



BORDERLINES FILM FESTIVAL

RESURRECTION (15)

Director: Bi Gan

Starring: Jackson Yee, Shu Qi, Mark Chao, Li Gengxi, Huang Jue, Chen Yongzhong

China, 2025, 2 hours 39 minutes, Chinese + English subtitles

Bi Gan's stylish *Long Day's Journey into Night* played at Borderlines in 2020. The director's new film, *Resurrection*, will appeal to those who love cinema, dealing as it does with the history of the medium in the late 19th century through to what appears to be its state of exhaustion and transposing it against the history of China through the decades. It's stunning to watch, if occasionally bewildering to follow. The film has received highly positive critical reception, boasting an 89 to 90% score on Rotten Tomatoes.

Justin Chang in *The New Yorker* in December 2025, praised it as an "ecstatic, extravagant work of artifice and imagination" and one of the best films of the year. He highlighted the film as a surreal, dream-like tribute to cinema, featuring a "delirious" vampire love story in a single take. "Few movies this year can hold a fast-melting candle to Bi Gan's *Resurrection*" he wrote.

"With his ravishing third feature, visionary director Bi Gan takes his deepest plunge yet into the realm of pure dreamscape. In a world where humans have forsaken dreams in exchange for immortality, a dreaming monster (Jackson Yee) embarks on a shape-shifting odyssey through illusion, beauty, and terror that takes him across a century of cinema and to the end of time. Unfolding in five dazzlingly imagined chapters that encompass everything from silent-era expressionism to film noir to a delirious vampire love story shot in one of Bi's signature long takes, *Resurrection* is a work of breathtaking imagination in which cinema is the ultimate portal to the unconscious mind." (**Criterion Channel**)

"Bi Gan's first film in 7 years (he's still only 36), cements his place at the vanguard of contemporary cinema; a filmmaker whose singular vision, and self-confidence, makes for thrilling viewing experiences. *Resurrection* is his most ambitious work to date (and the boldest film of the year). A sprawling and hallucinatory sci-fi epic which begins in a kind of Guy Maddin early-cinema styled future, before plunging backwards into 20th century Chinese history. This is a vast genre-hopping canvas. And as with such films (think the Wachowskis' *Cloud Atlas* or Bertrand Bonello's *The Beast*) there is a fine line between art and folly. *Resurrection* might be uneven and a little frustrating when compared to Bi's *Kaili Blues* or his majestic *Long Day's Journey into Night*, but when it works it soars, and pushes the boundaries of what cinema can achieve." (**The Garden Cinema**)

Notes compiled by Stephen Hopkins (Board Member)

Preview courtesy of Trinity CineAsia