



Will You Still Love Me Tomorrow?

A film by Arvin Chen

"Poignant and heartening. Playfully channeling Woody Allen, Jacques Tati and Jacques Demy" - Maggie Lee, *Variety*

"Wry and whimsical"- Jordan Mintzer, *The Hollywood Reporter*



**Taiwan / 2013 / Comedy / Mandarin with English subtitles
106 min. / 2.35:1 / Dolby Digital**

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FULL SYNOPSIS

In this madcap and lighthearted comedic romp, introverted optometrist Weichung begins to question his marriage with his wife Feng upon learning of her desire to have another baby. At his sister's engagement party, Weichung bumps into an old friend, Stephen, a wedding photographer who, though also married, is living the high life of a younger, single gay man. When Stephen teases Weichung for his newly straight-laced lifestyle, dormant emotions are awakened in Weichung, setting him off on a quest for true romance and desire.

SHORT SYNOPSIS

In this madcap and lighthearted comedic romp, introvert Weichung begins to question his marriage to Feng when she signals she's ready to have another baby and an unexpected encounter with a friend from his past awakens long-dormant emotions. It all sets him off on a quest for true romance and desire.

LOGLINE

Introvert Weichung sets off to discover his true self in this lighthearted comedic romp.

FESTIVALS AND AWARDS

WINNER

Honorable Mention, International Narrative Feature – **Tel Aviv LGBT**

International Film Festival

Audience Award, Best Foreign Film – **Reel Q Pittsburgh LGBT Film Festival**

OFFICIAL SELECTION:

Berlin International Film Festival

Tribeca Film Festival

Hong Kong International Film Festival

Boston LGBT Film Festival

Provincetown Film Festival

Frameline Film Festival

Chicago International Film Festival

Philadelphia Film Festival

Rehoboth Beach Film Festival

Denver Film Festival

St. Louis International Film Festival

Teaneck International Film Festival

Reel Q Pittsburgh LGBT Film Festival

Milwaukee LGBT Film Festival

San Diego Asian Film Festival

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

The story of ***Will You Still Love Me Tomorrow?*** originated with a personal anecdote from a gay friend of mine living in Taiwan. Though almost forty, he almost exclusively dates men in their twenties, so, partially joking, I asked him if he just really preferred younger men. He replied that he would actually love to find someone closer to his own age, but there were very few available – most of them have gone back into the closet, and were already married with families. For Asia, Taiwan seems to be relatively more tolerant towards homosexuality, and I couldn't really understand why some men would choose to live in the façade of a straight marriage and sacrifice their happiness for the sake of others' approval. Perhaps "sacrifice" was not something so rare, especially in Taiwanese society, and I started to think how I could develop this premise into a story.

During the shooting, however, I found that the film became more than just a story about a middle aged man coming out, but more about "relationships." What kind of sacrifices would we make for our loved ones and families? If there is any limit to how much we can sacrifice for them? These inquiries posed a new challenge to me. The film was initially meant to be a romantic comedy, but in the process of making it, the film became much more emotional and more personal for me than my debut film ***Au Revoir Taipei***. I will always remember the last scene before we wrapped up the shooting. Richie and Mavis were fully engaged in their emotions as the characters and story, and the whole crew was moved to tears by their performances.

MORE ABOUT ***WILL YOU STILL LOVE ME TOMORROW?***

Will You Still Love Me Tomorrow? occupies a unique place in the cultural landscape of Taiwan, Asia as a whole, and the Asian-American community as well. Named after the 1960 pop song by The Shirelles, the title – and the titular scene in the film featuring Feng breaking out into an updated, emotionally-laden karaoke version of the song – references the eternal struggle Chen sought to bring to the screen. How do we discern the value of that which we desire immediately and the long-lasting love we crave?

Chen's personal experience with gay friends in Taiwan who've made the same choices face by the film's Weichung – marrying a woman in order to maintain family ties and societal acceptance – were just the stepping off point for a story as timely as ever. Taiwan hosts a vibrant gay community, and is the only country in Asia today even close to legalizing gay marriage, a debate that rages abroad as fiercely as it does in the United States.

Chen's brilliance, then, is in the way he brings such a heated topic to the screen. Using a light-hearted romantic comedy to infuse the discussion with humor and warmth, Chen introduces us to characters strong enough in their convictions to step down the path toward being their true selves, setting themselves and everyone else around them free in the process.

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

ARVIN CHEN

As one of the most anticipated rising director in his generation, Arvin Chen apprenticed under renowned Taiwanese director Edward Yang (Yiyi) before studying at the USC School of Cinematic Arts. Though he'd begun his studies in Architecture, he switched to cinema to pursue his passion for film. Yang's influence can be seen in Chen's insistence on the highest quality productions, though Chen has forged his own path as an artist when it comes to lighting and tone.

His thesis production ***Mei*** won the 2007 Silver Bear in Berlin's International Short Film Competition. Chen went on to work on his first feature length film, ***Au Revoir Taipei***, which won the NETPAC Award as the Best Asian Film at 2010 Berlinale, and found box office success in the domestic market. In 2011, he joined ***10+10***, the omnibus film project initiated by Taipei Golden Horse Film Festival Executive Committee, and directed the segment ***LANE 256***. With a truly multicultural background – born in Boston, raised in California and a successful career launched in Taipei – Chen actually writes his scripts in English, translated with help from friends in Taiwan. His unique observation on everyday life in Taiwan is infused with a romantic personal touch and magical-realistic style, evidenced by the character created in Weichung as he tries to strike a balance in two totally different worlds.

Will You Still Love Me Tomorrow? focuses on an ordinary middle-class family where its members constantly deal with the dilemma of accepting the status quo or embracing new changes in their everyday life. Their expectations and hesitations are depicted with both dramatic conflict and a vivid sense of realism.

Filmography

2006- *Mei* (Short); 2008- *Eat* (Short)

2010 – *Au Revoir Taipei*; 2011 – *10+10* (segment "Lane 256")

2013 – *Will You Still Love Me Tomorrow?*

ABOUT THE CAST

RICHIE JEN (Weichung)

Richie Jen, a versatile artist who both acts and sings, has maintained his peak popularity in China and Taiwan for many years. He has made numerous acclaimed films such as *Life without Principle*, *The Sniper*, *Summer Holiday* and *Fly Me to Polaris*.

In *Will You Still Love Me Tomorrow?* Jen plays a husband whose reluctance to confront his mid-life crisis eventually snowballs into a catastrophe unsettling his family. This is the first time that Jen has broken away from his handsome look and physique, transforming into a middle-aged man by putting on a prosthetic pot belly. During filming, even strangers on the street would walk up to him with amusing remarks like "How can you give up on yourself like this?" However, this complex role enabled him to exemplify his ability to portray a character in a more subtle and naturalistic way, which will definitely move everyone in the audience.

MAVIS FAN (Feng)

Mavis Fan was nominated for Best Supporting Actress for *The Silent War* at the 2012 Golden Horse Awards, the highest accolade for Chinese-speaking films around the world. In *Will You Still Love Me Tomorrow?* she had to visually add years to her real age to play a 38-year-old working mother, and appear without any make-up in front of the camera. From simmering repression to outburst of emotions, her multi-layered and heart-breaking portrayal of her character deeply impressed the director as well as the crew. There was one emotional scene where her performance brought everyone to tears on the set, and she was so in character that she could not stop crying even after the camera stopped rolling. For Fan, the trick of acting is the same as producing music, which requires her to be entirely honest with herself. Along with her many fans, she is looking forward to see her performance on screen in *Will You Still Love Me Tomorrow?*

STONE (San-San)

For Stone, the guitarist of legendary Asian rock band Mayday, the role of San-San is not his first endeavor in the film industry. However, playing one of the lead characters is a new challenge to him. Stone brilliantly embodies San-San's honest and straightforward personality. As a gentle and slightly pathetic man who likes to follow routines and act according to plans, San-San is devastated by the fact that his fiancée ditches their upcoming wedding. The comedic nature of Stone's unique mannerism adds much humor to this character, creating an inviting and lovable performance.

KIMI HSIA (Mandy)

As the host of the popular TV cooking show *Stylish Men - the Chef*, Kimi Hsia's doe eyes and effervescent personality has not only won the hearts of many viewers, but also captured director Arvin Chen's attention during her audition. Hsia does not have much acting experience, and it was the first time she played a lead role. Despite the tremendous pressure, she perfectly portrays the restless and conflicting feelings of Mandy, a young lady who is constantly in search of true love. To everyone's amazement, Hsia's adorable charm added a new dimension to this slightly prissy and dainty character.



Weichung (Richie Jen) and Feng (Mavis Fan)
credit: Film Movement

CREDITS

CREW

Director
Writer
Producers

Arvin Chen
Arvin Chen
Lieh Lee
Roger Huang

Cinematographer
Editor
Composer

Hsia Shao-Yu
Justin Guerrieri
Hsu Wen

CAST

Weichung
Feng
San-San
Mandy
Stephen
Thomas

Richie Jen
Mavis Fan
Stone
Kimi Hsia
Lawrence Ko
Wong Ka-Lok