

## Historical Aesthetics Drive Production Design in On the Dragon's Trail

BEIJING, CHINA, August 8, 2025 /EINPresswire.com/ -- On the Dragon's Trail, a Hong Kong commercial film directed by Jingwen Xu, is drawing attention ahead of its U.S. release for its commitment to period-accurate production design and costuming. Set in the Republican era, the film's trailer—released last week—has been noted for its consistent visual style, informed by months of historical research and systematic design planning.

According to the production team, the art department referenced over 300 archival photographs and multiple regional museum collections to inform the reconstruction of urban interiors, street signage, and everyday attire from 1930s China. Scene sketches were created in pre-production to align visual continuity with character arcs and narrative pacing.

One example is the use of a structured costume palette for the female protagonist, whose wardrobe evolves in tone and texture to reflect shifts in the plot. Materials were sourced from textile vendors

Yi Chun Wang, A Producer and art director

specializing in reproduction fabrics, and fittings were tested against period lighting setups to ensure photographic accuracy on camera.

<u>Producer and art director Yi Chun Wang</u> led the design coordination process, working with the director, cinematographer, and costume workshop. Wang previously designed production visuals for international projects across film and advertising, and brought a systems-based methodology to the project. Rather than relying on decorative motifs, the team mapped visual transitions to narrative beats, including changes in scene saturation and spatial geometry.

This design-led approach has received attention in trade publications and film forums for its integration of art direction with storytelling structure. Several industry commentators have highlighted On the Dragon's Trail as a rare example of historical aesthetics being used not just

for surface detail, but as an active narrative engine. The Hong Kong Arts Design Network called Wang's methodology "a model for cross-departmental collaboration and visual dramaturgy in commercial cinema."

<u>Wang's prior work on the suspense thriller</u> Face to Face earned her the 2025 Outstanding Artistic Innovation Producer Award at the Asia Chinese Film Festival. On the Dragon's Trail is currently in post-production and is expected to premiere later this year.

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