



COMET SPLEEN

A Film by Zeyu Zhang

Logline

- Two lonely women share an apartment but occupy it at different times, their presence lingering in the room like an ungraspable connection felt only through imagination.

Synopsis

- Alice and Zoey, who have never met, share a rented apartment. One works at night and rests during the day, while the other works during the day and rests at night. To save money, they share this private living space by splitting time. However, since moving in, they have never had the chance to meet, but through the exchange of objects, they begin to grow curious about each other's lives... This film aims to explore the relationship between time, space, sound, imagination, characters, and loneliness.

Director Statement

- This is a story about loneliness. Many people in this world experience solitude, which has increasingly become an inevitable part of urban life for the young. At some point in everyone's growth, there is a possibility of encountering a moment of loneliness.
- The film portrays two different types of lonely individuals: Alice and Zoey. Externally, Alice embodies quiet solitude, while Zoey represents restless loneliness. They inhabit the same shared, confined space but are separated by time, never able to meet. The remnants of each other's presence linger in the room, yet all they can perceive of one another exists only in imagination, leaving each in a solitary experience that feels almost within reach but ultimately unattainable.
- The title "COMET SPLEEN" references the term "spleen" from Baudelaire's Paris Spleen, resonating with a segment of Zoey's radio broadcast, which draws from the poem "The Double Room" (a poem in Paris Spleen). At this moment, Alice happens to be in their shared room, enjoying a rare moment of relaxation. The atmosphere becomes lazy and ambiguous, infused with Zoey's voice, merging time, space, and imagination.
- The narrative unfolds like a fable reminiscent of "The Double Room," where Baudelaire describes the dual nature of his space. When undisturbed, he finds tranquility in his cozy room, which becomes a spiritual refuge. Yet, when external disturbances intrude, such as delivery workers or unwanted visitors, that peace shatters, transforming the room into a dark, chaotic place, and time seems to rush past, reducing him to a slave of life.

Director Statement

- In our story, the "double room" literally refers to two people sharing the same space, reflecting the dualities in Baudelaire's life. Alice and Zoey are fragmented by work and life. The high-pressure, fast-paced world suffocates them, and the indifference of society toward mental health makes their shared room a sanctuary. Here, they find relaxation and enjoy moments of peace, even amid their solitude.
- "COMET SPLEEN" explores themes of loneliness, the gaze, and the self-awareness of female identity amid societal oppression. The story revolves around two women, Zoey and Alice, who live under the same roof yet have never met. They occupy the same space at different times, creating a remarkable connection through the traces of their lives. Alice, a night-time live streamer, navigates the scrutiny and pressure of societal gaze, while the film intricately depicts their daily lives, exploring contemporary women's self-perception and emotional dilemmas under this scrutiny.
- The film addresses feminist themes, particularly the pervasive male gaze and the exploitation of women. I aim to express these feminist concerns through highly stylized and experimental audio-visual language, which may even challenge or provoke the audience. The mainstream film industry often centers around male perspectives—whether through male protagonists or narrators—dominating storytelling. I aspire to create more narratives that center on female protagonists and perspectives.

Director Biography



- Zeyu Zhang was born on July 28, 2000. He graduated with a bachelor's degree from Wuhan University and earned a master's degree from the University of Hong Kong. His work spans both film and theater scriptwriting, with a particular interest in exploring communication and relationships among individuals, as well as the complexities of the human psyche.
- In August 2024, his short film script "COMET SPLEEN" was selected for the Summer Script Competition at the Shanghai International Short Week, where it examines women's self-awareness and emotional struggles in contemporary society. In June 2022, his original play "An Evening of the Plum Rain Season" received the Outstanding Original Script Award at the Wuhan New Youth Drama Festival and later premiered as an environmental drama at the LuoJia Mout Theatre of Wuhan University in October 2023.
- Zeyu Zhang's works address a broad range of themes, focusing on topics such as loneliness, desire, love, and feminism.

