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PROJECT TITLE: A Drop in the Sea

COUNTRY/REGION | GENRE | LANGUAGE | RUNNING TIME:

Mainland China, Algeria, France | Drama, Suspense | Putonghua, Arabic, French | 90min

DIRECTOR:

Xiao Baer

PRODUCER:

Khir-Din Grid

Zhang Fan

IDP GOALS:

Funds, Co-producers

FINANCING (USD)

Above-the-Line Production: US\$106,000

Below-the-Line Production: US\$834,000

Post Production: US\$130,000

Other: US\$76,000

TOTAL BUDGET: US\$1,146,000

SECURED BUDGET: US\$15,000

DIRECTOR'S FILMOGRAPHY

First Feature Director

ONE-SENTENCE SYNOPSIS

In Algeria, Ying finds herself unable to cry at her brother Feng's funeral after a decade apart. A mysterious contract leads Ying to uncover the buried secrets of Feng and her own frozen heart.

SYNOPSIS

Ying, a career-driven corporate executive from China, flies to Algeria to attend her brother Feng's Muslim funeral after ten years apart—and finds she can't shed a single tear. A mysterious port warehouse contract Feng left behind compels her to remain in this unfamiliar land. Guided by Feng's colleague Wen, Ying begins to question Feng's death and peel away her professional façade. As they explore Algeria further and further, Ying gradually discovers the brother she never truly knew. Her heart, long frozen, begins to slowly thaw.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

In 2015, while filming in Algeria, I was deeply moved by a newspaper photo of a Muslim funeral: a deceased Chinese worker lay beside an expressionless Chinese woman. It made me think of my long-unseen brother and wonder: how would he appear at my own funeral? Algeria's dusty mountains and rivers vividly echoed our childhood in Zhuzhou, Hunan Province, three decades earlier. This layered dislocation of time and space inspired *A Drop in the Sea*. In moments where identity and rules collapse, can we still reclaim what we've lost emotionally?

DIRECTOR

Xiao Baer

Born in Zhuzhou, Hunan Province, Xiao Baer moved to France in 2012 for further studies. He attended the directing program at the École Supérieure d'Études Cinématographiques (ESEC) and later studied Image and Publishing at Paris-Sorbonne University (Paris IV). He currently resides in Paris, France. Baer's short film includes *Night Factory* (2020), winner of the Special Jury Prize Ex Aequo at UniFrance Short Film Awards; and *Behind the Cloud* (2018), which was supported by CNC, selected for National Competition at the 2018 Clermont-Ferrand International Short Film Festival, and acquired for broadcast by Canal+.

PRODUCER

Khir-Din Grid

Khir-Din Grid is an Algerian-French producer who grew up in Aubervilliers, Paris. He established the Hors Cadre association to promote cultural projects for the local youth. His self-funded feature debut *Rue des Cités* (2011) was selected by ACID Cannes and the Angers European First Film Festival. Multiple projects of Khir-Din's have been supported by CNC.

Zhang Fan

Zhang Fan is a producer and writer. Her latest producing credit, *Living the Land* (2025), won Silver Bear for Best Director in the 75th Berlin Film Festival. The project was also a selected Work-in-Progress in the 2024 HKIFF Industry Project Market.

PRODUCTION COMPANY

Nouvelle Toile

Nouvelle Toile focuses on emerging filmmakers, producing works that blend raw authenticity with humour. With over ten shorts produced, including *Night Factory* (2020) and *Behind the Cloud* (2018), Nouvelle Toile remains committed to "creating alternative entry points" for underrepresented voices in cinemas.

Bifun Pictures

Bifun Pictures is a Beijing-based production company dedicated to create audio visual works that delve into the depth and breadth of the human experience.

電影計劃：海中一滴水

國家/地區 | 類型 | 語言 | 片長：

中國內地、阿爾及利亞、法國 | 劇情、懸疑 | 普通話、阿拉伯語、法語 | 90 分鐘

導演：

肖巴爾

監製／製片：

克裡丁格裡德

張凡

參與 IDP 目標：

籌集資金、聯合監製

預算分佈（美元）

線上製作： US\$106,000

線下製作： US\$834,000

後期製作： US\$130,000

其他： US\$76,000

製作總預算： US\$1,146,000

已籌集的資金： US\$15,000

導演電影作品

首齣長片作品

故事梗概

職場女強人石英赴阿爾及利亞參加闔別十年的弟弟葬禮時，竟感覺不到悲傷。一份弟弟留下的神秘港口貨倉合同，迫使她在這陌生國度短暫停留。

故事大綱

中國職場女強人石英遠赴阿爾及利亞，參加久別十年的弟弟阿峰的穆斯林葬禮，卻發現自己竟無法流下一滴眼淚。阿峰留下的神秘港口倉庫合同，迫使她滯留異國他鄉。在與弟弟同事康文相處的過程中，她開始質疑阿峰離世的真相。隨着不斷深入阿爾及利亞的社會與人情，石英逐漸走近那個她從未真正瞭解的弟弟，也感受到自己那顆被長久冰封的心，正在發生變化。

導演闡述

2015 年在阿爾及利亞拍攝時，一張報紙上的穆斯林葬禮照片深深觸動了我：一位去世的中國工人身旁，站着一位面無表情的中國女子。這讓我想起久未謀面的哥哥——若他出現在我的葬禮上，又會是怎樣的神情？阿爾及利亞的山河塵土，竟與我三十年前在湖南株洲的童年記憶重疊。這種時空的交錯催生了《海中一滴水》的創作：當身份與常規失效時，我們還能否找回那些被遺失的情感？

導演

肖巴爾

1989 年生於株洲，少時隨家遷上海，造就跨文化視野。大學本科畢業於華東師大，2010 年赴法深造，畢業於巴黎 ESEC 電影學院與索邦大學。劇本《漸入佳境》入選柏林 Nipkow 計劃、東京新銳營、金馬創投及上海國際電影節電影項目創投；短片《雲背後》（2018）入圍法國克萊蒙費朗國際短片節，並獲法國電視台 Canal+ 發行，《夜廠》（2020）入圍美國棕櫚泉短片節並獲法國電影聯盟短片競賽特別獎。

監製／製片

克裡丁格裡德

阿爾及利亞裔法國製片人，成長於巴黎近郊的歐貝維利耶，創立 Hors Cadre 協會推動在地青年文化計劃。自資執導的首部長片《街巷之城》（2011）曾獲康城影展 ACID 單元及法國昂熱新人電影節選映。

張凡

製片人、編劇。她擔任製片人的最新作品《生息之地》（2025）於第 75 屆柏林影展獲銀熊獎最佳導演。該項目亦曾入選 2024 年香港國際電影節電影業辦公室項目市場「製作中項目」單元。

製作公司

Nouvelle Toile

法國 Nouvelle Toile 聚焦新銳影人，以粗獷真實與幽默交融的製作見稱。創辦人克裡丁堅持為弱勢群體開拓另類發聲途徑，累計製作《夜廠》（2020）、《雲背後》（2018）等十餘部短片，持續為影壇注入多元視角。

白飯文化

白飯文化創立於北京，參與聯合出品《生息之地》（2025）等影片，致力創作探索世界深廣度的影像作品。