



31st Hong Kong Film Awards
Beste Acteur Beste Actrice Beste Regie Beste Film Beste Script



48th Taipei Golden Horse Awards
Beste Regie Beste Acteur Beste Actrice

A SIMPLE LIFE IS A
MOVING STORY OF UNSUNG
HEROISM AND LOVE

The New York Times ★★★★★



DEANIE IP

EEN FILM VAN ANN HUI

ANDY LAU

Bona Entertainment Co Ltd, Focus Films Ltd & SH-Metropole Organisation Ltd Present Starring Andy Lau Deanie Ip Wong Fuli Qin Hailu Co-starring Paul Chiang Leung Tin Wendy Ye Enan Lam Elena Kong Jason Chan Hui So Ying
with Special Appearances by Anthony Wong Chapman To Liza Kuo Tong Lau Lian Jim Chim Tam Ping Man Eva Lai Atsandi Jiang Queenie Chu GS Tyson Wada Hiroshi Guest Appearances by Raymond Chow Yu Dong Tsui Hark Sammo Hung
Mak Yau Sze Lawrence Lau Dennis Chan Ming Hse Enoch Lam Production Designer Albert Poon Styling Consultant Man Lin Chung Costume Designer Boey Wong
Original Music by Law Wing Fai Director of Photography Yu Lik Wai Edited by Eric Kang Chi Leung (H.K.S.E.) Manda Wai Sound Design by To Don Chik Executive Producers Yu Dong Andy Lau Sang Dai Administrative Producers Jeffrey Chan Simon Li Ren Yiu
Associate Producers Nansun Shu Cheung Hong Tat Stephen Lam Line Producer Chung Hui See Heung Ping Produced by Chan Pui Wah Screenplay by Susan Chan Produced and Screenplay Co-written by Roger Lee Produced and Directed by Ann Hui
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BONA FILMS

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www.asimplelifemovie.com

www.cinemien.nl

www.abe-distribution.be

www.facebook.com/ASimpleLife.movie

Nederlandse release: 16 augustus 2012

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A SIMPLE LIFE

Winnaar van de Zilveren Leeuw (Beste Actrice)
op het Filmfestival van Venetië 2011

A SIMPLE LIFE is an incredible moving story
of unsung heroism and love!

The New York Times ****



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A SIMPLE LIFE

In A SIMPLE LIFE vertelt Ann Hui, de *leading lady* van de Aziatische cinema, het diep ontroerende verhaal van een vrijgezelle jonge filmproducent (gespeeld door de Hongkongse superster Andy Lau) en zijn oudere huishoudster Zhong Chun-Tao (een fenomenale rol van Deanie Ip), die al generaties lang voor zijn familie werkt. Wanneer zij ziek wordt, besluit hij de rollen om te draaien en de zorg voor haar op zich te nemen. Voor het eerst in zijn leven voelt hij de kracht van onvoorwaardelijke liefde. Regisseur Ann Hui maakte een schitterende film over universele thema's.

A SIMPLE LIFE is een instant cult-klassieker die op grote filmfestivals wereldwijd in de prijzen valt. De film was een van de publieksfavorieten van het afgelopen IFFR.

A SIMPLE LIFE/ 117 minuten/ 35 mm/ Hong Kong, 2011/ Kantonees gesproken

CAST & CREW

Andy Lau	Roger
Deanie Ip	Ah Tao
Regie	Ann Hui
Scenario	Susan Chan
	Roger Lee
Productie	Chan Pui Wah
	Ann Hui
Camera	Yu Lik Wai
Montage	Kong Chi Leung
Muziek	Law Wing Fai

A SIMPLE LIFE wordt in Nederland gedistribueerd door ABC Cinemien. Beeldmateriaal kan gedownload worden vanaf www.cinemien.nl/pers of vanaf www.filmdepot.nl

Voor meer informatie: ABC - Cinemien, Gideon Querido van Frank, gideon@cinemien.nl



ANN HUI

Regisseur Ann Hui (China, 1947) verhuisde op jonge leeftijd naar Hong Kong. Na haar studie Engels en Literatuur vertrok ze naar Engeland om een speciale tweejarige filmcursus te volgen. Nadat zij dit succesvol had afgerond, keerde zij terug naar Hong Kong. Hier produceerde ze een aantal documentaires en drama's als televisieregisseur en als assistent van King Hu - een filmauteur op het gebied van Chinese *martial arts* films.

Haar debuutfilm THE SECRET maakte ze in 1979, waarna ze als snel een van de gezichten werd van de Hong Kong New Wave. Vandaag de dag heeft Ann Hui meer dan 20 speelfilms op haar naam staan en heeft zij vele prijzen in ontvangst mogen nemen.



Filmografie

2010 All About Love	2009 Night & Fog
2008 The Way We Are	2007 The Postmodern Life of My
2007 Aunt	2003 Jade Goddess of Mercy
2001 July Rhapsody	2001 Visible Secret
1999 Ordinary Heroes	1997 Eighteen Springs
1996 The Stunt Woman	1995 Summer Snow
1991 Zodiac Killer	1990 Song of the Exile
1988 Starry is the Night	1987 Princess Fragrance
1987 The Romance of Book & Sword	1984 Love in a Fallen City
1982 Boat People	1981 The Story of Woo Viet
1980 The Spooky Bunch	1979 The Secret

ANDY LAU

De Hongkongse pop- én filmster Andy Lau is een levende legende: sinds zijn debuut in Ann Hui's BOAT PEOPLE uit 1982 heeft Lau in meer dan 125 speelfilms gespeeld.

Hij speelde hoofdrollen in moderne Chinese klassiekers als DAYS OF BEING WILD (Wong Kar-Wai, 1990), HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS (Zhang Yimou, 2004) en de INFERNAL AFFAIRS-trilogie van Wai-keung Lau en Alan Mak. Lau is een acteur met een enorme veelzijdigheid, hij voelt zich net zo comfortabel in een romantische komedie als in een actiefilm of melodrama. Zijn spel werd meerdere malen bekroond met de prijs voor Beste Acteur.

Lau heeft veel prijzen gewonnen en staat in het Guinness World Records te boek als cantopop artiest met het meeste aantal prijzen. In 2000 stond de teller op 292 prijzen en hij heeft sinds 1992 een kleine 180 concerten gehouden.



DEANIE IP

Deanie Ip wordt erkend als een van de beste actrices van Hong Kong. Zij won verscheidene keren de prijs voor Beste Vrouwelijke Bijrol. Andy Lau en Deanie Ip spelen al dertig jaar lang moeder en zoon. Na hun debuut als moeder en zoon in het TV-drama THE EMISSARY hebben zij deze familieverhouding in meer dan zeven films herhaald. Ip beschouwt Lau inmiddels als haar peetzoon.



DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

I just feel very fortunate to have made this movie with all the filmic elements I like best: real-life story, documentary approach, lyrical statement, humor, pathos, non-actors with big stars thrown in!’

Ann Hui

Based on a true story

A SIMPLE LIFE is based on a the true story of real-life amah (servant) Chung Chun-toa, and her young master Roger Lee, now a veteran film producer in Hong Kong. Toa was born in Taishan, China. Her foster-father died during the Japanese Occupation and her foster-mother sent her to work as an amah for the Lee family at the age of 13. She was in service there for four generations and lasting 60 years. With loads of fond memories, Roger often regards Tao as family and a key figure in his upbringing. ‘The word ‘gratitude’ alone cannot even define my gratitude towards her,’ said Roger.

Director Ann Hui first heard the story of Toa while filming SUMMER SNOW, on which Roger was an associate producer. ‘Roger felt an urge to tell this real story, not only to me but also to everyone,’ said Ms. Hui. ‘It instantly struck a chord with me, because we all have a person like Tao in our lives.’



The elderly theme ‘There’ s rarely a Hong Kong film on elderly people,’ said director Ann Hui. ‘Aging is a universal theme, and I’ d like to present how the Chinese treat their elders differently than Westerners do.’ We would all grow old

one day, but the difference lies in how we choose to live the last days of our lives. ‘The elderly may have lost their youth, but they still yearn for what we all need - love from another person, pure and simple.’

Chinese Amah

The film’ s central character Tao (played by Deanie Ip) is a Chinese amah (Ma

Jie). Amah is a domestic helper who acts as both maid and nanny for the family. She is often employed as a young girl, who helps the family to cook, clean and take care of the children, whom may not be much older than the amah. She would vow to remain single through-out, and stay with this family until the last day of her life. Because of their long stay, Amahs are commonly treated with equal status as family members.



Dressed in white shirts, black pants and in French braids hairstyle, the amah is one of the icons for the Hong Kong post-war generation. In the late 1970s, the import of Filipino and Indonesian maids became a cheaper alternative to the amahs. The emigration wave before the China handover in 1997 further forced the amah business to go out in time. But the old amahs who serve their masters for decades would continue to live with their families until their deaths.

And this marks the beginning of our film.

Sham Shui Po

Situated in the northwestern area of the Kowloon Peninsula, the Sham Shui Po district was where director Ann Hui lensed the film's nursing home scenes. 'The area is full of warmth and humanity,' said Ms. Hui. It's perfect for the tone

of her film. Literally meaning 'deep water pier', Sham Shui Po is one of the oldest districts in Hong Kong, with historical records dating back to the Eastern Han Dynasty in 200 A.D., yet the region is rarely featured on the silver screen.

Sham Shui Po is renowned for its fabrics and electronic markets, but its residential setting is what captivates Ms. Hui. 'This is the other side of Hong Kong that people rarely notice. There is warmth coming from the interaction between the residents and local stores. Some people may find Sham Shui po too laid-back compared to other districts, but i love it for its human touch.'

THE Hollywood REPORTER

Hong Kong veteran director Ann Hui brings together two of its major stars, Deanie Ip and Andy Lau, for a crowd-pleasing drama.

A Simple Life is loaded with cameos by celebrities from Hong Kong's action-packed cinema including martial-arts legends **Tsui Hark** and **Sammo Hung**.

But, as the title implies, the movie is a world away from its violent extravaganzas. Even so, this is one of the more mainstream movies to compete at a major European festival this year and could resonate with older audiences in its native Hong Kong. Film festivals looking for undemanding crowd-pleasers will want to check it out, even at its currently excessive 118-minute running time – much too long for what is indeed a pretty "simple" affair.

This latest offering from veteran director **Ann Hui** (best known for 1990's *The Swordsman* and 2006's *The Postmodern Life of My Aunt*) reunites Hong Kong superstar **Andy Lau** with his real-life godmother **Deanie Ip**, the latter one of the *doyennes* of HK cinema. The wry, low-key story centers on the bond between seventysomething servant Ah Tao (Ip, actually only 63) and Roger (Lau), a production-accountant specializing in the movie business – his presence at various meetings and premieres providing the opportunity for all those star cameos.

Ah Tao has, as we are informed in a blizzard of expository opening captions, served Roger's family for 60 years -- raising the children being one of her many duties -- and he is the last to remain in Hong Kong. When Ah Tao's health starts to deteriorate, it is Roger's turn to do the looking-after.

He pays for her to move into a senior-citizens' care facility. This being super-crowded Hong Kong, the facility is right in the middle of a city street, making it easy for the residents, who range widely in terms of age, health and mental alertness, to receive visitors and take a chaperoned stroll around the bustling metropolis. While the facility isn't necessarily the most luxurious or cozy of environments, it seems to suit Ah Tao well enough now that her working life is over.

Based on actual people and events, **Susan Chan** and **Roger Lee**'s script is a bittersweet, unmistakably heartfelt look at ties between people who aren't blood relations but who have in effect a mother/son bond.

The film is a pretty smooth technical package with crisply high-definition cinematography from **Yu Lik Wai** -- best known for his rather more ambitiously challenging work with Chinese auteur Jia Zhang-Ke -- a consistent plus. His clear, direct images suit a movie which thankfully eschews the easy route of heavy-handed tear-jerking: Ah Tao, a sparky, no-nonsense old bird, would surely have approved.