



西遊

JOURNEY TO THE WEST

by TSAI MING LIANG

Synopsis

Following in the footsteps of early Buddhist travellers, a monk wanders slowly through the busy streets of Marseille. Draped in a bright red robe contrasting with the colours of the town, he advances, deep in concentration, head bowed, completely absorbed and lost in the precise pace of his movement. Meeting others does not happen through discussion, nor by direct contact, but by visiting, by breathing the same air, being alive at the same moment, in the here and now.

The character appears to be the reincarnation of Xuanzang, the VIIth century Chinese monk, celebrated for his force of character and his search for the « void » that led him on a 17 year journey across Asia. With *Journey to the West* Tsai Ming Liang signs his latest work in a series of films all shot in the manner of an editorial : the quiet pace of the monk in counterpoint to the bustle of different regions of the world. By imagining a contemporary transposition of the spirit of Xuanzang, these films illustrate, at a distance of 14 centuries, the intense beauty of such temporality stolen from rapidity, from the immediateness of life and from the folly filling the world.

A word by Tsai Ming Liang

The journey to the West is the sixth in a series of films with the title “Walker” that I consider a heaven-sent gift to my career as a filmmaker. In 2011 Lee Kang Sheng walked very slowly on the stage during my play called “Only You”. His performance was so perfect that I decided to film it. His walking, so special and so slow, in all the four corners of the world recalls that of Xuanzang, the holy monk of the Tang dynasty, who traveled thousands of kilometers seeking the holy scriptures.

In the classical Chinese novel “The Journey to the West” Xuanzang frees the Monkey king from his prison at the foot of a mountain. In Marseilles, there is a rock that resembles the face of a monkey: in the bay of monkeys. Fashioned by the effects of time, Denis Lavant’s face is like these rocky shapes and I am irresistibly attracted to it. That was how I started to think of Lee Kang Sheng walking on his face...

Gently following the sparkling light of late summer, across this ancient city harbor raising clouds of dust, his steps remind me of the prayer in the Diamond Sutra:

“All composed things are like a dream,
A phantom, a drop of dew, or a flash of lightning,
That is how to meditate on them,
That is how to observe them.”

Tsai Ming Liang 15th January 2014



Tsai Ming Liang

Born in Malaysia in 1957, Tsai Ming Liang is one of the most prominent film directors of the new cinema movement in Taiwan. In 1994, his film *Vive l'Amour* was honored with the Golden Lion award at the Venice Film Festival, and established a place for him in the world of international film. Each of his feature films has since been selected by either the Cannes, Berlin or Venice film festivals. In 2009, the Louvre Museum invited him to make the first fictional feature film for their collection "Le Louvre s'offre aux cineastes": *Face (Visage)*, which became a benchmark for filmmakers venturing into the art world. In 2012, the slow-walking performance by Lee Kang Sheng, originally from a stage play, was developed into the "slow walking Long March" series of short films, which includes *No Form*, *Walker*, *Sleepwalk* and *Diamond Sutra*. These short films were made in different cities and across different fields, combining cinema, performance and installation art to present an intellectual criticism of the endless pursuit of contemporary life.

Filmography

- 2013 *Stray Dogs* - Grand Jury Award at Venice Film Festival
- 2009 *Face* - In competition at the Cannes Film Festival
- 2006 *I Don't Want to Sleep Alone* - In competition at the Venice Film Festival
- 2005 *The Wayward Cloud* - Winner of the Silver Bear, Alfred Bauer Award and FRIPESCI Prize at the Berlin International Film Festival
- 2003 *Goodbye, Dragon Inn* - Winner of the FRIPESCI Prize at the Venice Film Festival
- 2002 *The Skywalk Is Gone*
- 2001 *What Time is It There?* - In Competition at the Cannes Film Festival and winner of the Technical Achievement Award
- 1998 *The Hole* - Winner of the FRIPESCI Prize at the Cannes Film Festival
- 1997 *The River* - Winner of the Silver Bear Award at the Berlin International Film Festival
- 1994 *Vive L'amour* - Winner of the Golden Lion Award at the Venice Film Festival and the FRIPESCI Prize
- 1992 *Rebels of the Neon God* - Winner of the Best First Film Award at the Nantes International Film Festival



Lee Kang Sheng

Lee Kang Sheng was born in Taipei in 1968. In 1991, he was discovered by Tsai Ming Liang to act in his TV drama, *The Kid*. From then on, Lee has starred in every film that Tsai has made. Although not trained as an actor, his unique presence makes his performances truly distinctive, and make him one of the most recognizable actors in Taiwanese cinema. In 2003, drawing upon his film making experience gained as an actor, he made his directorial debut with *The Missing* and won the New Currents Award at the Pusan International Film Festival and the Tiger Award at the Rotterdam International Film Festival. In 2007, he wrote, directed and starred in his second film, *Help Me Eros*, which went on to compete for the prestigious Golden Lion Award in Venice.

Filmography

- 2013 *Stray Dogs* by Tsai Ming Liang - Best Actor at Golden Horse Festival
- 2009 *Face* by Tsai Ming Liang
- 2007 *Help me Eros* by Lee Kang Sheng
- 2006 *I Don't Want to Sleep Alone* by Tsai Ming Liang
- 2005 *The Wayward Cloud* by Tsai Ming Liang - Winner of the Silver Bear, Alfred Bauer Award and FRIPESCI Prize at the Berlin International Film Festival
- 2003 *Goodbye, Dragon Inn* by Tsai Ming Liang - Winner of the FRIPESCI Prize at the Venice Film Festival
- 2002 *The Skywalk Is Gone* by Tsai Ming Liang
- 2001 *What Time is It There?* by Tsai Ming Liang
- 2000 *Sunny Doll* by Yixiong Chen
- 1999 *Ordinary Heroes* by Ann Hui
- 1998 *The Hole* by Tsai Ming Liang - FRIPESCI Prize at the Cannes Film Festival
- 1997 *The River* by Tsai Ming Liang - Winner of the Silver Bear Award at the Berlin International Film Festival
- 1994 *Vive L'amour* by Tsai Ming Liang - Winner of the Golden Lion Award at the Venice Film Festival and the FRIPESCI Prize
- 1992 *Rebels of the Neon God* by Tsai Ming Liang - Winner of the Best First Film Award at the Nantes International Film Festival

Denis Lavant

Denis Lavant is born in 1961 at Neuilly-sur-Seine, France. He started acting in 1982 in several movies before making his breakthrough in 1984 in *Boys Meets Girls*, the directorial debut of Leos Carax, with those films he has been associated ever since. Acting for cinema, theater and television, Denis Lavant multiplies his role as he's doing his faces. For Harmony Korine's *Mister Lonely*, in which he portrayed Charlie Chaplin, Denis Lavant who does not speak English learned his lines phonetically. A performance he declined later playing a violent monster who speaks in a gibberish language in Leos Carax *Tokyo!*'s segment or embodying a chameleonic actor on assignment in *Holy Motors* from the same director, entrant at the Cannes Film Festival in 2012.

Filmography

- 2011 *Holly Motors* by Léos Carax - Grand Prix at the Chicago Film Festival, Silver Hugo's best actor
Michael Kolhaas by Arnaud des Pallières
- 2010 *Io Sono Con Te* by Guido Chiesa
- 2007 *Tokyo* by Michel Gondry, Léos Carax and Jon-ho Bong
- 2006 *Capitaine Achab* by Philippe Ramos
Happy New Year by Berkun Oya
Mister Lonely by Harmony Korine
- 2004 *Un Long dimanche de fiançailles* by Jean-Pierre Jeunet
Luminal by André Vecchiato
Camping Sauvage by Christophe Ali and Nicolas Bonilauri
- 1999 *Beau travail* by Claire Denis
- 1998 *Le Monde à l'envers* by Rolando Colla
Yasaeng Dongmool Pohokuyeok by Kim Ki-duk
- 1997 *Don Juan* by Jacques Weber
- 1992 *De Forces avec d'autres* by Simon Reggiani
- 1991 *Les Amants du pont-neuf* by Léos Carax
- 1986 *Mauvais Sang* by Léos Carax
- 1982 *Coup de foudre* by Diane Kurys
Les Misérables by Robert Hossein





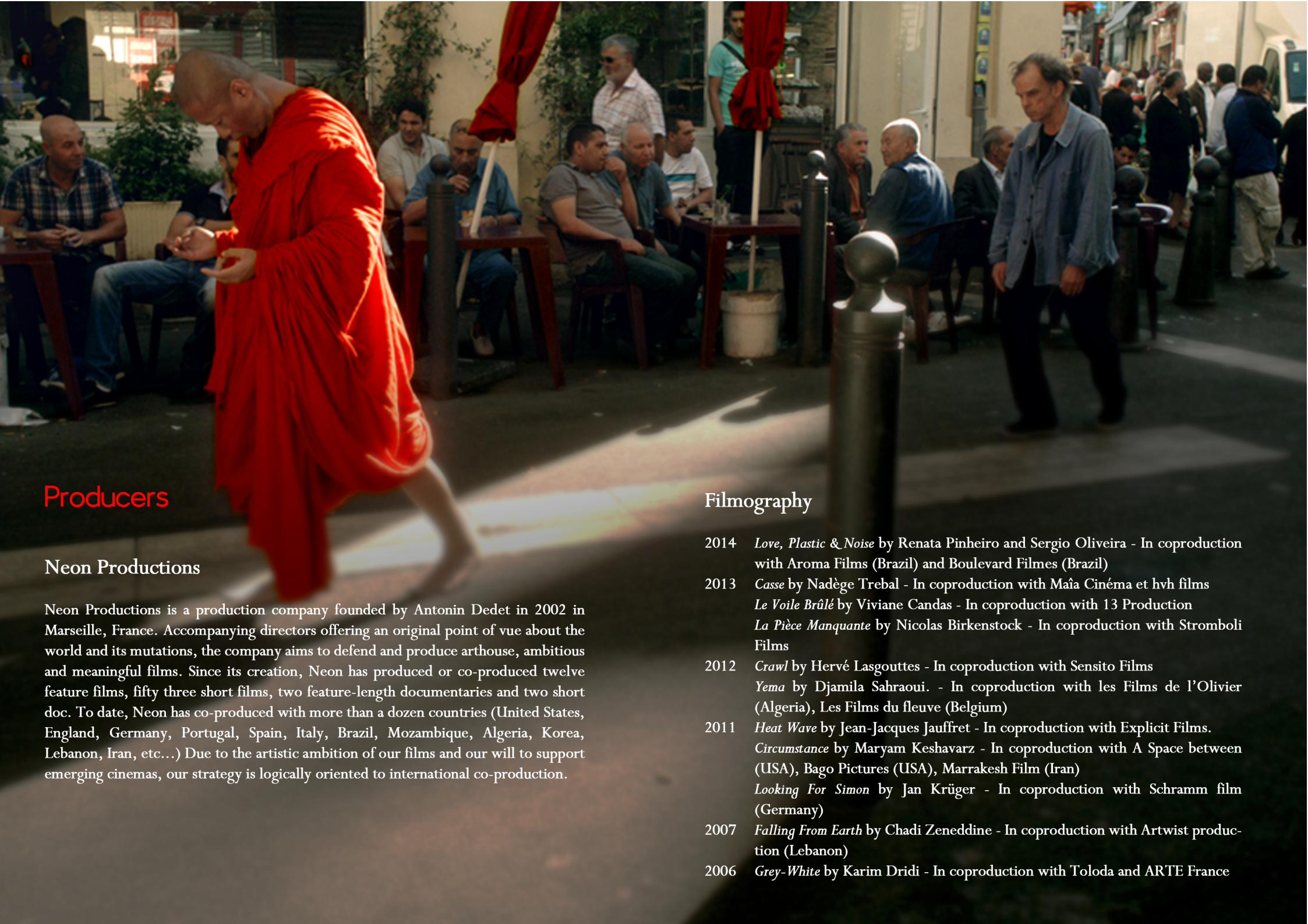
Producers

House on Fire

HOUSE ON FIRE is a production company created in 2009 by Vincent Wang, Tsai Ming Liang producer for over 12 years and Antoine Barraud, writer-director. After producing over 8 feature films with production Homegreen Taiwanese Films, Vincent Wang returned to his adoption country, France, to found this company in order to continue to support the works of great directors such as Tsai Ming Liang and Stephen Dwoskin and to produce young writers between Europe and Asia while bringing together experienced producers such as Fred Bellaïche and Dominique Welinski.

Filmography

- 2014 *Oblivion Verses* by Alireza Khatami - In coproduction with Endorphine Production (Germany), Lemming (Holland) and Bulut Film (Turkey)
Underground Fragrance by Song Pengfei - In coproduction with Mishka Production (China), Film Base Berlin (Germany)
- 2013 *Le Dos Rouge* by Antoine Barraud - With the participation of CNAP, Centre Pompidou, CNC, France 2 et Anna Sanders Film
Journey to the west by Tsai Ming Liang
Stray Dogs by Tsai Ming Liang - In coproduction with Homegreen Films and JBA Production, Grand Prix to the Venice Mostra
- 2012 *Age Is...* by Stephen Dwoskin - In coproduction with Illuminations Films (Great Britain), with the participation of CNAP, CNC, Arts Council, British Film Institute and Arte France.
- 2010 *Trois Portraits Japonnais* by Antoine Barraud - With the support of CNAP, CNC - Regards sur la culture and Japan Foundation
Les inédits de Pierre Clémenti - With the support of Région Ile de France
- 2009 *Madam Butterfly* by Tsai Ming Liang - In coproduction with Homegreen Films (Taiwan).lin (Germany)



Producers

Neon Productions

Neon Productions is a production company founded by Antonin Dedet in 2002 in Marseille, France. Accompanying directors offering an original point of view about the world and its mutations, the company aims to defend and produce arthouse, ambitious and meaningful films. Since its creation, Neon has produced or co-produced twelve feature films, fifty three short films, two feature-length documentaries and two short doc. To date, Neon has co-produced with more than a dozen countries (United States, England, Germany, Portugal, Spain, Italy, Brazil, Mozambique, Algeria, Korea, Lebanon, Iran, etc...) Due to the artistic ambition of our films and our will to support emerging cinemas, our strategy is logically oriented to international co-production.

Filmography

- 2014 *Love, Plastic & Noise* by Renata Pinheiro and Sergio Oliveira - In coproduction with Aroma Films (Brazil) and Boulevard Filmes (Brazil)
- 2013 *Casse* by Nadège Trebal - In coproduction with Maïa Cinéma et hvh films
Le Voile Brûlé by Viviane Candas - In coproduction with 13 Production
La Pièce Manquante by Nicolas Birkenstock - In coproduction with Stromboli Films
- 2012 *Crawl* by Hervé Lasgouttes - In coproduction with Sensito Films
Yema by Djamila Sahraoui. - In coproduction with les Films de l'Olivier (Algeria), Les Films du fleuve (Belgium)
- 2011 *Heat Wave* by Jean-Jacques Jauffret - In coproduction with Explicit Films.
Circumstance by Maryam Keshavarz - In coproduction with A Space between (USA), Bago Pictures (USA), Marrakesh Film (Iran)
Looking For Simon by Jan Krüger - In coproduction with Schramm film (Germany)
- 2007 *Falling From Earth* by Chadi Zeneddine - In coproduction with Artwist production (Lebanon)
- 2006 *Grey-White* by Karim Dridi - In coproduction with Toloda and ARTE France

France / Taiwan - 2014

Running Time : 56 min - Image : 1.85 - Language : Chinese

Cast

The Monk
The Follower

Lee Kang Sheng
Denis Lavant

Crew

Writer/Director Tsai Ming Liang
Producers Vincent Wang, Fred Bellaïche
Co-producers Antonin Dedet, Samuel Tronçon
Cinematographer Antoine Heberlé
Sound engineer Frédéric Salles
Costume Designer Wang Chia Hui
Chief editor Lei Zhen Qing
Sound Editor Xavier Dreyfuss
Colorist Yov Moor
Production manager Jean-Paul Noguès

Make up/Wardrobe Julia Didier
Props master Hervé Simon
Key Grip Marko Balland
Gaffer Jean-Baptiste Moutrille
Camera Equipment Panavision Marseille
Lighting Equipment TSF Sud / Transpalux
Mixing Studio Poly Son
Post Production Cosmodigital
Laboratory Cosmodigital
Music Sébastien Mauro
Graphic Designer Gary Delépine
Text Mélanie Drouère
English Translation Clare Perkins

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PRODUCTIONS



HOME GREEN FILMS

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