

"A tender love story... wonderfully atmospheric... thought-provoking...
with beautifully-judged performances."

-Deadline



RETURN TO DUST

A FILM BY LI RUIJUN



DIZI FILMS LIMITED, BEIJING J.Q. SPRING PICTURES COMPANY LIMITED, SUCH A GOOD FILM, BEIJING ALIBABA PICTURES CULTURE CO.,LTD.,
DREAM MEDIA CO.,LTD., HUCHENG NO.7 FILMS LIMITED, ARANYA PICTURES CO.,LTD., HANGZHOU QIN ZI ZAI CO.,LTD.,
BEIJING SHOWCASE CULTURE MEDIA CO.,LTD., PRESENT RETURN TO DUST A FILM WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY LI RUIJUN STARRING WU RENLIN
HAI QING ART DIRECTORS LI RUIJUN HAN DAHAI DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY WANG WEIHUA SOUND DESIGNER WANG CHANGRUI
ORIGINAL MUSIC BY PEYMAN YAZDANIAN PRODUCED BY QIN HONG EXECUTIVE PRODUCER XIANG HE PRODUCERS ZHANG MIN LI YAN WORLD SALES M-APPEAL
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In rural Gaotai county, two lonely, middle-aged outcasts are pushed into an arranged marriage by their families. Ma (Wu Renlin) is a humble farmer with little to offer his timid and sickly wife, Cao (Hai Qing), except for a small abandoned house on a barren patch of land. From just a few seeds, their newly planted crops take root and flourish; and similarly, an unexpected bond between the two starts to blossom. As seasons pass their dedication to each other grows stronger, but change and adversity soon threaten the idyllic existence they share.

A tender tale about the transformative nature of love, *RETURN TO DUST* is an “absorbing, beautifully framed drama” (*Variety*) from acclaimed director Li Ruijun that became a surprise box office hit domestically in China.

CHINA - 2022 - 1.55:1
134 MINUTES - NOT RATED
MANDARIN with English Subtitles



DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

It is said that film is the art of time. In this sense, a movie director's work is essentially the same to that of farmers. In movie making, we are constantly faced with issues dealing with time and life. Farmers trust land and time with their crops and livelihood, so shall we trust land and time with our movies. The words on paper, like seeds growing into harvest, are transformed by camera shots into what we remembered in our distant memories.

DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Li Ruijun is a Chinese film director and screenwriter. He was born in 1983 in, Gansu China, and graduated from the Communication University of Shanxi. He has directed 5 feature films, all of which tend to focus on the relationship between human beings and the land, as well as the rural attitude towards family, life, and death in a rapidly changing China. His films are predominantly set in his hometown of Gaotai with his close friends and relatives acting in his films.

Filmography:

Walking Past the Future (2017) > Cannes Film Festival, Un Certain Regard

River Road (2015) > Tokyo Int'l FF 2014, Berlinale Generation

Fly with the Crane (2012) > Venice Int'l FF

The Old Donkey (2010)

The Summer Solstice (2007)





ACTORS' BIOGRAPHIES

WU Renlin (as MA Youtie)

WU Renlin is a Chinese film actor, who has appeared in many of director LI Ruijun's previous films, including *The Old Donkey* (2010) and *Fly With The Crane* (2012).

HAI Qing (as CAO Guiying)

HAI Qing is one of China's most acclaimed and beloved actresses, who has worked in both film and television. She has appeared in titles such as ZHANG Dalei's *Stars Await Us* (2020), Dante LAM's *Operation Red Sea* (2018), XUE Xiaolu's *Finding Mr. Right* (2013), and CHEN Kaige's *Sacrifice* (2010).

HAI began acting at the age of seven appearing in television shows before joining the Jiangsu Provincial Theatre School at the age of twelve. In 1997 she was accepted into the Beijing Film Academy. Hai returned to the small screen a few years later, appearing in several supporting roles before starring in what was to become her best-known role in the show *A Beautiful Daughter-in-law Era* (2009) which went on to receive three award nominations; two at the Golden Eagle Awards and one at the Feitian Television Awards. Her performance in *Dwelling Narrowness* (2009), and *A Little Reunion* (2019) established her as one of the most recognizable actresses in China.

In 2015 Hai became the first UN Women National Ambassador for China.

CREDITS

Directed by: Li Ruijun

Written by: Li Ruijun

Production Companies: Qizi Films Limited; Beijing J.Q. Spring Pictures Company Limited; Such a Good Film; Beijing Alibaba Pictures Culture Co.,Ltd.; Dream Media Co.,Ltd.; Hucheng No.7 Films Limited; Aranya Pictures Co.,Ltd.; Hangzhou Qin Zi Zai Co.,Ltd.; Beijing SHOWCASE Culture Media Co.,Ltd.

Produced by: Qin Hong

Executive Producer: Xiang He

Producers: Zhang Min, Li Yan

Cinematographer/DoP: Wang Weihua

Set Designer: Li Ruijun, Han Dahai

Editor: Li Ruijun

Sound Editor/Mix: Wang Changrui

Composer: Peyman Yazdanian

Cast

Wu Renlin (as Ma Youtie)

Hai Qing (as Cao Guiying)







ABOUT FILM MOVEMENT

Founded in 2002, Film Movement is now a North American distributor of award-winning independent and foreign films based in New York City. It has released more than 300 feature films and shorts culled from prestigious film festivals worldwide. Film Movement's theatrical releases include American independent films, documentaries, and foreign art house titles. Its catalog includes titles by directors such as Hirokazu Kore-eda, Maren Ade, Jessica Hausner, Andrei Konchalovsky, Andrzej Wajda, Diane Kurys, Ciro Guerra and Mélanie Laurent. In 2015, Film Movement launched its reissue label Film Movement Classics, featuring new restorations released theatrically as well as on Blu-ray and DVD, including films by such noted directors as Eric Rohmer, Peter Greenaway, Bille August, Marleen Gorris, Takeshi Kitano, Arturo Ripstein, Sergio Corbucci and Ettore Scola.

For more information, please visit www.filmmovement.com.

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