

— FEMALE — FILM CLUB

Resources

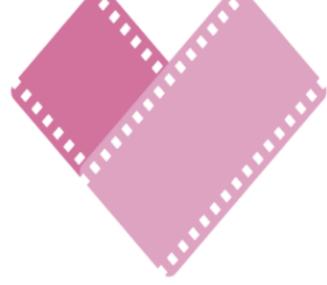
Film: **The Golden Era** (2014)
Director: Ann Hui



Ann Hui: “[The Golden Era is] more like a piece of modernist art. A person’s story is not immediately told chronologically; it’s not structured psychologically, like a flashback. It’s just cut up into bits and pieces that, when pieced together, you will react to that situation when it is in a scene or a sequence. So for me it’s very exciting, because I’ve never worked like that.”

Trailer:

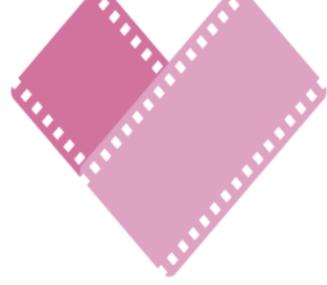
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zFAV25IP1ns>



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Fun facts:

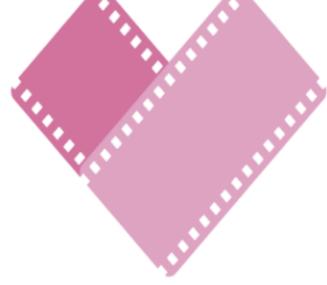
- The film is based on the life of writer Xiao Hong.
- Ann Hui and Li Qiang (writer) first wanted to do a biopic about Xiao Hong and another female writer Ding Ling. But Ding Ling wouldn't pass censorship because she had trouble with the Communist authorities in the '50s and her status is still suspect. ([Source](#))
- Xiao Hong was writing an autobiography in the form of novels, all of which have been used as material in the film.
- The non-traditional structure of the film is based on the writing of Xiao Hong which was also non-traditional.
- It took three years to finance the film; Investors were reluctant to put up more than a third of the 60 million required because they feared recouping it, especially as it would be hard to sell to the West. 'And it's about a writer, and nobody likes a writer, or wants to watch one!'
- Ann Hui went to London Film School
- Ann Hui: 'Allen Fong told me, 'You shouldn't pity them, you should pity yourself, because Hong Kong is actually a big refugee camp! [Laughs] You are a refugee, or the descendant of refugees!' For me, it changed the whole story. It's not like we are trying to propagate sympathy for refugees, but telling our own story in a different way. That's what I felt.'
- Ann Hui: 'Xiao Hong is a very good novelist who's somehow neglected. Maybe she's difficult, particularly in the West where she's very difficult to translate; translations are so very far away from the original. I feel she's on a par with Emily Bronte or Herman Melville; about elemental forces of nature, but on a very intimate scale. She died when she was 31 in Hong Kong,'
- The Golden Era was [Hong Kong's submission to the 87th Academy Awards](#) for Best Foreign Language Film.
- According to Qiang Li, the writer of screenplay, most lines in this film are taken verbatim from the quotes and words in books that written by characters in real-life.
- Shaofeng Feng learned that Tang Wei fasted to simulate her character's state of hunger that depicted in the scripts. He also tried to do the same and fast, but ended up fainted and failed.



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Festival Appearances and awards:

- **Venice Film Festival**
Won Lifetime Achievement Award
- **Toronto Film Festival**
- **Hong Kong Film Awards**
WON:
Best Film
Best Director
Best Cinematography
Best Art Direction
Best Costume & Make Up Design
- **Asian Film Awards**
WON:
Best Director
Best Supporting Actor (Wang Zhiwen)



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Video material:

Biennale Chanell -Ann Hui Masterclass	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5NNfVayr694
Venice Film Festival	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zULGYIUOzWI

Interviews:

Screen Daily	https://www.screendaily.com/interviews/ann-hui-the-golden-era/5078265.article
Eastern Kicks	https://www.easternkicks.com/features/ann-hui-interviewed

Reviews:

Variety	https://variety.com/2014/film/festivals/venice-film-review-the-golden-era-1201298611/
The Hollywood Reporter	https://www.hollywoodreporter.com/news/general-news/golden-era-huangjin-shidai-venice-730671/
NY Times	https://www.nytimes.com/2014/10/17/movies/the-golden-era-a-biopic-on-the-novelist-xiao-hong.html
Women And Hollywood	https://womenandhollywood.com/ann-huis-the-golden-era-wins-hong-kong-film-awards-best-film-best-director-prizes-e5b63b21e506/