



#### Technical Information

**Working Title:** Mongrel  
**Director:** Chiang Wei Liang  
**Screenplay:** Chiang Wei Liang  
**Country of Production:** Taiwan / Singapore  
**Genre:** Drama  
**Length:** 100 min  
**Shooting Location:** Taiwan  
**Production Company:** E&W Films  
**Producer:** Lai Weijie  
**Email:** [weijie@ewfilms.com.sg](mailto:weijie@ewfilms.com.sg)

#### Director's Information

Born in Singapore, Chiang Wei Liang graduated from the Nanyang Technological University with a degree in Communication Studies and completed his MFA (Film Directing) at the Taipei National University of the Arts.

Based in Taiwan for the past decade, his work focuses on migration and diaspora of Southeast Asians in modern Asia. His film, ***Anchorage Prohibited*** received the Audi Short Film Award at the 66<sup>th</sup> Berlinale and recent short films *Luzon*, *Nyi Ma Lay* and the VR short film ***Only The Mountain Remains*** – in competition at the 76<sup>th</sup> Venice Film Festival – continue this ongoing commentary of the transnational phenomena taking place within Taiwan.

Chiang is an alumnus of the Locarno Filmmakers Academy, Talents Tokyo, FID Campus and the Golden Horse Film Academy, mentored by esteemed Taiwanese auteur Hou Hsiao-Hsien.

## MONGREL

a film by CHIANG WEI LIANG



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#### Chiang Wei Liang

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Since 2000, the Festival Residence has provided each year accommodation and support to twelve selected young directors in order to help them prepare their first or second feature film. A jury presided by a film director sits twice a year, selecting these young filmmakers on the basis of their short films, or

even first feature film, and the merits of their feature film project. During their 4-and-a-half-month stay in Paris, they work on the writing of their feature film project, have meetings with professionals and try, with the support of the Cannes Film Festival, to bring their project to co-production status.



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# MONGREL

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## Synopsis

In the rural foothills of Southern Taiwan, Oom, an undocumented Thai migrant, works as a caregiver-for-hire for families that cannot afford legitimate full-time help. Thrust into the private corners of their lives, his silent and compassionate approach towards his patients belies his lack of formal training.

Carefully navigating the uneasy trust between him and his employers – as well as the fragile relationships he shares with his patients and fellow migrants – Oom tries his best to make an honest living but his efforts are compromised when a medical emergency he is ill-equipped to help with leads him to take up an offer with far-reaching consequences.

Well-intentioned actions fast become morally questionable and as financial and physical strains take their toll, Oom comes to realise the price he has to pay to preserve a life on the island.

## Statement of Intent

Across Southern Taiwan, widespread labor shortage in rural communities draws undocumented migrants searching for better employment opportunities.

The main protagonist is a migrant in-home caregiver whose paradoxical status of being both foreign and domestic evokes fear and distrust amongst his employers but establishes kindred connections with his languishing patients.

I seek to portray the struggles of an outsider serving a patient population that is isolated and socially invisible like he is. Through the intimate and demanding labor of caregiving, Mongrel expands on my work over the last decade – stories of the Southeast Asian migrant community in Taiwan, examining the physical and emotional toll palliative care extracts from both caregivers and receivers and offers a glimpse into the uncertainty and fragility of life on the edge.

## Synopsis

Dans les contreforts ruraux du sud de Taïwan, Oom, migrant thaïlandais sans papiers, travaille comme aide-soignant à la demande pour des familles qui ne peuvent pas se permettre une aide à plein temps. Plongé dans leurs vies privées, son approche silencieuse et compatissante envers ses patients pallie son manque de formation.

Naviguant avec soin pour que la confiance s’installe avec ses employeurs – ainsi qu’avec ses patients et ses compagnons de migration – Oom fait de son mieux pour gagner honnêtement sa vie, mais ses efforts sont compromis quand une urgence médicale, pour laquelle il n’est pas équipé, l’amène à accepter une offre aux conséquences sérieuses.

Des actions bien intentionnées deviennent rapidement moralement discutables et comme les tensions financières et physiques font des ravages, Oom en vient à réaliser le prix à payer pour préserver une vie sur l’île.

## Note d’intention

Dans le sud de Taïwan, une pénurie de main-d’œuvre généralisée dans les communautés rurales attire les migrants sans papiers à la recherche de meilleures opportunités d’emploi. Le principal protagoniste est un aide-soignant à domicile dont le statut paradoxal d’étranger et de domestique suscite la peur et la méfiance de ses employeurs mais établit des liens de proximité avec ses patients affaiblis.

Je cherche à dépeindre les luttes d’un étranger au service d’une population de patients isolée et socialement invisible comme lui. À travers ce travail intime et exigeant qu’est la prestation de soins, Mongrel a influencé mon travail au cours de la dernière décennie – les histoires de la communauté des migrants d’Asie du Sud-Est à Taïwan, en examinant les effets des soins palliatifs et leur impact physique et émotionnel sur les soignants et les bénéficiaires, ce qui donne un aperçu de l’incertitude et de la fragilité des limites de la vie.