

BLUE SUN PALACE



A film by Constance Tsang
Starring Ke-Xi Wu & Lee Kang Sheng



Ke-Xi Wu (Amy), Haipeng Xu (Didi)

2024 | USA | Mandarin | 116 Minutes
A Big Buddha Pictures & Field Trip Media Production

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BLUE SUN PALACE

Logline

A sudden violent experience catalyzes an unlikely bond between two migrants in the Chinese community of Queens. Navigating lives far from home and the painstaking labor that supports them, they journey through sorrow together in hopes of finding family.

For Line Up Brochure

Within the confines of a massage parlor in Flushing, Queens, Amy and Didi navigate romance, happiness, and the obligations of family thousands of miles from home. Despite the physical and emotional toll their work demands, the women have fortified an impenetrable sisterhood, which tragically collapses when disaster strikes on Lunar New Year.

Synopsis

Within the confines of a massage parlor in Flushing, Queens, Amy and Didi navigate romance, happiness, and the obligations of family thousands of miles from home. Despite the physical and emotional toll their work extracts, the women who live at the parlor have fortified an impenetrable sisterhood.

When tragedy strikes on Lunar New Year, Amy is forced to consider her own destiny for the first time ever. Despite finding solace in the company of Cheung, Amy must leave the city and prioritize her own spirit in order to survive. In an unseen part of New York, Blue Sun Palace explores the lives of transient souls trying to find a sense of permanence.

Director's Statement

The roots of Blue Sun Palace can be traced back to when I lost my father at 16. We lived in Flushing, where this film takes place, and after his death my mother and I moved. At the time, I didn't know how to process grief and I left it as we had left our home.

When I started to write the film, I wanted to reconnect with my past as well as the community I had left behind. What I didn't realize was that this story was my way of reconnecting with my father. I began to think about the decisions we make after we lose someone we love. In particular relationships we engage in and who we seek to comfort ourselves even though they might not be right for us. By the time I finished writing this film, I ended up divorcing my long term partner.

The process of writing a film that emotionally mimicked my reality blended my memories and my wishes. Grief the larger theme, but also home, comfort, and love. As I watch Blue Sun Palace now, I have come to terms of what it means to me - a letter to the ghosts of childhood, to my parents who came to America with one dream and settled for another, to my father who I now understand, and to myself as I come to terms with redefining loss in my life.

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Biographies

Lee Kang Sheng is a Taiwanese award-winning actor, film director and screenwriter. He made his acting debut in Tsai Ming-Liang's television film "Boys" in 1991, launching a long time collaboration with the renowned director. In 2003, he wrote and directed his directorial debut film "The Missing," which won the New Currents Award at the 2004 Busan International Film Festival in South Korea and The City of Athens Award at the Athens International Film Festival. Lee's second directorial effort, "Help Me, Eros" in 2006, written, directed and starred by him, was selected to the Official Competition of the Venice Film Festival. Lee earned the Golden Horse Award for Best Actor in 2013 and the Best Actor Award at the 56th Asia Pacific Film Festival for his performance in Tsai Ming-Liang's film "Stray Dogs."

Ke-Xi Wu is an actress and screenwriter from Taiwan. In 2016, Ke-Xi was nominated for Best Actress at the 53rd Golden Horse Awards for her role in THE ROAD TO MANDALAY (Venice International Film Festival; Federa Award for Best Film). In 2019, Ke-Xi originally wrote and starred in Midi Z's film NINA WU, a psychological thriller inspired by the #MeToo movement. It was screened in the Un Certain Regard section at the 72nd Cannes Film Festival and nominated for Best Original Screenplay at the 56th Golden Horse Awards. Ke-Xi was featured in Variety's International Women's Impact Report 2020. She can most recently be seen on BLACK TEA (directed by Oscar nominated director Abderrahmane Sissako), which premiered in the main competition at the 2024 Berlin International Film Festival.

Haipeng Xu is an actress from Hunan, China. She has starred in films that have appeared in prestigious film festivals all around the world such as TIFF, Berlin Film Festival, Shanghai International Film Festival, Cannes and many others for titles like The Wheat, Where Echos Never End, The Breaking Ice, The Princess, By The Rivers Blue, and The Secret Dimension. Most notably, she starred in Venus By Water, which was selected for the parallel section ACID in the 74th Cannes Film Festival and won the Fei Mu Award at the Pingyao International Film Festival in 2021. She's won numerous awards for best actress including at the 17th First International Film Festival for Fate Of The Moonlight and at the Independent Shorts Awards for By The Rivers Blue. She most recently starred in The Reborn Cocoon, which won the Best Short Film at the Independent Shorts Awards in the US and was selected for the 2023 Los Angeles Creative Film Awards.



Haipeng Xu (Didi), Lee Kang Sheng (Chueng), Ke-Xi Wu (Amy)
Photo by James Bee

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Writer/Director

Constance Tsang is a Chinese American writer, director, and educator based in New York. She recently graduated from Columbia University with an MFA in Screenwriting and Directing where she was awarded the Robert Gore Rifkind Launch Fund. Her short film BEAU received Jury Selects from an industry panel at her thesis showcase and won the Directors Guild of America's Jury Prize in their 26th Annual Student Film Awards (East Coast Asian American Category). Beau has screened at The Metrograph, Palm Springs Shortsfest, Outfest, Brooklyn Film Festival, Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival, and Melbourne Queer Film Festival among others. BEAU is currently available to watch through Vimeo's Staff Picks. Her previous short film, CARNIVORE, was a 2018 AT&T Hello Lab project. After premiering on Direct TV, the film was acquired by Alter. Her work is supported by Starlight Stars Collective and Tribeca Film. Blue Sun Palace will be her first feature."

Producers

Sally Sujin Oh is a Grammy Award winning producer and co-founder of the production company Field Trip. Recent narrative production includes indie film "Blue Sun Palace," a story about two Chinese migrants searching for a way to heal from their grief. "Trokas Duras," is an additional project in development -- a short film in collaboration with NDLO that highlights the struggles of undocumented Latinx migrant workers in Los Angeles. Past works include "Black is King" starring and directed by Beyonce for Disney+ and Main Stage performances at Coachella for 88rising, with performances most notably by Jackson Wang and CL of 2NE1. Additional music industry collaborators include Kehlani, Bad Bunny, Goldlink, FKA Twigs, Karol G, Tyler the Creator, Calvin Harris, and Megan Thee Stallion. Commercial clients include On Running, Tommy Hilfifer, Apple, Billboard, Nike, FILA, amongst others.

Eli Raskin is a 2022 Sundance producing fellow and co-founder of the production company Field Trip. In 2024 he received the Rainin Grant from SFFILM. Recently, Raskin produced Antonio Marziale's STARFUCKERS, which screened at Sundance, Berlinale and Telluride and was acquired by Searchlight, Mubi and Arte. He produced the Emmy nominated animations for Ryan White's CODED which premiered at Tribeca and was distributed by MTV Documentaries. Past Productions include Danny Madden's BEAST BEAST, which premiered at Sundance and SXSW and Adam Meeks' UNION COUNTY which premiered at the Berlinale. Raskin has produced TV segments for Jimmy Fallon, Seth Meyers, The Oscars, The VMAS, The Billboard Awards, & the BET Awards. Raskin's music video collaborators include The Weeknd, Bad Bunny, Megan Thee Stallion, Alicia Keys, Nicki Minaj, Doechii, & H.E.R amongst others. Commercial clients include Prada, Google, Nike, Spotify, Tory Burch, Dazed etc.

Tony Yang is a Chinese-American film producer based in New York City. His most recent short film, Same Old, was selected to the main competition of the 2022 Cannes Film Festival, the Toronto International Film Festival, and New York Film Festival. He has helped produce four feature films and over thirty short films, which have screened at numerous festivals, including the Palm Springs International Shortfest, Shanghai International Film Festival, Brooklyn Film Festival, and more. He served as an executive producer for the feature film Seagrass, which won the FIPRESCI Prize at the Toronto International Film Festival. He was recently selected as a 2023 Sundance Producer's Intensive Fellow. He has interned with The Population, co-founded by Oscar-Winner Mollye Asher, Mynette Louie, & Derek Nguyen as well as Emjag Productions, led by Alexandra Milchan and Scott Lambert (Wolf of Wall Street & Tar). Yang holds a Bachelor's Degree in Film and TV Production from Michigan State University and a Master's Degree in Creative Producing from Columbia University.

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Production Credits

Written & Directed by

Producers

Cinematography

Production Designer

Editor

Music by

Costume Designer

Casting Director

Co- Producers

Associate Producers

Cast

Amy

Cheung

Didi

Josie

Fei

Tony

Xiao

Ping

Vivi

Elaine

Mike

Lin

Mei

Ah Pui

Fong Fong

Massage Parlor Manager

Ornament Seller

Massage Client

Massage Client

Massage Client

Robbery

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Constance Tsang

Sally Sujin Oh, Eli Raskin, Tony Yang

Norm Li C.S.C.

Evaline Wu Huang

Caitlin Carr

Sami Jano

Ava Yuriko Hama

Kate Antognini

Nabeer Khan, Marta Cruañas Compes

Lou Wang-Holborn, Lu Zhang

Ke-Xi Wu

Lee Kang Sheng

Haixpeng Xu

Min Han Hsieh

Lisha Zheng

Leo Chen

Chengying Wu

Guiping Huang

April Wang

Yating Zhu

Limin Wang

Janet Hsieh

Lily Gao

Lynn Xiong

Lu Zhang

Ranran Hu

Jinxia Li

Damien Brown

Jamie Tierney

Zachary Zamsky

Xiaoxiao Sun