



# — FEMALE — FILM CLUB

## Resources

Film: *A Simple Life* (2011)

Director: Ann Hui



*Ann Hui: “To be honest, I am not especially pleased to be slotted primarily as a 'woman filmmaker', but it's okay with me. Plus, I see the relevance and the strength of having a distinctive subject and drift for promotional purposes”*

## Trailer:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k2HpGfb7m7M>



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### Fun facts:

- Ann's idea is that the first take is the one the actor gives his/her best performance. And for many, this is not the case, because some directors have 20 takes, 30 takes, and the actors get tired. Unless you tell them what was wrong, and the director just tells them "do it again", there is no point in redoing a take. In some cases, Ann asks for a second take, but she gives very specific instructions of what was wrong and what can be improved. So, in the few cases where there was a second take, everybody would know why there is a second take.
- Ip, in the lead role of Sister Peach, won the Best Actress Award at the 68th Venice International Film Festival.[7]
- Ann Hui has won Best Director (4 times) more than anyone else at the Hong Kong Film Awards.
- Ip is the oldest Best Actress recipient (64 years old at the time of her win).
- Volpi Cup is the first Hong Konger to win the Best Actress for her role in this film. In March, she also became the first Hong Konger to win the Asian Film Award for Best Actress.
- Originally, Hui considered retiring after making this film. However, due to the film's success, she changed her mind and is considering other projects.
- Production of the film officially began during Chinese New Year. It was filmed in Mei Foo Sun Chuen.[8] Production was wrapped on 6 April 2011 after two months of filming.[9]
- Ms. Hui's movie-making career has spanned more than three decades and she has covered topics that include the plight of Vietnamese boat people, Alzheimer's disease and lesbianism.
- The producer Roger Lee worked with Ann Hui on 3 previous films; "Summer Snow" (Best Actress award for Josephine Siao at Berlin IFF in 1995), "A Simple Life" (Best Actress award for Deanie Ip at Venice IFF in 2011), and "Our Time Will Come".
- The script for "A Simple Life" was based on the true story of his maid who worked for four generations of the Lee family for almost 60 years. His book "Taojie and Me" was published in 2012. His play "The Amahs" was produced by Hong Kong Arts Festival in 2015.
- Producer Roger Lee about Ann Hui: Ann Hui is the easiest to work with, because she is not only a director, but also a producer. she always finishes ahead of schedule. Because, usually there is just one take. So everybody is happy because they finish early, but also very alert because they cannot make mistakes during the take. The actors know their lines, the cameramen know how to move the camera, the lighting men know how to light the scene, and everything is ready and when the time comes, nobody would allow themselves to make mistakes.



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- Biennale festival director Alberto Barbera: “Ann Hui is one of Asia’s most respected, prolific, and versatile directors of our times; her career spans four decades and touches every film genre. From the outset, she has been acknowledged as one of the pivotal figures of the so-called Hong Kong New Wave – the film movement which revolutionized Hong Kong’s movies during the 1970s and ’80s, transforming the cosmopolitan city into one of the most energetic, creative centers of the decade.”

## Festival Appearances and awards:

- **Venice Film Festival**  
**WON:**  
**Lifetime Achievement Award**  
Best Actress (Volpi Cup)  
Equal Opportunities Award  
Signis Award – Honorable Mention  
La Navicella Award  
**NOMINATED:**  
Golden Lion
- **Hong Kong Entrée for Academy Awards Foreign Language Film**
- **Hong Kong Film Awards**  
**WON:**  
Best Film  
Best Director  
Best Screenplay  
Best Actor  
Best Actress
- **Asian Film Awards**  
**WON:**  
**Lifetime Achievement Award**  
Best Actress (Volpi Cup)  
People's Choice for Favorite Actor



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## **Video material:**

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|--|---|
| Biennale Chanell<br>-Ann Hui Masterclass | <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5NNfVayr694">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5NNfVayr694</a> |
| Coolest Movies                           | <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZgVV1Eq4XQ4">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZgVV1Eq4XQ4</a> |

## **Interviews:**

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|--------------------------------|---|
| Eastern Kicks                  | <a href="https://www.easternkicks.com/features/ann-hui-interviewed">https://www.easternkicks.com/features/ann-hui-interviewed</a>   |
| Asian Movie Pulse              | <a href="https://asianmoviepulse.com/2019/09/interview-with-roger-lee-my-proudest-moment-is-simple-life-because-it-tells-my-story2/">https://asianmoviepulse.com/2019/09/interview-with-roger-lee-my-proudest-moment-is-simple-life-because-it-tells-my-story2/</a> |
| Chicago Reader                 | <a href="https://www.chicagoreader.com/Bleader/archives/2012/05/07/three-questions-for-ann-huis-a-simple-life">https://www.chicagoreader.com/Bleader/archives/2012/05/07/three-questions-for-ann-huis-a-simple-life</a>   |
| The Wall Street Journal        | <a href="https://www.wsj.com/articles/BL-SJB-7996">https://www.wsj.com/articles/BL-SJB-7996</a>   |
| All Ann Hui films<br>resources | <a href="https://hkwomenfilmmakers.wordpress.com/hui-ann-2/">https://hkwomenfilmmakers.wordpress.com/hui-ann-2/</a>   |

## **Reviews:**

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|---------------|---|
| NY Times      | <a href="https://www.nytimes.com/2012/04/13/movies/a-simple-life-directed-by-ann-hui.html">https://www.nytimes.com/2012/04/13/movies/a-simple-life-directed-by-ann-hui.html</a> |
| BFI           | <a href="https://www2.bfi.org.uk/news/film-month-simple-life-0">https://www2.bfi.org.uk/news/film-month-simple-life-0</a>   |
| Roger Ebert   | <a href="https://www.rogerebert.com/reviews/a-simple-life-2012">https://www.rogerebert.com/reviews/a-simple-life-2012</a>   |
| Far East Film | <a href="https://www.fareastfilm.com/eng/archive/2017/a-simple-life/?IDLYT=15535">https://www.fareastfilm.com/eng/archive/2017/a-simple-life/?IDLYT=15535</a>                   |
| The Arts Desk | <a href="https://theartsdesk.com/node/46071/view">https://theartsdesk.com/node/46071/view</a>   |