



Grandmother's Small Talk

阿嬤的秘密

Synopsis

Public Television
Service and Taiwan
Film Institute

Executive Producers:

Yu Peihua (於蓓華)

Liao Qingsong (廖慶松)

Wang Chun-chi (王君琦)

)

Producer: Chris Chiang

Nai-Yun (姜乃云)

Written & Directed by:

Screenplay: Lin Shih-

ching / 林世菁

Cinematography: Tu

Chen-ting (杜政庭)

Sound: Li Chun-yi (李俊

逸)

Editor: Lin Shih-ching

(林世菁), Zhan Yi-

wei (詹益璋)

Cast

Mu Jung-hua (慕榮華)

Chang Kai-yi (張楷奕)

2019

Black and White

25 minutes

A young filmmaker is shooting his film-essay at home. He interviews his grandma who's going to attend her estranged husband funeral, meeting the long-abandoned son. The flashback sequences are extracts from Lin Tuan-qiu's *Husbands Secret*.

Commentary

Grandmother's Small Talk is part of the four-film *Somewhere 4 Some Time* project by Taiwan's Public Television Service and the Taiwan Film Institute to bring Taiwan's new generation of filmmakers into touch with the Taiwanese-Language Cinema of the 1960s and 1970s.

Grandmother's Small Talk (original title: *Grandma's Secret*) is a vibrant homage to taiyupian, and particularly Lin Tuan-qiu's *The Husband's Secret*. The short programmatically alternates "realistic", pseudo-documentary sequences of contemporary Taipei with black and white flashbacks taken from Lin's classic. By overlapping the two representational strategies Lin Shih-qing seems to hint at the importance of Taiwanese language cinema as a forgotten, but retrievable and constitutive element of Taiwanese identity. By using old fictional footage to reinvent the grandma's story, Lin plays with cinematic memory but also blurs the boundaries between fiction and reality, in a metacinematographic gesture that reminds us of the relevance of Taiwanese language cinema in giving voice to and shaping forms of resistance or critique vis-à-vis the official economic success story of the Nationalist Party-funded productions. *The Husband's Secret* displays a wide range of images of social exclusion, female oppression, poverty and exploitation; *Grandma's secret* tells us that the rediscovery and restoration of *taiyupian* is invaluable to deepen and complexify the contemporary appreciation of Taiwan's burgeoning film industry.



