THE OTHER HALF OF THE SKY

STORIES OF CHINESE BUSINESSWOMEN

a documentary film by Patrik Soergel
THE OTHER HALF OF THE SKY – STORIES OF CHINESE BUSINESSWOMEN

Director Patrik Soergel   Production Pic Film, Salto Film   Format Made for Cinema   Runtime 52/80 min
Category Documentary   Language Chinese, Mandarin, English   Subtitled Versions English
Genre Economy, Female Life, Portrait, Social & Human Interest, People & Society, China
Country Switzerland, Germany   Year 2016   Broadcaster RSI, SRG SSR

Synopsis
They are four of the most successful businesswomen in China: Belonging to a generation who experienced the austerity of China’s cultural revolution, followed by the subsequent economic boom, they have worked their way to the very top in a patriarchal society.

Today, Yang Lan is the owner of one of the leading private media companies. Dong Mingzhu is a tenacious female CEO, heading up the world’s largest manufacturer of air conditioning systems. Zhang Lan is a tycoon in the luxury restaurant business. Zhou Yi is a top manager working for a big American IT company.

How were these careers built? What are the social and economic contexts in which they operate? And what do these women think about the political, social and cultural state of their country?

The latest documentary film by Patrik Soergel takes an intense and unique look at the mentalities of female executives, and explores the huge transformation taking place in China today.

Director’s Bio
Patrik Soergel is an award-winning director and editor whose work has been shown on Arte and Swiss TV, in dozens of film festivals and distributed internationally.

Born in 1977 in Locarno, Switzerland, Soergel graduated in directing and editing at the European Film College, Denmark and at FAMU Academy of Performing Arts for Film, Czech Republic. Since 2010 he collaborates regularly for the public Swiss broadcaster RSI, directing prime time TV documentaries. In 2009 he won the prize for Best Documentary at the Zurich Film Festival for THE SOUND AFTER THE STORM. Soergel works with several film companies in Europe and the USA.

Selected Festivals & Awards
• »Int. Documentary Competition«, Zurich Film Festival (2016)

»Women hold up half the sky.«
Mao Zedong