

mongrel
MEDIA

Presents

An Arthur Cohn / Wieland Schulz-Keil Production

THE CHILDREN OF HUANG SHI

Inspired by a true story

Jonathan Rhys Meyers Radha Mitchell Chow Yun Fat

A Roger Spottiswoode Film
Written by James MacManus and Jane Hawksley

(125 mins, USA, 2008)

Distribution

mongrel
MEDIA

1028 Queen Street West
Toronto, Ontario, Canada, M6J 1H6
Tel: 416-516-9775 Fax: 416-516-0651
E-mail: info@mongrelmedia.com
www.mongrelmedia.com

Publicity

Bonne Smith
Star PR
Tel: 416-488-4436
Fax: 416-488-8438
E-mail: starpr@sympatico.ca

High res stills may be downloaded from <http://www.mongrelmedia.com/press.html>

Directors Statement

From the moment I read about George Hogg in China and his untimely death, I knew it was a story that I wanted to tell. Eight years followed as the script was developed and the cast and Chinese crew assembled. We spent six extraordinary months exploring China to find locations and then late in 2006 we started filming. At the same time we were finding many of the 'children' whom Hogg had rescued. They all remember him with profound love and devotion and seem to recall so much about the man who saved them all those years ago.

Roger Spottiswoode

Synopsis

Based on real events, THE CHILDREN OF HUANG SHI is a story set against war-torn China in the 1930's. The film centers on a young English journalist (JONATHAN RHYS MEYERS), an American nurse (RADHA MITCHELL) and the leader of a Chinese partisan group (CHOW YUN FAT) who meet in desperate and unexpected circumstances. Together they rescue 60-orphaned, children leading them on an extraordinary journey, across hundreds of miles of treacherous terrain, through snow-covered mountains and an unforgiving desert. Along the way they discover the true meaning of love, responsibility and courage.

Detailed Synopsis

China 1938. George Hogg, a young Englishman and Oxford graduate arrives in Shanghai as the Japanese take control. Hungry for adventure, he throws himself into the maelstrom taking a job as a junior reporter.

Within a few days he and BARNES (David Wenham), a more experienced war correspondent, talk their way into the occupied territory of Nanjing where they split up. Hogg explores the ruined city and witnesses a massacre of 200 Chinese men, women and children, shot to death and cremated by Japanese soldiers. He watches terrified, as he documents the event.

Shortly after, Hogg is captured and questioned by the Japanese. When they discover his photos they march him off to be executed. Seconds before he is about to die, a group of Chinese guerrillas, headed by 'Jack' Chen, rescue him.

Hogg befriends Chen and they stumble across Barnes. Unable to save him, they watch helplessly as he is executed, narrowly escaping the Japanese by diving into a river. Wounded and exhausted they wash up on the riverbank where Hogg collapses. Days later he awakes in a makeshift field hospital cared for by Lee Pearson, a self-trained American nurse. She suggests to Chen that Hogg recuperates in a place known as Huang Shi.

On his arrival Hogg discovers 60 boys living in an abandoned, rat-infested, schoolhouse. Their only carer is an elderly woman by the name of LO SAN (Shuyuan Jin).

SHI-KAI (Guang Li), their ringleader, wants nothing to do with Hogg. That night, the children attack Hogg. He is saved when Lee arrives with supplies.

Hogg wants to leave so he can report on the 'real war' outside of Huang Shi. Lee wants him to stay and tries to enlist his aid in managing the children. She departs the following morning, leaving Hogg to his own devices.

Hogg makes the best of the situation and starts by repairing the generator and building a basketball court. He pays a visit to Lee's friend, a local merchant MADAME WANG (Michelle Yeoh), who sells everything from food to opium. He bargains for seed and plants a vegetable garden.

Some time later, Chen arrives in Huang Shi to warn Hogg that the Japanese are advancing and the Chinese Nationals are recruiting children for their army. Hogg realizes the children are no longer safe and begins to make a plan.

After Lee's hospital is bombed by the Japanese she returns to Huang Shi. She cannot believe the transformation and that Hogg has earned the respect and devotion of the children, including Shi-Kai.

Meanwhile, the Japanese are fast approaching. Hogg decides their only chance of survival is to head up west, through 10,000-foot mountains, to the safety of a village at the western end of The Gobi Desert. With the help of Madame Wang who outfits them for their journey, Hogg, Lee, Chen and the orphans set out in the middle of winter with handcarts, supplies and mules.

Along the way, while struggling with blizzards and sandstorms, they narrowly avoid tragedy from the advancing Japanese soldiers and Chinese Nationals. The relationship between the three leaders evolves with mounting tension. Towards the end of the journey, the two men clash and Chen reveals Lee's tragic secret.

Finally, they arrive at Shandan with the loss of only one life. But tragedy is not far away. Hogg contracts tetanus and despite a frantic attempt to get medicine, he dies, leaving Lee and his boys with the inspiration and will to build new lives

Today in Shandan, there is an imposing memorial to the memory of George Hogg, the young Englishman who saved so many lives.

About the Production

In October 2006, almost eight years after Roger Spottiswoode had first read James MacManus' screenplay, *THE CHILDREN OF HUANG SHI* was ready to commence official pre-production. Inspired by true events, MacManus found the story on a trip to Shandan where George Hogg is buried. At the same time, Spottiswoode was interested in and researching that particular time in China's history – the late 1930's. "George took care of a group of children and what he did was in some ways much more valuable and courageous than fighting or reporting the war." The two wars taking place simultaneously in China would provide an extraordinary backdrop for a character who was trying to find himself.

The project went through several years of development before Spottiswoode brought in Wieland Schulz-Keil, a veteran film producer with whom he had collaborated in 1994 on the film, *Mesmer*. "I immediately liked the story because in the background there is a historical event, in the foreground there's a love story then somewhere in the middle are the children led on a journey by this one incredible man," says Schulz-Keil. He also knew that Spottiswoode was the right director to bring this idea to the screen. "Roger is very good at this sort of thing. He has done films in foreign countries in South Africa and Rwanda and these are the kind of movies he excels in."

The filmmakers needed the film to achieve Chinese national status and for this to happen they had to form a co-production that would allow them to secure local distribution in advance. They persuaded Peter Loehr of Ming Productions in China to join them. Although Loehr was able to achieve local distribution, they still needed to secure Government assistance via a link from China to another country. Jonathan Shteinman from Bluewater Pictures in Australia joined the production and persuaded Martin Hagemann from Zero Fiction in Germany to become involved making the film an official Chinese-Australian-German coproduction.

The Oscar-winning producer Arthur Cohn formed the last piece of the puzzle. He says it was the story of the children that ignited his interest. "As well as there being several wonderful human stories between three leading characters the main story is still children in difficult circumstances and this is what makes it human," he says.

During this time Spottiswoode continued to work with screenwriter James MacManus. Later Jane Hawksley (*The Children of Huang Shi* 2008, *Whatever Lola Wants* 2007) was brought in as a writer. With some assistance from Spottiswoode's history consultant and friend, Judith Rascoe (*Havana* 1990, *Eat a Bowl of Tea* 1989, *Endless Love* 1981, *Who Will Stop the Rain* 1978, *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* 1977, *Lifespan* 1976 *Road Movie* 1974), Hawksley and Spottiswoode created a screenplay that the director refers to as a "true collaboration."

During this time Spottiswoode also worked on assembling his international cast. Chow Yun Fat, one of the best-known Chinese actors in the world, expressed interest very early on for the role of Chen, a Chinese Partisan leader who becomes Hogg's closest friend. As Yun Fat recalls, "I was filming in a little town outside Toronto and Roger flew to meet me. He was incredibly passionate about the project. I read Chen's character and found his journey very poignant and emotional. Very quickly I told him no matter what I would make this movie."

In the lead role Spottiswoode cast the very charismatic Irish actor Jonathan Rhys Meyers who is currently starring in the critically acclaimed Showtime production of *The Tudors* as King Henry VIII. He has also recently won a Golden Globe for his portrayal of Elvis Presley in *Elvis*. Rhys Meyers says that he is attracted to stories about relationships. "The intimacy of relationships is what makes for epic stories. There is nothing as epic as the human heart and what it can do – both constructive and destructive and we experience both sides through these characters."

Opposite Meyers in the role of Lee, Spottiswoode cast Radha Mitchell who is best known for her diverse roles in *Melinda and Melinda*, *Finding Neverland* and *Silent Hill*. "I was instantly inspired by Roger's passion and attitude. He seemed to be a real adventurer and I definitely like that kind of energy around me on set," she says.

Mitchell liked that the story dealt with the casualties of war – what happens when everyone's left behind. "Each of the lead characters is searching and yearning for a sense of place and home and so are the children. This is where the real war takes place."

Spottiswoode had already worked with Michelle Yeoh in the James Bond thriller *Tomorrow Never Dies*. The Chinese actress is well known to a worldwide audience through her outstanding performances in *Crouching Tiger Hidden Dragon* and *Moonlight Express*. When Spottiswoode approached her about the role of Madame Wang, she was excited to work with him again. "He discussed the story in great length with such vigor and passion," she remembers. "I agreed to read the script and could instantly relate to Madame Wang. She is so typical of China – of those turbulent times, a widow trying to survive against all odds."

A few weeks out from principal photography there were still a few supporting roles to be cast. The Australian actor DAVID WENHAM, who featured in the *Lord of The Rings* trilogy, was approached to play the role of Barnes, a hardened war correspondent. By filming in a short block of time he was able to take the role before rehearsals commenced on Baz Lurhmann's feature *Australia*.

A worldwide search had been in place for Shi-Kai, the 16year old ringleader of the orphaned boys. "We looked in Toronto, Vancouver, America and London and finally found GUANG LI, in Sydney, Australia," says Spottiswoode. "He's talented, intelligent and

very strong on screen. We had looked at 1000 kids or so. It was a relief to find him.” Fluent in English and Mandarin this is Li’s first professional acting role.

During this time the filmmakers were in China searching for the children to play the 60 orphans. “Arthur had recently worked with children on *Les Choristes* and earlier on *Central Station* and we all agreed that the casting of these children was integral to the film,” explains Schulz-Keil. “Although it’s an English speaking film the kids didn’t really need to speak English, other than Shi-Kai.”

The filmmakers visited two types of schools in China. One group of school trains their students to become professional opera performers. The other type of school is set up for children of migrant workers. Established by teachers with a theatre background, they use acting as an educational tool as part of their curriculum. “These children are very poor and the performing arts helps them to socialize and cope and deal with other children. We saw hundreds of these children from here and they were all very impressive,” Schulz-Keil explains.

During pre-production an extensive location scout took place covering nearly 7000 kilometers all over China. They traveled from the spectacular Gobi desert into the breathtaking mountains near Lanzhou and beyond. Once the locations were found, a laborious and detailed process of acquiring permits and obtaining approvals lay ahead of them. The official production status of the film helped expedite this process. In the end, they were extremely fortunate to secure some of the most famous national monuments and hauntingly beautiful locations in China, turning it into another character in the film.

Of great historical significance is the area where some of the biggest scenes were filmed in and around Dunhuang, not far from the Western end of The Great Wall that defended China for thousands of years. Filming took place only 100 kilometers from where the wall ends. This site is also close to where the actual orphanage was built that inspired the film’s story.

During pre-production, the film crew centered themselves at the Hengdian, Film studio, China’s largest backlot, situated in the mountainous Zhejiang Province in Eastern China.

The film’s creative team was assembled from around the world, headed by the Chinese director of photography Zhao Xiaoding, (*Curse of The Golden Flower, House of Flying Daggers*). Steven Jones Evans, an Australian production designer whose credits include *Two Hands, Ned Kelly* and *Buffalo Soldiers* was brought in to form the design team with Huang Xinming (*Curse of the Golden Flower, Hero, Road Home*), one of China’s leading art directors. Australia’s Kym Barrett (*Romeo and Juliet, Gothika, The*

Matrix) joined the team as Costume Designer together with Gao Wenyan (*Devils on The Doorstep*).

The scope of the production was immense, comprising a predominantly Chinese crew of 300, including 15 Westerners and a dozen translators. Spottiswoode mentions that the language barrier added to the intensity of the shoot. “ You really have to focus and concentrate even more carefully than normal, It was more difficult (and interesting) than any country I had been to before. Everything was done through translators

Schulz-Keil adds that the language barriers were particularly challenging when working with a predominantly Chinese-speaking crew where every word had to be translated. “I spent six months looking for locations and filming went on for three to four months. During that time we were completely dependent on intermediaries so it was very strange and fatiguing.”

Rhys Meyers said the differences helped him get into character. “It had to be a shock to me. George’s ups and downs had to be my ups and downs. The things that I went through are some of the things that George went through. I came here a little deaf, dumb and blind and had to learn as I went but I managed to adapt quite quickly.”

In early November, the production traveled to Dunhuang in the Gansu Province, 3500 kilometers Northwest of Hengdian with Principal photography beginning on November 13th. Dunhuang is close to the historic junction of the Northern and Southern Silk Roads. The area where the crew was filming is often referred to as an ‘oasis’, the most spectacular part of the Gobi desert famous for its majestic sand dunes and unique rock formations known as the ‘Yadan’.

Because of the logistics of the locations and scheduling the crew had to begin shooting the end of the film at the beginning. Some of the most emotionally demanding scenes were filmed here including a scene that was shot in an ancient desert cemetery with tombs dating back thousands of years.

From Dunhuang production relocated to the small town of Liancheng, outside the city of Lanzhou. Previously known as the ‘Golden City’ Lanzhou was one of the stops along China’s Silk Road. Between Dunhuang and Lanzhou is the ancient city of Shandan which pays homage to George Hogg with an official monument that has been erected in the town’s centre. It is also home to Hogg’s grave where he is buried next to the Ruoshui River.

For the film crew, Liancheng was incredibly challenging, with very few facilities where they had to endure extremely cold temperatures and heavy snowfalls. But it was also home to one of the most beautiful and historic locations, an ancient Tibetan Monastery that became the set of the children’s orphanage.

Some of the film's most challenging scenes were shot in the rugged mountains within this region with production on an incredibly grand scale. This was the setting for the traveling 'caravan' sequences with an endless procession of children, carts, belongings and animals through a difficult and unrelenting terrain.

Rhys Meyers said the director helped him through some of the most difficult parts of the shoot. "Roger's energy is extraordinary and he kept us all going. He's also a famous editor with a wonderful eye so he can look at a scene and know exactly how it's going to come out. That definitely helped because it saved us time."

After several weeks on location, the production returned to Hengdian, which would become their base for the next seven weeks. More than 200 construction workers were hired to refurbish and modify different sets and locations in and around the studio. These included the orphanage exteriors that were filmed in the town of Xiandu, and the Nanjing Street exteriors, one of the biggest constructions of the production.

During this time the crew filmed in one of China's most famous national monuments and tourist destinations, a 15th Century Bourgeoisie home that belonged to the Lu family. The home is often referred to in Southern China as their 'Forbidden Palace' and was filmed as the interior of Mme Wang's home for the purpose of the production.

On February 15th, with filming in China completed, a reduced crew moved to Australia for one final day of principal photography in Melbourne Victoria where the very first scene of THE CHILDREN OF HUANG SHI was filmed.

About the Filmmakers

ROGER SPOTTISWOODE -Director

Most recently Roger Spottiswoode directed a feature film in Rwanda titled *Shake Hands with the Devil*. A native of England, Roger Spottiswoode began his career as an editor. He came to America in the early '70's, where he worked with legendary director Sam Peckinpah on *Straw Dogs*. His other editing credits include *Pat Garrett and Billy the Kid*, *The Gambler*, *Hard Times* and *The Getaway* starring Steven McQueen.

Making the transition from the editing room to behind the camera, Spottiswoode wrote the 1982 film, *48 Hrs* starring Nick Nolte and Eddie Murphy and made his directorial debut with the cult classic, *Terror Train*, starring Jamie Lee Curtis. Since then he has directed such films as *Under Fire*, *The Best of Times*, *Shoot to Kill*, *Turner and Hooch*, and *Air America* and the James Bond thriller, *Tomorrow Never Dies*. He has also directed a number of films made for television which have garnered numerous nominations and awards, including *The Last Innocent Man*, *And The Band Played On*, *Hiroshima*, *Noriega: God's Favorite* and *Spinning Boris*.

Selected Filmography

2008 The Spire
2008 The Children of Huang Shi
2007 Shake Hands with the Devil
2005 Ripley Under Ground
2003 Spinning Boris
2000 The 6th Day
1997 Tomorrow Never Dies
1994 Mesmer
1992 Stop! Or My Mom Will Shoot
1990 Air America
1990 Another 48 Hrs. (As Screenwriter)
1989 Turner & Hooch
1988 Shoot to Kill
1986 The Best of Times
1983 Under Fire
1982 48 Hrs. (As Screenwriter)
1981 The Pursuit of D.B. Cooper
1980 Terror Train
1975 Hard Times (As Editor)
1974 The Gambler (As Editor)
1973 Pat Garrett & Billy the Kid (As Editor)
1971 Straw Dogs (As Editor)
1971 Love and Music (As Editor)

JAMES MACMANUS -Writer

James MacManus graduated from St Andrews University in Scotland in 1966 and has worked as a reporter and foreign correspondent for a number of national newspapers in the UK. He was the Paris correspondent, Africa Correspondent and then Middle East correspondent for the Guardian of London between 1974 and 1986.

He joined the Times in November 1992 as Assistant Editor and took over as Managing Editor in September 1996. He is now an executive director of Rupert Murdoch's News International in London and Managing Director of The Times Literary Supplement.

MacManus came across the story of George Hogg while working as a correspondent in Beijing in 1984. He wrote a lengthy newspaper article on the adventures of the young Englishman before he was commissioned to write the film script for *The Children Of Huang Shi*.

In March 2008 Harper Collins in London will publish MacManus' book "Ocean Devil" which tells the true story of how George Hogg became, and remains a hero to the Chinese people.

Selected Filmography

2008 The Children of Huang Shi

JANE HAWKSLEY – Writer

Jane Hawksley has adapted numerous novels for the screen including André Brink's *An Instant in the Wind*, Elizabeth Bowen's *A World of Love*, and Jonathan Coe's *The House of Sleep*, in addition to writing original screenplays both in English and in French. Also to be released in 2008 is *Whatever Lola Wants*, cowritten with Nabil Ayouch and Nathalie Saugeon for Pathé Renn Productions. Hawksley is currently adapting Japanese author Haruki Murakami's '*South of the Border, West of the Sun*' for co-producers Ruby Films and Xingu Films.

Selected Filmography

2008 Children of Huang Shi

2007 Whatever Lola Wants

ARTHUR COHN – Producer

The only producer ever to have won six Academy Awards, and the only foreign producer ever honored with a star on Hollywood's Walk of Fame, Swiss-born Arthur Cohn has built a reputation for producing films of uncompromising vision and artistry. Born in

Basel, Switzerland, Cohn studied international law, and was a journalist and author before turning to producing. He teamed up with Vittorio De Sica, handling most of the director's late films, including *Sunflower* (with Sofia Loren), *Woman Times Seven* (starring Shirley MacLaine), *A Brief Vacation* and the Oscar-winning *The Garden of the Finzi-Continis*.

Other Oscar-winning film productions of Arthur Cohn include *Black and White in Color*, *Dangerous Moves* and *One Day in September*. Cohn also produced two films directed by Walter Salles, *Central Station* and *Behind the Sun* and, more recently, the hugely successful *Les Choristes*.

Selected Filmography

2008 The Children of Huang Shi
2008 Yellow Handkerchief
2004 Les Choristes (The Chorus)
2001 Abril Despedacado (Behind the Sun)
1999 One Day in September
1998 Central do Brasil (Central Station)
1996 White Lies
1995 Two Bits
1990 American Dream
1984 La Diagonale du Fou (Dangerous Moves)
1979 L'Adoption (Adoption)
1976 Noirs et Blancs en Couleur (Black and White in Color)
1973 Una Breve Vacanza (A Brief Vacation)
1972 Lo Chiameremo Andrea (We'll Call Him Andrew)
1970 Il Giardino dei Finzi-Contini (The Garden of the Finzi-Continis)
1970 I Girasoli (Sunflower)
1968 Amanti (A Place of Lovers)
1967 Woman Times Seven
1964 Paris Secret
1961 La Ciel et la Boue (Sky Above and Mud Beneath)

WIELAND SCHULZ-KEIL – Producer

Wieland Schulz-Keil has been active as a producer in the United States, France, Italy and Germany for over 30 years. Amongst his better know productions are *Under The Volcano* (1983) and *The Dead* (1987), both directed by John Huston; *The King's Whore* (1990), directed by Axel Corti; *The Innocent* (1993), directed by John Schlesinger; and *Mesmer* (1994), directed by Roger Spottiswoode.

In recent years he arranged the financing, or served as executive producer, for films such as *Enemy at the Gates* (1999), directed by Jean-Jacques Annaud; *The Score* (2001), directed by Frank Oz; *The Cat's Meow* (2002), directed by Peter Bogdanovich.

Selected Filmography

- 2008 The Children of Huang Shi
- 2001 Sour Sorriso (Sister Smile)
- 2001 The Cat's Meow
- 1998 Passaggio per il Paradiso (Gentle into the Night)
- 1996 Tykho Moon
- 1996 Poussieres d'Amour – Abfallprodukte der Liebe
- 1994 Buvos Vadasz (Magic Hunter)
- 1994 Decadence
- 1994 Mesmer
- 1993 The Innocent
- 1990 La Putain du Roi (The Kings Mistress)
- 1989 Twister
- 1988 John Huston and the Dubliners
- 1987 The Dead
- 1985 Notri Nazi (Our Nazi)
- 1984 Under the Volcano
- 1984 Wundkanal
- 1981 Bertigo en Manhattan (Jet Lag)
- 1980 Jackpot

PETER LOEHR – Producer

Peter Loehr established Imar Film Co., Ltd., China's first independent film company in 1997. Imar was China's first true, multi-faceted independent, producing, distributing and marketing all of their films entirely in-house. To date, Loehr has produced six feature films in China, among them *Spicy Love Soup* (1998), *A Beautiful New World* (1999), *Shower* (1999), and *Quitting* (2001). All five films were amongst the top two domestic releases in China the year they were released. In early 2002, he began work on a new venture, Ming Productions, focusing on larger scale Asian-themed pictures for a world audience.

Selected Filmography

- 2008 The Children of Huang Shi
- 2007 Luo ye gui gen (Getting Home)
- 2006 Jadesoturi (Jade Warrior)
- 2005 Xiang Ri Kui (Sunflower)
- 2005 One Last Dance
- 2001 Zuotian (Quitting)
- 2001 Zou Dao Di (All the Way)
- 1999 Xizao (Shower)
- 1999 Meili Xin Shijie (A Beautiful New World)
- 1997 Aiqing Mala Tang (Spicy Love Soup)

JONATHAN SHTEINMAN – Producer

Jonathan Shteinman is one of Australia's most prolific producers having produced or executive produced fifteen features in the last two decades including films such as *Rabbit-Proof Fence*, *Oyster Farmer* and the award winning *Angel Baby*. Jonathan's films have starred great Australian actors including Cate Blanchett, Geoffrey Rush and Russell Crowe as well as international stars Dennis Hopper and Kenneth Branagh. Jonathan is a former Investment Manager of the Australian Film Finance Corporation, Board member of the Screen Producers Association of Australia and currently sits on the Board of the South Australian Film Corporation.

Selected Filmography

2008 The Children of Huang Shi
2007 December Boys
2006 Like Minds
2004 Oyster Farmer
2003 The Honorable Wally Norman
2003 Ned
2003 The Night We Called it A Day
2002 Tempe Tip
2002 Rabbit-Proof Fence
2000 Sample People
1997 Thank God He Met Lizzie
1995 Angel Baby
1995 Dad and Dave: On Our Selection
1994 The Roly Poly Man
1994 Metal Skin
1994 Rough Diamonds

MARTIN HAGEMANN – Producer

From 1990 until 2005 Hagemann worked together with Thomas Kufus in their independent production company Zero Film in Berlin. Together they produced numerous fiction and documentary films for theatrical distribution and for television, among them "Black Box Germany" by AndrŽs Veiel, which in 2002 won the German and European Awards for Best Documentary. They have also produced; several films by Aleksandr Sokurov that were in competition in Berlin and Cannes; *Creep*, a horror movie directed by Christopher Smith and starring Franka Potente and *Fay Grim*, directed by Hal Hartley.

Since 2000 Zero Film has developed and produced several innovative documentary formats for television, among them the highly successful series "Black Forest House." In 2006 Zero Film was divided into two companies, each owned by one of the former

partners. Hagemann is Managing Director of Zero Fiction Films in Berlin and its daughter company Zero West in Cologne.

Selected Filmography

2008 Berlin Hair Today
2008 The Last Wash
2008 Match Factor
2008 The Children of Huang Shi
2007 Love Comes Lately
2007 The Woolen Hat
2006 Fay Grim
2006 Flying Scotsman
2006 If You Need Me
2004 Creep
2004 Farland
2004 Funeral Etiquette
2004 The Pick-Up
2004 Stranded
2003 September
2001 Der Schone Tag (A Fine Day)
1999 Lola + Bilidikid (Lola and Billy The Kid)
1997 Flammen im Paradies (Fire in Paradise)
1997 Mat I Syn (Mother and Son)
1996 A Tickle in the Heart
1993 Tikhiye Stranitsy (Whispering Pages)

ER YONG (WANG ZHANG) – Line Producer

Er Yong's film credits as producer include *Getting Home*, *The Promise*, *Getting Home*, *Peacock* and *The Post Modern Life of My Aunt*. Additionally, Er Yong was a co-producer on the feature film *Restless* and has worked as a Line Producer for a number of China's leading productions including *Sun Flower* and *The Panda Adventure*.

For television he produced "Sky Lover," directed by Zhang Yang and "Those Romantic Bygones" for director Zhao Baogang. Eryong has also produced commercials in China for leading international brands such as Exxon Mobile.

ZHAO XIAODING -Cinematographer

Over the past decade Xiaoding Zhao has established himself as one of the great Chinese cinematographers. He started as camera operator on Yimou Zhang's *Hero*, and from there worked as director of photography on Yimou Zhang's *Curse Of The Golden Flower*, *Riding Alone for Thousands of Miles* and *House of Flying Daggers*.

Selected Filmography

- 2008 The Children of Huang Shi
- 2008 Guan Ian
- 2006 Man Cheng jin Dai Huang Jin Jua (Curse of the Golden Flower)
- 2005 Qian Li Zou Dan Qi (Riding Alone Thousands of Miles)
- 2004 Shi Mian Mai Fu (House of Flying Daggers)
- 1993 Lin Shi Ba Ba
- 1992 Li Hun Da Zhan (Divorce Wars)

STEVEN JONES-EVANS – Production Designer

Steven Jones Evans is one of Australia's most talented designers in film, television and interiors. His film credits include *Ned Kelly* for which he was honored with an Australian Film Institute (AFI) for Best Production Design. He also received AFI nominations for the Australian features; *Siam Sunset*, *Romper Stomper*, *Australian Rules* and *Metal Skin*.

In 1999 he first worked with the Australian director Gregor Jordan designing *Two Hands*. They later re-teamed on the American/German production of *Buffalo Soldiers* starring Joaquin Phoenix then later collaborated on *Ned Kelly*.

His other films credits include; *True Love and Chaos*, *Cut, Paws, Walk The Talk* and *Oyster Farmer*. For television he has designed the popular Australian series "Wildside," and "Naked."

Selected Biography

- 2008 The Children of Huang Shi
- 2006 Like Minds
- 2004 Oyster Farmer
- 2003 Ned Kelly
- 2002 Australian Rules
- 2001 Buffalo Soldiers
- 2000 Walk the Talk
- 1999 Siam Sunset
- 1999 Two Hands
- 1997 Paws
- 1996 Love Serenade
- 1992 Romper Stomper

GEOFF LAMB -Editor

The Children of Huang Shi is Geoff Lamb's first feature film as editor. Prior to this film he edited a number of movies for television including; *Code Red – The Rubicon Conspiracy*, *Max Knight – Ultra Spy* and *Small Claims: The Reunion*. He also edited the television series "Monarch Cove" for Lifetime Television, "H2O – Just Add Water" for di-

rector Colin Budds, “Sleepover Club” for Burberry Productions and “Flatland,” also for Colin Budds. His short films include *Black Fury*, *Bloody Footy* and *Astray*. Lamb was born and raised in Australia. He gained his Bachelor of Arts in Film and Video Production at the Queensland College of Art in 1990.

XINMING HUANG – Art Director

Huang Xinming is one of China’s most talented and renowned Art Directors. He has worked on some of China’s most epic and highly critically acclaimed productions including; *Curse Of The Golden Flower* and *Peacock*. For the director Zhang Yimou he has art directed *Sunflower*, *Hero*, *Happy Day*, *Road Home*, *Not One Less*, *Keep Cool* and *To Life*, amongst others.

Selected Filmography

- 2008 The Children of Huang Shi
- 2001 Pavilion of Women
- 1995 Yao a yao yao dao waipo qiao (Shanghai Triad)

GAO WENYAN – Costume Designer

Gao Wenyan designed costumes for the Miramax feature film *The Great Raid* directed by John Dahl and filmed in Australia and China. She also created the costumes for *Devils On The Doorstep* for director Jiang Wen and *Madame Butterfly*. Additionally she works consistently in China on commercials for clients that include; Motorola, Heineken, Air France and Samsung.

KYM BARRETT -Costume Designer

Kym Barrett started her career in the theater. During those years she gained experience as a costume designer. Her first film was *Romeo + Juliet* filmed in Mexico City. Not long after she moved to America, and worked on commercials. From there she worked with the cinematographer Bill Pope who introduced her to the Wachowski Bros. They hired her for their next project *The Matrix*. After this break she went back to the United States and designed the costumes for *Red Planet* and continued to work with the directors on *The Matrix* sequels.

Her other film credits include; *Rumor Has It*, *Monster In Law* and *Gothika*. Barrett is currently in Australia designing the costumes for *X-Men Origins – Wolverine* starring Hugh Jackman.

Selected Filmography

- 2009 X-Men Origins: Wolverine

2008 Speed Racer
2008 The Children of Huang Shi
2006 Eragon
2006 The Virgin of Juarez
2005 Rumor Has It
2005 Monster-in-Law
2003 Gothika
2003 The Matrix Revolutions
2003 The Matrix Reloaded
2001 From Hell
2000 Red Planet
2000 Titan: A.E.
1999 Three Kings
1999 The Matrix
1996 Romeo + Juliet

DAVID HIRSCHFELDER – Composer

David Hirschfelder is an Australian classical composer and performer. One of his most memorable soundtracks is *Shine*, a film about the pianist David Helfgott that includes the pianist's own recordings. Hirschfelder's tracks work alongside the classical tracks in the film. Later, a portion of this work was used in *The Truman Show*.

Hirschfelder went on to compose the soundtrack for *Elizabeth*. He received the honor of winning a BAFTA for this film as well as an Oscar nomination.

For Baz Luhrmann's film *Strictly Ballroom*, Hirschfelder won a BAFTA for Best Original Score. Other film credits include *Hanging Up*, *The Interview*, *Peaches* and *Shake Hands With the Devil*.

Selected Filmography

2008 Salute
2008 The Children of Huang Shi
2007 Shake Hands with the Devil
2006 Irresistible
2004 Peaches
2004 Standing Room Only
2003 The Wannabes
2000 Better Than Sex
2000 Hanging Up
1998 Elizabeth
1992 Strictly Ballroom

About the Cast

JONATHAN RHYS MEYERS as George Hogg

Most recently Meyers starred in the highly critically acclaimed and award-winning television series “The Tudors” as ‘King Henry VIII.’ One of the most interesting and successful actors of his generation, Dublin born Jonathan Rhys Meyers has starred in films such as *A Lion in Winter*, *Vanity Fair*, *Alexander* and *Match Point*.

He first gained international attention for his starring role in Todd Haynes’ *Velvet Goldmine* with Ewan McGregor, Christian Bale and Toni Collette. His performance garnered him a London Film Critics Circle Award. This led to roles in *Mission Impossible III* opposite Tom Cruise and Phillip Seymour Hoffman and Woody Allen’s *Matchpoint* opposite Scarlett Johansson, which debuted at the 2005 Cannes Film Festival.

Rhys Meyers is also recognized for his role as the girl’s soccer coach in the box-office hit *Bend It Like Beckham*. Other starring roles include Oliver Stone’s epic *Alexander* and *Vanity Fair* opposite with Reese Witherspoon.

For television, Rhys Meyers received the great honor of a 2006 Golden Globe Award for “Outstanding Lead Actor in a Miniseries of Movie” for his portrayal of the young Elvis Presley in the television miniseries “Elvis.” In addition to this honor he received an Emmy nomination for this role.

Selected Filmography

2009 Toussaint
2009 Shelter
2008 Mandrake
2008 The Children of Huang Shi
2007- The Tudors (ongoing television series)
2007 August Rush
2006 Mission Impossible III
2005 Match Point
2005 Elvis (television mini-series)
2004 Alexander
2004 Vanity Fair
2003 The Emperor’s Wife
2003 I’ll Sleep When I’m Dead
2002 Bend It Like Beckham
2001 Prozac Nation
1999 Titus

1999 The Lost of Sexual Innocence
1998 B. Monkey
1998 The Tribe
1998 The Governess
1998 Velvet Goldmine
1997 Telling Lies in America
1997 The Maker
1996 The Disappearance of Finbar
1996 A Man of No Impirtance

RADHA MITCHELL as Lee Pearson

Australian born actress Radha Mitchell was most recently seen in the thriller *Rogue*, directed by Greg McLean. Prior to that she starred in *Silent Hill* opposite Sean Bean and in the critically acclaimed role of 'Melinda' in Woody Allen's film *Melinda and Melinda* opposite Will Ferrell. Prior to that she was seen in the award-winning film *Finding Neverland*, for which she and her co-stars Johnny Depp, Kate Winslet and Dustin Hoffman were nominated for a Screen Actors Guild ensemble award.

Her other film credits include *Man On Fire* opposite Denzel Washington, Joel Schumacher's *Phone Booth* costarring with Colin Farrell and the box-office hit *Pitch Black*. Mitchell gave a memorable performance as 'Syd,' the young editorial assistant in Lisa Cholodenko's critically acclaimed drama *High Art*. Her role in Emma-Kate Croghan's romantic comedy *Love And Other Catastrophes* was highly praised at both the Cannes and Sundance film festivals.

Selected Filmography

2008 The Code
2008 The Children of Huang Shi
2008 Henry Poole Is Here
2007 Rogue
2007 Feast of Love
2006 The Half Life of Timofey Berezin
2006 Silent Hill
2005 Mozart and the Whale
2004 Melinda and Melinda
2004 Finding Neverland
2004 Man on Fire
2003 Vistors
2002 Four Reasons
2002 Phone Booth
2002 Dead Heat
2001 When Strangers Appear
2001 Nobody's Baby
2000 Pitch Black

2000 Everything Put Together
1999 Kick
1998 Cleopatra's Second Husband
1998 High Art

CHOW YUN FAT as 'Jack' Chen

Chow Yun Fat grew up in Hong Kong where he began his career working in Television on the popular series "Hotel." The show was incredibly popular as was his next series, "The Bund" which made him a household name in all of South-East Asia.

His first big break in films came when new age director Ann Hui approached him to star in *The Story of Woo Viet*. From there, his career skyrocketed. He received a number of Best Actor awards for his roles, and was in great demand, acting in 12 films in 1986 alone.

He first worked with John Woo in *A Better Tomorrow* and would later collaborate with him on *The Killer* and *Hard-boiled*. In 1996 Chow had his first English-speaking role in *The Replacement Killers*. He went on to star in *The Corrupter*, *Anna and the King* and later the box office hit *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*.

His other film credits include; Disney's *Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End*, *The Postmodern Life of my Aunt* and *Curse of the Golden Flower*. He is currently working on Fox's *Dragon Ball*.

Selected Filmography

2009 Shanghai
2009 Dragonball
2008 The Children of Huang Shi
2007 The Pirates of the Caribbean" At World's End
2006 Man Cheng Jin Dai Huang Jin Jia (Curse of the Golden Flower)
2004 Du Zi Deng Dai (Waiting Alone)
2003 Bullet Proof Monk
2000 Wo Hu Cang Long (Crouching Tiger Hidden Dragon)
1999 Anna and the King
1999 The Corruptor
1998 The Replacement Killers
1995 Peace Hotel
1994 God of Gamblers' Return
1994 Treasure Hunt
1992 Full Contact
1992 Hard Boiled
1992 Now You See Love, Now You Don't
1991 Prison on Fire II

1991 Once a Thief
 1990 The Fun, The Luck and The Tycoon
 1989 God of Gamblers
 1989 Wild Search
 1988 The Eighth Happiness
 1988 A Better Tomorrow II
 1987 Spiritual Love
 1987 Flaming Brothers
 1987 The Romancing Star
 1987 Rich and Famous
 1987 City On Fire
 1986 A Hearty Response
 1986 A Better Tomorrow
 1986 Missed Date
 1986 Rose
 1984 Hong Kong 1941
 1984 The Occupant
 1983 The Bund II
 1983 The Bund
 1983 The Last Affair
 1982 The Head Hunter
 1981 The Executioner
 1980 See-Bar
 1978 Miss O
 1976 The Hunter, The Butterfly and The Crocodile
 1976 Learned Bride Thrice Fools Bridegroom
 1976 The Reincarnation

MICHELLE YEOH as Madame Wang

Michelle Yeoh was born to a Chinese family in Malaysia. She studied dance from a very young age and attended a boarding school in England from the age of 15. Later Yeoh entered London's Royal Academy of Dance where she received a B.A. degree in Creative Arts with a minor in Drama.

Yeoh's career in Hong Kong started with television commercials. Her first films were *The Heroic Trio* in 1993, and the Yuen Woo-ping films *Tai Chi Master* and *Wing Chun* in 1994.

In 1997 she worked with Roger Spottiswoode when she was cast in the James Bond film *Tomorrow Never Dies*. In 2002 she starred in the highly critically acclaimed and popular film *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*, for which she was nominated for a BAFTA Film Award for Best Actress. In 2002, she produced her first English movie, *The Touch* through her own production company, Mythical Films. Most recently she starred in the film adaptation of *Memoirs of a Geisha*, and *Sunshine*.

Selected Filmography

2008 The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor
2008 Babylon A.D.
2008 Children of Huang Shi
2007 The Rape of Nanking
2007 Far North
2006 Fearless
2005 Memoirs of a Geisha
2002 The Touch
2000 Crouching Tiger Hidden Dragon
1999 Sing Yuet Tung Wa (Moonlight Express)
1997 Tomorrow Never Dies
1994 7 Jin Gong (Wonder Seven)
1993 Tai Ji: Zhang San Feng (Twin Warriors)
1993 Chao Ji Ji Hua (Supercop 2)
1993 Wu Zia Qi Gong Fu (Holy Weapon)
1987 Tong Tian Da Dao (Easy Money)
1985 Huang Jia Shi Jie (Super Cops)
1984 Mao Tou Ying Yu Xiao Fei Xiang (The Owl Vs. Bumbo)

DAVID WENHAM as Barnes

David Wenham has received critical acclaim for his diverse performances in film, theatre and television. Most recently he starred in *300* directed by Zack Snyder and co-starred with Hugh Jackman in *Van Helsing*.

Wenham is best known for his role as in Peter Jackson's critically acclaimed second and third *Lord Of The Rings* installments *The Two Towers* and *Return Of The King*. Wenham's accolades include a Best Actor nomination at the 2002 Australian Film Institute (AFI) Awards for Paul Cox's *Molokai*; *The Story Of Father Damian*, a Best Actor nomination at the 2001 AFI Awards and the 2001 Film Critics Circle of Australia Awards for the successful Australian feature *The Bank*; a Best Actor nomination at the 2000 AFI Awards and the 2000 IF Awards for *Better Than Sex*; and a Best Actor nomination at the 1999 FCCA Awards for his haunting portrayal as a psychopath in *The Boys*.

Wenham's other film credits include: the UK family drama *Pure* (2002); *Russian Doll* (2001), with Hugo Weaving; the musical extravaganza *Moulin Rouge!* and *Dark City* (1998). He has also featured in some of Australia's most successful television series including "Seachange," credited with launching his career and appeared on stage in a number of Sydney and Melbourne theatre productions including "Cosi," "Hamlet" and "The Tempest." Wenham is currently in production on Baz Luhrmann's epic drama titled *Australia*.

Selected Filmography

2008	Australia
2008	The Children of Huang Shi
2008	Married Life
2006	300
2005	The Proposition
2004	Van Helsing
2003	The Lord of the Rings: Return of the King
2003	Getting' Square
2001	Dust
2001	Moulin Rouge!
2000	Russian Doll
2000	Better than Sex
1998	A Little Bit of Soul
1998	Dark City
1998	The Boys
1996	Idiot Box
1996	Cosi
1995	Roses are Red
1994	No Escape
1994	Tran the Man

GUANG LI as Shi Kai

Guang Yu Li was born in Jiangsu, China. In 1992, he and his family moved to Sydney, Australia. Li discovered acting very early on when he won a lead role in a school musical at the age of 8. This positive experience promoted his passion for, enabling him to do several theatre productions and two more successive musicals in a lead role over the course of a few years.

Outside of school, Li threw himself into everything performance related he could find, including numerous theatre performances, most notably "The Illusion," his favourite performance, debating, and also began singing lessons. By chance, he was sent a call for child actors for *The Children of Huang Shi* in 2006. Several screen tests later, and much to his surprise, he was offered the role.

The role meant he would need to change high schools on his return, but he decided to pursue acting and take this opportunity. Once filming was completed he enrolled at a new high school where he now studies drama as a subject. He is also involved in several theatre productions, both at school and at NIDA (National Institute of Dramatic Arts).