



# ASH IS PUREST WHITE (Jiang hu er nü)

21st  
Year!

Autumn  
Season  
2019

**Release:** 2018

**Cert (UK):** 15

**Country:** China

**Language:** In Mandarin with English subtitles

**Runtime:** 2 hour 16 mins

**Director:** Zhangke Jia

**Writer:** Zhangke Jia

**Cinematographer:** Eric Gautier

**Cast:** Tao Zhao, Fan Liao, Yi'nan Diao |



*Zhangke Jia's belter of a film is part crime epic, part woman-seeks-justice flick, part state of the nation address. It takes the staples of the gangster flick - the mobster's moll, gang rivalries, violent shoot outs - as a jumping off point for both a granular character study of a woman's resolve, and a macro portrait of China at the turn of the century where modernity is quickly*

*outstripping tradition. Either way, it's a riveting picture driven by a fantastic performance by Zhao Tao as a wronged woman whose laser focus makes 'Kill Bill's' The Bride look lackadaisical in comparison' - Ian Freer, Empire.*

China has produced many epic movies and Zhangke Jia has been part of that for over 20 years. Although he is one of the foremost members of China's politically contentious 'sixth generation', Jia is distinct in that he has largely focused on rural settings as opposed to the modernised cityscapes that fascinate his contemporaries. A prescient commentator on the impact of globalisation on the individual, Jia's



films illustrate the consequences of China's economic rush at grassroots level with a studied minimalism that expects the viewer to be sufficiently informed in order to appreciate their stinging critique. Here he continues in his niche, using a grand story to frame the ills of Chinese society today.