



Macau in the movies

WHILE IN MACAU FILMING FOR NEW MOVIE SKIPTRACE, DIRECTOR RENNY HARLIN AND SUPERSTARS FAN BINGBING AND JACKIE CHAN TALK TO MLIFE ABOUT THEIR LATEST PROJECT.

在澳门拍摄电影《绝地逃亡》期间，导演Renny Harlin以及国际巨星成龙和范冰冰和我们谈谈他们这部新电影。

BY MAT GALLAGHER
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能 说会辨的美国骗徒竟然成为帮助香港探员Bennie Black追捕罪犯以及拯救其姪女的人选。这就是正在澳门拍摄的动作喜剧《绝地逃亡》的故事剧情。这部横跨中港澳的剧本由国际动作巨星成龙亲自执笔。他在戏中扮演探员，与国内著名演员范冰冰及美国男星Johnny Knoxville (Jackass, 忍者神龟)有连场对手戏。这次中西合作由芬兰导演带领中国团队合作，并得到中美两地电影公司全力支持，势必成为卖座巨片。在拍摄休息期间，成龙、范冰冰及Renny Harlin与本刊详谈这部新电影的点点滴滴。

电影的故事从何而来？

Renny Harlin: 这故事是由成龙构思，他的原意是拍摄一部表达祖国情怀的电影，向观众展示中国美丽的景致。所以他构思了故事的主线再请得专业编剧撰写剧本。多位编剧联手，把各自擅长的元素如动作、武打、戏剧及喜剧等共冶一炉，构成这份感人的剧本，是一份充满感情与亲情元素的喜剧。

成龙: 最重要的一点是这部电影道出了我们国家不同地域之间的关系。就以电影《功夫梦》为例，它让观众惊叹：「噢，中国也可以是

这样的！」但其实它没有表达中国的文化，它只是一部动作喜剧。在《绝地逃亡》我决定把我三十年来的经验写成剧本，电影内有不少来自中国内地各地、香港、澳门、以及蒙古、俄罗斯的不同文化、语言、节庆等。

走那么多地方拍摄辛苦吗？

成龙: 不辛苦。港澳的拍摄过程很顺利，当地政府大力支持。在香港拍摄时人们问我有没有遇到黑帮（像《变形金刚》拍摄团队的遭遇）。没有，亦不会再发生。当地的警方、消防及其它部门也非常配合。

为甚麽选择澳门？

成龙: 选择澳门是因为戏中的骗徒决定来澳门作案，这是故事的开端。澳门是一个很特别的地方，很美丽。当美国拉斯维加斯有超过2万4千个客房时，澳门只有9千个，但现在澳门已经有超过2万个客房，以及在娱乐城中最高的收入(452亿元，大约是拉斯维加斯的七倍)。这是一个很重要的娱乐城。

RH: 当我第一次和成龙见面时，他便提及澳门。我从来没有到过澳门，他说：「你一定要去看看，澳门真的很美丽。」他又说：「我们使澳门成为电影中重要部分，因为全▶

A fast-talking American con artist becomes the only man who can help Hong Kong detective Bennie Black track down a notorious crime boss and save his niece. That's the premise behind new action-comedy blockbuster *Skiptrace*, currently filming in Macau. The story is written by none other than kung fu legend Jackie Chan and takes place across China, Hong Kong and Macau. Chan takes the role of detective Black, and is joined on screen by one of China's finest exports, the stunning Fan Bingbing and the American daredevil Johnny Knoxville (*Jackass*, *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles*). This is a true East-meets-West collaboration, with a Chinese crew headed by Finnish director Renny Harlin (*Nightmare on Elm Street 4*, *Die Hard 2*) and production companies in both the US and China backing the film. In a brief pause between scenes, we sit down with Jackie Chan, Fan Bingbing and Renny Harlin to hear more.

Where did the story come from?

Renny Harlin: The story for the film comes from Jackie, because really Jackie's dream was to make a movie that is like a love letter to China and really shows the audiences how incredible this country can be. So he

thought of the storyline and then a writer was hired to write a script. We worked with several writers – some were stronger with the action or the drama or plotting or some with sheer comedy, and we were able to do a combination to create a really heart-felt beautiful story. It has a love story, some family drama, and a lot of really funny comedy.

Jackie Chan: The most important thing about this movie is that it shows the relationship between the different areas of our country. Just like *The Karate Kid* – that made people think, "Wow, this is China." But that film didn't really showcase Chinese culture, it was just a kung fu comedy. With *Skiptrace* I decided to turn 30 years of experience into a movie. The film shows the different cultures, views, languages and festivals from Hong Kong, Macau, Russia, Mongolia and all over China.

Is it difficult visiting so many places to make one movie?

JC: Not really. The production has gone very smoothly in Hong Kong and Macau. We've had support from the local government, which has helped. In Hong Kong people asked me if the crew would be bothered by the local gangsters [as was the case with *Transformers*] but no, they didn't, and that ▶



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我们使澳门成为电影中重要部分，因为全世界都应该看看澳门是多么的美丽。



世界都应该看看澳门是多么的美丽。」所以我们便来了这儿。他太爱澳门了，而这里真的很美。

范冰冰：这次的拍摄我们去了很多很漂亮的地方，拍摄了很多很美很美的片段，十分难忘呢！

你如何决定在澳门的哪处取景？

RH：我们主要会在澳门美高梅拍摄。我们看过所有的娱乐场，坦白说，澳门美高梅最令我难忘。我想是因为她是最新之一吧，而且她有各式各样的建筑风格，走廊、大堂及房间都很令人感到震撼。视觉效果对这个故事而言很重要。

你又选了美高梅的哪里拍摄呢？

RH：我们选了天幕广场、一楼的贵宾厅、升降机及30楼那辉煌的黄

金走廊，亦包括了总统套房及娱乐场。拍摄进行得很顺利，美高梅的员工亦很帮忙，甚至安排了娱乐场一部份作拍摄之用。那庞大又有空间感的娱乐场效果真的很难得。很多娱乐场不会容许我们这样做，但我们在这里得到我们想要的画面。

戏中是不有一幕Johnny与冰冰在天幕广场相遇的戏份？

RH：是的，有一部份是在楼梯上拍摄冰冰走下楼梯。他们之后在娱乐场相遇，爱情线在那里开始。

成龙，请问你和冰冰合作过多少次？

成龙：好多很多次，但这次是和她合作的第二部电影。上一次她是我的女朋友，这一次我扮演她的叔

won't happen again. We had a lot of support from the police, fire and other departments.

Why did you chose to shoot part of the film in Macau?

JC：Macau was chosen because Johnny's character tries to come to Macau to cheat some money – that's the beginning of the movie. I think Macau has its own beauty. When Las Vegas had over 24,000 hotel rooms, Macau only had 9,000. But now Macau has over 20,000 rooms. And it has a bigger revenue [\$45.2 billion, around seven times that of Vegas]. This place is a very important entertainment city.

RH：When I first met Jackie, the first thing he talked about was Macau. I'd never been and he said, 'We have to make a very important part of the movie take place in Macau

because the rest of the world should see what a great place it is'. So, that's why we are here. Just because he loves this place so much. And now I know why he loves it. It's so beautiful.

Fan Bingbing：For this movie we've been to a lot of beautiful places. All of the scenes are beautifully shot. It's amazing.

And how did you choose where to shoot in Macau?

RH：We're going to be concentrating on the MGM MACAU. We looked at all the casinos and to be honest I was most impressed by MGM. I guess it's one of the newest, and it just has so much variety in terms of architecture – different kinds of hallways and spaces and rooms. For our story purposes, visually it was the most striking.

叔。我是可以演很多角色，可以是她的爸爸、叔叔、男朋友…

冰冰，再和成龙合作拍电影有何感想？

冰冰：我很高兴，因为和他合作每次都是机遇。他经常都有很多主意和故事。和他合作很舒服，因为他很照顾我和每一个工作人员。

拍摄好莱坞电影和国产电影有何分别？

成龙：最大的分别是导演没有流动住宅(笑)。我们不用跟随美国的做事方法，我可以不用动作替身。在美国拍摄有很多规定，演员不可以碰这，不可以碰那。但拍摄中美合作的电影，我可以作这个又可以作那个，拍摄会快很多。

中美合作是未来电影拍摄的大方向吗？

RH：这是肯定的，我很幸运成为第一批真正中美合作电影的导演之一。我很喜欢，亦懂得一点点中国的电影工业及电影历史。过去美国人会把美国的团队带来中国，而今次我决定用中国人的团队。队中的所有人都是来自中港澳。今次的合作经验很愉快，我亦希望再次合作。

澳门真是一个工作的好地方，她的好在于她很小，去所有地方都很

方便，大多数步行或短程车便到达拍摄场地。在其它地方，场景之间往往要数小时车程。

你和一个全是中国人的团队如何相处？你会说中文吗？

RH：不会，我大概只会说五个中文字，所以团队中有会说英语的成员，像我的拍摄指导及其它重要成员。我通常会直接和他人沟通，但这一次我需要我会讲双语的助理导演帮忙，她会替我翻译。虽然会花更多时间，有时也会令人沮丧，但我已经习惯了这种工作模式。

你认为这种中美合作除了会吸引中国的观众外，还会把中国电影带到国外市场吗？

RH：是的，我认为这部电影是一次完美的交流，因为中国的观众会很喜欢这部电影。我亦相信观众会到电影中呈现的美丽景点旅行，从而促进旅游业。这部电影亦会让美国和其它国家的观众大开眼界。外国人通常对中国有很强的固有印象及观念，让他们看看中国那多样又惊艳的景色可以增进他们对中国的认识。就电影工业而言，我认为国际观众会发现中国式剧情的特质。在将来，美国的合作团队会在中国的电影更常出现，反之亦然。■

And which bits of MGM MACAU have you used for the shoot?

RH：We are using the central courtyard [Grande Praça], the VIP corridors and elevator area, the rainbow corridor, the 30th floor golden corridor – a beautiful corridor, we're using the villa and we're using the casino. It's really been great, the MGM staff have been so helpful and were able to arrange for us to really shoot in the casino, to have an area for ourselves and have the extras there. We were able to really get a feel of the big casino space, which is not so common. Many casinos don't want you to shoot there, but here we really managed to get the scope of it all.

And I believe there's an important meeting scene between Johnny and Bingbing in the Grande Praça?

RH：Yes, well, we're shooting part of it on the staircase, where Bingbing comes down the stairs. Then they actually meet in the casino and their love story starts there.

Jackie, how many times have you worked with Bingbing?

JC：It feels like a lot. But this is the second movie I've worked with her on. Last time she was my girlfriend, this time I'm playing her uncle. I'm quite a flexible actor, I can be her father, uncle, boyfriend...

Bingbing, what's it like making another movie with Jackie Chan?

FB：I am really happy because working with him is a great opportunity. He always has a lot of new ideas and stories. He makes me feel comfortable and he always takes care of me and everyone else in the production.

What are the differences in working on a Chinese film compared to a Hollywood production?

JC：The big difference here is the director doesn't have a motorhome [laughs]. And we don't have to follow all the American rules. I can do my own stunts. When you're filming in America there are so many rules. The actor cannot touch the table, the actor cannot move the camera dolly – you cannot do this, you cannot do that. But making an American-Chinese film in China, I can move the camera, I can move the dolly. It's much quicker.

Are collaborations between America and China the future for the movie industry?

RH：Oh, for sure. I am so lucky to be one of the first directors to be making a true American-Chinese co-production. I know quite a bit about the Chinese film industry and Chinese films, and I love them. While in the past it's been common that when Americans come to work in China they bring most of the crew with them, I decided I was going to use an all-Chinese crew. So everybody in our crew is from either China or Hong Kong or Macau. It's been an incredible collaboration and I look forward to many more after this.

Macau is absolutely a dream place to work in, and it's so nice because it's small – I can go to a shoot from my room in an elevator or just across the street, or take a little car ride, where in some other places we've been shooting we have to drive for hours to get to where we want to be.

How do you deal with a full Chinese crew? Do you speak Mandarin?

RH：No, I speak like five words of Mandarin, so we have some English-speaking crew members like my director of photography, and some of the other key people. I'm used to addressing everyone directly but here in most cases I do have to go through my first assistant director, who's bilingual, and she will translate my directions and so on to everybody. Of course it takes a little more time and sometimes it can be a little frustrating but I've now gotten very used to that way of working.

Do you think these American-Chinese collaborations will also introduce Chinese films to a Western audience?

RH：I think so. I think our film is the perfect crossover because I think Chinese people will love it. I think that it will encourage tourism and more people will travel to see these places that they realise are so beautiful. It will really open people's eyes in America and the rest of the world. I think people often have stereotypical ideas of China, but to see the incredible beauty and the variety of the areas will be really eye opening. As for the film industry, I think international audiences will discover that a story that takes place in China can be really special. There's a huge future for American involvement in movies in China but it can definitely go both ways. ■

