



MOSTRA INTERNAZIONALE  
D'ARTE CINEMATOGRAFICA  
LA BIENNALE DI VENEZIA 2025  
Official Selection

# PRAYING MANTIS

YONFAN presents

A film by JOE HSIEH

螳螂



Shu-Fang Chen Vera Chen Bamboo Chen Yun-Li Lan cast Joe Hsieh Jie Zhan screenplay Willow Wu production manager Willow Wu art director Shao-Chun Chung An-Wen Zheng Yi Weng Ya-Chien Wang Shin-Han Huang Eden Chan animation Joe Hsieh Nicole Lee character design Willow Wu background design  
Shao-Hsuan Yang Yi-Ru Lin Shang-Hua Peng Chih-Hsien Chen Wan-Ting Hsu coloring Chiu Ling Chen title design Duu-Chih Tu Chen-Yu Wu supervising sound editors 3H Sound Studio Ltd. Dolby Mixing Studio Li Shih insert music song written and lyrics "Love You More Than I Will Die" Olivia Tsao vocal Olivier Cong music composer  
Joe Hsieh director Yonfan producer a Far-Sun film presentation Pleasure Garden presentation Miyu distribution

MIYU



## SYNOPSIS

In a bustling street famous for its nightlife, a praying mantis mutant seduces and preys on men out of desperation to save her child. A failed mission led to revelations of her past and dark secrets as the story unfolds in a most dramatic and captivating fashion.

## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

This film tells a story of selfless sacrifices and courage which emanate out of maternal love. A mother is always willing to give everything for her child, no matter how high the price.

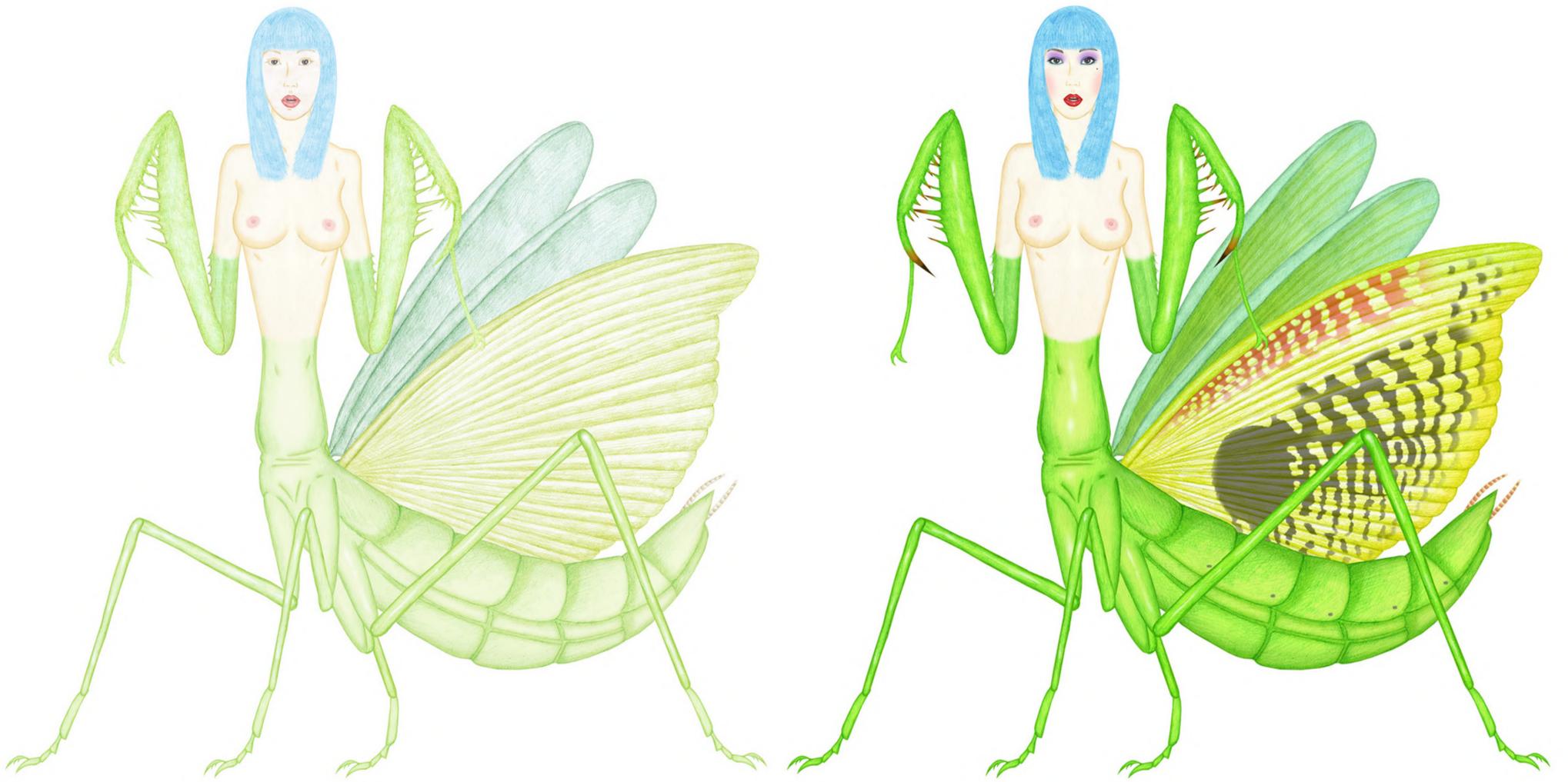




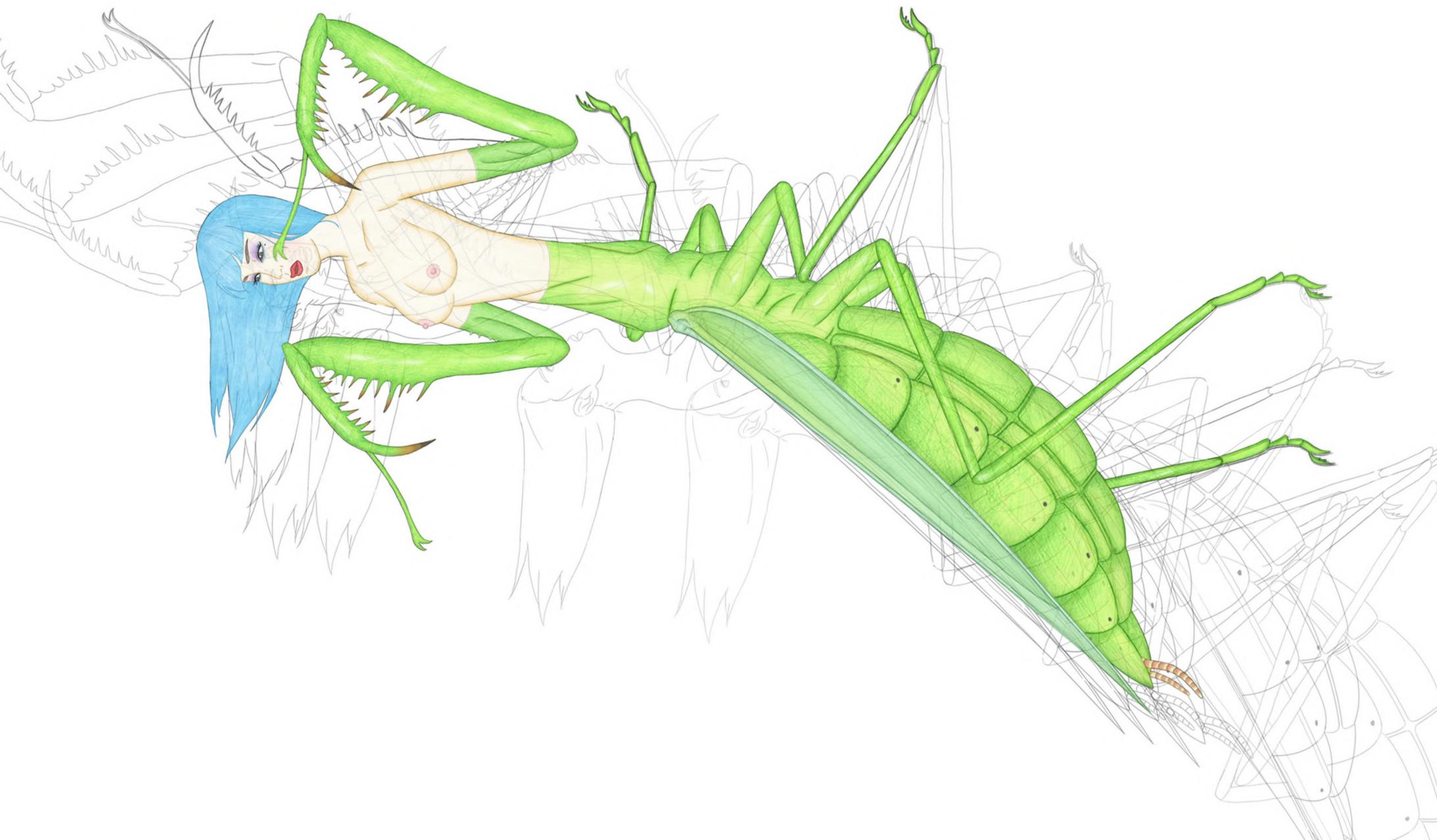
## THE MAKING OF

The character designs and background scenes in this film are all hand-drawn pencil on paper, then scanned into the computer for coloring and post-production.



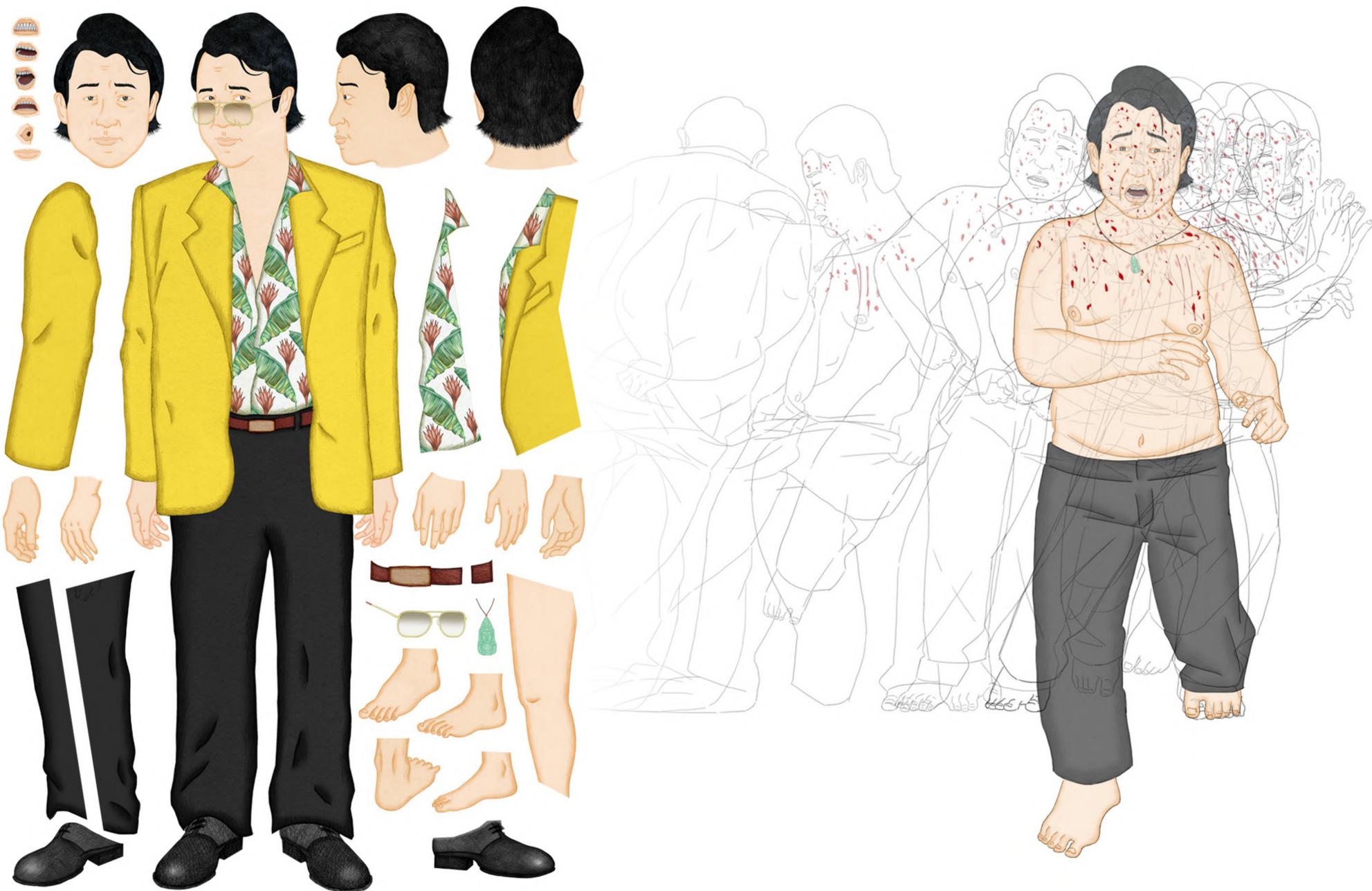


The animation is created using 2D frame-by-frame techniques to enrich the subtle expressions of body movements and facial features.





Coloring is done by collaging each frame individually to preserve the unique texture of pencil sketches.





## DIRECTOR

### **Joe Hsieh** 謝文明

An independent Taiwan animation director whose works often explore the dark side of human nature and filled with drama, horror and suspense. Joe has a background in Fine Arts of which he combined with his love of films to create a style all his own. Joe's films have screened and have received many awards in film festivals worldwide, including Animafest Zagreb and Sundance.

### **Filmography**

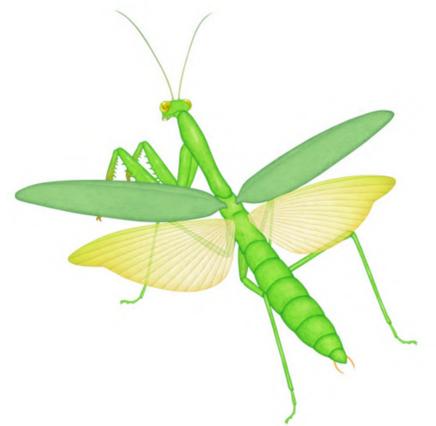
*Meat Days* (2006)

*The Present* (2014)

*No.7 Cherry Lane*(2019)

*Night Bus* (2020)

*Praying Mantis* (2025)



## PRODUCER

### **Yonfan** 楊凡

Yonfan is a renowned film author, photographer and writer. He began making films in the 1980s and is best known for *Story of Rose* (1986), *Bishonen* (1998), *Peony Pavilion* (2001) and *Colour Blossoms* (2004). He was awarded Best Screenplay at the Venice Film Festival for the animation *No.7 Cherry Lane* (2019).

# Film Information

<b>Film Title</b>	<b><i>Praying Mantis</i> 螳螂</b>
<b>Run Time</b>	<b>18 minutes</b>
<b>Country &amp; Production Year</b>	<b>Taiwan, Hong Kong (Jan 2025)</b>
<b>Genre</b>	<b>Animation, Thriller, Suspense</b>
<b>Technique</b>	<b>Hand-drawn, 2D Animation</b>
<b>Cast &amp; Crew</b>	
<b>Director</b>	<b><i>Joe Hsieh</i></b>
<b>Producer</b>	<b>Yonfan</b>
<b>Screenplay</b>	<b><i>Joe Hsieh, Jie Zhan</i></b>
<b>Production Manager</b>	<b><i>Willow Wu</i></b>
<b>Cast</b>	<b><i>Shu-Fang Chen, Vera Chen, Bamboo Chen, Yun-Li Lan, Ching-Chia Chang, Jhih-Yuan Tseng</i></b>
<b>Supervising Sound Editors</b>	<b><i>Duu-Chih Tu, Chen-Yu Wu</i></b>
<b>Music Composer</b>	<b><i>Olivier Cong</i></b>
<b>Presented by</b>	<b>Pleasure Garden Film Ltd. Far-Sun Film Co. Ltd.</b>
<b>Distribution Contact</b>	<b><i>Luce Grosjean</i> Miyu Distribution Email: <a href="mailto:luce.grosjean@miyu.fr">luce.grosjean@miyu.fr</a> Tel: +33 4 67 56 13 93</b>

