



GUIDANCE

Director: Neysan Sobhani

Cast: Sun Jia (*Han Miao*), Harry Song (*Mai Zi Xuan*) and Francesco Chen (*Su Jie*)

GUIDANCE will be released in the US on VOD (June 17) on all major platforms including: Apple TV/iTunes, Amazon, Google Play, Vudu, XFINITY Cable, and more.

GUIDANCE Photo Key Set:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/r7v28hsqfhdb48t/AACBDZkTLaz0CxIKKT413UQta?dl=0>

China, 2021, 93 minutes, In Mandarin Chinese with English subtitles

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GUIDANCE- SYNOPSIS

In the not-too-distant future, humanity slowly rebuilds itself a decade after The Great War. Believing that the ability to lie is the root cause of the devastating conflict, a tech entrepreneur creates a pill containing a nanotechnology app known as “Guidance” that allegedly will make everyone more enlightened. Once swallowed, an A.I. “installs” in the person’s nervous system and aids their ability to detect deception in other people among other enhancements.

A young couple goes on a weekend retreat to the countryside, and they begin to use Guidance. However, recent events have potentially compromised their trust in one another. With the tech in their bodies, the couple tries to subvert Guidance in the hopes of saving their relationship before it’s too late.

GUIDANCE- DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Truth and lies are often a central feature in our stories, both in the West and the East, including their resulting consequences, whether it be betrayal, forgiveness, love or mercy. In making GUIDANCE, I wanted to explore this vast topic using a Science Fiction lens, which is a perfect genre to reinterpret existing ideas.

I lived through a lot of societal conflict when I was younger, often unwilling or being forced to leave regions due to ethnic or civil war. I always wondered about the source of this all-encompassing conflict? Could we remove and eradicate conflict from the human experience? And is there a way technology can facilitate this? I have come to the conclusion that truth and trust have a tremendous impact in our lives, in addition to the ability to lie and deceive. From here, it became a natural progression to creating a device that could do two things: first, help guide you to become a better person in real time as you live your life. Second, it would help warn you if someone is lying or trying to deceive you. In essence we remove the “choice” of truth or lies inside us.

I wanted to explore this using a simple and small story of an ordinary couple placed in an extraordinary situation. A contained drama such as GUIDANCE also alleviates the pressures of a larger production, while still allowing us to delve into the minutiae of concepts and ideas.

To execute this vision as a non-native Chinese person, making a film in China, in Mandarin, has been an incredibly fascinating experience, although I’ve lived in China for many years. We had to remind ourselves that the film was also forging a slightly different path by being a rare combination of an indie/art film that was set in the future.

This Art+Future blended genre as a Chinese domestic film was somewhat new to audiences in China. To audiences outside China it may not be new, but it will be unexpected. Inevitably, from the start this project has always felt like an international film, rather than a localized film or a film localized to a specific country or culture.

Our team, and particularly myself, have all either been born in one region of the world, and then lived in a very completely different part of the world –all of us with diverse backgrounds and experiences, but the most common thread being China. Yet North America, Asia and the Middle East runs very deep in our collective experience. So, to me the film is not really a Chinese film, it is not a Western film, and it is not a Middle Eastern film (even though I am ethnically Persian/Iranian) and yet at the same time **it is all three.**

What I like to describe as the meditative or visual tapestry of the film are strongly inspired by both the modern Iranian and Asian filmmakers that have been an undoubtable influence, whether it be Kiarostami, Hou Hsiao-hsien or Kurosawa, not to mention the style of 'deceptive simplicity' of the stories brought to the world by any number of the masters of Iranian cinema.

And yet how we shot this film, and by that I include not only the nuts and bolts of which cameras we used, but also the narrative structure which is heavily tilted on the Western style of filmmaking, especially that of Hitchcock in terms of our puzzle piece approach. Using two aspect ratios (4:3 and 2.39) was central to shaping the story, where the 4:3 framing primarily is used for the main couple allowing us to squeeze them into the frame. This gives us at least a veneer of their emotional closeness. The widescreen framing occurs when the other couple are together, to provide a contrasting feeling of their distance. The two framings also help the audience understand the two timelines.

I was also drawn to the idea of exploring the intersection of three areas: humanity, nature and technology. Many speak about the need for humanity to co-exist with one other and with nature, but I strongly feel this is outdated. Co-existing and tolerance is not enough. We need a much larger vision, and much more noble ambition, which is not only harmony with each other and with nature, but unity. These themes play out throughout the film in various imagery and through the decisions and actions of the various characters, who represent various competing worldviews.

Filmmaker Neysan Sobhani

GUIDANCE- FILMMAKER BIOGRAPHIES

NEYSAN SOBHANI (WRITER/DIRECTOR/PRODUCER)

Writer/Director Neysan Sobhani is an award-winning writer and director making short films and now his feature debut, GUIDANCE, in Asia. Raised in Asia and North America and at times officially stateless, his identity was shaped by the diverse places he lived, having fled war and conflict twice while young.

As a diaspora filmmaker, Sobhani's films have flavors of Asian and Western cinema, with his short films appearing in over 40 international film festivals around the world. Reframing audience perceptions of Chinese films through a blended genre approach, his feature film, GUIDANCE (2021), was released in cinemas across China in late 2021.

FILMOGRAPHY:

- Dimensions 2013 (short film)
- Passages 2014 (short film)
- Broken Places 2016 (short film)
- Transitions 2017 (short film)
- Wu Kong 2017 (Music Video)
- Guidance 2021 (Feature)

KHALIL FONG (EXECUTIVE PRODUCER)

Khalil is one of the pre-eminent recording artists in Asia, releasing 16 music projects in his career, with social media followers of over 11 million people. He has previously won Asia's prestigious Golden Melody Award for Best Male Singer, iTunes Album of the Year, MTV Asia Best Male singer and many more.

SABA MAZLOUM (PRODUCER AND DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY)

Saba was Cinematographer on Stephen Chow's THE NEW KING OF COMEDY, Dai Si Jie's NIGHT PEACOCK, as well as working on Zhang Yimou's THE GREAT WALL, Tsui Hark's THE FLYING SWORDS OF DRAGON GATE and YOUNG DETECTIVE DEE.

ABOUT GOOD DEED ENTERTAINMENT

Good Deed Entertainment (GDE) is an Ohio based independent studio dedicated to producing, financing, and distributing quality entertainment for under-served audiences. Its distribution slate includes recent releases *Summertime*, *Ma Belle*, *My Beauty*, and *Lucky Grandma*, in addition to the Academy Award nominated, *Loving Vincent*, and Spirit Award nominated, *To Dust*.

Website: <http://www.gooddeedentertainment.com/>

GUIDANCE- CAST & CREW LIST

Directed by

Neysan Sobhani

Written by

Neysan Sobhani
Anders R. Fransson
Daniel Wang

Executive Producers

Neysan Sobhani
Khalil Fong
Saba Mazloun
Shahin Sobhani

Director of Photography

Saba Mazloun

Music composed and performed by

Navid Hejazi

Production Design

Zoe Lee

Edited by

Neysan Sobhani

Main Cast

Sun Jia
Harry Song
Francesco Chen

韩淼 Han Miao 孙佳 Sun Jia
麦子轩 Mai Zi Xuan 宋琦 Harry Song
苏杰 Su Jie 陈安 Francesco Chen
方小琴 Female Journalist 邱宇婕 Yu Chieh Chiu
大同 Da Tong 方大同 Khalil Fong
依依 Yi Yi 王菁杭 Udora Wang
朱先生 Mr. Zhu 祥子

苏杰男助理 Su Jie's Male Assistant 张坤
苏杰女助理 #1 Su Jie's Female Assistant #1 张欢
苏杰女助理 #2 Su Jie's Female Assistant #2 徐杰
灵儿 Ling (声音 voice) 姚典娜
友希 Yuki (声音 voice) 李月
杰克 Jack (声音 voice) Sacha Ghalili
男记者 Male Journalist (声音 voice) 刘洋

制片人 Producers Neysan Sobhani

Khalil Fong
Shahin Sobhani
Saba Mazloun

联合制片人 Co-producers

Anders Fransson
Handel Lee
虞晓毅

副制片人 Associate Producers

梁玉兰
孙文童
薛媛
张仕豪

陈设美术 Set Decorator 王贯宇

副美术 Assistant Art Director 冯思思

美术助理 Art Department Assistant 杨欣潼

服装造型设计 Costume Designer 李德雅

服装製作顧問 Costume Production Consultant 梁江兒

造型组长 Stylist 朱颖

化妆师 Make-up Artist 祖帅

髮型师 Hair Stylist 崔玉龙

服装製作 Costume Production 衣道服飾

声音后期制作 Sound Post Production by 敬真堂 (北京) 文化咨询有限公司
Pro Soul Studios

声音指导 Supervising Sound Editor Jarome Matthew

音频剪辑和拟音 Audio editing and foley 侯非
Zei Tian

对白补录选角指导 ADR Casting Supervisor 胡莹

对白剪辑 Dialogue Editing 王亚珊 Yashan Wang

音效剪辑 Sound Effects Editor Jeff Li

部分声音设计及混音 Additional Sound Design
& Audio Mixing Jarome Matthew

录音师 Sound Recordist 李然

录音助理 Assistant Sound Recordist 徐杰

录音助理 Assistant Sound Recordist 李志强

作曲 Sound Design 胡莹

Additional Footage Mitch Martinez

第一副导 1st AD 侯雪

王苇杭

第二副导演 2nd AD 杨修治

第二第二副导演 3rd AD 江苙

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张猛

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副组长 Assistant Prop Master 王海飞

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吴卫国

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跟焦 Focus Puller 蒋建彬

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摄影助理 Assistant 陶涛

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Sacha Ghalili

Scott Mohajeri Norris

Howe Cheng

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Sirish Babu Gurrala

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渣巴 ZAPbeijing

Song ("Travel Far with you")

想和你去远方 (Demo + Strings) 曲: Melodia Kong 孔艺弦 词: 申名利 & Melodia Kong
孔艺弦 制作: 方大同@JTW 弦乐编曲及指挥: Matt Jones 管弦乐: Matt
Jones 管弦乐队 弦乐工程: Rollin Weary @ShirkStudios 其他乐器: 丁少华, 数码
工程: Jeff Li @赋音乐工作室 Original Publisher: Fu Muse Sub-Publisher: Warner
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