

# CORNER 黑角 HEAVEN

A FILM BY  
**MIAOYAN ZHANG**

with XINJIANG GUO · XUEHUI HUO  
HAONAN BAI

screenwriter RICE ZHANG · cinematography & editing  
MIAOYAN ZHANG · sound QINGSHAN WANG  
music ANGEL FIRESTARS SIMMONS · art direction  
JUEMIN DU · festivals PASCALE RAMONDA · producers  
MIAOYAN ZHANG & GUILLAUME DE SEILLE  
director MIAOYAN ZHANG

WITH THE SUPPORT OF HUBERT BALS FILM FUND OF  
THE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL ROTTERDAM,  
ASIAN CINEMA FUND OF BUSAN INTERNATIONAL FILM  
FESTIVAL AND ANGOA



**BUSAN**  
International  
Film Festival

**VIFF**   
VANCOUVER INTERNATIONAL  
FILM FESTIVAL



**INTERNATIONAL  
FILM FESTIVAL  
ROTTERDAM**

# SYNOPSIS

A boy is in search of his mother in the estuary of the dirty Yellow River. He finds pollution, oppression, drugs and violence and yet he doesn't lose his will to live.

## MIAOYAN ZHANG

Born in Manchuria and grown up during the Cultural Revolution, ZHANG Miaoyan barely had a chance to see movies. In the 90's he got an opportunity to study art and earned a Masters of Fine Art degree at UC Berkeley which enabled him to watch foreign movies nonstop. Miaoyan started writing stories about contemporary China. None of them were published due to state censorship.

In the summer of 2006 he borrowed money and spent four weeks making his first movie *Xiaolin Xiaoli* (90mn – 2007). The film was premiered in Busan IFF and received the Audience award in Black Movie Festival in Geneva and the Federico Fellini Award in Tiburon IFF. The film was invited by Bardford and Taipei amongst others festivals.

*Black Blood*, his second feature film, received post-production support from Hubert Bals Fund and was premiered at Rotterdam IFF 2011 where it received the NetPac award for best Asian film. It's then screened in La Palmas, Jeonju, Cannes ACID, Torun, Saint Petersburg (Best film), Montreal FNC, Antalya, Thessaloniki, Kerala, Chennai, Geneva, Miami and Era New Horizons. The film was released in French theaters in November 2011.

*A corner of heaven* is Miaoyan ZHANG's third feature film.



## INTERVIEW

*Your portrait of China seems almost post-apocalyptic, do you think it's realist?*

My entire story is based on true events. The reality of the current situation in China is a lot worse than what is portrayed in my movie.

*Is the region of shooting the one you come from?*

The shooting location is in central China around the Yellow River, which lies at the heart of China's history and culture. It is therefore also known as the mother river. I was born and raised in Manchuria.

*The families in your films are in pretty bad shape, aren't they? How come?*

China has undergone rapid and drastic changes within the past couple decades. New wealth has brought new contemporary problems such as: pollution, poverty and despair.

*The style of the film looks very graphic and documentary-inspired, how come you work this way?*

I love black and white movies. The documentary-inspired theme gives me more freedom and brings my film closer to reality. It is also a reflection of my personal taste and preference.

*The cast is non-professional, is it easy to work with such actors?*

First of all, no professional young actors were available for such a film. During production, a classroom built into the side of a muddy cave collapsed and a young teacher was killed and five kids injured. My main actor was the only kid in good health and the other actors' scenes were shot on the weekends.

*Will the film be released in China?*

Hopefully someday, I will be able to share my movie with all of the people that are willing to watch.

### CAST

Xinjiang GUO (the boy) - Xuehui HUO (the sister) - Haonan BAI (the other boy)

### TECHNICAL LIST

Directed by Miaoyan ZHANG - Screenwriter Rice ZHANG - Cinematography & editing Miaoyan ZHANG - Sound Qingshan WANG - Art direction Juemin DU - Original music Angel Firestar Simmons - Producers Miaoyan ZHANG & Guillaume de Seille - A Rice Production & Arizona Productions coproduction with the support of Hubert Bals Film Fund of Rotterdam IFF, Asian Cinema Fund of Busan IFF & Angoia