

Chinese Lesson 28

黄山的女儿

An EAST  
Meets WEST  
Life Altering  
Road trip



Love has reasons  
That Reason ignores ...



CONFIDENTIAL

The Girl from the Yellow Mountains

# STATUS

## TIMELINE

- Development and Financing: Q3 - 2024
- Pre-Production: Q4 - 2024
- Production: Q1 - 2025
- Post-Production: Q2 - 2025
- Release: Q3 - 2025



## WHERE WE'RE AT

- Estimated production budget: 2.5M USD
- Financing prospects: 50% US + Canada Equity + 30% European subsidies + 20% Private investors

## LOOKING FOR

- Co-producers / international sales agents / streaming platform agents (Netflix, Amazon etc...)

## TARGET AUDIENCE

- 65% female audience - China, Taiwan, Europe, North America...

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# PITCH

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An opinionated young teacher from a secluded Chinese village finds herself reluctantly bound to a wealthy, self-centered Jewish male student on a transformative business trip from New York to her hometown, where they will navigate cultural differences, unearth familial secrets, and unexpectedly fall in love

15 Chinese characters

4 Western Characters

$\frac{3}{4}$  shot in China  
 $\frac{1}{4}$  shot in West

**Jewish Culture Meets Chinese Culture**



## Part I. A Chinese Lesson in NYC: Rulan meets Adam

Rulan Jiang, raised and educated in a remote Chinese village, arrives in New York, with the promise of a scholarship, and all the dogged determination of youth. Now at 28, six years have passed, and her dreams to build a school in her father's name, seem further away.

Disillusioned, Rulan struggles to maintain a livelihood by teaching Chinese lessons to wealthy pupil, Adam Goldman, a spoiled slacker with whom she shares completely different origins, upbringings, values, and maturity, ultimately resulting in Rulan quitting.

Soon after, Adam's father arranges for him to go represent their garment business at their partner base in Changshu City, China, and Rulan reluctantly agrees to accompany him as his de facto translator, without knowing that this would be a journey that would ultimately change both their lives.

## Part II. A life-changing journey to China

After a strike incident in Changshu City, Rulan is appalled by how easily Adam is manipulated by Jennifer Huang, the sultry factory owner's right-hand, whose unethical ways to downplay the Chinese workers' conditions, could hinder the establishment of a successful contract with the Goldmans.

Concerned about her father who is turning 60, Rulan asks for time off to afford a weekend visit to her hometown. A hot-headed Adam confronts her about family values and winds up tagging along out of spite.

In the secluded village of Xidi, Adam is obliged to stay for the next day bus and meets Rulan's family. He clumsily adapts to their way of life. A "westernized" Rulan struggles to reconnect with her family, customs, and culture. Humorous misunderstandings fill up the visit, but end up the next day with Adam getting bullied and nearly killed from a powerful asthma attack. Luckily, he is saved by an acupuncturist friend of the family who not only revives and heals his physical life, but sparks a light within him that guides him on a personal self quest to find meaning.

A shocking secret about Rulan's past is accidentally and innocently revealed through a jealous family member.

### **Part III. One life goes, another one comes.**

Rulan begins a search of her true origins and Adam accompanies her to the orphanage where she was adopted. Just when they return to her village, Adam is called back to New York but Rulan insists on staying, to nurse her family through the ordeal as her father passes away due to an undiagnosed tumor.

As Adam gains new respect for life through a keen interest in alternative Chinese medicine however things between him and Rulan remain at a deadlock as each expects the other to make a move but neither does.

One month later, Rulan returns to New York with the firm intention to wrap up this chapter of her life, and return to her birthplace, where she felt useful and valued in her ability to teach.

When she's again invited at the Goldman's to collect her bonus check, the most unexpected family bond is revealed and the dream to build a school in a small village in China can finally come true.

## WHAT IT'S REALLY ABOUT

The film transcends its **characters' comedic clashes and heartwarming transformations** to become a poignant **exploration of the fractures** in our society. It delves into the simmering **tensions between the West and Asia**, particularly the recent surge of **anti-Asian sentiment** fueled by the pandemic, China in particular.

Rulan embodies the rise of **the independent Chinese woman**, defying past expectations while confronting the legacy of the one-child policy – a policy that left orphanages overflowing with unwanted girls.

At its core, however, this is a story about the unlikely connections forged between two vastly different individuals. Through their cultural gaffes and emotional reveals, Rulan and Adam grapple with the chasm that divides them.

It's a reminder that **beneath the surface of our cultural identities lies a shared humanity – a universality we must strive to rediscover** amidst the noise and division that so often separates us.

By shedding those **"myriad of pretexts" that keep us ignorant and isolated**, we can bridge the gap between "us" and "them" and find the connections that truly bind us.



This film is a fusion of classic Chinese aesthetics, inspired by directors like Zhang Yimou, and the raw intimacy of Wong Kar-wai's independent style. My fascination with Asia, particularly Chinese culture after extended stays in the country, sparked the desire to explore this cross-cultural narrative. It's a story born from my own experience – a Jewish American grappling to learn Mandarin in New York, and like Adam's character, falling for my passionate Chinese teacher who defied many of my expectations

**"28" transcends its numerical meaning. It's not just a lesson number or Rulan's age, which in China carries the societal baggage of being an "unmarried leftover woman."**

**Rulan is this orphaned 28-year-old Chinese woman grappling with societal expectations, navigates her own past while guiding a self-centered American through cultural clashes. Many women will identify with her struggle. Despite all that she faces - a useless degree, job insecurity, and a shocking family revelation - Rulan embodies the strength and resilience of modern Chinese women. Through adversity, she and Adam discover a shared humanity that bridges cultural divides. "CL28" is a call for understanding and respect. It reminds us that family, integrity, and honoring our roots are universal values that pave the way for a more humane future, built on appreciating our differences rather than succumbing to what divides us which is fueled by ignorance.**

**"This film is especially relevant today, as fostering understanding between China and the West is more crucial than ever."**



## DAN'S PERSONAL NOTE:

"Forget touristy stereotypes, 'CL28' dives deep into the heart of Chinese culture. By bringing two contrasting characters together, it simultaneously exposes cultural clashes while fostering understanding and mutual learning. **Think 'Cinderella' with a cultural twist** – a heartwarming story that blends realistic drama with natural humor. **It's the beauty of bridging East and West.**"



## AIGUO YING - Co-Author

*"Co-writing '28' ignited a cultural spark. Rulan's journey of rediscovering her roots intertwines with Adam's path to love and self-discovery. This unique blend unveils the vibrant tapestry where **Jewish and Chinese heritage collide**. It's not just a love story – it's an unprecedented exploration of cultural convergence, showcasing the beauty that emerges when seemingly disparate traditions meet.*

***Working with Dan was a true creative collaboration.***

***My experience writing strong female protagonists, as seen in my debut novel, perfectly aligned with the story of Rulan. She embodies the captivating strength of a modern Asian woman navigating a Western world. Her journey, has clashes, tensions, but ultimately, a beautiful fusion of cultures. We have I believe, a powerful and impactful film"***

"Many other characters in the script are drawn from real life. I've projected my own life into these characters.

**The script reflects the realities of modern China.** Characters like Rulan's sister-in-law grapple with the pervasive one-child policy's societal pressures, **echoing a debate now reaching the US as well. These real-world issues add depth and authenticity to our story.**

*"I myself was an overseas Chinese student. Now I can't dream about going back to China to live any longer, just as Rulan did. We all miss the past, long for the future and strive to live the present."*

People in this movie are just like us.



I took my parents to visit the Yellow Mountains area in 2004. The beauty of the mountains, the days spent with my family **and the quest for finding life's meaning** have always accompanied me ever since that trip. **China has become a symbol for overseas people like me.** Whether we can go back or not is a constant and emotional subject. **'CL28' is a universal story with omnipresent characters** and themes people can relate to and connect. **I am convinced it will reach and influence an international audience."**

# Testimonials

# Testimonials




Kunjue Li - Actress

"28" is a cross-cultural love story. Although it feels like a Cinderella tale, the script feels very realistic, detailed. I am from the mountain side in China and I can totally relate to Rulan's passion and drive. China's audiences, women especially, will connect with her strong character.



# Testimonials



Cary Woodworth - Actor

"Everything flows great in this script and Rulan's choices are awesome. It deals with crucial subjects like adoption, inter cultural love and just love of family that gets lost nowadays. Adam's very subtle change in choices are great. Can't wait to see this happen."



# Testimonials



## Bai Ling - Actress

Hi Dan, read your script, like it a lot, it touches me, because I understand her journey and experienced the same...  
Sometimes is the little things that touches people... It just remind me so much and so close the feeling I have between here and home.

Thank you.  
Bai Ling (Red Corner / The Crow / Dumplings...)

**IMDb**

## Testimonials



Xiaoxiao Sun - Producer

I actually had a very similar experience as the heroine Rulan: same overseas student generation from Mainland China (I'm from Beijing), settled in the West(London) for years, with MA/PhD degree, trapped in various problems with complex relationships with local people and people from hometown... I even had a short experience of teaching Mandarin in London!

**IMDb**

# Testimonials



Chris Orchard - Producer

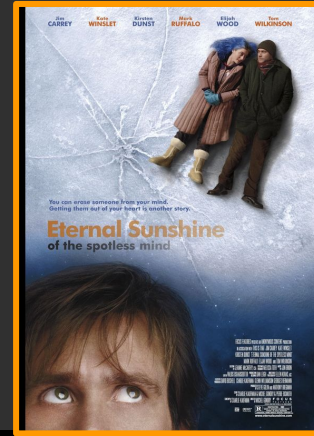
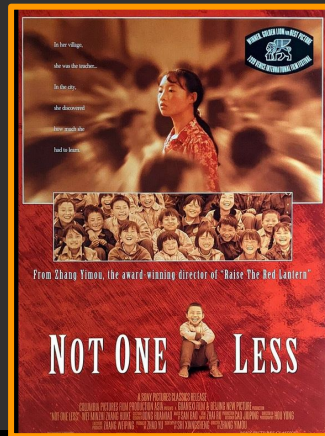
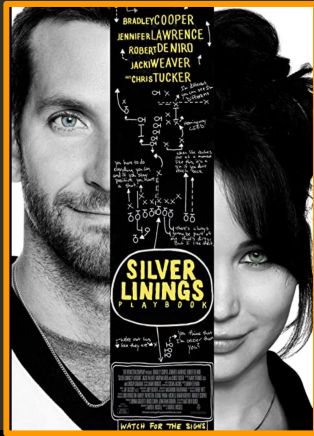
Just finished "28", thanks for letting me read your wonderful screenplay. I thought it was marvelous and has great potential. This should definitely be made into a film and I hope to see it on the big screen very soon.





# COMPARABLES

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An East meets West

## Modern Day Tale

- SILVER LINING PLAYBOOK by David O. Russell right click >>
- NOT ONE LESS (Yi Ge Dou Bu Neng Shao) by Yang Zimou right click >>
- ETERNAL SUNSHINE OF THE SPOTLESS MIND by M. Gondry right click >>

**IMDb**

**IMDb**

**IMDb**

- BECOME A PRODUCER
- BUDGET : available upon request
- CONTACT : info@clockwise1.com

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## SWOT

- UNIQUE STORYLINE
- REAL EAST MEETS WEST
- 14 ASIAN ACTOR PARTS
- SOLID BLEND OF CHINESE & JEWISH CHARACTERS
- LANGUAGE BARRIER BRINGS OPPOSITES TOGETHER
- POTENTIAL FILM FESTIVAL CIRCUIT SUCCESS
- LOW BUDGET ALLOWING HIGH PROFIT MARGINS
- DIFFICULTY SHOOTING IN CHINA
- POSSIBLE US / CANADA / EUROPE COLLABORATION

## THE ASIAN MARKET

"With new markets, such as China [1.2 billion new potential moviegoers], an investor would be imprudent not to take a serious look at the potential rewards of movie investments at this time." ~ James R. Jaeger II, Why Invest in a Movie?

[\(ARTICLE\)](#)

# DAN THORENS / co-author - director

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A self made Canadian Swiss Filmmaker, Screenwriter, Producer and Actor.

“Wong Kar Wai and Zhang Yimou are directors I admire. I wanted the realism of one combined with the fable aspect of the other. I explore the ways in which other cultures can help us evolve, find our sense of purpose even by forcing us to think outside our comfort zone. The most significant of relationships materializes in the most unlikely of places. "CL28" is uplifting, bringing an unexpected western world's point of view inside rural China”

--- Driven --- an international filmmaker passionate about stories and people that spark change.

--- Cultural Diversity --- With a rich slate of seven multi-cultural feature film scripts, each tackling a unique theme, he's currently securing financing for one in Brussels through a combination of European subsidies and US investment. His narratives weave a captivating balance of real-life inspiration and straight up entertainment.

With extensive time spent in Asia—Taiwan, Hong Kong, Vietnam, and Cambodia—his connection to the culture and its people runs deep. This influence shines through in his work, particularly in "CL28," where a harmonious fusion of Jewish and Chinese culture takes center stage. The story's purpose is to bridge the gap between these two rich traditions, offering a heartfelt exploration of their shared humanity

TEASERS for his other films are available here : [TEASER 1](#) ---- [TEASER 2](#) ---- [TEASER 3](#) --- ([REEL](#))





Aiguo's works have appeared in Chinese newspapers and literature magazines in the U.S., Mainland China and Hong Kong.

His short stories “Last Night in Amsterdam”, “All Beautiful People Have Come to New York” and “The Dog's Mouth Spitting an Elephant's Tusk” have won critical acclaim in recent years.

His fiction works, essays and poems have also been selected for multiple anthologies.

*His novel “A Woman Knows the Fall” was published in China in 2003.*

*“As a Chinese born author living in the US, as I embarked on this creative expedition, Dan and I discovered profound aspects of ourselves, our loved ones and our friends, weaving them intricately into the tapestry of our script. Throughout the collaboration, Dan and I effortlessly harmonized in every aspect of the process, forming a synergy that allowed a shared vision to flourish.”*

*He currently lives with his wife and three kids in Long Island, New York.*

# KEVIN CHRISTOFFERSEN - DAMING CHEN / producers

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Currently, Chen is a valued writer-director signed to a “first look” deal by Huanxi Media Entertainment and collaborating with Huanxi Media on several feature film projects.

One Foot Off The Ground was nominated for the Golden Rooster (Chinese Academy Award) for Best Picture, Best Original Screenplay, Best Actor and Best Actress. His most recent film What Women Want (2011) featured Andy Lau and Gong Li in their first collaboration.

He also wrote/directed three web BMW short films in 2012.

Currently, Chen is a valued writer-director signed with Huanxi Media Entertainment and collaborating with Huanxi Media on several feature film projects.



IMDb

PERSONAL



IMDb

NOTE

Kevin has been working in just about every form of media for nearly 3 decades - producing content internationally across 4 continents. An Educator and Development Executive for filmmakers through feature film development process with workshop courses, development labs, webinars, and consultations.

A partner of Largo Films introducing artificial intelligence analytics into casting, financing, and distribution strategies.

7 years as Executive Producer of World Television (WTV) managing large scale live broadcast event productions for Fortune 500 companies, United Nations agencies and NGO's including the Davos Conference.

He operates on both sides of the Atlantic.

“After working and traveling throughout China, I was touched by the inner workings of a world of the past - confronted with challenges of the future. In “CL28”; I feel connected to the journey of both Adam and Rulan in an East meets West story, interpreting Chinese culture first hand - and not from the vantage point of the U.S. Media. The story can bridge the cultural divide between East and West breaking down taboos that are not a true representation of people living in China and the U.S. - By creating a platform for authentic storytelling, “CL28” paves the way through authenticity of dialogue, to fostering empathy and connection across two seemingly disparate worlds”

# TECHNICAL SHEET

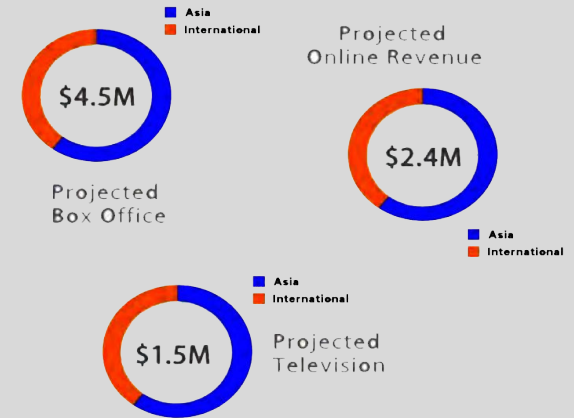
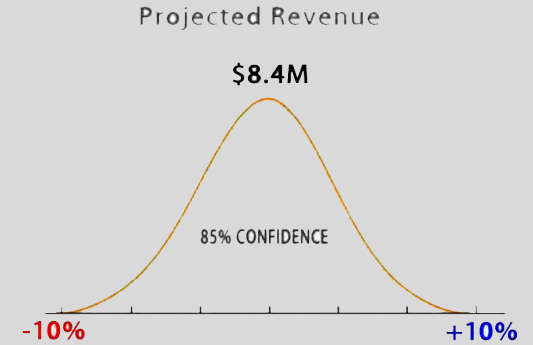
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Title	"CHINESE LESSON 28" - Dramedy
Characters	19 characters (15 Asian)
Length	1 hr 40 min (100 min)
Production Format	vidéo HD
Aspect Ratio	2.35 : 1
Language	English (60%) / Chinese (40%)
Productions	CW1 Films
Estimated Budget	2,500,000 USD
Co-Producers	Daming Chen, Kevin Christoffersen
Directed by	Dan Thorens
Written by	Dan Thorens / Aiguo Ying
Location	Canada / US / China
Music	Anastasia Roupakia



# FINANCIAL BREAKDOWN

Catagories	Percentage	Amount
Equity	40%	\$ 1,000,000
Subsidies - Tax Rebates	33%	\$ 825,000
Facilities deal	15%	\$ 375,000
Crowd Fund	2%	\$ 50,000
Tax-incentives	7.5%	\$ 187,500
Gap finance	2.5%	\$ 62,500
Total	100%	\$ 2,500,000



Festival Potential / Cast Potential (in negotiation) / Tourism Potential  
60% English - 40% Chinese

# Seeking more Production partners

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## For US inquiries:

Kevin Christoffersen  
[kevin@filmstartup.net](mailto:kevin@filmstartup.net)

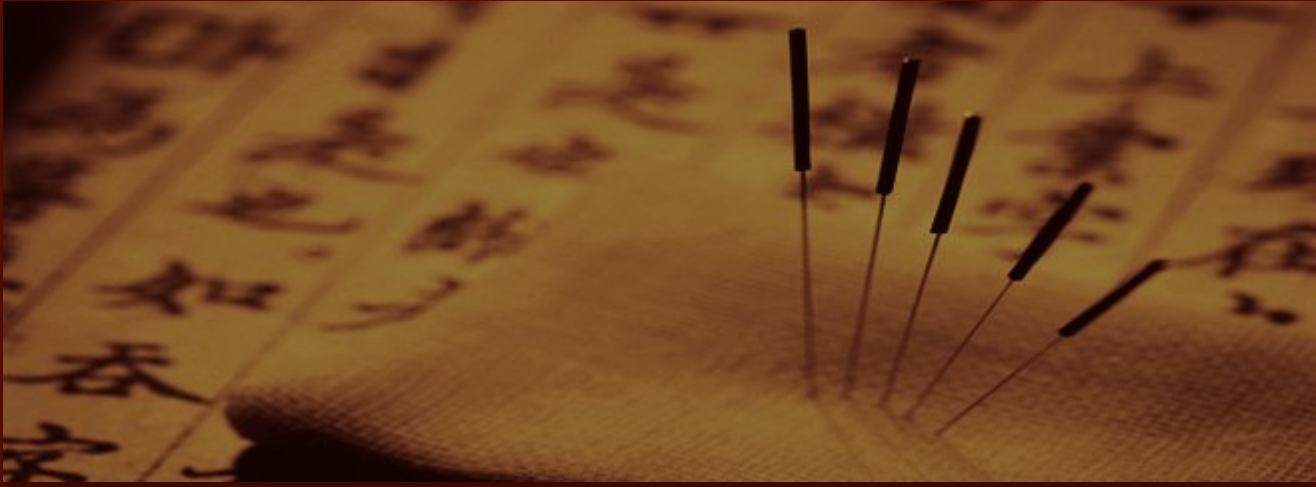
## For ASIAN inquiries:

Daming Chen  
[chen.daming@gmail.com](mailto:chen.daming@gmail.com)

## For CONTENT inquiries:

Dan Thorens  
[hello@clockwise1.com](mailto:hello@clockwise1.com)





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AIGUO  
&  
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