



Red Bicycle • Hongse Saiche

Feature 35mm 90min.

Budget

US\$650,000
(HK\$5,070,000)

Producer

LAN Ruilong

Tentative Cast

Xia Yü

Production Company

Beijing Frontline Production - Ning Hao Film Studio

HAF Goals

Co-producers, Sales agents, Funds

■ Introduction ■

Roaring through the highways and byways of bustling Beijing, two bikers, one decked in white, one in red, cross paths and lock horns on their courier missions. Unknowingly drawn into a web of intrigue involving terrorists, police, traffic wardens, national rallies and of course, a beautiful woman, the two knights in shining helmets meet with unexpected destinies. A delightful and refreshing live-action comedy with an exhilarating pace that captures the thrill of bicycle racing, topped by a surprise ending that throws the audience off the track.

■ Director ■

NING Hao was born in Shanxi, China in 1977. He studied Scene Design at the Shanxi Taiyuan Film School, and then enrolled in the Art Department of Beijing Normal University. He eventually graduated from the Photography Department at Beijing Film Academy in 2003. His student film *Thursday, Wednesday* (2001) was awarded Best Director at the Beijing University Student Film Festival and the Silver Prize at the Chinese University Student Film Festival. Ning Hao's debut feature *Incense* (2003) was premiered at Locarno, and seized world attention when it won the Grand Prize at Tokyo Filmex, and went on to win the Gold Prize in the Asian DV Competition at Hong Kong IFF. The film was also awarded Best Film of 2004 by HK Arts Centre, and shown in official selection at seven other international festivals, namely San Sebastian, Vancouver, Munich, Vienna, Sydney, California and Taiwan South Film Festival. Ning Hao's latest film, *Mongolian Pingpong* (2004) was selected for Berlin International Forum and Hong Kong IFF.

■ Producer ■

LAN Ruilong is currently employed by the China Film Group Corp, as a producer in the Film and TV Production Department. He also worked in the Management Faculty of the Beijing Film Academy, and has ten years of experience in film and TV creative development and management.

■ Production Company ■

Ning Hao Film Studio was established in 2003 with Ning Hao at the helm, to handle all his projects, from project planning to script development and shooting. The company produced the multiple awardwinning *Incense* (2003) and Ning Hao's latest film *Mongolian Pingpong* (2004).

■ Synopsis ■

On his last day before retirement, traffic warden Li stands on duty at a junction. A gust of heavy wind carrying with it a sprinkling of fallen petals disturbs Li's reverie. A white bicycle has already whizzed past, followed by a speeding Lexus.

The biker is Wang, nicknamed 'Speedy' for being Beijing's fastest courier. He is on another whirlwind speed-post and overtakes the Lexus with the least effort. The passengers in the Lexus are Fox, Wolf and Eagle – terrorists plotting a crime. Hot on their trails is Zhang, head of police security. As Zhang catches up with the Lexus, Eagle aims a gun at him. Zhang orders his officers to take action. All the vehicles spin out of control and collide with each other. Wang flies off his bike, while Wolf watches his own severed leg fly in mid air...

The severed leg lands in the backseat of a red bicycle, where a bouquet is carefully placed. The driver, Liu, returns the leg to its astounded but grateful owner.

Liu's dreary life as a courier is only mitigated by his dream of owning a red bicycle, and his hidden love for a client. Everyday, he is ordered to deliver a bouquet to Zhao, who always teases him for forgetting to ask for a signed receipt.

One day, Li gets a parcel with no recipient or traceable sender. When he opens it, it is full of banknotes. Overjoyed, he buys his dream bike complete with new racing outfit. Little does he know that it is the terrorists' ploy to use him to deliver a time-bomb to the International Ferrari Racing Competition. Wang also turns up at the race, but with another motive. Obsessed with beating Liu on the road, he disguises himself

as a contestant to steal a racing bike.

After a series of misunderstandings, Wang and Li find themselves competing neck to neck on the racetrack. They surpass every other opponent and break all records – but to the spectators' surprise, they keep driving after crossing the finishing line. Wang is making off with his stolen bike, while Liu tries to return the 'parcel' to its owner. A wild chase ensues, involving the terrorists, Li, Zhang, police officers and snipers. Finally, Liu catches up with Wolf's gang. All he wants is to ask him to sign the receipt, but the terrorists panic and overturn their car. Liu throws away the parcel, which explodes, causing Wolf's leg to fly across the road. The next day, Wang and Liu cross paths again on the same mission. Liu's client Zhao is actually an actress who has pinned her hopes on her boyfriend Wan – who promises to be with her only after sending her 99 bouquets. When confronted by Zhao, Wan decides to let fate decide their future. He contracts two speed-post companies to deliver one white and one red bouquet to Zhao. He will marry her if the red one arrives first. Zhao decides to kill herself if she receives the white bouquet.

Wang is determined to defeat his long-time opponent on the road, while Zhao only cares about delivering the red roses to Zhao. A heavy truck suddenly comes out of nowhere.

In the next scene, the doorbell rings and Zhao opens the door. Wang, his face aghast, gingerly hands her a bouquet of red roses.

Play back to the scene of the accident. As the unstoppable truck speeds towards Wang, Liu drives up, swaps Wang's white bouquet with his red one, and pushes Wang to the side of the road. The truck comes crashing down, and nothing is seen except a shower of white petals.

■ Director's Statement ■

In this rapidly evolving world, one has to continuously condition and reinvent oneself to adapt to the changing environment. As a result, everything, including life itself, is like a race.

The theme of this film is speed. All the protagonists are trying to achieve their own ends by attaining the highest speed. Only the naïve hero remains unaware that he plays the major role in this race, because speed is second nature to him. That is why he cannot sense the series of incidents and changes taking place behind his back, or that he is in fact their catalyst.

The film will derive its impact from technical and visual verve. Characterization will appeal through a more simple and pure depiction. Almost deliberately cartoon-like, the boldly-etched characters should instantly make a direct and powerful impression on the audience.

The overall narrative structure is linear, but inter-cut with a great deal of surreal fantasy and flashback memory. I hope to create a light-hearted, comic tone with vibrant colors, lively images, fast-paced editing and fluid camera movement. This would make it accessible to a wider audience, as well as highlight the fact that life is full of comedy, coincidences and absurdity!

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