



“Better Days”

Shao Nian De Ni

A film by Derek Kwok-cheung Tsang

© 2019 Shooting Pictures Ltd., China (Shenzhen) Wit Media. Co., Ltd., Tianjin XIRON Entertainment Co., Ltd., We Pictures Ltd., Kashi J.Q. Culture and Media Company Limited, The Alliance of Gods Pictures (Tianjin) Co., Ltd., Shanghai Alibaba Pictures Co., Ltd., Tianjin Maoyan Weying Media Co., Ltd., Lianray Pictures, Local Entertainment, Yunyan Pictures, Beijing Jin Yi Jia Yi Film Distribution Co., Ltd., Dadi Century (Beijing) Co., Ltd., Zhejiang Hengdian Films Co., Ltd., Fat Kids Production, Goodfellas Pictures Limited. ALL Rights reserved.

Production

Producer : **Jojo Yuet-chun Hui**

Director : **Derek Kwok-cheung Tsang**

Scriptwriter : **Li Yuan, Xu Yimeng, Lam Wing Sum**

Adapted by : Jinjiang Wenxue Cheng Novel, ***Young and Beautiful by Jiuyue Xi***

Director of Photography : **Yu Jing Pin**

Art Director : **Liang Honghu**

Costume Designer : **Dora Ng**

Editor : **Zhang Yibo**

Original Score : **Varqa Buehrer**

Visual Effects : **Yung Kwok Yin**

Sound Design : **Joe Huang**

Starring : **Zhou Dongyu** (*Us and Them, Soul Mate*)

Jackson Yee

Co-starring : **Yin Fang** (*Walking Past The Future, Operation Red Sea*)

Huang Jue (*Long Day's Journey Into Night, A Tale of Three Cities*)

Wu Yue (*The Hundred Regiments Offensive*)

Zhou Ye (*Beyond Belief*)

Production Companies : **Goodfellas Pictures Limited, Fat Kids Production**

Production Budget : **US\$ 12 million**

Production Status : **Completed**

Release date : **25 Oct 2019 (China)**

Synopsis

[Adapted from the Jinjiang Wenxue Cheng Novel, *Young and Beautiful* by Jiuyue Xi]

Produced by the magnificent team that bagged seven Golden Horse Awards nominations for *Soul Mate* (2016), *Better Days* (2019) is the fruit of the reunion of Golden Horse Best Director nominee Derek Kwok-cheung Tsang and Best Actress Zhou Dongyu, and the addition of Jackson Yee from boy band TFBoys. Aspiring to enter the national top-most school as a way out of poverty, straight-A student Chen Nian (Zhou Dongyu) finds herself entangled in a deadly accident involving her classmate and subsequent excruciation. In her darkest hours, Nian finds an unlikely ally in orphaned street youth Bei (Jackson Yee), and the two damaged souls form a unique bond. But as they graduate into the more complicated adult world, the innocent promise they once made to each other may no longer suffice to lead them out of the dark.

Derek Kwok-cheung Tsang (director)



Born in Hong Kong on November 8, 1979 and graduated from University of Toronto, Derek Kwok-cheung Tsang began working as an actor in Hong Kong and found himself in numerous film projects including Samson Chiu's *Golden Chicken* (2002), Pang Brothers' *The Eye 2* (2004), Pang Ho Cheung's *AV* (2005), *Isabella* (2006), *Love off the Cuff* (2017), *Missbehavior* (2019), Choi Dong-hoon's *The Thieves* (2012), David Lam's *Z Storm* (2014) and *S Storm* (2016).

Starting from 2010, Tsang also went on directing his own films and co-directed with Jimmy Wan for his directorial debut *Lover's Discourse* and was nominated in 15th BIFF New Currents section and competed for the Best New Director award in 47th Taipei Golden Horse Awards and awarded for Grand Prix (Best Picture Award) in 6th Osaka Asian Film Festival.

Tsang's debut as sole director, *Soul Mate* (2016) was critically acclaimed and earned him the Best Director Award at 2017 Hong Kong Film Directors' Guild and Best Director nomination at 53rd Golden Horse Awards, where *Soul Mate* received the unprecedented duo Best Leading Actress awards in Golden Horse Awards history. *Soul Mate* has also received the ABC Award at 12th Osaka Asian Film Festival, the Best Actress (Zhou Dongyu) and Film of Merit at 23rd Hong Kong Film Critics Society Awards, and Best Original Film Score at 36th Hong Kong Film Awards.

Tsang's latest work, **Better Days** (2019) was selected into the Generation 14Plus section of the 69th Berlin International Film Festival. **Better Days** (2019) offers thought-provoking insights into the severe competition of National College Entrance Examination among nearly 10 million teenagers every year and national issues of school bullying.

Filmography

Production Year	Original Title	English Title	Position
2010	Leun Yan Sui Yu	Lover's Discourse	Co-Director
2012	Zui Hou Yi Ye	Lacuna	Co-Director
2016	Good Take!		Co-Director
2016	Qi Yue Yu An Sheng	Soul Mate	Director
2019	Shao Nian De Ni	Better Days	Director

Jojo Yuet-chun Hui (producer)



A versatile producer in her own right, Jojo Yuet-chun Hui 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 international renowned filmmakers such as Wayne Wang on *Chinese Box* (1997) as assistant director, and Hark Tsui on *Knock Off* (1998) as a casting director.

Since joining Applause Pictures in 2002, Hui has produced a series of box office hits such as *Jan Dara* (2001), *The Eye* (2001) (associate producer, writer), *Three: Going Home* (2001) (producer, writer), *Golden Chicken I & II* (2001, 2003), *The Eye 2* (2004) (producer, writer) and *The Eye 10* (2005). It wasn't long before 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), *The Guillotines* (2012), *American Dreams in China* (2013) and award-winning title *Dearest* (2014). Her more recent portfolio consists of film productions for a new generation of directors, including *Soul Mate* (2016) and *This Is Not What I Expected* (2017). Garnering widespread accolades in 2016, *Soul Mate* made history with the two main actresses Zhou Dongyu and Ma Sichun sharing the Best Leading Actress Award at the 53rd Golden Horse Awards.

Hui was appointed as the Final-stage Jury in Golden Horse Film Project Promotion in 2016, and 21st SIFF PROJECT Jury of the Shanghai International Film Festival in 2018,

before reteaming with **Soul Mate** director Derek Kwok-cheung Tsang and actress Zhou Dongyu, for 69th Berlinale Generation 14plus Competition film **Better Days** (2019). Hui's upcoming film productions include Peter Ho-sun Chan's **Leap** (2020) and **Li Na** (2020).

Li Yuan, Xu Yimeng, Lam Wing Sum (Screenplay)

Lam Wing Sum graduated from the School of English at the University of Hong Kong with a minor in Psychology. After ending her career in public relations, Lam published her debut novel "**Hung Zi Geng**" (**Sky Mirror**) in 1999. She has written over 65 popular novels, including **Magic Kitchen**, which was adapted into an eponymous film in 2004, starring Sammi Cheung, Andy Lau and Jerry Yan; and **Symbiosis**, which was adapted into **Virtual Recall** (2010), starring Stephen Fung and Cherrie Ying.

Lam debuted in the film industry as co-writer for **Soul Mate** (2016), for which she received 'Best Screenplay' awards at the 24th Beijing College Student Film Festival and the 34th Hundred Flowers Awards, and was nominated for 'Best Screenplay' at the 36th Hong Kong Film Awards, and 'Best Adapted Screenplay' at the 53th Golden Horse Awards. In 2019, she reteamed with **Li Yuan** and **Xu Yimeng** to write the adapted screenplay of **Better Days** (2019) from **Young & Beautiful** by Jiu Yue Xi, who is a contract writer of 'Jinjiang Literature City', one of the most influential women's literature websites in China. Lam also involved in the production of **Better Days** (2019) as Line Producer.

Yu Jing Pin (director of photography)

A celebrated Taiwanese female cinematographer, director and photographer of music videos and advertisements in Mainland China and Taiwan, Yu Jing Pin graduated in Arts and Crafts of Design from the Kaohsiung Municipal Haiching Vocational High School of Technology and Commerce in Taiwan, and has worked as a press photographer for the magazine *Taiwan News* from 1993. For three years, she was the assistant of famous MV director Shockley Huang. With the establishment of the Yu Fisher Photography studio in 1998, Yu started shooting and directing music videos for A-list artists in Chinese language music, such as Taiwanese rock band Mayday, Taiwanese singers Jolin Tsai and Rene Liu, Hong Kong singers Sammi Cheng and Ellen Loo, and Singaporean singer Tanya Chua.

Yu made her debut as a cinematographer in Taiwanese director Ho Ping's *Princess in Wonder* (2003). Subsequently she teamed up with a number of acclaimed filmmakers, including Tom Lin Shu Yu on *Winds of September* (2008) and *Zinnia Flower* (2015); with Barbara Wong on the segment "Lane 256" of *10+10* (2011), and Peter Ho-sun Chan on short film *Three Minutes* (2018) as Apple's showcase of the iPhone X. Yu received the 'Best Cinematography' award at the Levante International Film Festival 2009 for *Candy Rain* (2008) and 46th Golden Bell Awards for *Old Time Photo Studio* (2011, shared with Sung Tie Sheng). She gained a nomination for 'Best Cinematography' with Jake Pollock at the 36th Hong Kong Film Awards for *Soul Mate* (2016). *Betty Days* (2019) is Yu's second collaboration with director Derek Kwok-cheung Tsang.

Dora Ng (costume designer)

Upon graduating in fashion design from Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Dora Ng joined the film industry as costume designer for Jacob Cheung's *The Twilight of Forbidden City* (1988). To date, she has been involved in over 70 productions, including Ching Siu Tung's *An Empress and the Warriors* (2008), Stephen Chow's *CJ7* (2008), the Pang Brothers' *Storm Warriors* (2009), and Andrew Lau's *Legend of the Fist: The Return of Chen Zhen* (2010). Ng has garnered 5 Hong Kong Film Awards, 2 Golden Horse Awards, and over 20 nominations for Best Costume and Makeup Design. Her award-winning designs have appeared in Peter Ho-sun Chan's *Comrades, Almost a Love Story* (1996) and *Perhaps Love* (2005); Teddy Chen's *Purple Storm* (1999) and *Bodyguards and Assassins* (2009); Samson Chiu's *Golden Chicken* (2002); and Cheang Pou Soi's *The Monkey King 2* (2016). Ng's other notable projects include Andrew Wai-keung Lau's *A Beautiful Life* (2011) and *The Guillotines* (2012); Peter Ho-sun Chan's martial arts film *Wu Xia* (2011), drama *American Dreams in China* (2013), *Dearest* (2014); and Longman Leung and Sunny Luk's *Helios* (2015).

Ng's recent work in Derek Kwok-cheung Tsang's *Soul Mate* (2016) and Derek Hui's *This Is Not What I Expected* (2017) earned her nominations for Best Costume and Makeup Design in the 36th and 37th HKFA respectively. Her latest film projects include *Us and Them* (2018), *Better Days* (2019), *Leap* (2020) and *Li Na* (2020).

Cast

Zhou Dongyu (as *Chen Nian*)



Born in Hebei, China in 1992, Zhou Dongyu graduated from the Performing Arts Department of Beijing Film Academy in 2011. Her debut in Zhang Yimou's *Love of the Hawthorn Tree* (2010) garnered her both industry and public attention. For her performance in the film, she received the award for Best

Actress at the 56th Valladolid International Film Festival, for Outstanding New Actress at the 14th China Huabiao Film Awards and for Best New Actress at the 20th Shanghai Film Critics Awards.

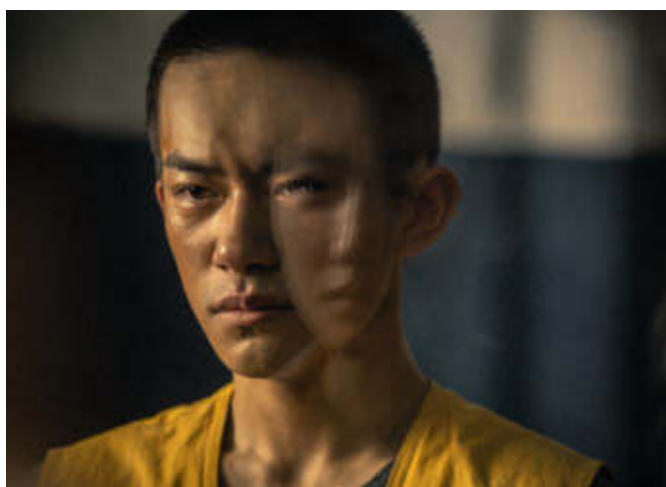
Zhou starred in Ning Hao's *Breakup Buddies* (2014) which premiered in 39th Toronto International Film Festival, *My Old Classmate* (2014, produced by Gao Xiaosong) grossed US\$66 million in China, making Zhou the first millennial actress to star in a Chinese film that earned over US\$56 million at the China box-office.

Zhou took on a range of roles including Barbara Wong's *The Allure of Tears* (2011), Xiao Yang's *The Ark of Mr. Chow* (2015), Lin Yu Hsien's *Never Said Goodbye* (2016), *Lost in White* (2016, produced by Zhang Yibai) and Derek Kwok-cheung Tsang's *Soul Mate* (2016). Zhou gained great acclaim for her role as 'Ansen' in *Soul Mate*, for which she nominated for Best Actress at the 36th Hong Kong Film Awards and 34th Hundred Flowers Award; and won the award for Best Actress at both the 53th Golden Horse Awards, and the 23rd Hong Kong Film Critics Society Awards.

Zhou starred in Rene Liu's directorial debut *Us and Them* (2018), which grossed US\$203 million in China and became the first Netflix Original Film in Chinese language. Zhou's recent works include Yuen Woo Ping's *The Thousand Faces of Dunjia* (2017), Andrew Wai-keung Lau's martial arts fantasy *When Robbers Meet the Monsters* (2018)

and ***On the Balcony*** (2019) in which she also served as co-producer. As one of the most outstanding actresses in China, Zhou ranked 7th on Forbes China Celebrity 100 list, the highest for female celebrities in 2019. In ***Better Days*** (2019), Zhou acts as a candidate of highly competitive National College Entrance Examination who is also a subject of cruel bullying at high school.

Jackson Yee (as *Xiao Bei*)



Jackson Yee is a distinguished singer and dancer from **TFboys** (aka The Fighting Boys), which is considered as the first homegrown boy band in China to become a global success. Yee made his debut feature film in ***Better Days*** (2019) at the age of eighteen.

Born in Hunan, China, in 2000, Yee was accepted into Beijing's prestigious Central Academy of Drama in 2018 after placing first and achieving the highest scores for both his college entrance examination and live audition.

Entering the entertainment scene as a child star in 2005, Yee has been one of the three members of **TFboys** since 2013, and boasts over 78 million followers on Chinese microblogging site Weibo solely. Yee received the 'Most Popular Idol', 'Most Popular Newcomer' and 'Most Popular Variety Idol' awards at the 16th Top Chinese Music Awards, 'Popular Idol of the Year' at the 10th Elle Style Awards, 'Attractive Celebrity of the Year' at the Bazaar 2017 Men of the Year Awards, as well as 'Male Singer of the Year' at the 7th iQiyi All-Star Carnival. He is also the youngest artist featured on the cover of *GQ China*, and the first Chinese artist featured on the digital cover of New York's *V Magazine*. As the Music Ambassador of Radio 101 at the 60th Grammy Awards, Yee was also the youngest Chinese musician ever to be officially invited to the ceremony. Yee has joined the dance-oriented variety show ***Street Dance of China*** (2

seasons, 2018-2019) as a mentor.

Yee's endorsements have increased immensely recently, seeing him becoming the first International Youth Creative Ambassador for Adidas Neo in 2017, the first-ever Asia-Pacific spokesperson for Bottega Veneta, global spokesperson for Huawei Nova 3 and VS Sassoon, the first-ever spokesperson for Tmall, the China's largest business-to-consumer retail platform in 2018, and the global brand ambassador for Évian since May 2019. Yee ranked 8th on Forbes China Celebrity 100 list in 2019.

Yee started his career in Television and film industry in 2015 as voice actor for the main character in *The Little Prince* (2015), which grossed US\$24 million, breaking the box office record for French-animated movies in China. After making his breakthrough role as Li Bi in historical suspense drama TV series *The Longest Day in Chang'an* (2019), Yee landed his first starring role in film in *Better Days* (2019) as a self-professed street youth.

International Sales

We Distribution Limited

Unit F, 17/F MG Tower, 133 Hoi Bun Road, Kwun Tong, Hong Kong

T: +852 2366-1622 / F: +852 2366-0661 / E: sales@wedistribution.com