



# Liulian Piao Piao

## Durian Durian

Fruit Chan

HONG KONG, CHINA, 2000

117 minutes ■ Colour/35mm

Production Company: **Nicetop**

**Independent Ltd.**

Executive Producer: **Vincent Maraval, Alain de la Mata, Jean-Pierre Dionnet, Carrie Wong**

Producer: **Doris Yang**

Screenplay: **Fruit Chan**

Cinematographer: **Lam Wah Chuen**

Editor: **Tin Sam Fat**

Sound: **Nip Kei Wing, Phyllis Cheng,**

**Jiang Peng, Chan Wai Keung**

Music: **Lam Wah Chuen, Chu Hing Cheung**

Principal Cast: **Hailu Qin, Wai Fan Mak, Suet Man Mak, Xiao Ming Bai**

Print Source/Foreign Sales Agent:

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Production: **Nicetop Independent Ltd., Unit 1803A, Nanyang Plaza, 57 Hung To Road, Kwun Tong, KLN, Hong Kong, China. T (852) 2751-1886 F (852) 2750-4862**

"The durian is a very strange tropical fruit. People either love it or hate it. Just as people are entranced or repulsed by Portland Street and its inhabitants."

– Fruit Chan

If the young boy in *Little Cheung* represents the fear and paranoia Hong Kong feels toward China, *Durian Durian's* female protagonists could well embody the Mainland's wary, unsure reply.

Fan ekes out her existence scrubbing dishes in a Hong Kong back alley. Her visa has expired but she has remained, a vital source of income for her family along with her one-legged father, a smuggler.

Yan was born in Northern China and has come to Hong Kong for the same reason as Fan – to make money. She becomes the hardest working prostitute in town, turning as many tricks as her three-month visa allows. She trudges many times a day through the alley where Fan works, moving from one cheap hotel to another. One day the pimp accompanying her – a dumb teenage gangster – gets his head smashed from behind in a random act of violence. The weapon is a strange, spiky fruit known as the "durian." Soon after, Fan's father brings home a durian as a special birthday treat. The terrible smell of the thing is not made better by its sweet taste.

Once her three months are up, Yan returns to Northern China, having befriended the little girl. She is now estranged from her fiancé and her past, unhappy with the cold

and constrained lifestyle awaiting her. She is imprisoned by the radical choices she has made, which divorce her from her comfortably middle-class destiny.

A much more deliberate and brooding film than *Little Cheung*, *Durian Durian* masterfully shifts mood from the frenetic Hong Kong of the first half to the uncomfortable, stolid realities of Mainland China in the second. Much connects Chan's two films and much is left open for debate.

■ **Noah Cowan**

**Fruit Chan** was born in Canton, China in 1959. He moved to Hong Kong with his family at the age of ten. He graduated from the Hong Kong Film Centre, and has since worked as assistant director and production coordinator for directors such as Kirk Wong, Alfred Cheung, Sammo Hung and Tony Au. Feature filmography: *Finale in Blood* (91), *Made in Hong Kong* (96), *The Longest Summer* (98), *Little Cheung* (99) and *Durian Durian* (00).

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