

A ATHENA HAN FILM

PRESS KIT

# 席地鳥

Sitting Bird





## FILM INFORMATION

English Title	Sitting Bird
Original Title	Xi Di Niao (席地鳥)
Genre	Drama
Language	Mandarin, English
Country of Production	Canada
Director	Athena Han
Screenplay	Athena Han
Cast	SU Jian Ping, PU Shasha, Eileen Tian, Oliver Zhao, David Mao
Produced by	Yael Carnet - STUDIO MARGINAL
Production Year	2025
Running Time	15min
Aspect Ratio	2:1
Format	4K   5.1
Link to Teaser	<a href="https://www.vimeo.com/881167146">www.vimeo.com/881167146</a>
Funded by	The Canada Council for the Arts The BC Arts Council The NFB Filmmaker's Assistance Program



The background of the entire page is a lush, green forest. Sunlight filters through the dense canopy of trees, creating a dappled light effect on the forest floor. In the middle ground, three people are walking away from the viewer along a narrow dirt path that winds through the trees. The person in the lead is wearing a dark shirt and light-colored pants. The person in the middle is wearing a plaid shirt and dark pants. The person in the back is wearing a light blue shirt and light-colored pants. The overall atmosphere is serene and natural.

## LOGLINE

A Chinese immigrant stay-at-home father, struggling with feelings of inadequacy within his family, sees a lost flamingo and decides to rescue it.

## SYNOPSIS

After immigrating to Canada, Ming becomes a stay-at-home father while his career-driven wife, Fei, continues to pursue her dream as a First Officer in China. Struggling with societal pressure of being an unemployed man and growing sense of inadequacy within his family, one day, Ming sees a lost flamingo named José. He decides to rescue the bird.



## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

The story is inspired by my father, who for a while after immigrating to Canada was a stay-at-home father. Unlike most immigrant families where the father usually assumes the role of breadwinner, my mother stayed in Taiwan to continue her dream career while providing for us. During that time I saw my father struggle with the anti-masculine stigma of the role of a stay-at-home father. I slowly recognized the existence of the deep-rooted patriarchal stereotype that immensely affected us all, and that my father carried the label of being an unsuccessful man. He was being looked down upon within his own Asian community while trying to adapt to the new culture and language.

The flamingo — José is an important element in the film. It symbolizes the North American dream that most immigrants yearn for; at the same time, it also represents the blind pursuit of this dream without actually knowing what one truly wants.

What interests me is that the Chinese name for flamingo 紅鶴 shares the same word as crane 鶴. In Chinese culture, cranes are often used to symbolize longevity, peace and ambition. There's a certain irony in this for Ming, as he is chasing this dream — an ambition — he may have never truly had.



## FILM STILLS



## MAIN CASTS



Jian Ping Su / 宿建平

As Ming

*"Hey Yú" by Athena Han*



Shasha Pu / 浦莎莎

As Fei

*"Sisterhood" by Shimin Guo*

*"A Pair of Embroidered Shoes" by Cheng Si*

*"The Last 58 Days" by Xiaoyang Chang*

*"Maple Leaf Red" by Chaolu Hasi*



Oliver Zhao

As Anthony

*"Watson" by Craig Sweeny*

*"So Help Me Todd" by Scott Prendergast*



Eileen Tian / 田艾琳

As Rita

*"The Perfection" by Richard Shepard*

*"20 Minutes to Life" by Veronika Kurz*



David Mao / 毛學維

As Daniel

*"That Day, on the Beach" by Edward Yang*

*"Taipei 21" by Alex Yang*

*"Story of Pei-li" by Teng Chou*

## ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Born in Taipei, Taiwan, Athena graduated from the SFU Film Production program and was a mentee at the Vancouver International Film Festival 2019. As a Taiwanese-Canadian writer-director, she likes to tell stories exploring family dynamics, culture clashes, and self-identity. She has had experience directing in both Taiwan and Canada. Her short films have been showcased in numerous festivals such as Cinequest, Rhode Island International Film Festival, Taiwan's Golden Harvest Award, Whistler Film Festival, and the Los Angeles Asian Film Festival. She has also received awards such as the A&E Short Filmmaker Award for Best Film and the Shaw Media Fearless Female Director Award. In May 2023, her short film for *Language We Know* was selected by the Aesthetical Film Festival and the Cannes Independent Film Festival. Funded by the Canada Council for the Arts, the BC Arts Council, and the National Film Board, Athena just completed her next short film *Sitting Bird*. It is selected for Telefilm's Not Short on Talent showcase at the 2025 Cannes Film Festival Short Film Corner. Currently, she's in the initial development and research phase for her first feature film script.



## DIRECTOR'S FILMOGRAPHY

**2025** *Sitting Bird (15min short film)*

<https://vimeo.com/881167146>

Funded by the Canada Council for the Arts and the BC Arts Council, with the support of NFB Filmmaker Assistance Program.

Selected by Telefilm's Not Short on Talent showcase at the 2025 Cannes Film Festival – Short Film Corner.

**2023** *Language We Know (2min short film)*

<https://vimeo.com/827145143>

Official selection: 1.4 Filmmakers Awards, Aesthetica Short Film Festival, Cannes Indie Shorts Awards

**2020** *Hey Yú (5min short film)*

<https://vimeo.com/452778869>

Official selection: CINEQUEST, Seattle Asian Film Festival

**2018** *Bunny Man (8min short film)*

<https://vimeo.com/287151263>

Official selection: CINEQUEST, CAAM Fest, Bronzelens Film Festival, 42nd Asian American Film Festival, Rhode Island International Film Festival, Toronto Reel Asian Film Festival, Vancouver Asian Film Festival

**2013** *Home (17min short film)*

<https://vimeo.com/66872356>

Awards: A&E Short Filmmaker Award for Best Film, Shaw Media Fearless Female Directors Award, Brian Linehan Actors Award for Ambrose Liao

Official selection: Whistler Film Festival, Montreal World Film Festival, 36th Golden Harvest Awards Short Film Festival, Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival, Asian Film Festival of Dallas, Vancouver Asian Film Festival



## FUNDED AND SUPPORTED BY



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BRITISH  
COLUMBIA

Supported by the Province of British Columbia



Filmmaker's Assistance Program

produced by  
**MARGINAL**  
**韓睿芷**  
a film by athena han





## CREDITS

DIRECTED BY  
PRODUCED BY  
STARRING

SCREENPLAY BY  
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS  
ASSOCIATE PRODUCERS  
PRODUCERS  
DIRECTOR OF  
PHOTOGRAPHY  
PRODUCTION DESIGNER  
COSTUME DESIGNER  
MAKE-UP & HAIR DESIGNER  
MUSIC BY  
EDITED BY  
VISUAL EFFECTS  
VFX SUPERVISOR  
ON SET VFX SUPERVISOR  
SOUND DESIGN  
COLORIST

ATHENA HAN  
STUDIO MARGINAL  
JIAN PING SU, SHASHA PU, EILEEN TIAN  
OLIVER ZHAO, DAVID MAO  
ATHENA HAN  
JOSHUA MAO, CHARLOTTE CHEN, SHIH NAN  
CHIAO  
JOEY GU, DANIEL CHENG  
Yael CARNET, LAURA CARNET  
CHRISTIAN LAI  
ISOBEL BAKER-SMITH  
CASSANDRA PHILLIPS-GRANDE  
IZA ALEGRO  
PETER LIN  
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