

COLLAGE

SINO CELEB

Zhou Xun

Western audiences know Zhou Xun, 41, as 'that Korean clone' from 2012 movie *Cloud Atlas*, but her media footprint in the Sino-sphere is gigantic. Along with being the name of many households, Zhou – the movie star – is a household name.

Hailing from Zhejiang and the daughter of a projectionist, she defied the wishes of her parents and pursued art and acting instead of attending university. In hindsight, a wise career move, with IMDB.com naming her the most commercially successful actress in the history of Chinese cinema based on box-office earnings.

One of Zhou's earliest movies, *Suzhou River*, saw her play two different women and earned her the Best Actress Award at the Festival du Film de Paris.

In 2010, police reportedly found nudes of Zhou in Beijing-bad-boy Wang Shuo's home while searching for guns. Wang was indicted on weapons charges while the alleged pictures never surfaced and Zhou's career continued unscathed.

Zhou has won praise for her acting range, but is less gifted vocally, with fans nonplussed by her two solo albums.

In 2010 Zhou became the first entertainer to be named a 'Champion of the Earth' by the United Nations (yes, really) for her consistent promotion of environmental awareness.

Her 2014 crime thriller *Overheard 3* grossed USD53 million, proving she remains a highly bankable star.

Kind of like: Angelina Jolie with acting talent
Famous for: versatility, questionable singing
See her next in: upcoming movie *Remain Silent*



STAGECRAFT

Village

One of Israel's most innovative theater groups, The Gesher is set to perform *Village*, a historic Israeli play, in Guangzhou this month. Written by Joshua Sobol and directed by Yevgeny Arye, *Village* made its debut in 1996 at the Gesher Theatre of Israel. It has been especially well received by the Israeli community and has been performed over 700 times internationally, winning multiple awards including the Israel Theatre Award for best director, best actor and best play.

Set in the years preceding Israel's independence in 1948, *Village* tells the story of a small community in what was then Palestine. The entire play is narrated and filtered through the perspective of a naive village boy named Yossi. Uninterested in the violence happening around him, Yossi spends his time observing the small matters in his village, from Israelis and Jews fighting over the price of manure to love affairs and marital struggles.

When major outside news is brought to the village – like the Holocaust and Battle of El Alamein in World War II – they are only mentioned in passing. It isn't until after the death of his soldier brother Ami that Yossi



snaps out of his small-town mindset. Near the end of the play, Yossi is left questioning how much progress he and his village have made.

Performed in Hebrew with some Russian and English phrases and Chinese subtitles, *Village* confronts the question of self-identity in the context of historical events, offering audiences a unique view into the lives of Israeli villagers following the Second World War.

> Sat Nov 12, 8pm and Sun Nov 13, 3pm; RMB100-880. Guangdong Performing Arts Centre, 1229 Guangzhou Dadao Zhong, Tianhe District, Guangzhou 广州市天河区广州大道中1229号, 广东演艺中心大剧院 (020-3720 6282)

HAO BU HAO

Hao



Jack Ma's Alibaba Pictures and Stephen Spielberg's Amblin Pictures made their partnership official last month at a glitzy event in Beijing. The Academy Award-winning director hopes that the deal to co-produce and finance films will "bring more of America to China, and bring more of China to America." The first film released under the deal was last month's *The BFG*.



Bu Hao

At New York Comic Con, Matt Damon admitted the whitewashing accusations of his inclusion in Zhang Yimou's upcoming epic *The Great Wall* "was a f*cking bummer." The first major US-China co-production packed Madison Square Garden for the debut of its latest trailer, but questions remain on how audiences will react in China, where sci-fi has little tradition.