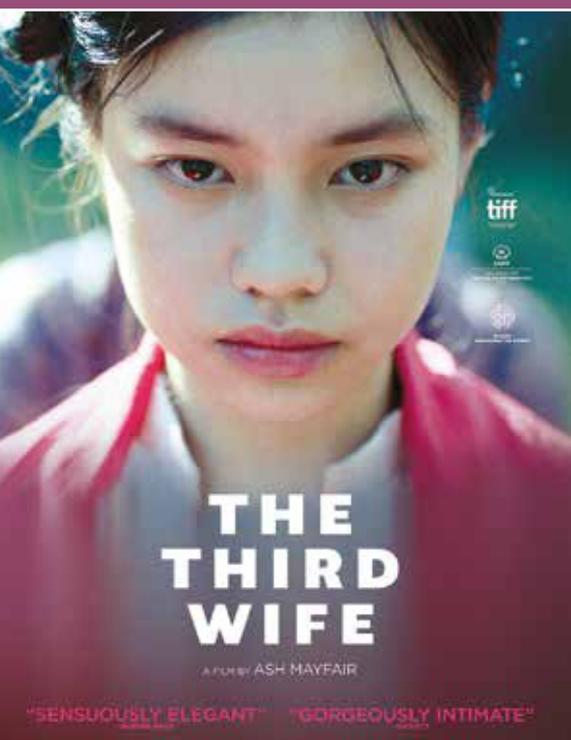


THE THIRD WIFE

VIETNAM 2018 // 92 MINS // VIETNAMESE (EST)



SYNOPSIS

In 19th century rural Vietnam, 14-year-old May becomes the third wife of wealthy landowner Hung. Soon she learns that she can only gain status by asserting herself as a woman who can give birth to a male child. May's hope to change her status turns into a real and tantalizing possibility when she gets pregnant. Faced with forbidden love and its devastating consequences, May finally comes to an understanding of the brutal truth: the options available to her are few and far between.

WHAT THE CRITICS SAY

There is much that is finely wrought here as a tactile slice of women's history told in careful observances, hidden textures and the sights and sounds of nature unbound.

Robert Abele, Los Angeles Times

These times of ours are not conducive to delicacy, and *The Third Wife* is so graceful in its movements it might seem an indulgence, too luxurious and too long-view attuned to the life-cycle rhythms of birth and death, calving and slaughter to have much of a pointed message. But despite its seeming placidity, there is something urgent that runs deep beneath its still surface. In May and in Ha and Xuan, there are all the women and girls of the past who've been ignored, abused, forced into competition with one another, made to endure a degradation of spirit and a commodification of body so complete it should have resulted in their annihilation, like silkworms steaming alive inside their cocoons. But with *The Third Wife* new talent Mayfair reclaims just a few of those silvery strands from the neglect of history and weaves them into a film so sensuous we can lose ourselves in it, but so vividly real we might also be able to find ourselves there. **Jessica Kiang, Variety**

Vietnamese writer-director Ash Mayfair's feature-length debut won a prize at the Spanish festival [San Sebastian 2018], having previously nabbed an award at Toronto. The plight of a (very) young bride in 19th century Vietnam is touchingly if conventionally dramatized in writer-director Ash Mayfair's *The Third Wife*. Winner of minor-jury prizes at its first two festivals, Toronto and San Sebastian, this emphatically female-focused affair from an unusual geographical source is guaranteed play at such events over the coming months. An audience-friendly affair which deals with harrowing subject-matter in restrained, tactful and aesthetically entrancing style, it could also plausibly score art-house theatrical play in receptive territories.

Neil Young, The Hollywood Reporter



CAST

Character	Actor
Ong Ba	Hong Chuong Nguyen
Hung	Long Le Vu
Ha	Nu Yên-Khê Tran
Xuan	Mai Thu Huong Maya
May	Nguyen Phuong Tra My
Ba Lao	Nhu Quynh Nguyen
Son	Nguyen Thanh Tam
Lien	Lam Thanh My
Nhan	Mai Cát Vi
Bo Cau	Khanh An Tang
Ong Van	Trung Anh
Tuyet	Thi Kim Ngan Pham

CREW

DIRECTOR/ WRITER	Ash Mayfair
CINEMATOGRAPHY	Chananun Chotrungroj
FILM EDITING	Julie Béziau
ORIGINAL MUSIC	An Ton That

BOOKING INFORMATION

DISTRIBUTOR	Eureka
NON-THEATRICAL BOOKINGS	Cinema for All cinemaforall.org.uk/ booking-scheme/
AVAILABLE	Now

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