

BACK STREET DUSK

消逝的後街光影

A teenager finds his deceased grandfather's possessions in a storeroom and as a result meets a man dedicated to restoring old films. The two embark on a quest in search of an old movie. A story of film restoration, Taiwanese Hokkien cinema and family.

Taiwanese Hokkien cinema flourished in the 1960s. But the arrival of television broadcasts, government policies promoting Mandarin and intrusive censorship practices changed that. And now the glories of that golden age are, like reels of film in a basement, forgotten.

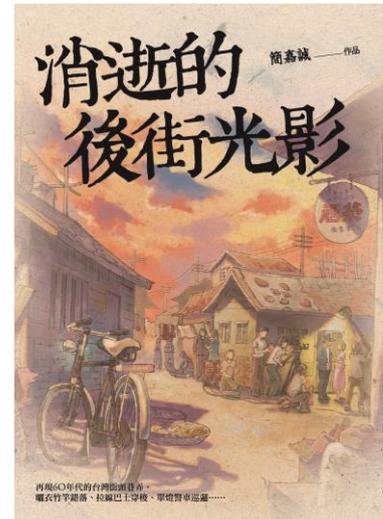
Happy's job is to track down those lost movies and restore them using cutting-edge tech. One day he comes across a video online showing a teenager, Chung, opening a crate of his grandfather's belongings. And in the crate – a copy of the long-lost classic, *The Back Streets*.

Happy rushes to the boy's house to save the film reels: if they aren't stored in a temperature-controlled environment they will soon deteriorate in Taiwan's heat and humidity. But on arriving, he is disappointed to find the film has deteriorated past the point of recovery. But Chung, also disappointed, joins Happy's quest and searches for a copy of his grandfather's film.

Golden Comic Award winner Jian Jia-Cheng again produces a graphic novel of historical accuracy and heart. The story takes place both in the current day, as Happy and Chung search for the lost movie, and in the past as Chung's grandfather makes it. It shows the painstaking efforts required to restore an old film, and how urgent the task is, as well as reminding us of the challenges filmmakers of the past faced and the passion with which they met those challenges.

Jian Jia-Cheng 簡嘉誠

Despite having graduated with a BA in English, Jian Jia-Cheng decided he would spend his life drawing comics while still at middle school.



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After college, he worked as a financial cartoonist and as a storyboard artist for animation studios and advertisements. He began to publish his own original works, not only as a solo artist and writer, but also as a collaborator with others. His simple drawing style stands out from the various types of Japanese manga that dominate much of the comic market, and he has represented Taiwan at the Angoulême International Comics Festival.

Taipei. Today.



The stars in the sky are silent~





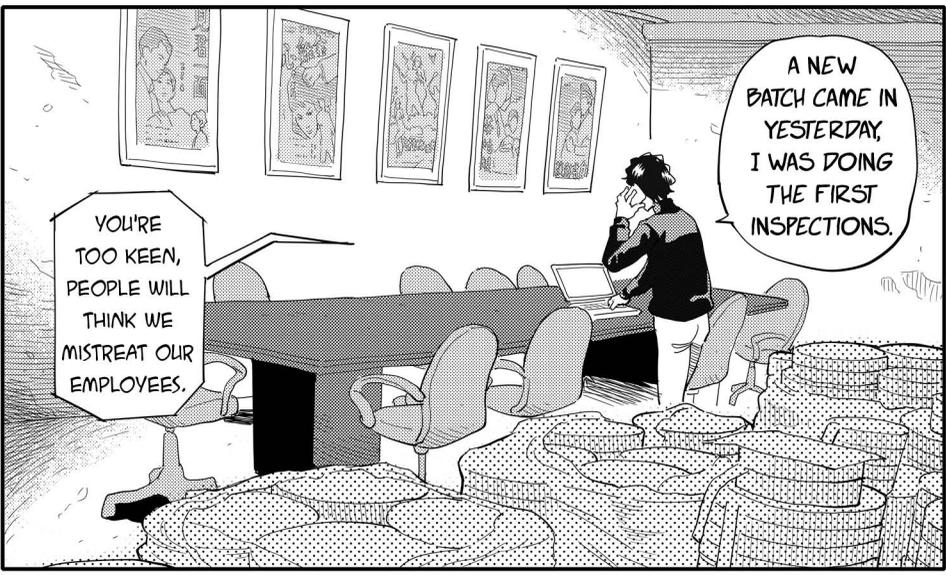
MY LAP-
TOP'S
AT
HOME.

YOU SLEPT
AT THE
ARCHIVE
AGAIN?
USE MINE.



UH...
HELLO?

HAPPY,
QUICK, LOOK
AT THE
YOUTUBE
LINK I JUST
SENT YOU!



YOU'RE
TOO KEEN,
PEOPLE WILL
THINK WE
MISTREAT OUR
EMPLOYEES.

A NEW
BATCH CAME IN
YESTERDAY,
I WAS DOING
THE FIRST
INSPECTIONS.

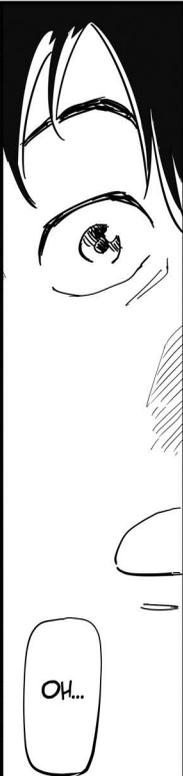
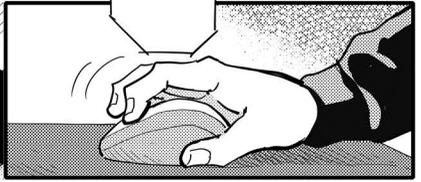
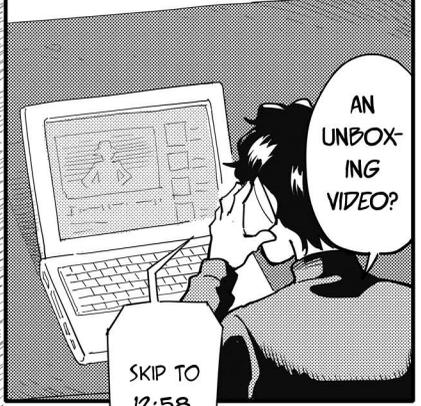
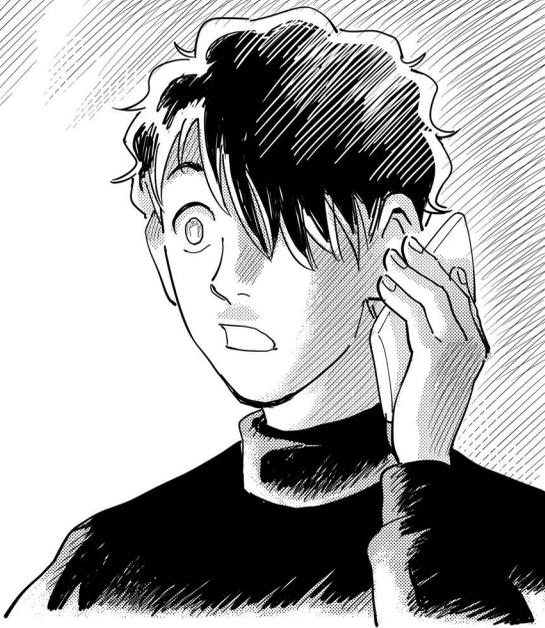


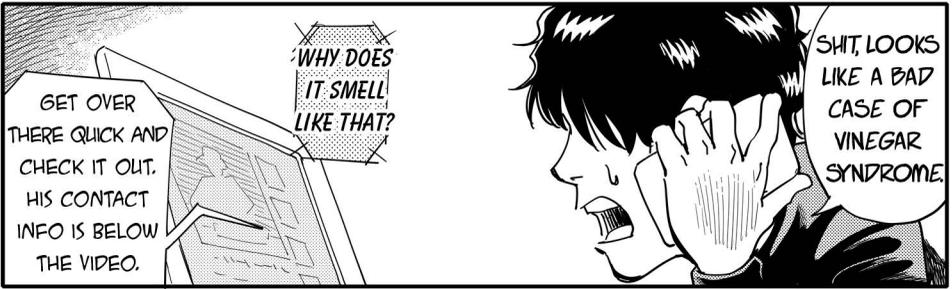
TODAY
WE'VE GOT
SOME MORE
WEIRD STUFF
TO UNBOX.

HELLO
EVERYONE,
THIS IS
CHUNG.



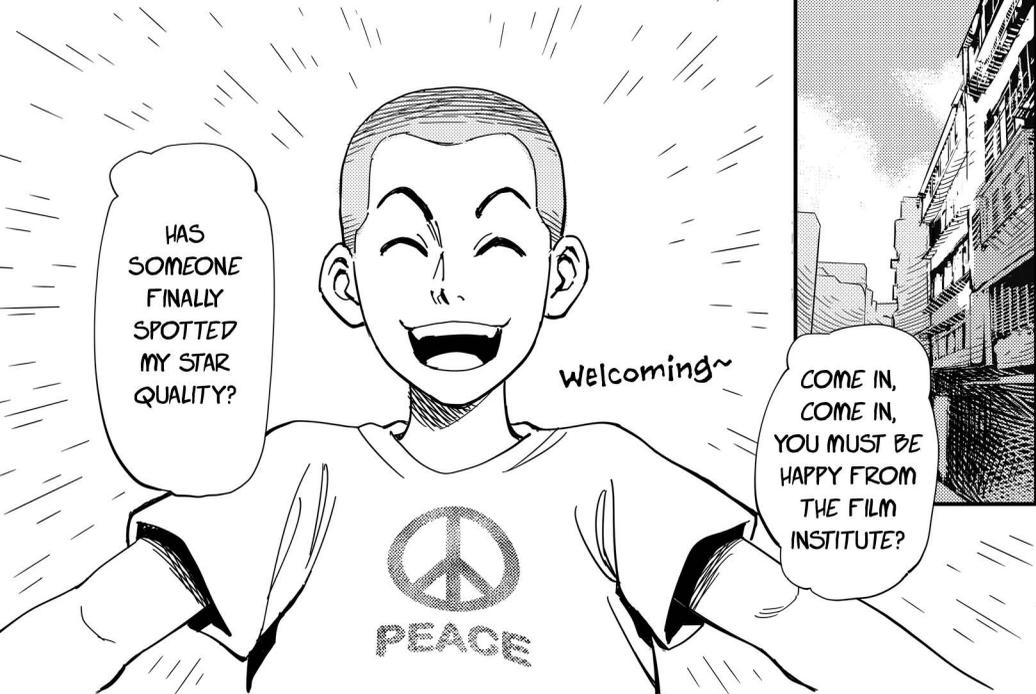
I WANTED
TO GET
THEM INTO
COLD-
ROOM
QUICKLY...





國
影
典
藏
中
心

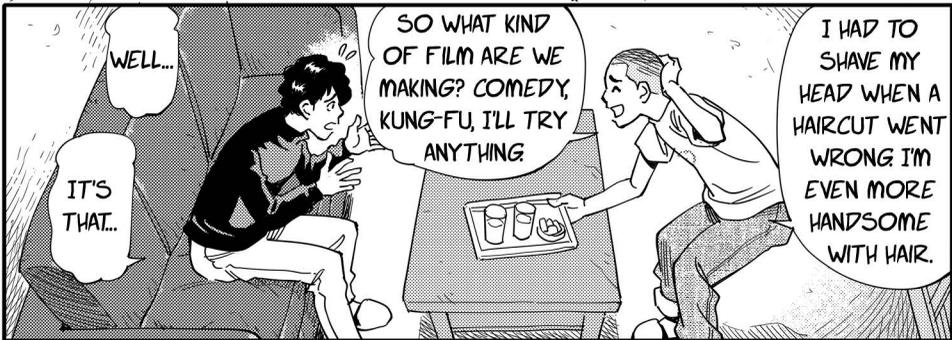
Taiwan
Film
Institute
Archives



HAS SOMEONE FINALLY SPOTTED MY STAR QUALITY?

Welcoming~

COME IN, COME IN, YOU MUST BE HAPPY FROM THE FILM INSTITUTE?

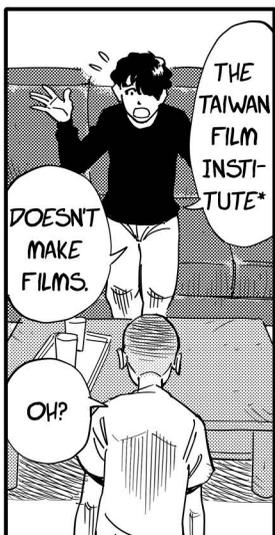


WELL...

IT'S THAT..

SO WHAT KIND OF FILM ARE WE MAKING? COMEDY, KUNG-FU, I'LL TRY ANYTHING

I HAD TO SHAVE MY HEAD WHEN A HAIRCUT WENT WRONG I'M EVEN MORE HANDSOME WITH HAIR.



DOESN'T MAKE FILMS.

THE TAIWAN FILM INSTITUTE*

OH?



ACTUALLY...

NO...

BUT NOTHING SAD, I COULDN'T BEAR TO BE IN ANYTHING SAD.

* The Taiwan Film Institute was founded by the Ministry of Culture to preserve Taiwanese cinematic heritage and promote cinematic culture.



Upbeat~

NEVER MIND I'M STILL BUILDING MY FAN-BASE. I'LL BEAT PEWDIEPIE ONE DAY.

I'M SURE!



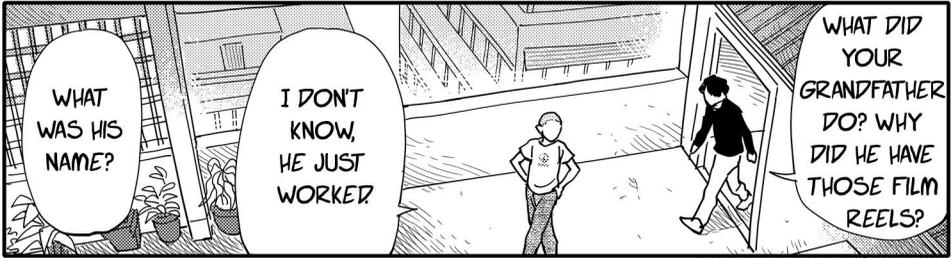
Disappointed~

SO YOU DON'T NEED ME TO STAR IN...

I'M SORRY MY FRIEND HAPPENED TO SEE YOUR VIDEO.



YOU COLLECT OLD MOVIES?



WHAT WAS HIS NAME?

I DON'T KNOW, HE JUST WORKED

WHAT DID YOUR GRANDFATHER DO? WHY DID HE HAVE THOSE FILM REELS?



DIRECTOR?

YOU... YOU'RE THE GRANDSON OF CHIANG CHENG-HSIN. THE DIRECTOR?



CHIANG CHENG-HSIN



THAT MEANS I'VE GOT THE MOVIES IN MY BLOOD! I KNEW IT!



HE DIED A FEW YEARS AGO...



WAS HE A DIRECTOR? NOBODY EVER TOLD ME.

COULD YOU PUT ME IN TOUCH WITH HIM?



THIS IS WHAT I'VE GOT.

福衛之上
集家7卷



COME IN, SORRY ABOUT THE MESS.

