

The Husband's Secret

2K Restoration

1960|102 min| B&W| Narrative Feature| Taiwanese

Tshiu-Bi and her husband Siu-Gi have a seemingly perfect marriage but still have no children. When Tshiu-Bi's friend, Le-Hun, a single mother, is forced to work in a nightclub to raise her son, Tshiu-Bi tries her best to help her. However, unbeknownst to Tshiu-Bi, Le-Hun and Siu-Gi were once lovers. To avoid complications, Le-Hun decides to move away, only to run into Siu-Gi again in a nightclub. After a night together, Le-Hun becomes pregnant. When Tshiu-Bi learns this startling truth, she makes a surprising decision.



Adapted from a Japanese novel and film, *The Husband's Secret* dissects social relations through its tear-jerking, love-triangle melodrama. Differing from other films of the period, LIN's work gave greater voice to female characters, addressing feminine consciousness and the mutual support among women. This representation broke away from traditionally ill-fated female characters, allowing audiences to reconsider established family structures and gendered power relations. Additionally, the film uses an occasional third-person female voice-over that both sympathizes with, and judges the characters, adding to the emotional stakes.

Director: LIN Tuan-Chiu

Born in 1920 to a wealthy coal-mining family, LIN studied in Japan. He became a playwright, active in Taiwan's New Drama Movement, and a writer-director for Taiwanese-language films. After working at the Toho Company in Japan, he became one of the first Taiwanese filmmakers with hands-on studio experience. In 1958, LIN established Yufeng Pictures and Hushan Film Studio. His films are well known for their detailed psychological portraits, especially the portrayals of female characters. Using compelling stories, diverse camera movements and carefully-designed composition, LIN shot many classics, notably *The Husband's Secret* (1960), *May 13th*, *Night of Sorrow* (1965) and *Six Suspects* (1965).



Grandma's Small Talk

2019 | DCP | Colour, B&W | 25min



Le-Hun moved away to avoid her good friend Tshiu-Bi and her husband Siu-Gi, but by a twist of fate, she ended up rekindling her romance with Siu-Gi and accidentally fell pregnant with his child. Forty years later, Le-Hun's grandson uses his camera to capture her recollection of the past and her yearning for her son.

Director: LIN Shih-ching

Lin Shih-ching is studying filmmaking at National Taiwan University of Arts. Her first short film, *Bad Luck* won Best Student Film and

Best Director at LEXUS Film Award. She was a participant of the 10th Golden Horse Film Academy.



This festival is organized by Chinese Studies at the University of Helsinki and is presented in association with the Taiwan Ministry of Culture, Taiwan, the Taiwan Film Institute, and King's College London.