

24 CITY

a film by
Jia Zhang Ke



China/Japan2008 / 107 minutes / HD / Certificate: tbc
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SYNOPSIS

Chengdu, nowadays.

The state-owned factory 420 shuts down to give way to a complex of luxury apartments called "24 CITY".

Three generations, eight characters: old workers, factory executives and yuppies, their stories are the history of China.

Full details on www.newwavefilms.co.uk



CREW

DIRECTOR	Jia Zhang Ke
SCREENWRITERS	Jia Zhang Ke, Zhai Yongming
FIRST ASSISTANT DIRECTOR	Han Jie
DIRECTORS OF PHOTOGRAPHY	Yu Likwai
	Wang Yu
CAMERA OPERATORS	Tian Li, Si Guoyi
LIGHTING DESIGN	Hao Feng
SOUND DESIGNER	Zhang Yang (Still Life)
LOCATION SOUND	Ren Jiajia, Li Danfeng
ART DIRECTOR	Liu Qiang
ASSISTANT ART DIRECTOR	Chen Rongchao (Still Life)
WARDROBE	Zhao Tong
MAKE UP	Cheng Ying, Tan Jiang
COMPOSERS	Yoshihiro Hanno (Millenium Mambo)
	Lim Giong (Still Life)
CHIEF EDITORS	Lin Xudong
	Kong Jinlai (Still Life)
EDITOR	Li Haiyang
SOUND ENGINEER	Shen Jianqin
PRODUCTION MANAGER	Zhang Dong
PRODUCERS	Jia Zhang Ke
	Shozo Ichiyama
	Wang Hong
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS	Chow Keung
	Ren Zhonglun
	Tang Yong
CO-PRODUCERS	Masayuki Mori
	Yoshida Takio
	Sadai Yuji
	Kubo Satoshi
	Xu Pengle
	Zhu Jiong
	Ma Ning
PRODUCTION	Xstream Pictures
	China Resources
	Shanghai Film Group
IN ASSOCIATION WITH	Office Kitano
	Bandai Visual
	Bitters End

China 2008 / 107 mins / HD

STARRING

Joan Chen
Lu Liping
Zhao Tao
Chen Jianbin

INTERVIEWEES

He Xikun
Wang Zhiren
Guan Fengjiu
Hou Lijun
Zhao Gang

CAST

Jiang Shanshan
Chen Rui
Zhai Yongming
Yang Mengyue
Liu Xiangquan
Luo Gonghe

SUPPORTING CAST

Jiang Lin, Guo Wei, Pan Yang, Yang Lu, Yu Feng, Backy, Zhao Yanfang, Zhong Hua, Qu Hongjia, Deng Xiaolong, Li Yihua, Lai Yu, Fang Fei, Bai Nu, Zhang Yao, Li Jinmei, Li Dapeng, Yang Yuxuan, Li Zeshunzi, ChengFa Yue Opera Troupe, Sichuan Fairy's Lingzhi Group, Artgroup

POEMS IN THE FILM

Glass Factory
The Coming of Wisdom with Time
A Dream of Red Mansions
Spilt Milk
Innate Character

Ouyang Jianghe
W.B.Yeats
Cao Xueqin
W.B.Yeats
Wan Xia

SONGS

<i>"BRING ABOUT BRILLIANCE AGAIN"</i>	Lyrics by Chengfa Group, Composed by Chengfa Group
<i>"SINGING FOR THE MOTHERLAND"</i>	Lyrics by Wang Shen, Composed by Wang Shen
<i>"SLEEPLESS TONIGHT"</i>	Lyrics by Zhu Hai, Composed by Meng Weidong
<i>"ARIGATO ANATA"</i>	Composed by Tokura Shunichi
<i>"MY DRUNKEN LIFE"</i>	Lyrics by Tong Shu Sum, Composed by Lowell Lo, Koon-Ting, Performed by Sally Yeh
<i>"LOST FUTURES"</i>	Lyrics by Lim Giong, Composed and performed by Lim Giong,
<i>"A GIRL IN TEARS LOOKING FOR HER BELOVED ONE"</i>	Lyrics by Kai Chuan. Composed by Wang Ming, Performed by Li Guyi
<i>"THE WORLD OUTSIDE"</i>	Lyrics by Chyi Chin, Composed and performed by Chyi Chin

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

This film is made up of interviews with five workers, who share their real-life experiences with us, and of fictional monologues by three women. I decided to integrate documentary and fiction in this parallel flow because this seemed to me the best way of representing the last half-century of Chinese history. As far as I'm concerned, history is always a blend of facts and imagination.

The stories of these characters, both real and fictional, centre on a state-owned factory which supplies the Air Force and other sectors of the military. The factory was founded 60 years ago, and was moved to Chengdu City 50 years ago. It has weathered all of the successive political movements under communist government. I'm not interested in chronicling this history as such, but rather in seeing how a century of experiments with Socialism has impacted on the fate of Chinese people. To understand the complexity of the social changes, we need to listen to the direct and in-depth testimonies of the people who have lived through them.

Present-day films rely more and more on action and movement. In this film, I wanted to return to spoken language. Here, narration is taken as a kind of movement to be captured by the camera. I want to allow the narration to provide access to the speakers' innermost feelings and experiences.

Whether, in the best of times or the worst, no individual's experience should be neglected. In this film, we hear from eight Chinese workers. I think it is more than likely that many who see the film will hear echoes of their own lives.

Jia Zhang Ke



JIA ZHANG KE

Director, Screenplay

Jia Zhang Ke was born in 1970 in Fenyang, in the Shanxi Province of China. He graduated from Beijing Film Academy and made his first feature film *Xiao Wu* in 1998. He is now settled in Beijing and actively involved in independent filmmaking in China.

FILMOGRAPHY

2008 **Cry me a River** (short)

2008 **24 City**

2007 **Useless** (documentary)

2006 **Still Life**

Golden Lion Award Venice Film Festival

2006 **Dong** (documentary)

2004 **The World**

2002 **Unknown Pleasures**

2001 **In Public** (documentary)

2000 **Platform**

1998 **Xiao Wu**

ZHAI YONGMING

Co-Screenwriter

Born in Chengdu in the Sichuan Province of China, Zhai Yongming is a famous Chinese female poet, who graduated from the University of Electronic Science & Technology of China and worked in an institute of physics in Chengdu. Her works have been translated into English, French, Dutch, Italian, German etc., and have been published in these countries.

JOAN CHEN as Gu Minhua

Born in Shanghai, Joan Chen is a famous Chinese American actress and director.

SELECTED FILMOGRAPHY

- 2007 ***Lust, Caution*** - Director: Ang Lee
- 2007 ***The Sun Also Rises*** - Director: Jiang Wen
- 1993 ***Heaven & Earth*** - Director: Oliver Stone
- 1990 ***Twin Peaks*** (The series) - Director: David Lynch
- 1987 ***The Last Emperor*** - Director: Bernardo Bertolucci

LU LIPING as Hao Dali

Born in Beijing, Lu Liping is a famous actress in China. She graduated from the Performance Department of the Chinese Central Academy of Drama in 1984 before becoming an actress at the Shanghai Film Studio.

SELECTED FILMOGRAPHY

- 1992 ***The Blue Kite*** - Director: Tian Zhuangzhuang
Best Actress, 6th Tokyo International Film Festival
- 1990 ***Dragon Year Cops*** - Director: Huang Jianzhong
- 1986 ***Old Well*** - Directed by Wu Tianming
- 1985 ***The Way She Lives*** - Director: Ye Ming
- 1984 ***Childhood Friends*** - Director: Huang Shuqin

ZHAO TAO as Su Na

Born in Shanxi province of China, Zhao Tao is a famous Chinese actress who graduated from the Department of Chinese Folk Dance of Beijing Dance Academy in 1998. She began to work with awards in domestic dancing competitions and began to work with director Jia Zhang Ke as heroine in five of his films. She was also one of the producers of Jia Zhang Ke's documentary *Useless* (2007).

FILMOGRAPHY

- 2008 ***Waiting*** - Director: Peng Tao
- 2007 ***Useless*** (as producer) - Director: Jia Zhang Ke
- 2006 ***Still Life*** - Director: Jia Zhang Ke
- 2004 ***The World*** - Director: Jia Zhang Ke
- 2002 ***Unknown Pleasures*** - Director: Jia Zhang Ke
- 2000 ***Platform*** - Director: Jia Zhang Ke

CHEN JIANBIN as Zhao Gang

Born in Urumqi, Sinkiang, China, Chen Jianbin graduated from the Performance Department of the Central Academy of Drama in 1998, and joined the National Theatre Company of China as an actor.

FILMOGRAPHY

- 2002 ***Chicken Poets*** - Director: Meng Jinghui
- 2000 ***Chrysanthemum Tea*** - Director: Jin Chen

THE HISTORY OF REFORM OF THE CHINESE INDUSTRY SYSTEM

1. PLANNED ECONOMY ERA

1953-1957 1ST FIVE-YEAR PLAN

1st Five Year Plan means the first five year plan for the domestic economy, which was focused on the core industries such as energy resources, raw material and the mechanical industry. During this period from 1953 - 1957, the annual mean growth rate of the gross industry output value was 18% (the original plan was 14%). When the 1st Five Year Plan was completed, the socialism reform in China was almost finished and the 100% planned economy controlled by state-owned systems was completely established.

1958-1960 GREAT LEAP FORWARD

In 1958, the Chinese government introduced a development plan claiming that the main industry output of China would surpass that of the United Kingdom and United States in 15 years or less. Every part of Chinese industry joined this Great Leap Forward. This kind of movement, which neglected the market rules, and the false reports made on the industry output, seriously blocked the natural development of Chinese industry.

1966-1976 STEP BACK DURING THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION

During the 10 years of the Cultural Revolution, the industrialization of China was interrupted by political movements. Under the planned economy, the industry development level dropped a step back.

2. FROM PLANNED ECONOMY TO MARKET ECONOMY

1978 THIRD PLENARY SESSION OF THE 11TH CENTRAL COMMITTEE AND OPEN DOOR POLICY

After the Cultural Revolution was ended, the Third Plenary Session of the 11th Central Committee held in 1978 was the turning point for the Chinese economy since 1949. According to the Open Door Policy enforced after this committee session, the traditional planned economy was going to be changed to a market economy gradually.

1980S - 1990S REFORM OF THE INDUSTRY SYSTEM

The industry system is controlled by the economic system. The Chinese industry system of enterprise management was changed from a state-managed system to a state-owned and self-managed system, which led to the management form as "State - Industry Associations - Enterprises". So the state no longer took part in the management and decision-making of state-owned enterprises directly. As a result, those enterprises that got the actual power assumed sole responsibility for their profits and losses, which encouraged them to attract foreign capital and advanced technology. This new active management system accelerated Chinese industrialization to a great level.

1995-2000 LAY-OFF WAVE

From the middle of 1990s, along with the development of the economy system reform and the increasing competition caused by market economy, the problems under planned economy like overstaffed organizations and low working efficiency led to lots of closures and bankruptcy of those factories who could not adjust to a market economy. Paying an employment allowance based on the number of years the worker had been employed, enabled some factories to cut down their workforce in order to raise efficiency, which caused the lay-off wave. And this situation was an inevitable result on the way that the reform of state-owned enterprise adapted to market economy.

1998 FIRST SUCCESSFUL PERIOD OF THE STATE-OWNED ENTERPRISE REFORM

After 1998, most large and medium state-owned enterprises chose a shareholding system as their management system. Through the integration of capital and resources, the state-owned enterprises made up the deficits and increased surpluses to a great level, which strengthened the state-owned economy.

NOTES

FACTORY 420

Chengdu Engine (Group) Co., Ltd, also called Factory 420 (The factory is a military security unit, so its internal code is 420) was founded as a state-owned enterprise in 1958 to produce aviation engines. At first, it was subject to the State Commission of Science and Technology for the National Defence Industry, and now is managed by AVIC II (China Aviation Industry Corporation II). In order to respond to Mao Zedong's demand of developing the third-line area, about 4000 workers of Factory 111 moved from Shenyang to the Eastern suburb of Chengdu to found Factory 420. The two great periods of Factory 420 were around 1964 and 1985, but at the beginning of the 1990s, the reduced demand from the Chinese war industry meant this factory experienced hard times. In 2001, they seized the opportunity of the factory transplant to change the structure of their products and finally made up the deficits and got surpluses in 2005.

SECURITY UNITS OF WAR INDUSTRY

The work contents of these kind of units are related to the security and benefits of national defence, army and war industry, so only a small range of people are permitted to know the work of these units.

THE THIRD LINE

It refers to the third line area. At the end of 1950s, for the war preparation, the CPC Central Committee and Mao Zedong decided to separate China into three areas (the first line, the second line and the third line) according to different strategic positions. The first line refers to 15 big cities such as Beijing and Shanghai, which are the most important both in politics and economy; the second line refers to the cities less important than the first line cities; the third line refers to the home front of the entire national strategy. In the Southwest of China, it is mainly for industrial development.

THE WAR TO RESIST U.S. AGGRESSION AND AID KOREA (KOREAN WAR)

To accept the request of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea) and to protect their national security, the Chinese government sent the Chinese People's Volunteer Army to Korea to enter the war in the name of defeating the aggression of U.S. imperialism, which lasted from June, 1950 to July, 1953.

24 CITY

In December of 2005, China Resources Land Limited (Chengdu) spent 2.14 billion yuans to buy the land of former Factory 420, which is about 560 000 square metres, to build a living community named 24 City. The meaning of this name is from an ancient poem describing Chengdu: The hibiscus of 24 City, considered as a flourishing flower since ancient times. Also, 24 is a meaningful number, for instance, there are 24 solar terms of a year in China and 24 hours in a day, which express the circulation and energy of life. At the same time, Factory 420 reformed their techniques and built up a brand new industry park based on the income from selling land. The new techniques they mastered were not out of date 50 years later.

WUDOU (PHYSICAL STRUGGLE)

At the beginning of the Cultural Revolution in 1966, Mao Zedong announced the general civil struggle and separated the organizations formed by the common people into two sides, one was the left, also known as the rebellion group, and the other was the right, also known as the royalist group. He supported the left to overpower the right. The following year, Jiang Qing claimed that she agreed with the "Verbal Attack and Physical Protection" which caused the booming physical struggle. From 1967, physical struggle, a kind of armed struggle between the two sides of the organizations, extended all over the country and almost went out of control. Until 1969, after Mao's triumph of re-seizing power, people from the left became a block to Mao's reconstruction of power and were sent to the countryside, which ended the general civil struggle gradually. During the three years of physical struggle from 1967 to 1969, the number of casualties was between 300,000 and 500,000.

MIG-15

The MiG-15 is a high performance swept-wing jet fighter developed by the Soviet Mikoyan-Gurevich design bureau. From its first flight in June, 1947, these jet fighters were used to arm the Chinese Air Force in 1950 and greatly contributed to the Korean War.

SHEBAO (SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM)

Chinese abbreviation of the Social Security System

LAY-OFF

The lay-off of workers is a real phenomenon because of the supply has exceeded demand for a long time. China has an enormous population, so the total number of the labour force is large and increases rapidly, which then surpasses the production need and caused the lack of jobs. In the 1990s, many unwanted workers were laid off since they could not find new opportunities. This was considered as an inevitable result during the process of the economic system reform from a planned economy to a market economy. The people laid off had to pay for their own insurance, otherwise they were not covered by the social security, like medical insurance, until they reached the age of retirement.

ORGANIZATION

It means different levels of CPC (Communist Party of China) organization. Under a planned economy, the actual political power of many departments and units was controlled by corresponding CPC organizations with lots of issues to solve. So “organization” was the symbol of power among normal people.

SPECIAL PROVISIONS

Because of the planned economy, basic supplies were lacking for a long time in China. During that period, the necessities of life were supplied under a strict system. Only the high-ranking officials could get special provisions like cigarettes, wine and some kinds of food which were not supplied to the normal market.

THE THREE YEARS OF NATURAL DISASTERS IN CHINA (1959-1961)

Refers to the period in the People's Republic of China between 1959 and 1961 (the Great Leap Forward era), in which a combination of poor economic policies and a succession of natural disasters caused widespread famine.

COUNTERATTACK TO MAINLAND CHINA

After the failure of the Kuomintang Party in 1949, Chiang Kai-Shek raised a slogan “Counterattack to Mainland China” intending to regain power. Afterwards, he actually moved into action in the form of several military provocations, but all the actions ended unsuccessfully.

THE COUNTERATTACK WAR FOR SELF-DEFENCE AGAINST VIETNAM (CHINA-VIETNAM WAR)

Also known as the Sino-Vietnam War: was a brief but bloody border war fought in 1979 between the People's Republic of China (PRC) and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. The PRC launched the offensive in response to Vietnam's invasion and occupation of Cambodia, which ended the reign of the PRC-backed Khmer Rouge. After a brief incursion into Northern Vietnam, PRC troops withdrew about a month later. Both sides claimed victory at the end of this war.

OPEN DOOR POLICY

After the Cultural Revolution ended in 1978, the new Chinese government led by Deng Xiaoping held the Third Plenary Session of the 11th Central Committee which confirmed that the emphasis of the government was to transfer the class struggle to economic development. The transformation from a planned economy to a market economy also began gradually. The Open Door Policy refers to the revolutionary and open economic policies following this committee in the 1980s.

BLOOD SUSPECT

Is one of the first Japanese TV idol series introduced to China in the 1980s. Not only the TV series itself was very popular, but also the leading actors, Yamaguchi Momoe and Miura Tomokazu, became the favourite pop idols amongst Chinese audiences.

YAMAGUCHI MOMOE

She acted Sachiko, the heroine, in *Blood Suspect*. Because of *Blood Suspect*, this famous Japanese film and TV pop star in the 1970s and 1980s, was quite popular amongst Chinese audiences and became the idol of Chinese youth. Sachiko's hairstyle (quite short hair with bangs), was widely imitated in China at the time.

TV UNIVERSITY

Acquiring a higher education through some modern means like broadcast, TV or the Internet.

SENIOR CADRE

In China, senior cadre refers to the officer whose rank is as high as a provincial vice department head or under-secretary in the civil service system. It also refers to the military officer whose rank is vice-commander or higher.

ATTACHED SCHOOL

This kind of school is established for the children of employees in some important departments and big state-owned enterprises. They are directly managed by the education section of each unit. And the education level is usually from junior school to senior high school.

VESTIBULE SCHOOL

It is the main base to train people with techniques and working abilities. It recruits students graduated from junior high school. With the combination of education and work practice, schooling lasts for 3 years.

OUTSIDE WORLD

Represents a song by the Taiwanese singer Qi Qin in the 1980s. Popular at that time, the lyrics of this song speak about young people's longing for a fresh life after the open door policy and the sophisticated feeling when they enter into the real world.

UNPAID LEAVE

Started from the beginning of 1980s, unpaid leave refers to the situation that the employer permits an unused employee to leave his position unpaid but retaining his job. Usually, the employer and the employee sign an unpaid leave contract to establish the rights and obligations of both sides. This regulation is only suitable for a formal employee.

COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMINATION

Chinese college entrance examinations were instituted from 1952. Interrupted by the Cultural Revolution, from 1966 to 1976, they restarted from 1977 until the present day. Due to the great population, the domiciliary control system is very strict in China. Most people can only receive education and obtain employment in the place they grow up in. When the college entrance examination began, the permanent registered residence of a college graduate could be transferred to big and medium cities, which was an important way for those students from small villages and the countryside to live in better places.