

# 連理枝

First Bloom



## PRESS KIT

Short Film: CG 2D Animation  
Length: 4 minutes 38 seconds

Directed and Animated by

Tingting Liu

Produced by

Tingting Liu

Wintersweet Animation Studio  
[wintersweetanimation.com](http://wintersweetanimation.com)

## SYNOPSIS SHORT

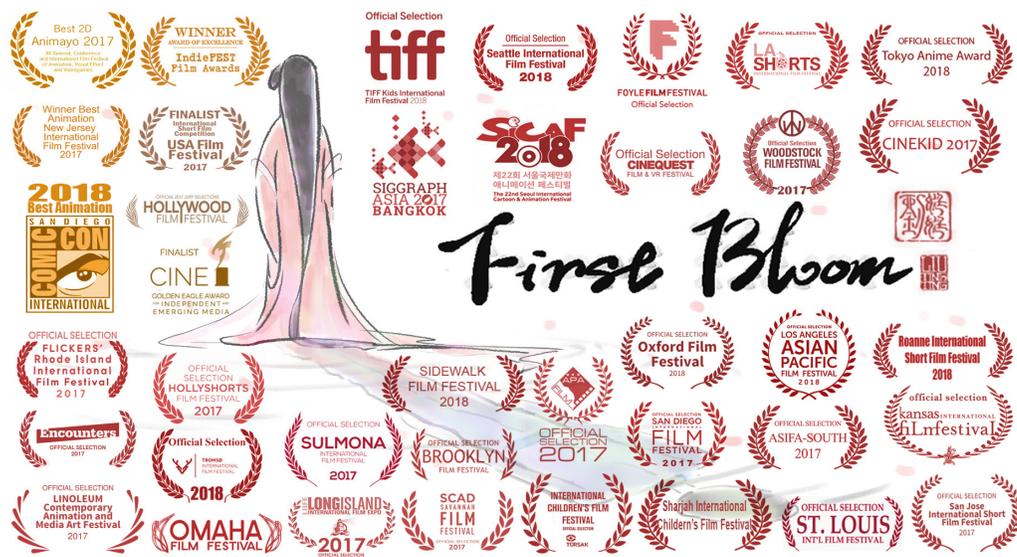
A servant in the royal palace, one emperor's daughter, They grew up together, they became friends and soul mates. Naturally their budding feelings for each other are forbidden in this feudalistic kingdom, but they strive for the freedom to love and to bloom.

## SYNOPSIS

Born in a poor family, the kid was sold at a very young age to be a servant of the emperor's daughter in the royal palace. Sharing joy and sorrow, they grew up together, became friends and soul mates. However, their budding love seemed unrealistic in this feudalistic kingdom. More than a love story, *First Bloom* expresses the willing to revolt the ruthless oppression of traditional authorities, which is experienced by every individual struggled between old straitjacket and modern spirit, facing profound changes in society. One may suffer, one may feel lost, but in the unyielding pursuit for purity and beauty, we will always strive for the freedom to love and to bloom.

## DETAIL INFO

Director/Story:	Tingting Liu
Animation:	Tingting Liu
Producer:	Tingting Liu
Genre:	Animation
Lenth:	04'38
Size:	1920*1080
Shoot Location:	USA,China
Completion Date:	2017 Jan
Website:	wintersweetanimation.com
Vimeo:	<a href="https://vimeo.com/user61893008">https://vimeo.com/user61893008</a>
Facebook:	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/FirstBloomAnimation">https://www.facebook.com/FirstBloomAnimation</a>



## **SCREENING , AWARD and Event:**

2018 San Diego Comic-Con international independent Film Festival, USA\_ **Best Animated Film**  
2017 Animayo 2017 Festival Internacional de Cine de Animación, Spain\_ **Best 2D Animation**  
2017 **IndieFest Award, USA**  
2017 New Jersey International film festival, USA\_ **Best Animation Award**  
2017 47th Annual USA Film Festival, USA\_ **Finalist of International Shot Film**  
2017 60th Cine Golden Eagle Awards, USA- **Finalist of Best Animation Short**  
2017 Hollywood Film Festival, USA\_ **Nominee for Jury Prize**  
2017 Flickers' Rhode Island International Film Festival, USA  
2017 LA international shorts film festival, USA  
2017 Hollyshorts film festival, USA  
2017 Encounters International Short Film and Animation Festival, UK  
2017 Foyle Film Festival, Ireland  
2017 CINEKID, Netherlands  
2017 Siggraph- Asia, Thailand  
2017 Woodstock Film Festival, USA  
2017 San Diego International Film Festival, USA  
2017 Brooklyn Film Festival, USA  
2017 LINOLEUM Contemporary Animation and Media Art Festival, Ukraine  
2017 St. Louis International Film Festival, USA  
2017 35th Sulmona International Film Festival, Italy  
2017 San Jose short Film Festival, USA  
2017 Savannah Film Festival, USA  
2017 ASIFA-South, USA  
2017 Long Island International Film Expo, USA  
2017 Kansas International Film Festival, USA  
2017 DC Asian Pacific American Film Festival, USA  
  
2018 **PIXAR ANIMATION STUDIO, PIXAR University Presentation-Making of FIRST BLOOM, USA**  
2018 **DISNEY ANIMATION STUDIO, Presentation-Making of FIRST BLOOM, USA**  
2018 **LAIKA STUDIO, Presentation-Making of FIRST BLOOM, USA**  
2018 **BLUE SKY STUDIO, Presentation-Making of FIRST BLOOM, USA**  
2018 **TONKO HOUSE, -Tonko Cast Interview: Making of FIRST BLOOM, USA**  
  
2018 Toronto International Film Festival KID, Canada  
2018 Seattle International Film Festival ,USA  
2018 CINEQUEST, USA  
2018 Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival ,USA  
2018 Tokyo Anime Award, Japan  
2018 Omaha Film Festival, USA  
2018 Tromsø International Film Festival, Norway  
2018 roanne international short film festival, France  
2018 Oxford Film Festival, USA  
2018 TURSAK 15th International Children's Film Festival, Turkey  
2018 Sidewalk Film Festival, USA  
2018 Seoul International Cartoon & Animation Festival  
2018 Sharjah International Children's Film Festival, UAE

## CAST & CREW BIOS

### Tingting Liu

Director/Producer

Story/Animator/Designer/2d Effects Artist



Tingting Liu is a female independent director, animator and designer originated from China, now working in Hollywood movie industry. She contributed in many awards-winning animation movies including **Kubo of the Two Strings, The Peanuts Movie, Ice Age: Collision Course, Rio2, Cars 2** of several world-renowned animation studios as Pixar Animation Studio, Blue Sky Studio, Laika Studio as feature film animator.

Tingting Liu is an ASIFA pro member, and an active member of Visual Effects Society. After four-year BA study of graphic design in the Academy of Art and Design of Tsinghua University, she got an MFA degree of animation from

Savannah College of Art and Design. Tingting Liu start Wintersweet Animation Studio 2017 for producing more independent interesting animation shorts and film projects.

<http://www.imdb.com/name/nm3186425/>

### Tao Liu

Composer



Tao Liu's music is featured in the Chinese film **Forever Young** starring ZI YI ZHANG(**Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon, Memoirs of a Geisha**)has grossed over 100 million US dollars or 650 million CNY at the box office.(**Box Office NO.1 in China Feb 2, 2018**).

In 2016 Tao Liu was the score producer for a **Bruce Willis** film and hired with London Symphony Orchestra to perform the score and recorded the score at Abbey Road Studios.

Tao Liu is an active composer and score producer mainly works for film, TV and multi-media projects. He has worked on over 70 projects including feature films, documentaries, video games, com-

mercials, trailers and short films. Liu's strength including writing big Hollywood dramatic music as well as intimate subtle music. And has a unique and effective way of enhancing the story with melody, harmony and orchestration. He is a winner of Best Original Score in Asians on Film Festival 2013. He is also a nominee for Best Original Score in the National Short Film Festival and Best Original Score in the San Francisco Short Film Festival. His music also featured in numerous award-winning films including **Higher Sky which has won a student Academy Award** for best Animation. Tao Liu has a master degree in Film Scoring and Filmology. He was accepted by both BFA and the prestigious Film Scoring Program at USC. After graduation, Tao Liu interned at Remote Control Productions and learned music production concept and technology from Academy **Award-winning composer Hans Zimmer** and his team. He's also an assistant and music Programmer at **Ilseley Music founded by Christopher Young**. And an orchestrator of **Dragon Nest: Warrior' Dawn** produced by Mission **Impossible III** producer Bill Borden. He was hired in Jerry Bruckheimer's Feature Film **Deliver Us From Evil** as a Music Arranger and Programmer. This film was directed by **Doctor Strange** Director **Scott Derrickson**, starring **Eric Bana** and **Olivia Munn**.

<http://www.imdb.com/name/nm4580009/>

## Daniel R. Casey

Visual effects



Dan is a leading visual effects, concept and texture artist for world famous animation studio, Laika. He has 20 + years of CGI and Stop motion experience with a focus on design and art direction for world-renowned film and TV. His work includes many Oscar nominated film projects: Supervisor for Digital Design Group on **Coraline**, Preproduction CG Supervisor on **ParaNorman**, Previs artist on The **Box Trolls** and Layout and Concept artist for **Kubo and the two strings**. Dan worked for several years as a lead digital artist and texture supervisor on Columbia Pictures' feature film **Final Fantasy: The Spirits Within**, a masterpiece and beloved by millions of final fanta-

sy fans.

In his previous years, Dan founded Metropolis Digital, a CG production and VFX house in San Jose, California, where he supervised and art directed productions for FOX TV, TBS, The X-Files, FOX Kids, Saban Entertainment, and Centropolis Effects.

<http://www.imdb.com/name/nm1511374/>

**Amanda peach Hughes**  
Sound Designer



Amanda Peach Hughes began her sound designing education and career back in the Fall of 2013 at Savannah College of Art and Design. Since then, she has sound supervised, edited and designed as well as composed music on over 30 independent projects, several of which have been selected for film festivals throughout the globe, including the **Seattle International Film Festival**, **NYC Independent Film Festival**, **Atlanta Horror Film Festival**, and **Telluride Film Festival**. She has also led the sound design for shorts that have been developed for organizations, such as **Shriners Hospital for Children**, and composed music for an animated short that has appeared on ShortsHD.

<http://www.imdb.com/name/nm6695783/>



## CREDITS

<b>Director</b>	Tingting Liu
<b>Producer</b>	Tingting Liu
<b>Story</b>	Tingting Liu
<b>Layout</b>	Tingting Liu
<b>Animation</b>	Tingting Liu
<b>Clean Up and Color</b>	Tingting Liu
<b>Design and Background</b>	Tingting Liu
<b>2D effects</b>	Tingting Liu
<b>3D reference</b>	Tingting Liu
<b>Visual Effects</b>	Dan Casey
<b>Sound Design</b>	Amanda Peach Hughes
<b>Voice</b>	Amanda Peach Hughes
<b>Composer</b>	Tao Liu
<b>Orchestrate</b>	Tao Liu
<b>Conductor</b>	Peter Pejtsik
<b>Music Performed by</b>	Budapest Scoring Orchestra
<b>Music Recorded at</b>	Studio 22
<b>Music Recording</b>	Miklos Lukas
<b>Session Supervisor</b>	Balint Sapszon
<b>Chinese session supervisor</b>	Luna Safari
<b>Dizi soloist</b>	Keqi Zhou
<b>Pipa soloist</b>	Jiangang Qiu
<b>Chinese session recordists</b>	Supeng Kong Fei Chen
<b>DCP Help</b>	Jackie White
<b>Advising support</b>	Bridget Underwood Sandrine Han Jin Kuang Lluis Llobera YuchChih Eric Lin Laurent Rossi

## Working Photos

Recording Chinese Instrument in China



Recording Orchestra at Budapest Scoring Orchestra



Painting Frame



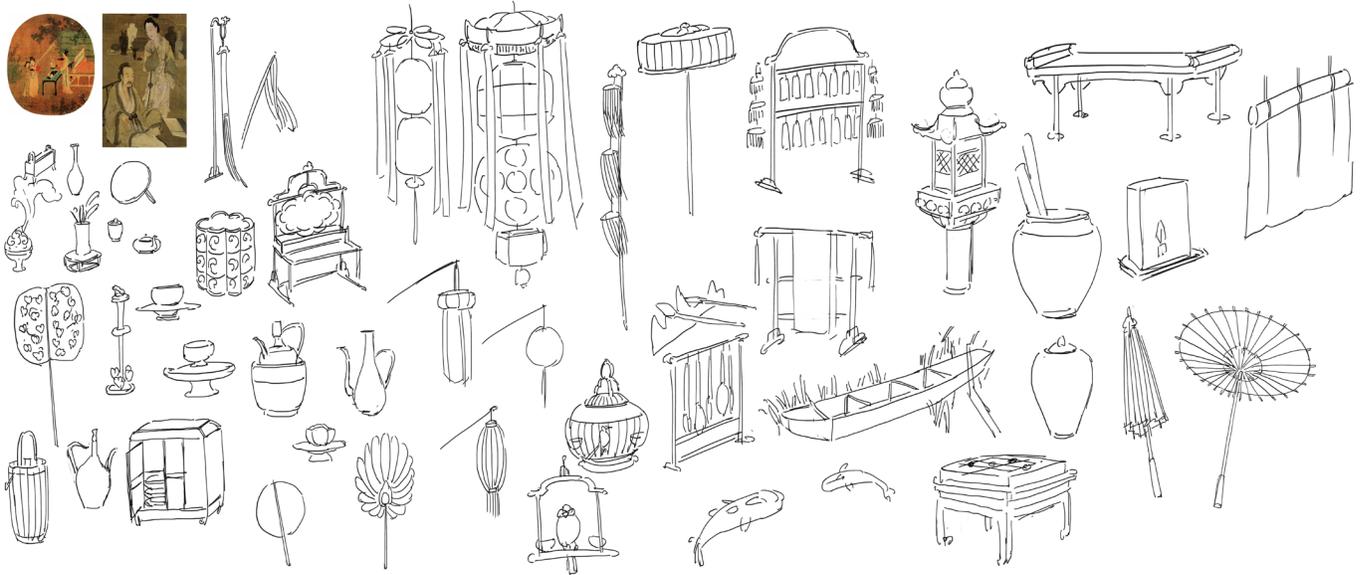
Working on VFX



## Some how we made it images:

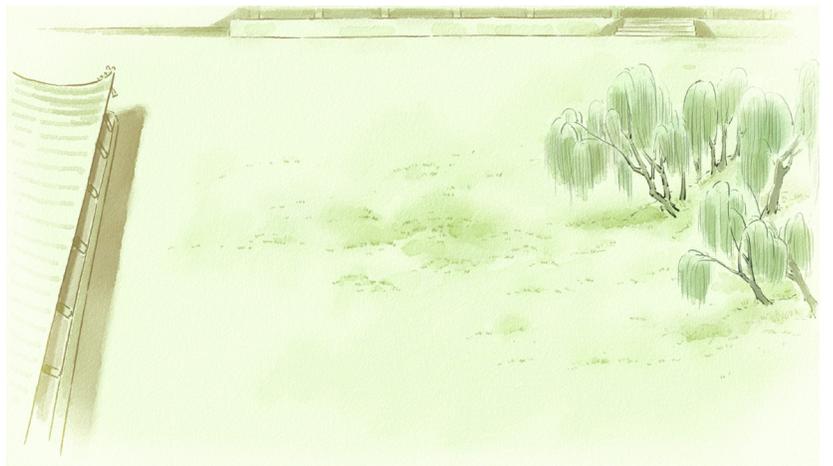
Director studied ancient furniture, outfit, plants, Architecture from ancient paintings in different dynasties, also did many sketch paintings from forbidden city, southern villages and temples of China

## Character Design and Set Design





# Background



The whole animation was created in computer, Director spent long time to explore watercolor style in computer software.



Contact: [wintersweetanimation@gmail.com](mailto:wintersweetanimation@gmail.com)