

A woman with short dark hair, wearing a green patterned qipao, stands in profile looking out over a serene landscape. The background features a calm lake reflecting the surrounding mountains and a sky with soft, white clouds. The overall mood is contemplative and nostalgic.

SUDDENLY HOMESICK

A Movie By Yu Hao

In Cinemas November 28

PRESS KIT

Suddenly Homesick, A Movie By Yu Hao

Switzerland 2019
79 min, German/Chinese with subtitles
(E/G/F/Chinese)
Cinema release Switzerland: November 28, 2019

DVD Switzerland: tbd.

Downloads (Stills, Artwork):
www.ploetzlichheimweh.ch/stills.php

Rental/Distribution: Moviebiz GmbH

Production: Hao Production

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**A Chinese filmmaker
turns her back on her career**



...to seek her home
away from home.



SYNOPSIS

Restless and successful: Young filmmaker Yu Hao is always on the move, reporting on other cultures for Chinese television and traveling around the world from Beijing, until she falls in love with idyllic Appenzell. This journey challenges the existing and opens new perspectives: the Chinese woman decides to move to Switzerland for love.

Equipped with her camera, Yu Hao explores the foreign Appenzellerland. Hereby she gets to know people who live in harmony with nature, cultivate traditions and are rooted in their homeland. Through these encounters she finds herself confronted with strong doubts, for she is not familiar with the feeling of being at home in one particular place. Can this change in Switzerland?

'Suddenly Homesick' tells the story of an ongoing search for identity and a sense of belonging. Yu Hao succeeds in interweaving her own migration with an extraordinary portrait of Switzerland: she captures the peculiarities of the Appenzell tradition up close and at the same time asks meaningful global questions. A dialogic confrontation, spanning the arc from a Chinese megacity to the unspoilt Alpstein in powerful pictures.

Short Version

The successful filmmaker Yu Hao is always on the move and travels the world from Beijing, until she falls in love with idyllic Appenzell – and moves to Switzerland for love. Through the lens of her camera the Chinese discovers the unknown Appenzellerland and meets people, who live in harmony with nature, cultivate traditions and are rooted in their homeland. These encounters confront Yu Hao with strong doubts, for she has never felt at home in just one place. Can this change in Switzerland?

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

When I moved to Urnäsch (CH) in Appenzellerland in 2005, I did not speak one word of German. That's why I used my camera as a companion to discover my new environment. This is how more than 200 hours of film material were created over the last twelve years. I filmed local traditions like the Alpfahrt and the Silvesterchläuse, captured unique evening moods in the Alpstein and portrayed people I met on my way. The better my German got, the more I was able to communicate with the people I met. In doing so, I did not only learn a lot about Switzerland, but also about myself.

As a TV reporter in China, I was always on the move, looking for new stories. Everything seemed in constant motion. The Chinese cities are full of travelers who, like me, have left their family and hometown for their careers. In rural eastern Switzerland, I met people who had never traveled, never seen anything different, but nevertheless lived happily and in harmony with nature. This way of living had a strong appeal on me. I experienced how tradition connects people and how they identify with it. Fascinated, I took part in this foreign culture, while I couldn't help being troubled by my many doubts. Where is my home? Where do I feel affiliated? Can I be happy thousands of miles away from my family?

I am not alone with these questions in our globalized world. My story of migration and my search for belonging have to be seen in a wider social context that concerns us all. This is why, I decided to turn my story with its ups and downs into a film. 'Suddenly Homesick' is not a political film and yet it is expected to encourage viewers to think about migration and integration from a new perspective.

Yu Hao
Urnäsch, March 2019

PROTAGONISTS

Yu Hao

For more than twelve years, Yu Hao – tape after tape – has been diving deeper into the Appenzell culture. It is not necessarily the traditions that change her perspective, but the encounters she has in the traditional environment. 'The people I met in Appenzellerland mark milestones in dealing with my own life', says Yu Hao.

Johann Hautle

In the middle of the Alpstein, far-off from civilization, naive art painter Johann Hautle leads a farm. He lives according to his own rhythm and his own time, almost like a hundred years ago. Hautle's everyday life is essentially about two things: his animals and painting. His way of living, his oil paintings and his presence touched Yu Hao beyond words: 'This encounter moved something within me I was not previously aware of.'

Yvonne

On Hautle's farm, Yu Hao meets a young Swiss woman, a converted Jewess. Yvonne has lived on the farm for four years, cooking, housekeeping and studying the Torah. She practices repetition. To Yu Hao's question as to whether her relationship to Johann has changed over the years, she replies: 'Johann is like a rock, he is the same every day. When I arrived here, I was like a river, always flowing. Slowly, I'm becoming a rock too.'

Chläus Anderegg

Just 13 years old, Chläus lives alone on the alp all summer and looks after his cows by himself. Yu Hao meets him in the pasturage and talks to him about his visions of the future, which are very different from the ones she had in her own youth. Chläus has neither career plans nor doubts: he will become a farmer – just like his father and grandfather.

Ruedi Manser

Ruedi Manser cannot imagine a life without the Appenzell traditions. In addition to ceremonial traditions such as the Alpfahrt, faith and a deep bond with nature play a major role in the farmer's everyday life. Yu Hao, who has never prayed herself, accompanies Ruedi as he blesses his entire farm and his animals with Räuchle at Christmas. He sums it up in a few words: 'One has to believe in what one does.'

Elsa Preisig

Elsa passionately bakes Appenzeller Biber cake and spends a lot of time with her grandchildren. Visiting the Preisig family reminds Yu Hao of her own grandmother, who once introduced her to the Chinese art of baking moon cake – and with whom Hao always felt comfortable. 'How', she wonders, 'do I come back to this sense of belonging? Do I belong to a place? Or do I belong to my family?'

Ueli Alder

Appenzell artist Ueli Alder claims to be born in the wrong time. With antique cameras he captures the Appenzellerland in pictures that are timeless, static and free of any hectic rush. In a conversation, he tells Yu Hao: 'If you walk away for long enough, you will eventually be on your way back home.'

Yu Hao



Elsa Preisig



Ueli Alder



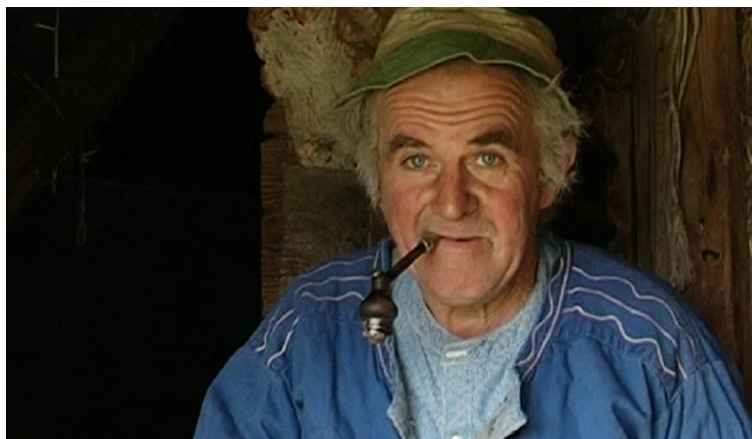
Yvonne



Chläus Anderegg



Ruedi Manser



Johann Hautle

FILMOGRAPHY CREW

Ernst Hohl

Project management, Producer

Ernst Hohl is the initiator and organizer of various large-scale events within and outside of Switzerland as well as publisher of numerous publications. Since 1986 he is regularly active in educational, sports and cultural projects in China and Switzerland. Since 2006, he is managing director of Haus Appenzell in Zurich.

Yu Hao

Director, Camera, Screenplay, Protagonist

Yu Hao lived in China until 2005, where she worked as a reporter, director, producer and chief editor for different television stations. She was born in 1977 in Yichun, northern China, and graduated in media studies and English language, adding a training in film production. From 2001 to 2003, she was the director of her own Saturday Night show on Chinese national TV.

With Yu Hao's privately motivated relocation to the Appenzellerland, her professional focus changed: While so far she had been using the camera to stand in the spot light in front of huge audiences, she now started using the camera as a silent companion, as a means to approach a foreign culture. Not only has Yu Hao produced many documentaries but she also functions as a curator in the Haus Appenzell in Zurich.

Filmography (selection)

Documentaries, as an Author

- 2018 Between Light and Shadow
- 2017 Big Small World
- 2016 KUhlToUR
- 2015 Silvesterkläuse, Klausjäger und Glöckler
- 2013 Ueli Alder – The Way Back
- 2010 Three idiosyncratic Appenzeller
When East and West meet, Part 2
- 2009 When East and West meet, Part 1
- 2008 Living in Strahlholz
- 2007 Bloch's Path
Öberefahre
- 2006 Landsgemeinde
- 2005 Johann Hautle

Shadow theatre, director

- 2013 The Bear and the Needle

Documentary Line, Director, Screenplay, Montage (in China)

- 2005 Far West (7-parts)
- 2004 A Time Travel (7 parts)
- 2002 Foreigners in China (10 parts)
– 04
- 1997 This Is How We Begin (10 parts)
– 98

TV-Broadcast, Producer, Chief Editor (in China)

- 2003 Time to Read
– 04
- 2002 Journey Through Earth
– 04
- 2001 Outlook; Challenge
– 03

Commercials, Producer and Author (in China)

- 2005 Taste of Longxi
- 2004 Zhi Feng Tan
- 2003 The City Business Card
- 2002 Leather Legend

Prizes

- 2001 Best team prize education channel CCTV
Best staff award social and education channel CCTV
- 1999 'Lifestyle', 2nd prize Best television programme
in Hebei province
- 1998 'This Is How We Begin' (10 parts documentary line),
1st Prize Best documentary competition in Hebei province
2nd Prize Best economy programme in China
3rd Prize Social programme competition in China

Fabian Kaiser
Montage and Screenplay

Fabian Kaiser was born in Herisau AR in 1986 and grew up in eastern Switzerland. He has worked as a polygraph for several years. He started studying film at Zurich College of Arts in 2010 and graduated in 2016 obtaining a masters degree in film editing. In 2016 he founded a movie production company called Drehtag.

Filmography (selection)

- 2018 Televisions – Foreigners (SRF)
Me and all the Others (tba)
Televisions (Solothurner Filmtage 2018)
- 2017 12 Acting Students (SRF)
- 2016 Periphery (ZFF, Solothurner Filmtage 2017)
- 2015 Turning Life
- 2014 De Schnuuf
- 2011 My Grandpas Garden (Kurzfilmtage Winterthur)
Selecteur
- 2009 Festgenossen

Prizes

- Turning Life, doc 77', montage (2015)
- 2016 Winner Best Edit Manchester Film Festival
Winner Prix de Soleure
- 2017 Nomination Swiss Film Prize
- De Schnuuf, docu-fict, 11', direction (2014)
- 2015 Winner VIS Shorts
Clermont-Ferrand
- 2016 Nomination Cinema Eye Honors

Zhao Kangcheng
Camera

Zhao Kangcheng was born in China in 1988 and graduated from university in 2012 with a degree in editing and camera for television.

Filmography (selection)

- 2017 China's Innovation
Sacred Meili Mountains
Stories in a Small City
- 2016 The True Hero – Military Dogs
Beneath the Blue Sky
Puppet Master
- 2015 An Outstanding Student
- 2014 Dadaos' Story

Björn Lindroos
Camera

Björn Lindroos, from Zurich, worked as a self-employed press photographer from 1985 to 1990 before he became a self-employed cameraman in 1992 (TCB Björn Lindroos Elektronische Bild- & Tonaufzeichnung GmbH). Ever since, he has worked for different private and public television institutions as well as industrial and private TV-production companies.

Filmography (selection)

- 2017 Jazz Festival St. Moritz
Swiss Farmers, Hope, Deception and Reality
- 2016 Between Dream and Trauma
- 2015 Pippo Pollina, Cantautore between Homelands
- 2008 The Doctor in the Wheelchair
Dispute about the Heritage
- 2007 Oh my Daddy – P. Burkhard
Masks, Fetish and other Obsessions
I want to be: Logistician EBA
- 2006 I want to be: Electronics technician
- 2005 The Pope's Soldiers
- 2004 Dossier: Career Choice
- 2003 Charlie Chaplin, The Forgotten Years
- 2002 Burst your Limits
- 2000 Esther and Keshava
The Winners of Atlanta
- 1999 The Time with Kathrin

Tobias Preisig
Music

Tobias Preisig was born in Zurich in 1981. At the age of 17 he became the first violinist accepted into the Swiss Jazz School in Bern. He appeared in the Swiss Youth Jazz Orchestra, before continuing his music studies at New school in New York. After an european tour with the European Youth Jazz Orchestra in 2003, he completed his studies of classical violin between 2004 and 2007 at the Zurich College of Arts. Until 2012 he was a member of the Kaleidoscope String Quartet, with which he won the ZKB Jazz Prize the same year. He was also part of the Albin Bruns Alpin Ensemble. In 2013 he founded the band Egopusher with drummer Alessandro Giannelli. The band's tours covered Germany, China, France, Belgium and Switzerland. In addition to Egopusher, Tobias Preisig also played with Levitation, a church duo featuring Stefan Rusconi. Furthermore, he performed with the Cinematic Orchestra as well as with Colin Stetson's Sorrow.

Gina Keller
Sound Design and Mix

Born in 1992, Gina Keller works as sound designer and mixer in Zurich. She was chosen for the Berlin Talents Program during the 68th International Film Festival Berlin in 2018. Keller started her career as a sound engineer for classical music. 2014 she graduated as sound engineer, obtaining a bachelors degree from the Zurich College of Arts. In January 2018 she obtained a masters degree in audio engineering from the Zurich College of Arts, majoring in sound design and audio post-production for film. She currently works as action movie and documentary sound designer, dialogue editor and supervisor for sound editors. Additionally she teaches two short-term courses at the Zurich College of Arts.

Filmography (selection)

2018 The Runner
Televisions
Me and all the Others
Glaubenberg
Amur
Nr. 47 (TV-Series)
2017 Flitzer
Blue My Mind
Ambiguity
Goliath
Welcome to Switzerland
2016 Periphery
Raving Iran

Luca Ribler
Director post-production

Born in 1989 in Arbon TG. Ever since his school days Luca Ribler and Diego Hauenstein produce short movies and video clips with the label Reizflut. In 2008 he completed an internship in graphic design and started his film studies at Zurich College of Arts in 2010. In 2019 he graduates from that same college obtaining a masters degree in movie direction. Since 2018 Ribler is a staff member of the production company Drehtag.

Filmography (selection)

2018 Televisions – Foreigners (SRF)
Me and all the Others (tba)
Televisions (Solothurner Filmtage 2018)
2016 Periphery
2015 De letscht Fall
2014 Parents
2013 Friends
2011 Selecteur

CREDITS AND TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Direction

Yu Hao

Script

Yu Hao

Fabian Kaiser

Camera

Yu Hao

Zhao Kangcheng

Björn Lindroos

Montage

Fabian Kaiser

Music

Tobias Preisig

Sound Design and Mix

Gina Keller

Colour grading

Ramón Königshausen

Animation

Zhang Yongqiang

Liu Cheng

Ge Yuanyuan

Haya

Production

Ernst Hohl

Hao Production

Co-production

Schweizer Radio und Fernsehen

SRF Redaktion pacte: Urs Augstburger

SRF Redaktion Sternstunden: Sandra Roth

Protagonists

Johann Hautle

Yvonne

Cui Jianhua

Ruedi Manser

Chläus Anderegg

Hans Anderegg

Qiao Xiaoguang

Erwin Oertle

Ueli Alder

Elsa Preisig

Emil Preisig

Fabian Preisig

Shen Jie

Yang Jinghua

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Gemeinde Herrliberg

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Appenzeller Alpenbitter AG

Helvetia Versicherungen

Goba AG

Regiobank Männedorf AG

Luftseilbahn Wasserauen-Ebenalp AG

Genre

Cinema-Documentary

Duration

79 min

Country of Production and Year

Switzerland 2019

Shooting Period

from 2005 to 2018

Shooting Location

Switzerland and China

Shooting Format

DV, HDV, Full HD, 4K (4 : 3, 16 : 9)

Camera

Sony Full HD Z1, Sony PXW-Z100 4K
Canon C300, Sony PDW-700

Cinema Format

DCP (alternativ: Quicktime ProRes 4444, Stereo)

Picture

16 : 9, Colour

Sound

5.1

Language

German/Swiss German/Chinese/English

Subtitles

English/German/French/Chinese

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PREVIEWS AND SPECIALS

- 19.11 Special Herisau, Cinétreff
7.30 pm
- 23.11 Preview Herisau, Cinétreff
8.00 pm
- 24.11 Preview Zurich, Le Paris
5.45 pm
- 25.11 Preview Weinfelden, Liberty
7.30 pm
- 26.11 Preview Heiden, Kino Rosental
7.30 pm
- 27.11 Preview Winterthur, Kino Loge
8.00 pm
- 28.11 Premiere St. Gallen, Kinok
8.00 pm
- 29.11 Special Wattwil, Kino Passerelle
8.00 pm
- 30.11 Special Werdenberg, Kiwi Treff
5.00 pm
- 01.12 Special Wil, Cinewil
5.00 pm



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