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**AMERICAN  
DREAMS  
IN  
CHINA**

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**PETER HO-SUN CHAN**

## AMERICAN DREAMS IN CHINA

**Director:** Peter Ho-Sun Chan  
**Producers:** Jojo Hui Yuet-chun, Peter Ho-Sun Chan  
**Scriptwriters:** Zhou Zhi Yong, Zhang Ji  
**Cinematographer:** Christopher Doyle  
**Production Designer:** Sun Li  
**Costume Designer:** Dora Ng

**Cheng Dongqing:** Huang Xiaoming  
**Meng Xiaojun:** Deng Chao  
**Wang Yang:** Tong Dawei  
**Su Mei:** Du Juan

**Production Budget:** US\$9 million  
**Status:** Completed  
**Release Date:** 30 May, 2013 (Hong Kong)

**Production Company:** We Pictures Limited  
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## Introduction

China, with a population of over 1.3 billion, has emerged as a global power player and taken the world by storm at the turn of the century. All eyes set on this vast 2.3 billion acres of landmass filled with infinite opportunity. It is on the same soil where 3 ordinary men succeed in doing what billion others can't, by building a tutorial empire worth over US\$5 billion in market value.

## Synopsis

Wind the clock back to the year 1985. In the midst of the economic reform period, 3 college students bind together by a common ambition – to live the American dream. They are Cheng Dongqing, a overzealous hillbilly who refuses to accept his destiny of being a farmer; Meng Xiaojun, a self-confident, cynical intellectual who thinks he's superior among all; and Wang Yang, a somewhat idealistic romanticist dreaming of becoming a poet. Their brotherhood is forged through their fascination of western literature, poetry, music and movie.

Xiaojun is the first to successfully obtain an US Visa for studying abroad. Yang follows but decides to remain in China for his American love interest. Poor Dongqing is rejected three times by the US Embassy. Baffled, he reluctantly accepts the job as an English instructor in the university.

It doesn't take long before Xiaojun realize the huge difference between living in America and living the American dream. Unable to find a decent job, he is driven to work as a busboy in a diner. Across the Pacific, Dongqing gets fired by the university for teaching private English tutorial classes without permission. Yang is perhaps the luckiest of all – he becomes an extra in foreign film productions due to his English fluency.

It's only after you've lost everything that you're free to do anything. Dongqing decides to turn his tutorial effort into a fulltime business. Using Kentucky Fried Chicken restaurant as temporary “classroom”, his class starts with 6 students and rapidly expands to over 50 in a matter of weeks! KFC is too small for his class that he needs to rent a real place to hold lessons. Dongqing summons Yang to help him teach and form the business. Xiaojun, having just returned from America, immediately joins force with his two buddies to establish New Vision Institute. The 3 founders, each with their unique charisma - Dongqing’s humorous teaching style, Xiaojun’s American experience and VISA applying technique, Yang’s cinematic approach – turn New Vision into an instant success and create a media sensation overnight. Thousands of US student wannabes flock to the institute hoping to get a share of the American dream.

However, the sudden fame and fortune are gradually tearing their friendship apart. The media labels Dongqing the “Godfather of Foreign Study”. Xiaojun is not comfortable with Dongqing taking all the credits for something they’ve created together. He urges to reform the company under a stockholding system, which Xiaojun and Yang reluctantly agree. Xiaojun further proposes to expand the scale of the company by going public. This goes against Dongqing’s teaching philosophy. Yang gets caught up in the middle of their conflict. The company is on the brink of collapse, as is their loyalty and trust to each other.

Jul 1, 1997	-----	Hong Kong’s handover to China
May 7, 1999	-----	Bombing of China Embassy in Belgrade
Jul 12, 2001	-----	China awarded the 08 Olympic Games
Dec 11, 2001	-----	China becoming member of WTO
Nov 16, 2002	-----	1 <sup>st</sup> SARS outbreak in China
Oct 15, 2003	-----	China’s 1 <sup>st</sup> manned space mission

History unfolds and passes by; empire rises and falls. Whether New Vision and the friendship can survive the test of time, we’re about to see.

## Director/Producer – Peter Ho-Sun Chan

A leading figure in the Asian film industry, Peter Ho-Sun Chan has been able to merge art and entertainment with commercial and critical success, winning an impressive 162 film awards out of 262 nominations. He co-founded United Filmmakers Organization (UFO) and produced a string of commercial hits such as *Tom, Dick & Hairy* (1993), *He's a Woman, She's a Man* (1994) and *Comrades, Almost a Love Story* (1997). His directorial debut *Alan and Eric: Between Hello and Goodbye* (1991) was awarded Best Film of the Year by the Directors' Guild of Hong Kong, as was *He* for which Chan also won Best Director. *Comrades* won a record 9 Hong Kong Film Awards and was voted one of the 10 Best Movies of 1997 by TIME magazine. Subsequently, Chan directed *The Love Letter* (1999) for Steven Spielberg's Dreamworks SKG. In the same year, he was voted one of the top 10 directors to watch by Variety, in conjunction with Sundance Film Festival. In 2000, he established Applause Pictures and produced some of the most original films for the Asian audience, including *Jan Dara* (2001), *One Fine Spring Day* (2001), *The Eye* series (2002, 2004, 2005), *Three* series (2002, 2004), *Golden Chicken 1 & 2* (2002, 2003) and *McDull, The Alumni* (2006).

His groundbreaking musical *Perhaps Love* (2005) became the closing film at the 62<sup>nd</sup> Venice Int'l Film Festival, and was one of the year's top-grossing films in Greater China. It was honored with a record 29 awards and was selected as Hong Kong's Best Foreign Language Film entry to the Oscars. *The Warlords* (2007) grossed US\$40 million across Asia and won 8 prizes in HKFA, most notably Best Film and Best Director. He next produced two blockbusters, Derek Yee's *Protégé* (2007) and Teddy Chen's *Bodyguards and Assassins* (2009). The latter garnered a spectacular US\$50 million in Asia alone and scored 8 HKFA awards, including Best Film and Best Director. His latest producing- directing effort, *Wu Xia* (2011), was the only Chinese language film to be invited into the Official Selection in the 64<sup>th</sup> Cannes Film Festival, and scored 8 major trophies in 3 major film awards, including 2 Best Art Direction, 2 Best Cinematography, and 2 Best Original Score. Chan currently produces the Andrew Lau directed action thriller *The Guillotines* (2012) as well as Aubrey Lam's *The Truth of Beauty* (2013).

## Producer – Jojo Hui Yuet-chun

A versatile producer in her own right, Jojo Hui Yuet-chun began working as an assistant director in Samson Chiu's *Yesteryou, Yesterme, Yesterday* (1993) and soon found herself in numerous film projects. She collaborated with Peter Ho-Sun Chan on many of his earlier films, including the award-winning *Allan and Eric: Between Hello and Goodbye* (1991) and *He's a Woman, She's a Man* (1994). She also served as associate producer and assistant director on acclaimed films such as Chan's *Comrades, Almost a Love Story* (1997), Teddy Chen's *Purple Storm* (1999) (which she co-wrote) and *The Accidental Spy* (2000) starring Jackie Chan. Hui worked with internationally renowned filmmakers such as Wayne Wang on *Chinese Box* (1997) as assistant director, and Tsui Hark on *Knock Off* (1998) as a casting director.

Having joined Applause Pictures in 2002, Hui has since produced a series of smash hits such as *Jan Dara* (2001), *The Eye* (2001) (associate producer, writer), *Three: Going Home* (2001) (producer, writer), *Golden Chicken* series (2001, 2003), *The Eye 2* (2004) (producer, writer) and *The Eye 10* (2005). She moved on to producing blockbusters such as *Perhaps Love* (2005) (associate producer), *The Warlords* (2007) (co-producer, writer), *Bodyguards and Assassins* (2009), *Wu Xia* (2011), and the upcoming *The Guillotines* (2012).

## Cast – Huang Xiaoming



Sacrifice



Ip Man 2

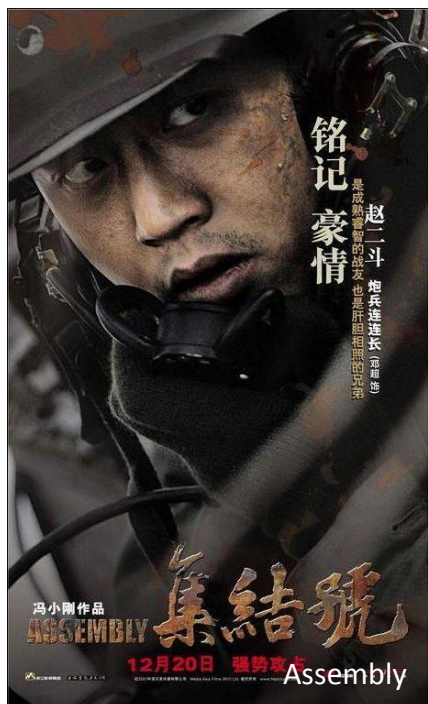


The Message

Huang Xiaoming is labeled China's "no. 1 heartthrob" and has become one of the most sought actors in pan Asia. His versatility in acting proves that he is more than just a pretty face. In a career of slightly over 10 years, he has starred in 23 films and 22 TV dramas. Having worked with some of the most renowned Chinese filmmakers, his notable film works include Feng Xiaogang's action extravaganza *The Banquet* (2006), WW2 espionage drama *The Message* (2009), Dante Lam's action thriller *The Sniper* (2009), Chen Kaige's costume epic *Sacrifice* (2010) and Wilson Yip's martial arts biopic *Ip Man 2* (2010). For *The Message*, he was nominated in the 4<sup>th</sup> Asian Film Awards and the 30<sup>th</sup> Hundred Flowers Awards for his menacing portrayal of a Japanese general.

Huang's recently starred in the crime saga *The Last Tycoon* (2013) with Chow Yun-Fat and drama *Wu Wen Xi Dong* (2013) with Zhang Ziyi. His next screen appearance will be the action thriller *The Guillotines* (2012) directed by Andrew Lau.

## Cast – Deng Chao



Voted by Forbes magazine as one of the top 100 Chinese Celebrities for 6 consecutive years (2007 – 2012), Deng Chao is branded the “box office boy wonder”, with the last 5 films he appeared each crossing the RMB100 million mark in China box office. Already an established TV actor, Deng’s first high-profile film role came in 2007 in Feng Xiaogang’s war drama **Assembly**, which took in RMB260 million domestically. His performance led to a Best Male Actor Award in the Golden Phoenix Awards and a Best Supporting Actor Award in the 29<sup>th</sup> Hundred Flowers Awards. The next year, he turned out an equally memorable performance in the romance drama **The Equation of Love and Death** (2008) with Zhou Xun.

But nothing could compare to his scene-stealing role in Tsui Hark’s **Detective Dee and the Mystery of Phantom Flame** (2010). The action adventure was a star-making vehicle for Deng, earning him Best Supporting Actor nomination in the 30<sup>th</sup> Hong Kong Film Awards. His next two films continue to generate lucrative business. The action fantasy **The Mural** (2011) topped the national holiday box office with RMB185 million. His latest film, **The Four** (2012), is currently one of the summer blockbusters of the year, tallying an impressive RMB196 million in receipts so far.



## Cast – Tong Dawei



The Founding of a Republic



Red Cliff



The Flowers of War

Tong Dawei has established himself as one of China's most earnest actors in his generation, who also enjoys a huge fan following thanks to his boy-next-door image. Having graduated at the Shanghai Theatre Academy in 2001 with a degree in acting, his first major film role came a year later in Zhang Yuan's *I Love You* (2002). The film is a favorite in the film festival circuit, premiering in the 20<sup>th</sup> Sundance Film Festival and the 32<sup>nd</sup> Int'l Film Festival Rotterdam, among others.

Tong has gained international recognition in 2007 when he starred opposite actress Fan Bingbing in Li Yu's controversial film *Lost in Beijing*. The critically acclaimed drama was invited to compete in the 57<sup>th</sup> Berlin Int'l Film Festival as well as the 6<sup>th</sup> Tribeca Film Festival. Since then, his popularity has skyrocketed thanks to his starring roles in John Woo's blockbuster war epic *Red Cliff* (2008) and the star-studded historical saga *The Founding of a Republic* (2009). His latest major film role was in Zhang Yimou's World War 2 drama *The Flowers of War* (2011) alongside Oscar winning actor Christian Bale. The film grossed over RMB600 million (US\$94 million) in China, and was nominated for the 69<sup>th</sup> Golden Globe Awards for Best Foreign Language Film. He's recently cast in the spy thriller *Switch* (2012) with Andy Lau.

## Cast – Du Juan



Du Juan has established herself as one of the most successful fashion models in the industry, becoming the first Asian model to grace the cover of *Vogue Paris*. Standing at 5'10", the Shanghai-born dancer-turned-model has walked the runways for many top fashion designers such as Louis Vuitton, Chanel, Valentino, YSL, Givenchy, Jean Paul Gaultier, and graced the cover of nearly every major fashion magazine. Some of the renowned photographers she has worked with include Mario Testino, Patrick Demarchelier, Peter Lindberg, Paolo Roversi, Mario Sorrenti, just to name a few.

*American Dreams in China* is Du Juan's big screen debut. Early this year, she was featured in Wong Kar-wai's short film *Déjà Vu*, sponsored by Chivas Regal in celebration of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the brand.

## Director of Photography – Christopher Doyle

Arguably Asia's most celebrated cinematographer, Christopher Doyle is best known for his endless collaboration with Wong Kar-wai on many of his internationally acclaimed works such as *Days of Being Wild* (1991), *Ashes of Time* (1994), *Chungking Express* (1994), *Fallen Angels* (1995), *Happy Together* (1997), *In the Mood for Love* (2000), *Eros* (segment "The Hand") (2004) and *2046* (2004). Other major Chinese filmmakers he has worked with include Peter Ho-Sun Chan in *Three* (segment "Going Home") (2002) and *Perhaps Love* (2005), Edward Yang in *That Day, on the Beach* (1983), Chen Kaige in *Tempress Moon* (1996), Zhang Yimou in *Hero* (2002), just to name a few.

In the late 90s, Doyle's gifted talent caught the eye of Hollywood and he has since worked with many high-profile directors such as Gus Van Sant in *Psycho* (1998) and *Paranoid Park* (2007), Barry Levinson in *Liberty Heights* (1999), Phillip Noyce in *The Quiet American* (2002) and *Rabbit-Proof Fence* (2002), James Ivory in *The White Countess* (2005), M. Night Shyamalan in *Lady in the Water* (2006), Jim Jarmusch in *The Limits of Control* (2009), and Neil Jordan in *Ondine* (2009).

Doyle's outstanding cinematographic work is widely recognized within the film industry. His long streak of awards includes, most notably, the Technical Grand Prize in the 57<sup>th</sup> Cannes Film Festival (for *In the Mood for Love*), Golden Osella Prize in the 51<sup>st</sup> Venice Int'l Film Festival (for *Ashes of Time*), 6 Hong Kong Film Awards (for *Soul*, *Days of Being Wild*, *Ashes of Time*, *Fallen Angels*, *Hero*, and *2046*), 4 Golden Horse Awards (for *Ashes of Time*, *Happy Together*, *In the Mood for Love*, and *Three*), 3 New York Film Critics Circle Awards (for *In the Mood for Love*, *Hero* and *2046*) and 2 National Society of Film Critics Awards (for *In the Mood for Love* and *2046*).

## Production Designer – Sun Li

A veteran art director who's participated in over 100 TV commercials back in the 90s, Sun Li has made a successful transition to feature film, first as an assistant art director in Sun Zhou's *Breaking the Silence* (2000) with Gong Li. He served as an art director in Ning Ying's *I Love Beijing* (2001), which won the Don Quixote Award at the 51<sup>st</sup> Berlin Int'l Film Festival. The next year, Sun reunited with Sun Zhou and Gong Li in the critically acclaimed *Zhou Yu's Train* (2002). Other notable projects followed, including Zhang Yimou's award-winning *Riding Alone for Thousands of Miles* (2005), suspense drama *The Third Man* (2007), and *Little Big Soldier* (2010) with Jackie Chan. His recent art direction work in *Wu Xia* (2011) has rewarded him with 2 trophies in the 48<sup>th</sup> Golden Horse Awards and the 6<sup>th</sup> Asian Film Awards.

## Costume Designer – Dora Ng

After graduating from The Hong Kong Polytechnic University in fashion design, Dora Ng immediately entered the film industry as the costume designer for Jacob Cheung's *The Twilight of Forbidden City* (1988). To date, she has been involved in over 60 productions, such as Ching Siu-Tung's *An Empress and the Warriors* (2008), Stephen Chow's *CJ7* (2008), Pang Brothers' *Storm Warriors* (2009), and Andrew Lau's *Legend of the Fist: The Return of Chen Zhen* (2010). She has garnered 4 Hong Kong Film Awards, 1 Golden Horse Award and a total of 16 nominations for Best Costume and Makeup Design. Her award-winning design works have appeared in Samson Chiu's *Golden Chicken* (2002), Peter Ho-Sun Chan's *Comrades: Almost a Love Story* (1996), Teddy Chen's *Purple Storm* (1999), Chan's *Perhaps Love* (2005), and Chen's *Bodyguards and Assassins* (2009). Ng's recent credits include Lau's *A Beautiful Life* (2011), Chan's martial arts film *Wu Xia* (2011), and the upcoming *The Guillotines* (2012).