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FALL

TAIWAN  
DOCS

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DOCS

CATALOGUE

## About Taiwan Docs

Taiwan Docs Promotion Center, based under Taiwan Film Institute and a partner of Taiwan International Documentary Festival (TIDF), aims to promote Taiwanese documentaries abroad and to assist local filmmakers in reaching a wider audience. It serves as a promotion agency for Taiwan documentary filmmaking and screening, providing promotional resources for local filmmakers and reliable information for professionals overseas.

To reinforce the visibility of Taiwanese documentaries, this catalogue presents a selection of the most relevant documentaries made by local talents. It encompasses latest works completed in 2017.

Any request for further information about these films is always welcomed. Updates on the latest titles will also be available on the Taiwan Docs website. Here is a window to understand more about Taiwanese documentary films and filmmakers. Just come and explore!



# Blood Amber 血琥珀

LEE Yong-chao | 96 min | 2017 Producer LEE Yong-chao  
Sales/Festival Contact Swallow Wings Films - Albert YAO: [pacificoceansy@gmail.com](mailto:pacificoceansy@gmail.com)

It is a story about a group of people in Burma who live on finding amber as their only hope in the chaos of war.

Somewhere in Burma, there is a forest controlled by The Kachin Independence Army. The forest is abundant in amber; therefore, most of the habitants there make a living by finding amber as their only hope to get out of poverty.

They work in difficulty and rest in fear of the attack from government army. The life there is in despair, as the darkness in the end of mine...

### Festivals & Awards

**2017 Locarno Festival - Semaine de la critique**

**2017 Busan International Film Festival - Wide Angle: Documentary Showcase**

Director  
**LEE Yong-chao**



LEE Yong-chao was born in the rural countryside of northern Burma. In 2015, he was accepted into the 7th Golden Horse Film Academy founded by HOU Hsiao-hsien. He produces his films mainly in Taiwan and Burma. One of his short films was nominated at Busan International Film Festival competition. Another short film shot simply on a smartphone was nominated for Warsaw Film Festival competition. *Blood Amber* is his first feature documentary.



# Jump! Men

翻滾吧！男人

LIN Yu-hsien, KUO Le-hsing | 92 min | 2017 Producer: Roger HUANG  
Sales/Festival Contact: Activator Marketing Co. Ltd. - Enga CHANG: enga.chang@gmail.com

More than ten years ago, a gymnastics coach, LIN Yu-hsien returned to his hometown after a setback in his career. There LIN trained seven young boys, and has become the coach of the Taiwanese national gymnastics team.

The young boys back then have grown in to me, but nevertheless, among the seven boys, only HUANG and LEE remain. More than ten years ago, the childish and yet ambitious dream of competing in the Olympics helped them go through the pain they suffered from countless jumps and falls. Now they keep marching on with even more courage and effort.

Festivals & Awards  
**2017 Kaohsiung Film Festival**

Director  
**LIN Yu-hsien**



LIN Yu-hsien is known for the fast pace and the detailed observation on society and people shown in his works. Despite his humorous take on the subject matter, the audiences always get the serious messages conveyed in the films. In 2005, LIN's debut feature documentary *Jump! Boys* not only was highly acclaimed but also won Best Documentary at the Golden Horse Awards. LIN has made four narrative features including *Exit No. 6*, *Su mi ma sen*, *Love, Jump Ashin!* and *Under the Sicily Sun*, and two feature documentaries, *Jump! Boys* and *Jump! Men*.

Director  
**KUO Le-hsing**



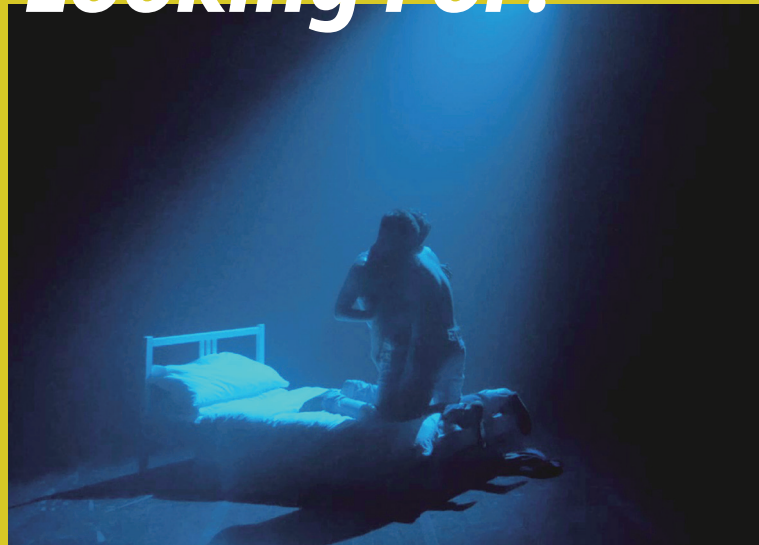
KUO Le-hsing is a documentary and television director, who has focused on themes about children, youth and sports for years. KUO Le-hsing and LIN Yu-hsien were classmates at university and have become long-term collaborators on documentary productions, working as cinematographer, director and editor. KUO's feature documentaries include *The Turn of the Game* and *Jump! Men*.

Producer  
**Roger HUANG**



In 2005, Roger HUANG founded the Yi Tiao Long Hu Bao Studio with his friend. Apart from producing TV drama series, he has become a major film producer in Taiwan in recent years due to his dedication into films, his courage, and his long-term accumulated experience. In 2011, HUANG together with LEE Lih produced *Jump! Ashin*, which set a record of nearly 80 million box office in Taiwan. In 2013, he was the executive producer of Arvin CHEN's film *Will You Still Love Me Tomorrow?*, which was selected by Berlinale and Tribeca Film Festival.

# Looking For? 你找什麼？



CHOU Tung-yen | 60 min | 2017 Producer: WU Ting-chieh  
Sales/Festival Contact: Eric CHOU: cs98h040@gmail.com

"Looking for?" one of the most commonly asked questions on all gay dating apps is not easy to answer, at least for Yen, the director, when he saw it for the first time four years ago.

The question then leads him to start a journey in search of answers, by encountering 60 gay men from various cities across the world, exchanging experiences and stories about love, lust, and getting lost in their lives for being a gay in the modern time.

As time goes by, though all the questions remain perplexing, this journey, like all the greatest journeys, opens up a chance for the audience to reconsider: What are we looking for?

Festivals & Awards  
**2017 Golden Horse Awards- Best Documentary nomination**  
**2017 Taipei Film Awards - Best Documentary nomination**

Director & Producer  
**CHOU Tung-yen**



CHOU Tung-yen holds an MA in Scenography with distinction from Central Saint Martins College of Art and Design in London. He is the founder and director of Very Mainstream Studio & Very Theatre. His first documentary feature *Voyage in Time* (2012) was nominated for Best Documentary at Golden Horse Awards. His latest documentary *My Leftover Ladies* (2015) was selected for Tartu World Film Festival, Estonia, and competed at Les Ecrans de Chine, France and Golden Harvest Awards, Taiwan.

Producer  
**WU Ting-chieh**



WU has been working as a project manager for Very Mainstream Studio & Very Theatre since 2011. She holds a BA in Business Administration from National Chengchi University and is currently pursuing a postgraduate degree in Arts Administration and Management at Taipei National University of the Arts. She also participated in several documentary productions including *Voyage in Time* (2012), *New Minds* (2012), and *My Leftover Ladies* (2015).



# Body Talk 尋找乳房

Singing CHEN | 82 min | 2017 Producer Singing CHEN Sales/Festival Contact Taiwan  
Public Television Service Foundation (PTS) - PTSFestival@gmail.com

Is this my body? Who am I? As the carrier of spirit and will, how does a woman's body struggle, jostle, collide, and merge with all things other than themselves. The body seems to follow the mind as merely its shell or tool. However the body does possess memory. A tired body, an injured body, a sick body, a fat body, a visible or invisible body, a body nourishing life or a decaying and aging body... Have you looked at your own body carefully? Everything about you is buried amongst the hair, deep in your skin, down in your viscera and bowels, or within those millions of nerves. No matter whether you have forgotten about them, your body still remembers.

In this film the filmmaker has interviewed up to thirty women, and all the interview clips interspersed throughout the film recessively discuss the "birth, aging and illnesses" of the body during the course of life. Through their talks, we are led into the diverse female body experience. It is akin to secretive women's talk emitting a feminine and flowing tone.

Director & Producer  
Singing CHEN



One of the most talented and promising young directors in Taiwan, CHEN is well known for her unique styles and fast paces with focuses on issues in art and culture. In 2007, *God Man Dog*, was selected in The Forum at the Berlin International Film Festival and was voted Best Film by the Der Tagesspiegel. Furthermore, it was invited to more than 30 film festivals, including Busan International Film Festival and Fribourg Film Festival. In 2000, her first 16mm feature, *Bundled*, was critically acclaimed and won numerous awards at both domestic and international film festivals.

# LOVE Talk 幸福定格



SHEN Ko-shang | 88min | 2017 Producer Ben TSIANG, Ruby CHEN, HUNG Tin-yi  
Sales/Festival Contact CNEX Studio Corporation -  
Tammy CHANG: distribution@cnex.com.tw, production@cnex.com.tw

One finds love, marries and then expects happiness.

Once in marriage, love alone ceases to be the only thing that bonds the two together; things of more complexity are added to the play. Love may derive from each other's touch, company or, it might come from a true, authentic conversation between the two. A conversation, an exchange, is the only possible means of dissolving the boundary between two individuals. The journey that turns "You and Me" into "Us" is not an easy road. It is fragile. Every step taken is like treading on thin ice. What's beyond precious is that, after being on the edge of ultimate bliss and destruction for a thousand times, we still choose to stand together. Perhaps this sort of happiness lies only in the journey where seeking is the end itself. There is no final destination, and it can certainly not be captured in frame.



Director **SHEN Ko-shang**  
SHEN's works encompass feature, documentary, and experimental films. In 2009, *Baseball Boys* was nominated for Best Documentary at Golden Horse Awards and the winner of the top prize of Taiwan International Documentary Festival. Another extinguished documentary, *A Rolling Stone* was awarded the Grand Prize at Taipei Film Festival in 2012.



Producer **Ruby CHEN**  
Ruby CHEN is the Co-Founder and CEO of the non-profit CNEX Foundation. She has been involved in the production of numerous award-winning films, including, among others, *KJ: Music and Life*, *Mothers*, *A Young Patriot* and *Plastic China*.

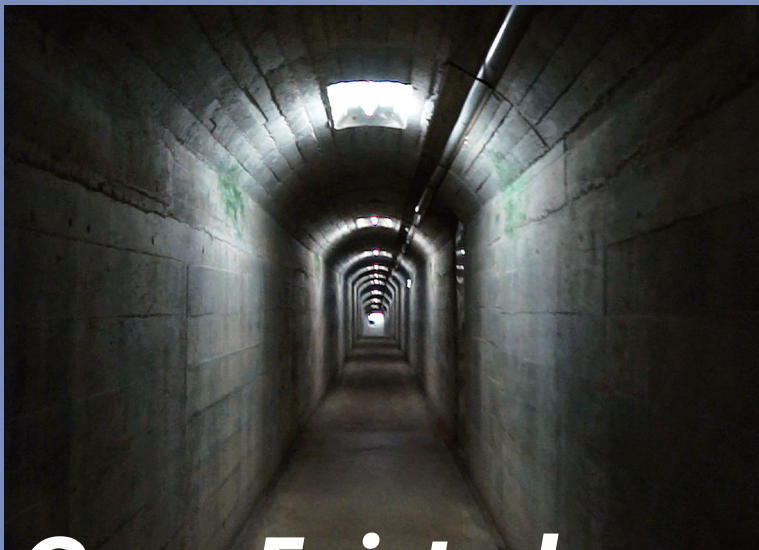


Producer **Ben TSIANG**  
In 1995, Ben TSIANG founded SINANET, the predecessor of Sina, at Silicon Valley. He had devoted ten years of his time in internet before turning his attention to documentary. In 2007, he founded CNEX Foundation, and in turn devoted his time and energy to the making and promoting of documentary films.



Producer **HUNG Tin-yi**  
HUNG Tin-yi has been participating in the production of feature, TV drama, and documentary since 2005. Because of her passion for documentary, HUNG now spends considerable time in documentary filmmaking.





# Once Existed 不在

HUANG Ting-fu | 58min | 2017 Sales/Festival Contact Taiwan Public Television Service Foundation (PTS) - PTSFestival@gmail.com

Kinmen is a group of islands governed by Taiwan and a solid base for the capitalist camp during the Cold War era. Kinmen commenced its construction of military fortifications in 1958, with millions of soldiers stationed on the island. As the USSR communist bloc gradually disintegrated, Kinmen began a large-scale withdrawal of troops in 1988, placing the lives of the island's 50,000 residents in a predicament after having relied on soldiers to earn a living for so long.

With the improvements of cross-strait relations, large amounts of Chinese tourists now flood the very islands they once rained countless bombs on. Tourists from both sides of the Taiwan Strait now take group photos in front of fortifications, but will the future of the cross-strait relations be as fine as the seemingly peace?

Director  
**HUANG Ting-fu**



HUANG Ting-fu (1961) studied television production and worked as an archivist. Since 1985 he's been a passionate documentarist; he shot his first film with an 8mm camera. He's interested in questions of human emotions and types of behavior in various habitats.

# Father 紅盒子



YANG Li-chou | 100min | 2017 Producer Michelle CHU Executive Producer HOU Hsiao-hsien Sales/Festival Contact Backstage Studio - 2009film@gmail.com

CHEN Hsi-huang is the eldest son of LI Tien-lu, the renowned Taiwanese glove puppeteer, but his relationship with his father had always been strained. At the age of 79, CHEN set up his own troupe, which soon earned recognition all over the world. Nevertheless, CHEN finds no one to pass on his great skills...

Festivals & Awards

**2017 Taipei Golden Horse Film Festival**

Director  
**YANG Li-chou**



YANG graduated from Tainan National College of the Arts in Taiwan and has been an independent documentary filmmaker ever since. His work *I Love (080)* won the NETPAC Special Mention at the Yamagata International Documentary Film Festival and Prix Regards Neufs Etat De Vaud at Visions du Reel; *The Old West Gate* won the Best Documentary Award at Taiwan's Council for Cultural Affairs; and *Someone Else's Shinjuku East* won him the Best Non-Drama Director at the Golden Bell Awards. His major works also include *My Football Summer* and *Floating Women*.

Producer  
**Michelle CHU**



Michelle CHU has a degree in Commercial Design from Chung Yuan University. She has filmed a number of documentaries as an independent filmmaker. With YANG Li-chou, she co-founded the Backstage Studio. She continues to film documentaries that deal primarily with women's issues.



# Face the Earth 肉身搏天

HUANG Ming-chuan | 86 min | 2017

Producer Annie BERMAN, YANG Chin-chih, HUANG Ming-chuan

Sales/Festival Contact Formosa Filmedia Co. - HUANG Ming-chuan: hmc\_films@yahoo.com

This is a rare seen film about well known multidisciplinary artist YANG Chin-chih who was born in Taiwan, and has resided for more than 30 years in New York City.

YANG is widely remarked as a performance artist in New York visual art world. His performances often dramatize the divided quality of the self such as the most praised piece *Kill Me Or Change* in which he dropped 30 thousand empty aluminum cans over his head within 20 seconds. The main theme of the story tangles in between YANG's uniquely work which incorporates the actual rhythms and discords of human society and his own facial illness for a long time. Works he made were exhibiting in terms of the waste materials wantonly discarded by industrialized production. Whereas the disease he had suffered ever since his youth causes his face to become twisted for nearly 40 years. But all failed to cure with efforts of five surgical operations in his life.

Director & Producer

**HUANG Ming-chuan**



Co-producer(New York)

**Annie BERMAN**



HUANG Ming-chuan is a film director based in Taipei, Taiwan. After graduating from the Law School of National Taiwan University, HUANG left for New York, establishing his career in still photography for years. After HUANG's first independently made narrative feature *The Man from Island West*, he has been acknowledged as the "forefather of independent film" in Taiwan. Since 2000, he has committed himself to full-time documentary production. His most renowned TV documentary series *Avant-Garde Liberation* depicts 14 Taiwanese contemporary artists and won the first Taishin Arts Award.

Annie BERMAN is a media artist living and working in New York City. She was named one of Independent Magazine's "10 Filmmakers to Watch in 2016". Her films, videos, performances, and installations have shown internationally in galleries, festivals, universities, and conferences, including the MoMA Documentary Fortnight, Rooftop Films, Galerie Patrick Ebensperger Berlin, Kassel Hauptbahnhof, Babycastles Gallery, and the Rome Independent Film Festival where she was awarded the Best Experimental Film Prize.

# Unfinished Progress

建設未完成



Showtsai LIN | 105 min | 2017 Producer LIN Ting-hsuan

Sales/Festival Contact Showtsai LIN: o\_baseball@hotmail.com

Giraffe-like construction cranes are avid eaters. They forage around in the woods and fields for their feeds: the collective longing for development and prosperity. As they crane their necks longer, they make the fantasy of progress more alluring. And that is what WANG Chung-ming steps forward to fight. Left his stable life behind, he devoted himself into local environmentalism in his hometown Tamsui, tried to keep it distant from developmentalism that Taipei had been suffered for long. Few years later, he decided to change his way of political participation.

This documentary film depicts his third attempt to run in the City Council Election in 2014, including the difficulties and conflicts he encounters and the diverse imaginations toward progress. The film also tries to brings up an important question: do we need more edifices in our city, or we need to find a way to edify ourselves?

Festivals & Awards

**2017 Taipei Film Awards-Best Documentary Nomination**

Director

**Showtsai LIN**



Showtsai LIN was born in a middle-class family in Taipei. When he came to Tamsui, a small town on the edge of Taipei City, as a university student, he began to get involved in filmmaking. Inspired by the critical urban theory, he is concerned about the changing urban landscape. *Unfinished Progress* is his first feature-length documentary.

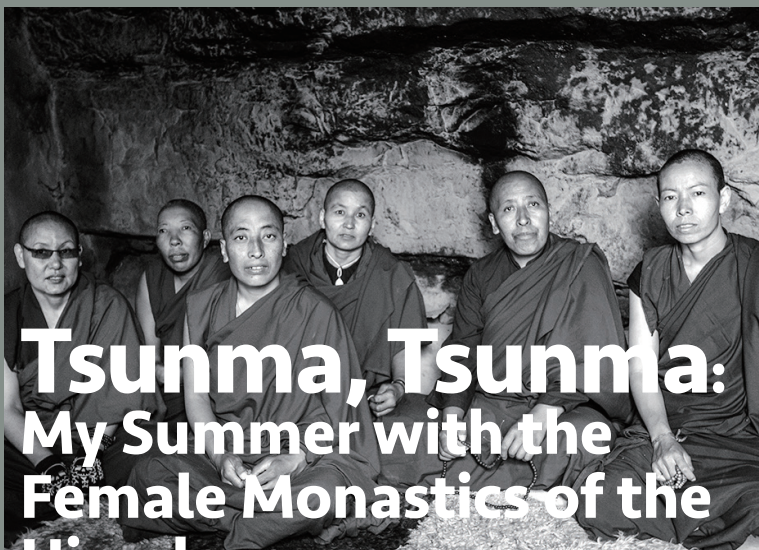
Producer

**LIN Ting-hsuan**



LIN was graduated from documentary studies and film archiving from Tainan National University of the Arts. She likes stories, whatever imaginary or real story. She concerned about urban transformation and the people who leave their hometown.





# Tsunma, Tsunma: My Summer with the Female Monastics of the Himalaya

尊瑪、尊瑪：我和她們在喜馬拉雅山的夏天

Lifang LIN | 70 min | 2017 Producer: Gavin LIN

Sales/Festival Contact: Activator Marketing Co. Ltd. - Enga CHANG: enga.chang@gmail.com

Tsunma, an honorific term connoting “noble, delicate, and pure”, refers to the Tibetan Buddhist Nuns of the Himalayan Region who have been largely dismissed or forgotten by the traditions they follow and the societies they’ve served.

Taiwanese photographer Lifang LIN undertook a solo journey up 4,270 meters into the Himalayan Plateau and lived for an entire summer with some of these nuns and recorded life in the unforgiving environment dubbed “The Roof of the World”. There, Lifang LIN captured a life devoted to hope and faith and a people possessing a unique kind of tolerance, humility, and perseverance.

This is a story of the Nuns of the Himalayas, of seeing one’s life through theirs, that is, a life lived in faith and with the spark of a summer eternal.

Festivals & Awards

**2017 Taiwan Women Makes Waves Film Festival- Merit Prize**

Director  
Lifang LIN



LIN was born 1965 in Yunlin County of Taiwan. In 1989 she became a photojournalist for Commonwealth Magazine and was featured in four photography exhibits. She graduated from CTI College in Photography in Lyon, France in 1993. In 1999 she began traveling to India, documenting the life and work of Tibetan Buddhist Monks. In 2000, she was awarded Taiwan’s Golden Tripod Award for Individual Achievement in Magazine Photography. To date, she has completed the following films: *Papa’s Youthful Dream*, *Buddha’s Sons*, *The Returners*, and *My Mother*. Her films have been selected in film festivals all around the world, including France, Holland, and Japan.

Producer  
Gavin LIN



Gavin LIN graduated from Pittsburg State University. He is good at characterizing the emotions of the characters and depicting delicate and moving stories.

In 2005, his short film created in the U.S., *Liberty Avenue* won the first prize and the best clip of the 28th Golden Harvest Award. In 2010, he released the first 35mm feature film *In Case Of Love* in Taiwan. In 2011, his second feature film *Revenge of the Factory Woman* was nominated by international film festivals. His recent film work *Welcome to the Happy Days* was released in 2016.

# Manfei 曼菲



CHEN Hwai-en | 120 min | 2017 Producer: Ginny WEI

Sales/Festival Contact: Activator Marketing Co. Ltd. - Enga Chang: enga.chang@gmail.com

This is a story of deep yearning that introduces the life of a wonderful dancer and a great friend and teacher: LO Man-fei.

Major modern dance companies, such as Martha GRAHAM, Pina BAUSCH and Hofesh SHECHTER, all recognize Taiwan’s standing in the dance world. In Taiwan, several young choreographers have shown the potential needed to achieve worldwide fame. These achievements are due in large part to the guidance and encouragement given by Man-fei. Each night, Man-fei would gather family, students and friends in a party setting to talk. When she became severely ill, she said: “If that day ever comes, I won’t say goodbye to anybody. Just act as if I’m sleeping in the adjacent room.”

A decade ago, she left; a decade later, she still remains.

Festivals & Awards

**2017 Taipei Film Awards - Best Documentary Nomination**

Director  
CHEN Hwai-en



CHEN Hwai-en was one of the leading figures in the first wave of New Taiwan Cinema in 80’s. For more than 20 years, he has been working with several famous Taiwanese directors, such as Edward YANG and HOU Hsiao-hsien. He is a talented director in many ways, producing more than a hundred films. In the 2007 film *Island Etude*, he was responsible for screenplay, directing, and cinematography. The movie became a blockbuster and led to the phenomenon of cycling in Taiwan.



# Home Abroad

下站停靠

Boan WANG | 10min | 2017 Producer Boan WANG  
Sales/Festival Contact Boan WANG: boanwang@outlook.com

A non-typical story about immigration—a Taiwanese student in Brussels investigates his identity crisis through a personal documentary essay.

Festivals & Awards  
**2017 DMZ IDFF-Asian Competition**

Director & Producer  
**Boan WANG**



Born in 1991, Taipei. Currently studying documentary directing in Brussels as part of Erasmus Mundus Master Program Docnomads. He is a versatile filmmaker passionate about exploring fiction, documentary and anything in between.

# Condemned Practice Mode

徐自強的練習題



CHI Yueh-chun | 95 min | 2017 Producer TSAI Tsung-lung  
Sales/Festival Contact Broken Scene Studio - CHI Yueh-chun: relax.chi@gmail.com

HSU Tzu-chiang was pronounced guilty and sentenced to death in a 1995 kidnapping and murder case despite the lack of forensic evidence. After a 16-year effort by NGOs, HSU was released with a life sentence in 2016. Now out of prison, he continues the fight to prove his innocence.

Director CHI has been documenting and filming HSU's story since 2012. The journey brought CHI face-to-face with the shortcomings of human society and inspired his investigation into why the judicial system failed HSU by presuming his guilt without any corroborating evidence.

Festivals & Awards  
**2017 Golden Horse Awards - Best Documentary Nomination**  
**2017 Taipei Film Awards- Audience Choice Award**

Director  
**CHI Yueh-chun**



CHI Yueh-chun participated in various social movements as a video activist covering issues such as urban redevelopment and resettlement, urban indigenous communities, agriculture, environment, labour, independent media, as well as justice and human rights. He also took part in the development of webcasting, aiming to change broadcasting media via social activism. In recent years, he focuses on filming documentary and producing commercials and short films. He is currently planning the production of a feature film.

Producer  
**TSAI Tsung-lung**



TSAI Tsung-lung got his first job as a journalist for the Independence Morning Post and Wealth Magazine, where the daily task was to follow the latest news. Later he joined Super TV and FTV and took charge in the in-depth report and investigation. Experiences at these two media companies were, for him, not just essential training but also a way of understanding society. Later he entered Documentary Division of PTS Taiwan, and he daringly took his leap onto the path of documentary and stayed on for more than 15 years.





# Ça Fait Si Longtemps

漂流遇見你

Laha MEBOW | 90 min | 2017 | Producer: Jewel Chen-lin LAI  
Sales/Festival Contact: Dot Connect Studio Ltd. - Jewel Chen-lin LAI: dotconnectstudio@gmail.com

Is it possible that total strangers of different ethnicity on the other side of the ocean can have a similar cultural background and fate with us?

Two young indigenous Taiwanese pop musicians explore the beauty, creativity and cultural diversity of New Caledonia in the southwest Pacific Ocean by visiting some of its acclaimed indigenous Kanaky musicians to share their love and passion for music and life.

Through the journey, they discover the key to be seen in the world is to find and redefine the roots of their own traditions.

Festivals & Awards

**2017 Kaohsiung Film Festival**

Director

**Laha MEBOW**



Laha MEBOW is the first female indigenous film director in Taiwan. She has devoted herself to the industry for 18 years as a scriptwriter, director and TV producer. Her works focus mostly on the shared experience of indigenous peoples in Taiwan. Her latest feature *Hang in There, Kids!* is awarded the Grand Prize at Taipei Film Festival 2016. She received an Annual Top 10 Outstanding Young Women Award in 2015 for her contribution to indigenous issues. She recently visited the Cité Internationale des Arts in Paris as an artist-in-residence on the recommendation of Taiwan government.

Producer

**Jewel Chen-lin LAI**



Jewel Chen-lin LAI received her Master in Film and Screen Study from Goldsmiths College, University of London. She has organised two editions of the acclaimed CNEX Documentary Film Festival and founded Dot Connect Studio in 2012. She currently works as a film producer and festival programmer.



A member of the FIAP since 1995, Taiwan Film Institute is dedicated to the preservation, restoration and promotion of Taiwan cinema. It plays an active role in facilitating the sale of Taiwan films internationally.



Founded in 1998, Taiwan International Documentary Festival (TIDF) is one of the major professional platforms for documentaries in Asia. It looks for documentaries that are creative, relevant to social and human interests and have unique points of view.



Taiwan Cinema Toolkit project provides 160+ Taiwanese films with English subtitles FREE for non-profit screenings. More than 40 Films are available in high-quality DCP, Blu-ray, and DVD formats.

Website for more details: [cinema.toolkit.tw/en](http://cinema.toolkit.tw/en)

Contact us NOW: [toolkit@mail.tfi.org.tw](mailto:toolkit@mail.tfi.org.tw)

