







22 Hours Films Present

ANGELS WEAR WHITE

Written and directed by Vivian Qu

China – 2017 – 107min – 1.85 – 5.1 - Color

US DISTRIBUTION

KimStim

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SYNOPSIS

In a small seaside town, two schoolgirls are assaulted by a middle-aged man in a motel.

Mia, a teenager who was working on reception that night, is the only witness. For fear of losing her job, she says nothing.

Meanwhile, 12-year-old Wen, one of the victims, finds that her troubles have only just begun.

Trapped in a world that offers them no safety, Mia and Wen will have to find their own way out.





This is a story about women.

About the society that shapes our perceptions and values. About the choices that are allowed us and the courage to make different ones. About the interchangeable roles of the victim and the bystander.

About truth and justice.

And above all, about love.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

DIRECTOR'S INTENTION NOTE

Once during a scouting trip, I saw a young girl, 8 or 9 years old, playing alone on a long flight of steps against a hilltop. It was approaching dusk and the area was deserted. The girl was happy to see us and volunteered to be our model as we shot videos of the area. She told me that her parents, migrant workers from a faraway province, were still at work; that her home was in a basement at the bottom of the hill; that she had no friends. She didn't want to see us leave, and asked if we'd be back the next day. Are the young girls fine? I often wonder.





Aside from the young protagonists Wen and Mia, there are other female characters in my film: Lily, the lawyer, and Wen's mother. Inside each one of them is a woman defined by society, and a woman who tries to break free. "What kind of a woman will I become?" is a question that every girl would ask. It is often the other women in their lives who help answer. When I started writing the script, a photo in the news caught my eyes: a giant statue in a white dress was being dismantled, and next to it, a young woman was holding up a sign that read: "Don't go, Marilyn!" It was happening in a small town in southwest China where the statue was had been built for commercial purposes but was torn down because the skirt was flying too high. It seems, half a century later, Marilyn's struggles have not ended.

In the southern coastal town where I wanted to set my story, I noticed that every day the sandy beaches were crowded with dozens of newly- weds, posing extravagantly for their wedding photos. It is a popular local business. The brides - wearing rented, often dirty wedding gowns - looked happy. They were sure that the stains on their dresses could be easily removed digitally, and that they would have a perfectly white dress in the photo, which they could keep forever.

We have associated the color white with purity since ancient times. In today's society where anything can be commoditized, we have yet to reexamine the meaning of purity. Angels Wear White is therefore a hypothesis, a question with past, present, and

future tenses.

Vivian Qu





DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Writer, director and producer Vivian Qu is a key figure of the Chinese independent film circle. Her directorial debut, *Trap Street*, premiered to critical acclaim at the 70th Venice Film Festival in 2013, and screened at over 50 film festivals worldwide. The film was acclaimed as "a great representation of the newest generation of Chinese filmmakers" at the 2014 New Directors / New Films at Lincoln Center/MoMA in New York, and was awarded the Grand Jury Prize at the Boston Independent Film Festival and the Dragons & Tigers Award Special Mention at the Vancouver International Film Festival.

In 2014 Vivian Qu produced *Black Coal, Thin Ice*, which won the Golden Bear and a Silver Bear at the 64th Berlin International Film Festival. Further credits as producer include *Night Train* (2007 Un Certain Regard, Cannes Film Festival), *Knitting* (2008 Cannes Director's Fortnight), and *Longing for the Rain* (2013 Rotterdam International Film Festival).

In 2014 Vivian Qu served on the International Jury for Best Debut Film at the 71st Venice Film Festival and the International Jury at the 8th Asia Pacific Screen Awards. Vivian Qu's second film as director, *Angels Wear White*, was made with support from Centre National du Cinema and Région Ile-de-France in France and Vision sud est in Switzerland.

DIRECTOR'S FILMOGRAPHY

Black Coal, Thin Ice (2014) – Producer Trap Street (2013) – Director, Writer Longing for the Rain (2013) – Producer Knitting (2008) – Co-producer Night Train (2007) – Producer

CAST

WEN QI as Mia **ZHOU MEIJUN** as Wen SHI KE as Attorney Hao **GENG LE** as Meng Tao (Wen's father) LIU WEIWEI as Wen's mother **PENG JING** as Lily WANG YUEXIN as Jian LI MENGNAN as Inspector Wang JIANG XINYUE as Xin CHEN CHU SHENG as Motel manager YU HONGZHOU as Xin's father **DOU XIANG** as Xin's mother XU KUAN as Policeman Li ZHANG GUANGSHUN as Waterpark manager **CAO YUNQING** as Commissioner Liu

CREW

Director Vivian Qu
Screenplay Vivian Qu
Producer Sean Chen
Director of Photography Benoit Dervaux
Editor Yang Hongyu
Music Wen Zi
Set Designer Peng Shaoying
Sound Zhang Yang
Costume Designer Wang Tao
Special Effects A Donglin

Production 22 Hours Films
Co production Mandrake Films











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BEST DIRECTOR





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