

Resurrection

2025 | 160mins

Director: Bi Gan

Starring: Jackson Lee, Shu Qi

The third feature film from Chinese director Bi Gan, *Resurrection* is a mindbending, genre-spanning homage to over 100 years of cinema. Having won the Prix Spécial in Competition at the 78th Cannes Film Festival this year, competing in the Official Selection of 70th Valladolid International Film Festival, and competing in the Competition section of the 30th Busan International Film Festival, the critical anticipation and reaction to the film has been exceptionally positive.

Resurrection is set in a world where humanity has discovered that the key to a prolonged life is to learn not to dream. Almost all of the human population now no longer dream, but there are a rare few – named ‘Fantasmer’ – that continue to. These ‘Fantasmer’ are able to ‘bring chaos to history’ and ‘make time jump’ with their dreams, and are therefore viewed as incredibly dangerous. As a result, there are rare individuals named ‘Big Others’ who have the ability to tell the illusions of dreams from the starkness of reality. The film follows a ‘Big Other’ (Shu Qi), who captures a ‘Fantasmer’ (Jackson Yee), and instead of killing him in a violent manner, decides to grant him a gentle death, where he can essentially dream until he passes away.

Resurrection takes the viewer through five short ‘chapters’, all of which feature a protagonist played by Jackson Yee in the role of the ‘Fantasmer’, and have a focus around one of the five senses – with a final ‘chapter’ that represents the mind. These ‘chapters’ span genres from the silent cinema of the early 1900s, through the sun-baked thrillers of the 1970s, all the way to the slick sci-fi and fantasy of the 1990s. It is a love letter to genre cinema, and an epic piece of work showing the profound importance of dreams and imagination, culminating in one of Bi Gan’s characteristic long takes that lasts an incredible 40 minutes.

‘A reminder of the uniquely paradoxical pleasures of immersion and surrender: a dazzlingly cineliterate lesson in the lost art of letting go’

-Variety

Excellent

Fair

Poor



What did you think of the film? Please mark or tear the number.

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Did You Know?

- The final 40 minute long take had no script; Bi Gan and Jackson Yee co-created and rehearsed it for two weeks, shooting three takes to get it right in the end.
- *Resurrection* was added to the Official Competition lineup for the 78th Cannes Film Festival just five days before it began.
- Lead actor Jackson Yee is the youngest member of the 167 members of the Chinese Film Association Council.

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Cemetery of Splendour (2015)
Cemetery of Splendour by Apichatpong Weerasethakul is one of the most distinctive and meditative films of the 2010s, and is very much kindred to Bi Gan’s cinema.



Long Day’s Journey Into Night (2018)
Also directed by Bi Gan, *Long Day’s Journey Into Night* explores time and memory, has hypnotic visual language, and an unforgettable long 3D take.

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