNGRY GHOST DINER by Wejun CHO, a Netpac award recipient from Bucheon International Fantastic Film Festival (BiFan) 2023.



FRAN BORGIA

Producer

Born in southern Spain and based in Singapore since 2003, Fran Borgia has produced several critically acclaimed films such as Ho Tzu Nyen's HERE (Cannes Director's Fortnight 2009), Boo Junfeng's SANDCASTLE (Cannes Critics' Week 2010), Lav Diaz's A LULLABY TO THE SORROWFUL MYSTERY (Berlinale 2016 – Silver Bear Winner), Boo Junfeng's APPRENTICE (Cannes Un Certain Regard 2016), K. Rajagopal's A YELLOW BIRD (Cannes Critics' Week 2016), Yeo Siew Hua's A

LAND IMAGINED (Locarno 2018 - Golden Leopard Winner), Kamila Andini's YUNI (Toronto 2021 – Platform Prize Winner), Jow Zhi Wei's TOMORROW IS A LONG TIME (Berlinale Generation 2023), and Amanda Nell Eu's TIGER STRIPES (Cannes Critics' Week 2023 – Grand Prize Winner).



XAVIER ROCHER

Producer

Xavier Rocher is a producer based in Paris. Since 2010 he has produced with his production company La Fabrica Nocturna Cinéma more than 30 films around the world, most of which premiered in world most important festivals (Cannes, Berlinale, Locarno, San Sebastian, Rotterdam etc.). His recent titles include Jow Zhi Wei's Berlinale TOMORROW IS A LONG TIME, Chema Garcia Ibarra's Locarno prize winner THE SACRED SPIRIT, Marcelo Martinessi's Berlin double Silver Bears winner THE HEIRESES, and both acclaimed Cannes' Quinzaine WOLF AND SHEEP and THE ORPHANAGE by Afghan director Shahrbanoo Sadat.



JIMMY GIMFERRER

Director of Photography

Jimmy Gimferrer went on to study painting at the Massana art school in Barcelona specialising in Contemporary Image Processes. He is self-taught in film photography, beginning his career with Albert Serra whose most notable collaborations are BIRDSONG which earned him Gaudi Prize for Best Photography, and STORY OF MY DEATH awarded with Ostrava Kamera Oko. He is also known for his work with directors José Maria de Orbe, Lluís Miñarro and Claudio Zulián among others, winning prizes for Best Photography at San Sebastián, Finow and Tirana Film festivals. His latest work, TIGER STRIPES by Amanda Nell Eu won the Grand Prize of Cannes Critics Week.



CHLOE YAP MUN EE

Editor

Chloe Yap Mun Ee (b. 1995) is an experimental filmmaker and video artist from Malaysia. She has made shorts including *STRNGE PLCE* (2016), *(?)'s GAZE* (2016), and *DANCE LIKE A SNAIL* (2021). Her latest work is a video installation, *I DON'T REALLY WANT YOU TO SEE ME, BUT I STILL WANT TO SHOW YOU* (2022), where she confronts her fear and guilt towards the cinema image and the power dynamics within its space. She is also involved collaboratively in several feature length films including *SOMETIME, SOMETIME* (2020) as cinematographer; *OASIS OF NOW* (2023) as co-editor; and *PENDATANG* (2024) as editor.



TEO WEI YONG

Music Composer

Teo Wei Yong is an award-winning film composer and sound designer. His film scores and sound design can be heard in many prestigious festivals and broadcasting around the globe, including a Best Original Score at the 56th Golden Horse Awards. He has also scored "Circle Line", Singapore's first creature horror feature. He has worked on numerous Biennale art installations and documentaries for the National Geographic Channel. Wei Yong has also created music and sound design for many commercial brands, including L'Oréal, Intel, Toyota, Microsoft, and many others. He continues to do what he loves best.



NG CHOR GUAN

Sound Designer

NG Chor Guan, co-founder and artistic director of Toccata Studio, is a celebrated Malaysian composer, sound designer, thereminist, improviser, and theatre director. A prominent figure at global arts festivals, his prolific work blends technology with performing arts, and extends into the realm of film, transcending conventional boundaries.

COMPANY PROFILES

theCommonist (Malaysia)

Founded in 2009, theCommonist is a film and animation production company based in Malaysia and Thailand. We produce and co-produce arthouse cinema. Titles include Chia Chee Sum's OASIS OF NOW (Busan 2023), short films HIGH WAY (Jury Prize – Busan International Short Film Festival 2018), and OTAK-OTAK (Xining, 2019).

AFTERNOON PICTURES (Malaysia)

Based in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, Afternoon Pictures was established in 2015, lead by producer Lee Yve Vonn, focusing on producing short films and first feature films. BLACK HOLE MONSTER by Sim Seow Khee (Oberhausen, 2017), SHANGHAI QUARANTOPIA by Clarissa Zhang (Ji.hlava, 2023) and OASIS OF NOW by Chia Chee Sum (Busan, 2023) are some of the company's titles.

AKANGA FILM ASIA (Singapore)

www.akangafilm.com

AKANGA FILM ASIA is an independent production company created in 2005 in Singapore to produce quality films by the new generation of Asian filmmakers. Our projects aim to create a cultural link between Asia and the rest of the world. Titles produced by Akanga include Ho Tzu Nyen's HERE (Cannes Directors' Fortnight 2009), Boo Junfeng's SANDCASTLE (Cannes Critics' Week 2010), Vladimir Todorovic's DISAPPEARING LANDSCAPE (Rotterdam 2013), Christine Molloy & Joe Lawlor's MISTER JOHN (Edinburgh 2013), Lav Diaz's A LULLABY TO THE SORROWFUL MYSTERY (Berlin Competition 2016 – *Silver Bear Prize*), Boo Junfeng's APPRENTICE (Cannes Un Certain Regard 2016) and K. Rajagopal's A YELLOW BIRD (Cannes Critics' Week 2016). In 2018, Yeo Siew Hua's A LAND IMAGINED, a Singapore-French-Dutch co-production, won the *Pardo d'oro (Golden Leopard)* at the Locarno Film Festival, the first ever Top Prize win for a Singapore film in any A-List festival. In 2021, Kamila Andini's YUNI, an Indonesian-Singapore-French co-production, won the *Platform Prize* at the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF). In 2023, Jow Zhi Wei's TOMORROW IS A LONG TIME, a Singapore-Taiwanese-French-

Portuguese co-production, premiered at Berlinale Generation 14plus Competition, and Amanda Nell Eu's TIGER STRIPES, an 8-country co-production, premiered at Cannes Critics' Week and won the *Grand Prize*.

LA FABRICA NOCTURNA CINÉMA (France)

www.lafabricaocturna.com

Paris-based independent production house La Fabrica Nocturna Cinéma driven by producers Marina Perales Marhuenda and Xavier Rocher aims to produce bold cinema opening up frontiers to creation from all around the world. Since 2010 La Fabrica Nocturna Cinéma has produced around 30 films, most of which premiered in world most important festivals (Cannes, Berlinale, Locarno, San Sebastian, Rotterdam etc.). Our recent titles include Jow Zhi Wei's Berlinale TOMORROW IS A LONG TIME, Chema Garcia Ibarra's Locarno prize winner THE SACRED SPIRIT, Marcelo Martinessi's Berlin double Silver Bears winner THE HEIRESESSES, and both acclaimed Cannes' Quinzaine WOLF AND SHEEP and THE ORPHANAGE by Afghan director Shahrbanoo Sadat.



COMPANY CREDITS / FUNDERS AND SUPPORT

Production Companies

theCommonist

Afternoon Pictures

Akanga Film Asia

La Fabrica Nocturna Cinéma

Supported by

MyCreative Ventures

Singapore Film Commission

L'Aide Aux Cinémas du Monde

Centre National du Cinema et de L'Image Animée

Institut Français

Purin Pictures

Berlinale World Cinema Fund

Talents Tokyo Next Master Support Program

Artekino International

With the support from

SEAFIC Southeast Asia Fiction Film Lab

Produire au Sud

Lorcano Open Doors Hub

Talents Tokyo

Berlinale Talents Project Market