



To Be A Mother

A FILM BY CHOU CHOU



THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH
Edinburgh College of Art

Logline

Following newly pregnant Dani, a woman with a traumatic family background, as she transitions from an individual to a mother.

Short Synopsis

37-year-old Austrian woman Dani is expecting her first child in June. She hasn't informed her mother about her pregnancy as they have cut off contact for 2 years. An unexpected email from her mother triggers a deep introspection and emotional journey as Dani navigates her transition into motherhood.

Long Synopsis

Dani, a 37-year-old Austrian woman, is expecting her first child in June. She has not informed her mother about the pregnancy due to a two-year loss of contact.

One day, an unexpected email from her mother disrupts Dani's quiet life, bringing to the surface deep-seated family wounds. As she prepares to become a mother, the film delves into Dani's introspection and emotional journey. How will she love her daughter? And how will she reconcile with her own past?

This film explores the complexities of the mother-daughter relationship and the profound transformation women undergo from being an individual to a mother.

Still Images









Director's Statement

Dani is quite different from the typical image of a pregnant woman I had in mind; her emotions have been remarkably stable. However, there was one instance when Dani spoke about her mother, and her feelings suddenly became volatile. It was at that moment that I felt I had glimpsed the most vulnerable part of Dani's inner self. Dani's past is difficult to reconstruct, so I pieced together fragments of her stories to catch a glimpse of the family traumas she experienced. Dani loves nature and dancing, which are ways she connects with herself and her body. Therefore, the film includes many scenes of Dani walking in nature and two dance sequences, allowing the audience to flow with Dani's emotions. Nature also serves as a measure of time; the changing colors reflect the passing of seasons, immersing the audience in the flow of time as they wait for the baby's arrival with Dani.

Dani thoroughly enjoyed her pregnancy, but the birthing process was quite challenging for her. I presented this memory through an abstract sequence paired with intense music and sound design, setting the stage for the baby's final appearance. When Dani dances in the room with her bare belly and finally says, "I really love myself now," I feel genuinely happy for her. We witness how a woman reconciles with herself and celebrates her body.

This is what I hope to convey in the film: that women are both vulnerable and great.

Director's Biography



Chou Chou is a documentary director based in the UK and China. She graduated with a master's degree in film directing from the University of Edinburgh. Her multicultural background has broadened her understanding of documentaries, allowing her to create films with a more inclusive and international perspective.

Over the past eight years, she has worked in the advertising industry, where she gained extensive experience in team collaboration and deep insight into people.

This is Chou Chou's first short film, which is about women's reproductive choices. As a female director in her 30s, Chou Chou is very concerned with women's issues and hopes to explore the world from a uniquely female perspective.