

TOUCHED BY FATE

命中非途

窦靖妍导演作品

A FILM BY SELINA DOU



ELECTRONIC PRESS KIT



TOUCHED BY FATE

Drama

China / USA • 2026

Mandarin (English subtitles)

16 min 43 sec

1.85:1 • 23.98 fps

Shot on ARRI Alexa Mini LF (4K)

Written/Directed by
Selina Dou

Bingyi Yan as Yeva
Ray Fu as Fang
Tianshi Gao as Zoey





LOGLINE

A young journalist investigating a smuggled-drug case begins to question: if fate is something she chooses— or a cycle she cannot escape.

SYNOPSIS

Yeva, a young journalist, has spent months investigating a smuggled pharmaceutical case. As her deadline approaches, she makes a shocking discovery: her boyfriend, Fang, is involved. Caught between moral conviction and emotional attachment, she chooses to leave him.

As the investigation deepens, Yeva is unexpectedly saved by a mysterious man, Zoey. When they meet again, she finds herself inexplicably drawn to him—unaware that he, too, is closely connected to the case. As their paths intertwine, it begins to feel as though fate is echoing back to her once more.

Now, Yeva must decide: to escape what seems destined, or to confront it.

—SELINA DOU INTERVIEWS HERSELF



SELINA DOU:

What is your relationship to the protagonist?

SELINA DOU:

I feel a strong connection to Yeva—she carries a part of me. She is driven, idealistic, and holds tightly to her sense of integrity. At the same time, she is vulnerable, especially when it comes to love. Like me, she wants to believe that through her own choices, she can shape the course of her life.

What feels more complicated is that, as the filmmaker, I place her in situations that lead to heartbreak and uncertainty. In a way, I am both close to her and distant from her—almost like an observer with a certain power, watching her struggle, hesitate, and lose her way.

There is a certain cruelty in that distance, but also a kind of beauty I cannot look away from.

SELINA DOU:

What inspired this story?

SELINA DOU:

The relationship between free will and fate is something I have been thinking about for a long time. Can our choices truly shape our destiny, or are we simply moving along a path that has already been set?

In my own life, many decisions once felt accidental, yet in retrospect, they seem to form a pattern, as if each cause inevitably leads to its consequence.

I tend to think of fate as a kind of game of chess. The ending may be fixed—that is our fate—but the path we take to get there is shaped by our choices. That is where free will exists.

In this film, Yeva attempts to take control of her own destiny through a series of decisions. Yet the outcome remains deliberately ambiguous. In a way, the film becomes my attempt to sit with this question, rather than resolve it.

SELINA DOU:

Why did you feel compelled to tell it now?

SELINA DOU:

This idea has been with me since 2021, but I never found the right moment to bring it to life.

Now, as I approach graduation from my MFA and stand at a crossroads in my own life—facing uncertainty, choices, and the question of what comes next—it felt like the right time to return to it.

In a way, making this film is both a personal resolution and a way of confronting that uncertainty. It became less about waiting for the “right” moment, and more about recognizing that this moment—however unclear—is already meaningful.

SELINA DOU

DIRECTOR/WRITER/ PRODUCER/EDITOR



Selina Dou is a filmmaker from Beijing currently based in Chicago. She is completing her MFA in Cinema and Television Directing at Columbia College Chicago and previously studied Chinese Language with a minor in Television Directing and Editing at the Communication University of China.

Her work often explores themes of memory, fate, personal choice, and the subtle transformations that occur within everyday relationships. She is particularly drawn to character-driven stories that focus on ordinary people navigating emotional moments that quietly reshape their inner lives.

Her short film Touched by Fate reflects these interests, exploring the tension between destiny and personal choice through intimate storytelling and a poetic visual approach. Dou is expected to graduate in May and plans to continue working in the film industry in Los Angeles.



KEY CREW BIO

EANOH ASTER ZHAO DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

Eanoh Aster Zhao, from Guangzhou, is a filmmaker currently pursuing her MFA in Cinema and Television Directing at Columbia College Chicago.

With a background in architecture, she brings a precise sense of space and structure to her visual storytelling. Eanoh has collaborated with Selina Dou twice before, developing a strong creative chemistry and seamless communication on set.

Beyond their collaborations, she has worked as DP for numerous student film productions, known for her intuitive eye, calm presence, and thoughtful approach to lighting and composition.

VINCE LUO ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Vince Luo is a filmmaker from China, now pursuing a BFA in Film & Television with a concentration in Directing at Columbia College Chicago.

Yupu has since directed several short films in China and Chicago, drawing inspiration from the nuances of human connection and the power of visual storytelling.

In Touched by Fate, he serves as the Assistant Director, where his sharp organizational sense and empathetic understanding of performance help bridge communication between the creative and technical teams.

XINYU WANG LINE PRODUCER

Xinyu Wang is a film producer based in Beijing. She is currently pursuing her MFA in Film Production Management at Beijing Film Academy.

Xinyu has served as a line producer for several narrative short films, one of which received the Silver Award from the Vancouver Film School Talent Program. She is also the producer and creative developer of the feature film The Plaintiff, which won an Outstanding Screenplay Award at the Xia Yan Cup and was later signed for copyright representation by the Film Bureau of the Publicity Department of China.

Known for her ability to solve problems with boldness, precision, and adaptability, Xinyu approaches every project with both creative vision and practical efficiency.

HONGXUAN LI GAFFER

Hongxuan Li is currently pursuing his Bachelor's degree in Cinematography and Production at the Communication University of China.

His photography work Silent Confession won the "Most Chinese Aesthetic Award" and the "Most Commercial Potential Award" at the First New Power of Chinese Film and Television Awards.

With a solid technical foundation and a strong visual sense, Hongxuan brings a delicate understanding of light and atmosphere to each project.

KEY CAST BIO



BINGYI YAN AS YEVA

Bingyi Yan is currently pursuing graduate studies at the School of Physics, South China University of Technology, and is expected to graduate in 2027. Though not formally trained in acting, she has developed her craft through both stage and screen work.

Since 2021, she has performed in the university’s original immersive stage production Red Armour: A Crimson Romance, taking on the leading role of Chen Tiejun across six performances. On screen, she appeared in Guangdong Television’s Advancing the Greater Bay Area (“Red Origins” series), reprising the same role.

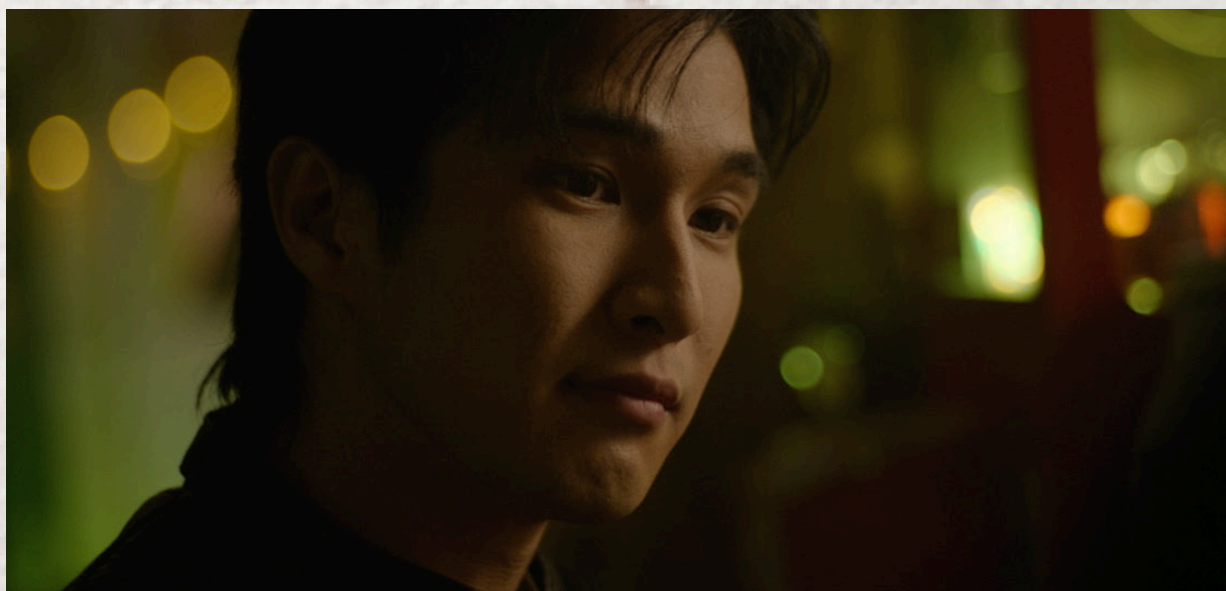
Her recent screen work includes The Registry of Murder (2022), Blessing (2023), directed by Selina Dou, and Touched by Fate (2026), where she plays the lead role of Yeve.



RAY FU AS FANG

Ray Fu graduated from Shenzhen University in 2025 with a degree in Acting for Film and Television. She has received national and provincial awards for her work across stage and screen.

Her performance in Tiger and Tortoise was featured at NOWNESS, the Golden Rooster Film Festival, and the Jia Village International Short Film Festival. In 2025, she appeared in Below Freezing, released on Steam.



TIANSHI GAO AS ZOEY

Tianshi Gao is a Chinese actor and director. He graduated from the Directing program at Yunnan Arts University and founded Kun Image Studio in 2016.

Working across both theatre and film, he has appeared in nationally funded stage productions and taken leading roles in films such as Hami, Awakening Mountain, and A Whale That Never Swims, which have been selected for major festivals including Pingyao, Golden Rooster & Hundred Flowers, and FIRST.

CREDITS

Directed by Selina Dou
Written by Selina Dou
Produced by Selina Dou
Executive Producer Guilan Yin, Qingfu Sha

Starring
Bingyi Yan as Yeve
Ruitong Fu as Fang
Tianshi Gao as Zoey

Director of Photography Eanoh Aster Zhao
Eidtor Selina Dou
Production Designer Tianyuan Huang
Sound Designer Huabin Wei
Composer Katie Li

Assistant Director Vince Luo
Script Supervisor Jianing Zhang
Casting Director Shizhe Xue

Line Producer Xinyu Wang
Production Manager Yuehan Fu
Location Manager Hanlin Jiang

1st Assistant of Camera Congcong Xuan
2nd Assistant of Camera Xiaoteng He, Jiale An
Digital Imaging Technician Liangyu Huang
BTS Photographer Xinyang Wang

Gaffer Hongxuan Li
Best Boy Fei Yu
Grip Xinliang Ren, Youping Chen

Assistant of Art Department Yizhe Xu, Jingyao Lu
Costume Xi'ao Ma
Make-up Jingru Yang

Colorist Eanoh Aster Zhao
Title Design Le Zhang

Sound Mixer Huabin wei
Boom Operator Shiyao Lin

Driver Xinlin Lei, Chunbao Zhang



CONTACT

SELINA DOU
DIRECTOR/WRITER/PRODUCER

jingyandou888@gmail.com
312-478-8878

INSTAGRAM: @TBF_SHORTFILM

WEBSITE: WWW.SELINACV.COM/TOUCHED-BY-FATE

