

CHINA



Director Bi Gan holds up the Special Award he accepted for his film, *Resurrection*, during a photocall after the closing ceremony of the 78th Cannes Film Festival in Cannes, France, on Saturday. STEPHANE MAHE / REUTERS

Chinese film takes home Special Award at Cannes

By XU FAN
xufan@chinadaily.com.cn

Chinese film director Bi Gan's latest art-house feature, *Resurrection*, claimed the Special Award at the 78th Cannes Film Festival on Saturday, marking the first time in a decade that a Chinese-language film has been honored in the festival's main competition.

Receiving the award from Juliette Binoche, jury president and renowned French actress, Bi expressed his gratitude to the cast, creative team, the festival, the jury and those working tirelessly behind the scenes. Binoche hailed the film as an extraordinary work, calling it "full of imagination".

The film boasts a star-studded cast, featuring actress Shu Qi — whose 2015 martial arts drama *The Assassin* earned Hou Hsiao-hsien the best director award at the 68th Cannes Film Festival — as well as actors Yi Yangqianxi, whose English name is Jackson

Yee, Mark Chao and Huang Jue.

Told in six chapters, the film is set in a post-apocalyptic future where humanity has lost the ability to dream. Straddling the line between reality and imagination, the story begins with Shu's character, a neurosurgeon, discovering the remains of an android — referred to as a "movie monster". The narrative follows the android as it journeys through different eras in cinema's 100-year history, including the early silent film era.

For Bi, the self-taught filmmaker born in Southwest China's Guizhou province, *Resurrection* — his third feature film — marks his return to the big screen seven years after *Long Day's Journey into Night*, the 2018 suspense romance known for its 60-minute long take. Although that film grossed over 100 million yuan (\$13.88 million) in presales, it ultimately flopped due to mixed reviews.

Now appearing more self-assured, Bi said his inspiration for

“I know the film industry is going through a difficult and special phase right now. Fortunately, I still had outstanding actors and creators willing to dedicate so much time to this project.”

Bi Gan, Chinese film director

Resurrection was straightforward. With the world undergoing significant changes in recent years, the 35-year-old director said he hopes the film — a cinematic retrospective of the past century — can offer comfort to those who truly love the art form.

“I know the film industry is going through a difficult and special phase right now. Fortunately, I still had outstanding actors and creators willing to dedicate so much time to this project, which is deeply artistic,” he said.

Despite the phenomenal success of *Ne Zha 2*, which has continued to shatter box office records since its Spring Festival debut, the country's most recent major box office season — the May Day holiday — saw a year-on-year decline of more than 50 percent. The drop has dampened morale among domestic filmmakers and is seen as a sign of declining cinema appeal, attributed to several factors including the unprecedented rise of short videos.

In a sideline interview with Chinese media in Cannes, Bi said he wished to dedicate *Resurrection* to the future of Chinese cinema. He revealed plans to make some refinements to the film upon returning to China, aiming for a general release later this year.

Seniors urged to contribute unique skills

Life experiences of older adults of real value to socioeconomic development

By CHENG SI
chengsi@chinadaily.com.cn

China will step up support for the elderly, encouraging them to contribute their knowledge, skills and experience to socioeconomic and cultural development to help address the country's aging population woes and improve older residents' sense of fulfillment and happiness.

Nineteen central departments — including the Ministry of Civil Affairs, the National Development and Reform Commission and the Ministry of Education — recently issued a guideline promoting greater social engagement for seniors. The document was made public on Thursday night.

Under the guideline, China aims to build a more supportive environment for elderly participation by 2029. By that time, any unreasonable or inappropriate restrictions that prevent seniors from taking part in social activities will have been removed, and public services for older adults in such fields as education, culture and sports will have been improved and expanded.

By 2035, authorities hope to have established a more comprehensive service system to support senior engagement and create more diverse job opportunities for elderly people. The country also aims to make better use of seniors as resources and promote more positive public awareness about aging.

The guideline outlines a number of measures to enhance senior participation, including increasing legal literacy, encouraging volunteer service, expanding access to lifelong education and creating more high-

quality employment opportunities.

Seniors are encouraged to contribute their expertise in fields such as education, technology, healthcare, agriculture, sports and culture by participating in volunteer programs in their local communities or in rural areas. Local governments and volunteer associations are urged to provide supplies and insurance for elderly volunteers, as well as conduct regular health checkups. Authorities will also recognize outstanding senior volunteers to boost their sense of achievement.

Elderly education is a key focus, with the guideline encouraging private providers to open branches in villages, residential communities and nursing homes. More senior colleges will be built nationwide to increase access to quality educational resources for older adults.

The document also calls for better use of senior talent, urging local governments to create suitable job positions for retirees and establish human resources agencies dedicated to elderly employment. More skills training programs will be offered to older jobseekers.

To protect elderly workers' rights, the guideline requires employers to clearly specify pay, working hours and social insurance when hiring retirees. Illegal practices that harm the rights of elderly workers will be strictly punished.

The document emphasizes that elderly citizens are a “precious treasure” to the nation, with valuable knowledge, skills and ethics. Supporting seniors in social engagement not only helps them pursue personal fulfillment but also contributes to China's modernization drive.

Experts call for more prevention, treatment for COVID cases

By ZHENG CAIXIONG in Guangzhou
zhengcaixiong@chinadaily.com.cn

One of China's leading respiratory disease experts has called on authorities to step up prevention and treatment efforts for COVID-19 and influenza, warning that COVID infections remain at a high level across the country.

According to data from the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention, the COVID-19 positivity rate among outpatient and emergency influenza-like illness cases nationwide rose from 7.5 percent to

16.2 percent between March 31 and May 4. Among hospitalized cases, the positivity rate increased from 3.3 percent to 6.3 percent over the same period.

Zhong Nanshan, an academicien at the Chinese Academy of Engineering, said individuals who test positive — especially seniors with underlying health conditions — should begin taking medication within the first 48 hours of symptom onset to prevent serious illness.

“Although the current outbreak of COVID-19 can be controlled, it still poses risks for people over age 65

with preexisting conditions,” Zhong said at the opening ceremony of the 2025 Guangzhou Science and Technology Week on Saturday.

“Residents should remain calm,” he added, predicting that the latest wave of infections would decline after June.

Zhong also said his team is working to develop COVID-19 antibodies and treatments specifically for children under age 5.

“Research on COVID-19 drugs for this age group remains limited, and there's a lack of safety data,” he said. “It is not scientifically sound to

assume that drugs approved for older children are also suitable for those as young as 1.”

He urged health authorities to prioritize prevention and treatment for both COVID-19 and influenza, and encouraged older adults to seek prompt care when symptoms arise.

“Choosing the right medication is also important,” he said, noting that two new influenza drugs have recently been launched in China.

“China is not lagging behind foreign countries in developing influenza treatments and vaccines,” Zhong added.

Li Tongzeng, chief physician at the infectious disease department of Beijing YouAn Hospital, said the proportion of severe COVID-19 cases has remained low over the past two to three years.

“Most patients recover on their own within a week,” he said, though immunocompromised individuals, the elderly and those with chronic illnesses remain at risk of serious complications.

No new symptoms have been identified recently, Li said. Fever, sore throat, cough and muscle aches remain the most common, while a

small number of patients may experience a loss of taste or smell.

Like the influenza virus, he said, COVID-19 continues to mutate.

“The greater the difference between the original strain and the current circulating variant, the less protection the body's antibodies can provide,” Li said.

He noted that new variants are gradually replacing older ones, and population immunity wanes over time, contributing to several sporadic outbreaks this year.

“This suggests that, compared with seasonal or climate factors, the spread of COVID-19 may depend more on how the virus evolves and the level of immunity in the population,” he said.



Photo by Wang Jing

Together

红十字与“一带一路”同行

RED CROSS / RED CRESCENT HAND IN HAND WITH THE BELT AND ROAD INITIATIVE



微博

微信