



TWO LOST SOULS,
ONE NIGHT IN THE MAGIC CITY



A FILM BY **ANDREJ ILIEV**
ÉMILIE OHANA **DRAGO LAZETICH**

"An engrossing film"

- Catrin Collier, Wales International Film Festival

"...a homage to Sofia Coppola's LOST IN TRANSLATION"

- John Higgins, Los Angeles International Film Festival

ZAX PICTURES AND ANDREJ ILIEV
XIAOTIAN YIN ALEJANDRO OLLA OTAROLA & IAN SLADE
CINEMATOGRAPHY BY GERT KOMBATE & ANDREJ ILIEV COSTUMES LAURA ZHANG MUSIC BY DYLAN EBRAHIMIAN & ADRIAN CERMAK LOCATIONS JENNY TANG EDITED BY XI FENG FILMED ON LOCATION IN SHANGHAI CHINA

PRESENT EMILIE OHANA AND DRAGO LAZETICH IN "SHANGHAI STORY"
PRODUCED BY TONY ZHANG EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS RICHARD ZHU ANDREJ ILIEV WEN XU & MILI CUNIC ASSOCIATE PRODUCERS MIROSLAV KAREL LEXI ZHANG PRODUCTION DESIGNER JANE CHAI

STARRING ANDY MA DYLAN SKYE LOUY HUANG



Shanghai Story

Genre: Comedy/ Drama
Running Time: 73 mins
Format: 2K Color
Language: English
Countries: Czech Republic/ Hong Kong/ Slovakia
Writer/ Director: Andrej Iliev

Synopsis

A failed product copywriter with an alcohol dependency crosses paths with a mysterious stranger on a personal mission and together they embark on an unforgettable adventure across the neon-lit Shanghai. During their journey they learn about each other, themselves and discover how to see the city and life with new eyes.

A deeply personal story about love, life, loss and the importance of human connection in today's fast-paced world, *Shanghai Story* follows two characters who are seemingly different to each other but connect over a personal trauma and find a way to move forward in the far-away land.



The City

The city of Shanghai is a bustling metropolis and one of the biggest business hubs in the World. With it's futuristic skyline and neon lights it is often represented in Hollywood movies as a stand-in for other cities (Los Angeles in **HER**, Shanghai Tower as the superhero headquarters in **The Boys**, city of the future in the upcoming **The Falcon and The Winter Soldier**) or as a version of itself (**M:I 3, Skyfall**, Shanghai of the future in **Looper**).

Shanghai Story was filmed at many of the iconic locations (Shanghai Tower, Nanpu Bridge, Nanjing Road, The French Concession, The Bund) and features many others (Park Hotel, Pearl Tower, Lujizaui Financial District) as well as introduces previously unseen "hidden" places of Shanghai (Ruins at Shikumen).



Director's Statement

The main characters David and Alice have lost their ways and just like many expatriates they don't possess the intimate knowledge of the ground they stand on. They don't live in a bubble, they are not CEOs, diplomats or Ambassadors with a handsome salary and a private mansion. They are regular people facing their demons far away from home and trying to make sense of the ever changing times.

The backstory of Alice was left intentionally vague, as the viewer discovers the bits and pieces together with David. She is arguably the more interesting character, and her appeal at least partially lies in her mystery. The viewer never catches a glimpse of Alice's map, because David never does. Revealing too much of her would lessen the mystery.

Shanghai Story is a film about human connection. And as such it deserves to be viewed with other people. I matured in Shanghai and with this film I wish to conclude my 7 years in the city. It's a small film in scale, but a big part of my life.



Background

Shanghai Story is a true indie film, a throwback to 90s independent wave and inspired by films of Richard Linklater (*Before Sunrise*), Kevin Smith (*Chasing Amy*) and Sofia Coppola's *Lost in Translation*.

The film tells the tale of two lost souls trying to make sense of the ever-changing world. It was filmed entirely on location in Shanghai, China with 19 days of principal photography and 5 extra days for pick-up shots.



Guerilla-Style Production

Even though the production has been able to secure a few of the most high-profile places seen in the film to use with a full-sized crew, most of the remaining locations seen in the film were filmed guerrilla-style, with the cast and crew roaming the street of Shanghai at night and discovering the most intriguing and offbeat places in the city (Shikumen ruins, dancing aunties at Shaanxi Road, back streets in the heart of the city and views of iconic buildings from Pudong alleyways).



Motivation

How many films centred around New York, London or Tokyo can you think of? Probably quite a few. What about Shanghai?

In 2004 I watched Sophia Coppola's ***Lost in Translation*** in a movie theatre in Slovakia (formerly Czechoslovakia) together with my cousin Ondrej. We were both nineteen. After the movie was over I told Ondrej I wish I had made it. For several weeks afterwards it was all I could think about. I had already been a huge fan of Bill Murray since 'Ghostbusters' and he was the reason I wanted to watch Coppola's film in the first place. And even though he and Scarlett Johansson were both great, it was another character I fell in love with - Tokyo. The vibrant cinematography and relatable story about two lost souls trying to make sense of their lives all set in the neon-lit metropolis were like a breath of fresh air. Then I waited for 8-9 months for the DVD release (different times) and watched the film over and over again.

4-5 years had passed and meanwhile I moved to the UK where I eventually graduated film school. The recession hit hard in 2008 and my future in the UK didn't look too bright. The same year I visited China first time, including a few days trip to Shanghai. Like a moth to a flame, I was immediately mesmerised by the colours and the contrast between the ancient and the futuristic. I fell in love with the city, and immediately wanted to move there. A few years and two- three trips later I did exactly that. It was the year 2012 and I started thinking about a short film set in Shanghai. Riding the subway at night and listening to the ***Lost in Translation*** soundtrack made me feel like one of the characters in my favourite movie.





Three years later I managed to self-finance a short film called 'Shanghai Story', which I wrote, directed, shot and co-produced. The whole cast & crew consisted of 4 people I had just met - Emilie Ohana, Drago Lazetich and Miroslav 'Notch' Karel. The film did relatively well at a few small film festivals around the World. A few years and a few short films later- in 2017 Ondrej just had a baby daughter and I had secured a modest co-investment for the feature film from a private investor who was quite fond of our short. It was my own baby, so to speak.

I cast the same people and made 'Notch' my 1st AD. We shot the first part of the film in 2018. It was about the same time that Ondrej was diagnosed with terminal cancer. Sadly, he passed away later that year and in a bizarre example of life imitating art and vice-versa I have decided to honour him with this film. Despite all the setbacks regarding Chinese entertainment laws, re-casting requests, censorship, etc... the film was completed in 2020 with the post-production to complete in 2021. Shanghai by nature is not a place for small independent cinema. It's a place for big business. It was a difficult project to realise, but just like anywhere else in the World, there are people who live there with stories to be told. And they too deserve a little love just like the city itself.

- Andrej Iliev

Writer/ Director: Andrej Iliev

Andrej Iliev was born in 1984 in the former Czechoslovakia. He started making short films when he was nine after his best friend found a 16mm camera under his bed. Andrej has relocated to Shanghai in 2012 where he now works as a commercial director and cinematographer. He has continued making short films and won awards for directing, scriptwriting and cinematography for his work on thriller with a twist *The Voiceman*, crime parody *The Killing Game* and *Little Milo*. *Shanghai Story* is his first venture into feature film.



Director of Photography: Gert Kombate

Gert is a Shanghai based Togolese filmmaker and cinematographer. He has previously worked with Andrej on his comedy short *The Killing Game*. *Shanghai Story* is his feature film debut.

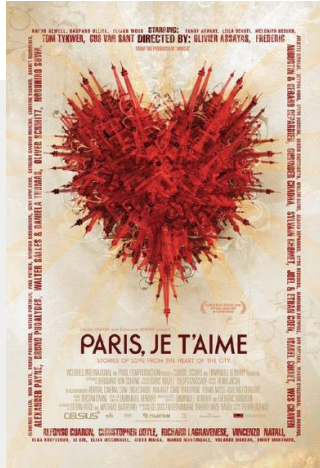
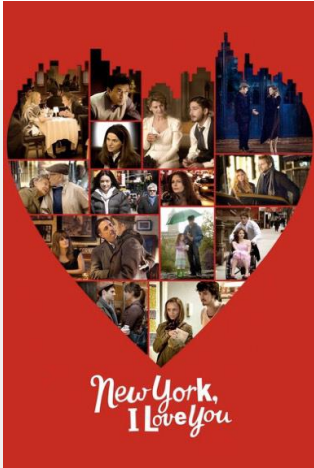


Cast

Alice: Emilie Ohana

Emilie Ohana is a French- American actress. Born in Havana, Cuba, Emilie has started her career in French Film and Television at an early age.

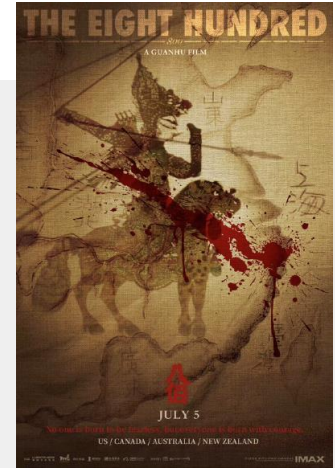
She has since starred in Roland Joffee's ***Vatel*** and had a recurring role as Zoe the video artist in ***Paris, I Love You*** and ***New York I Love You***, where she shared screen time with Ethan Hawke and Bradley Cooper.



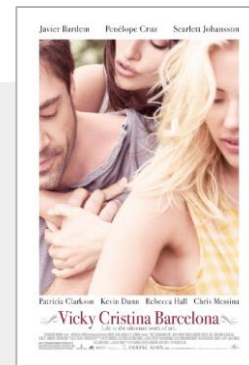
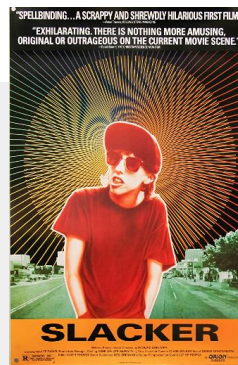
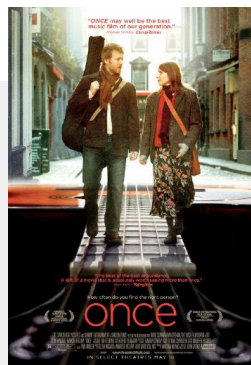
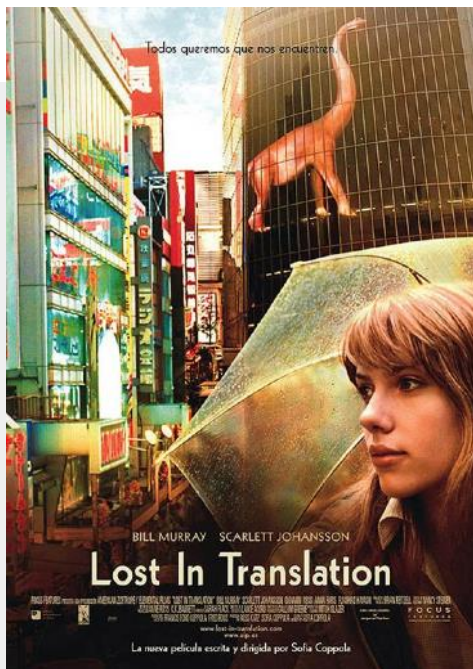
David: Drago Lazetich

Drago Lazetich is a Serbian-American actor. After leaving California and coming to Shanghai in the early naughties he has found himself working steadily in Chinese film and television.

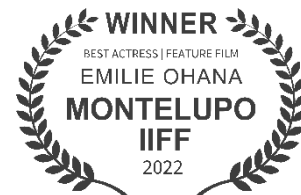
His latest acting credit includes Guan Hu's WWII epic ***The Eight Hundred***. Drago has previously appeared alongside Jackie Chan in ***Dragon Blade***.



Comparable Films



Festivals



Reviews



*"...a passing sense of homage to past cinematic city vista offerings, notably the collective New York canvas of Woody Allen and – significantly – Sofia Coppola's **LOST IN TRANSLATION**, with Lazetich and Ohana mimicking Bill Murray and Scarlett Johansson."*

John Higgins - Los Angeles International Film Festival

"An engrossing film about instantly relatable, all too human people living in a foreign urban landscape. As they explore the impact an alien culture has made on their reactions to love, loss, and relationships, they search for ways they can move on."

Catrin Collier – Amazon Prime Author - Wales International Film Festival



"A sure-fire hit for fans of Lost in Translation"

Stephen Hawken – Romford Film Festival

Links

Trailer & official website:
shanghaistormovie.com

Official Twitter:
[@Shanghai_Story](https://twitter.com/Shanghai_Story)

Official Facebook:
facebook.com/shanghaistormovie

Official Instagram:
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Poster Art



Alternate poster
art available*

上海之夜



Technical specs Genre: Comedy/ Romance / Drama | Running Time: 73 mins | Format: 2K Color | Language: English

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films

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Pictures

DMG
LUMIÈRE
LIGHTING TECHNOLOGIES

SHVFS

mobike

FRENCH BAKERY
BREAD etc.
COFFEE MAKING

ofo

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