



HONG KONG HANDOVER GENERATION

Pitch

20 years after the British Crown handed Hong Kong over to China, under the motto «one country, two systems» the young Handover generation challenges Beijing and wants to be the safeguard of democracy in Asia. After 2014's Umbrella Revolt these activists have become a challenging political force in the country. Through their fight we discover Hong-Kong as it faces China's growing threat on its special status and Political freedoms. Is HK doomed to become an ordinary Chinese province under an authoritative regime?

Producers and Broadcasters:

Little Big Story/ Arte

Director:

Alain Lewkowicz

52'

Synopsis

On July 1, 1997, Hong Kong was returned to the People's Republic of China and ceased to be a British colony to become a Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China. A generation was born, that of the handover.

Today, these young people are 20 years old and are claiming a heritage which has the power to make Beijing shudder. Reason being that it originates in the movements of the students in Tiananmen Square in 1989 and the "post-80 generation," the people of Hong Kong who were born under British colonization and experienced the handover as the beginning of a major attack against democracy.

In this Chinese city with strong British accents, everyone is now seeking their own identity. Cantonese, English and "Chinglish", a mixture of Chinese and English, are spoken here. "Who are we", is a question often asked by those who experienced the turbulent period of the handover? Chinese? English? Both? Although Hong Kong is rooted in both cultures, it seems lost when considering identity.

If the "one country two systems" principal protects the people of Hong Kong until 2046 from complete and definitive Chinese rule, all agree on one point: "Individual freedom, freedom of the press and freedom of expression are being steadily whittled away." With a political system and representatives broadly supportive of Beijing, the most opulent and exclusive Asian city feels neglected while large urban centers in Mainland China benefit, and they are also feeling increasingly colonized.

In this race against time, civil society is organizing a resistance. At the forefront, the young generation that federated a political movement during the major demonstrations of the umbrella movement three years ago. Those student leaders have become the spokespersons for Hong Kong society. Six of them have even been elected as members in September 2016, the youngest ever inducted into the LegCo, the Legislative Council. Their voice must be heard in the new elections in the spring of 2017.

Who are these young members? What has got into them? The film plunges into the heart of this generation, born during the handover of Hong Kong to China twenty years ago. What do they represent? What are their demands and aspirations? And what weapons do they possess to carry out their democratic "revolution"?



The main characters

Joshua Wong, the leading figure



He is only 19 years old. And yet he already has a long activist career behind him. In 2012, he became head of "Scholarism", a type of young student union opposing the introduction of pro-Chinese patriotic education in textbooks. He has made the government back down. In 2014, he became the figurehead of the Umbrella Revolution. His photo has been circulated throughout the world. He alone, has embodied Hong Kong's opposition to Beijing who wants to change, in its favor, the electoral system for the election of the Chief Executive. Those expecting an election by universal suffrage as envisaged in the basic law, therefore, occupied Hong Kong for 79 days. Today, he continues his fight as an activist while awaiting his time to go before the voters. Just like a pilgrim, he preaches the gospel, that of the new Democrats.

Yau Wai-ching, the rebel



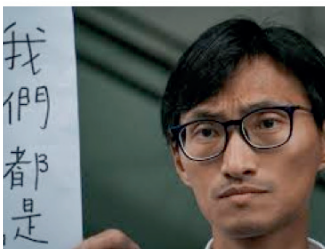
A member of the "Youngspiration" party, created in the wake of the umbrella movement, at 25 she was elected member in the last elections. On October 12, she took oath of office in the Hong Kong Parliament, the LegCo, in an unprecedented way, causing a political crisis and the intervention of Beijing. Today she is disqualified and awaits the verdict of her final appeal. Outside of politics, she remains the face of a youth in search of space and fresh air, rejecting the development model of their parents and aspiring to freedom for all.

Nathan Law, the student member



With a background in high school student unionism during 2011-2012, Nathan Law is the co-founder with Joshua Wong of Demosisto, a political party born after the Umbrella Revolution and which demands self-determination, democracy, universal suffrage and the establishment of a genuine rule of law in HK with a clear separation of powers. He was elected to the LegCo in September 2016. Although he took oath under the law, justice has reproached him for not having done this "in good faith". If the courts condemn him, he could lose his seat as member. Pending the ruling, he continues his work as a member, as well as his studies at the university and playing football. He embodies this young generation of politicians who have traded the suit and tie to be merely a reflection of a youth who intends to conduct the affairs of the peninsula.

Eddie Chu, the big brother



At 39, he is the oldest youth member elected in September 2016. A former journalist, he very quickly, in 2004, became concerned about the daily lives of the people of Hong Kong and how it had already become necessary to resist China, trying to make a clean sweep of the colonial past of the archipelago. He now campaigns daily, denouncing the social and economic conditions of the people of Hong Kong, defenders of localism and refusing what they call the "new Chinese colonization". All intend to do politics differently, away from exclusive private rooms and the no less private KTV rooms. He will seek his political legitimacy amongst the people of Hong Kong.

PRODUCTION TEAM



Alain Lewkowicz - Director

Holding a master's degree in advanced studies in sovietology from the School for Advanced Studies in the Social Sciences (EHESS), he is a television director, a producer at France Culture and France Inter, an author for the magazine XXI,, Alain Lewkowicz, 49, is a specialist on China, southeast Asia and Japan. Alain Lewkowicz lives and works in Paris.



Valérie Montmartin - Producer

Valérie Montmartin is the producer and CEO of Little Big Story (LBS). Before founding LBS, she co-managed Line of Fire, Where She Produced 20 documentaries and over 150 news stories, Including "Global Gay" and "Putin's Gulag." With a degree in political science and journalism, she Took EURODOC hand in training. She is 45 and lives in Paris.

**LITTLE
BIG
STORY**

Founded by experienced producer, Valerie Montmartin, Little Big Story focuses exclusively on producing documentaries for all media. Based on the idea that little stories reflect the bigger picture make up for strong story telling. This editorial approach has reserves demanding citizen-viewer audience interested in understanding the shaping our world forces. It's a forward looking approach, suited to ambitious projects and diversified financing.

All our stories are avocation at international market and year-have the potential of reaching a wide hearing.

In addition to "*HONG KONG HANDOVER GENERATION*" Little Big Story produces "*THE RANSOM*" (ARTE/ RTBF in co-production with Belgium and 15 broadcasters, IDFA FORUM) about the business of Kidnap and Ransom; "*THE EMPIRE OF RED GOLD*" (FRANCE 2, TV5 Canada, RTS, RTBF, YES) in co-production with Canada. Among previous productions; "*SWITZERLAND: HITLER'S BANKERS*" (FRANCE 5, ARD, RTS, RTBF) and "*OLEG'S CHOICE*" (FIPA competition, DOK LEIPZIG International selection). Its last project "*THE WATCHMEN*" has-been selected to the Hot Docs Forum 2017.

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