

Superstar 791

Chapter 791: A documentary that could sweep away all variety shows?

Later that morning.

The Voice's program team officially entered into their new roles.

After Yan Tianfei left, Zhang Ye hung around at his new office for a while, putting out his belongings and getting familiarized with the surroundings. Then he scrambled to continue perfecting the program proposal that he had spent the entire weekend working on. However, as he wrote, his mind was also occupied with something else.

Oh, money!

There wasn't enough money!

As everyone knew, a documentary did not cost much to produce as the standard template of a documentary was different from that of a variety show. It did not need a large sum of money to promote, or a huge joining fee to be paid to celebrity guest stars. It didn't even need to have a host, much less a stage that would require money to build with all its special stage effects and whatnot. None of that was required in a documentary. Only the most basic setup was required, which included a video journalist and a video editor. All of the equipment would then be provided by the station and the staff were also on the payroll of the station, so how much money would they need to spend? If you were to invest 5 million or 10 million into a normal documentary series with three episodes, even if the film crew were to check into a five-star hotel and have abalone and lobsters for their meals, they wouldn't be able to spend it all! Usually, for the self-produced documentaries of Department 14, the production costs would hit 80-100,000 RMB at most. Even for the purchasing of copyrights to a fully produced documentary from their media partners would cost less than 1 million.

Therefore, 1 million RMB was really not a small amount at all!

Zhang Ye knew that Yan Tianfei was being very generous and had even given Zhang Ye a lot of face on this matter.

However, the problem now was that Zhang Ye didn't intend to make just any documentary. It was not the kind of documentary series that would end after just three short episodes, nor was it the type that followed a sports team around which could be completely filmed within a few short days. 1 million RMB was definitely not enough!

This wouldn't do. he had to come up with something!

Zhang Ye couldn't continue writing any further. Without money, even if the proposal was finished, there wouldn't be any meaning to it. He had to first find a way to resolve the funding before anything else!

He took out his cell phone and scrolled through his contacts. Right now, Zhang Ye could only think of approaching Wu Zeqing's nephew, Wu Mo. He was the only boss whom he knew would be willing to fork out so much money and also trusted him at the same time. Oh, Old Wu's elder sister was also one, but Fat Sis's company did not suit the sponsorship profile for what he had in mind. Zhang Ye was planning on using the same old tricks as he did with The Voice. Insufficient production budget? Then he

would have to depend on his own reputation to pull in the title sponsors and funding. Once they had that money in their accounts, it would make up for the lack of production money!

He made the call—the phone was switched off.

Eh?

Switched off?

Zhang Ye considered this very serious and was very anxious to resolve the matter. As a result, he made a call directly to the Brain Gold company. “Hello, this is Zhang Ye. I am looking for CEO Wu. Is he around?”

It was a female receptionist on the other end. “Ah, Zhang Ye?”

Zhang Ye said: “I have something urgent to discuss with CEO Wu. But his cell phone seems to be off. Is he in a meeting?”

The receptionist quickly answered: “Please wait a moment, I’ll get my manager to speak to you.”

The call was transferred. Not long after, a middle-aged woman’s voice sounded on the line: “Is this Teacher Zhang? I am Old Li. We’ve met before. CEO Wu has gone overseas for a business trip. He left in the morning, so I suppose he should be on the plane right now. Is there something urgent? Why don’t you let me know about it first?” There were all kinds of opinions about Zhang Ye floating around in the public, but the Brain Gold company’s staff were considered to be on very close terms with Zhang Ye. Zhang Ye was the long-term spokesperson for their company, as well as the creator of the brainwashing that saved the entire company, so how could they not be close?

Thus, Zhang Ye directly spoke: “Big Sis Li, I do indeed have something urgent I would like to talk about. I might be doing another show very soon, ahem, a large-scale documentary series. Right now, the title sponsor’s position is still open, and since CEO Wu and I go back such a long way and have cooperated so many times before, I naturally thought of you first. I just wanted to know if you guys have any plans to invest in a title sponsorship again in the company’s short-term strategy? If there is, we can discuss further about it.”

Big Sis Li exclaimed: “Oh, we don’t have any plans for that right now. Since The Voice ended not too long ago, the effects of the title sponsorship from there is still ongoing. The company’s operating efficiency is steadily increasing and we have just reached a new milestone in that area as well. But as our company has no new products slated for release temporarily, CEO Wu mentioned in the previous meetings that other than the ongoing long-term TV commercials slots, there should be no other forms of spending on any short-term promotions. Our publicity campaign is already becoming quite saturated and any more money invested would be meaningless.”

Zhang Ye said regretfully: “Oh, I see.”

Big Sis Li immediately added: “But I can’t decide on this kind of thing, so why don’t you contact our CEO Wu again instead. As long as you’re the one asking, I don’t think CEO Wu...”

Zhang Ye interrupted: “No, it’s alright. My project is not set yet anyway, so let’s forget it for now. Then, Big Sis Li, regarding my call, please don’t mention it to CEO Wu.”

Big Sis Li acknowledged: “OK...then”

After hanging up, Zhang Ye laughed to himself helplessly. He should have expected that the Brain Gold company would not be increasing their advertising investments in the short term. The Voice's title sponsorship had already spread the name of their product throughout the country. Its brand exposure had also reached a saturation point, so why would they want to buy another title sponsorship? Figuring this, Zhang Ye told Big Sis Li not to inform Wu Mo about his call. Why? Because Zhang Ye knew that based on their friendship, as long as he asked, Wu Mo would surely not reject him. Even if it was a show with a title "How Dog Shit is Produced," as long as Zhang Ye intended to make it, Wu Mo would still buy the title sponsorship rights. He would do so not because of the show, rather basing his decision on their friendship. The more he knew this, the more Zhang Ye would never approach Wu Mo about this anymore. If he did, then it would mean that he wasn't mature. Friendships shouldn't be taken advantage of!

Since he could not count on Wu Mo anymore this time, who else was there?

Quite a number of company names flashed by in Zhang Ye's mind, but he decided against them all a sigh. Your sister! If he was doing a variety show, rather than an 8-10 million RMB title sponsorship fee, even if he asked for several tens of millions, there would still be a lot of large companies snapping it up. With the reputation of The Voice behind him, even an investment of 100 million into the title sponsorship was no longer just a dream. In the field of variety television, Zhang Ye's name was worth at least that much!

But how times had changed!

Where was he transferred to?

It was the documentary channel! The program that he was going to shoot was the unloved and uncared for documentary! Even with Zhang Ye's reputation there, it wouldn't be possible to change the entire country's mindset of a documentary! For something that would look like a scam to most people, who would dare invest in it? Who would be such a fool to buy a title sponsorship to a documentary! If there really were an idiot who'd buy it, the entire corporate industry might end up laughing at that person for years to come, no?

Forget it, there's no point looking for a sponsor anymore!

It would be useless no matter who he asked. Even if he kept on asking, there wouldn't be a company that would want to buy a title sponsorship rights to a documentary, much less a title sponsorship that would cost at least 10 million or so. Regarding this matter, Zhang Ye could do nothing about it for now! Unless he could convince those people to just hand over a mere 10 million RMB to him? That once this bro's documentary series was completed, it wouldn't need any promotions, wouldn't need to build up its reputation, no need to heavily promote it, no requirements for any celebrity guests, nor would it need to be broadcast in a primetime slot, and it would still sweep the entire country, that its viewership ratings could also sweep away all the variety shows?

Hai.

Who would possibly believe that!?

Chapter 792: Oh, money!

After a busy morning, the program proposal was completed in full.

When Zhang Ye looked at the clock, he saw it was already close to lunchtime. However, he was in no hurry to go downstairs to grab lunch during the break. Instead, without a moment's delay, he went straight to Yan Tianfei's office which was next to his own office to look for him. The door was adorned with a metallic sign with the words: Central TV Department 14, Director's Office.

Dong dong.

He knocked on the door.

"Come in, it's not locked." Yan Tianfei's voice drifted out from inside.

Zhang Ye pushed the door open and entered, only to see Yan Tianfei eating lunch. Tong Fu of Department 14, whom he had met earlier, was reporting about work to Yan Tianfei.

Tong Fu turned around and smiled at Zhang Ye in a friendly manner, then spoke, "Director Yan, let me continue."

"Go on."

"Our channel's Crossing Shangri-La's viewership rating for this week is 0.014%."

"OK."

"Trekking through Xining Again: Episode 3, the nationwide viewership rating is 0.027%."

"OK."

"Visiting Ethnic Communities, viewership rating of 0.066%."

"OK."

"Road to the CBA Basketball Championship, viewership rating of 0.092%."

A long list of viewership ratings for each show was read out by Tong Fu.

Zhang Ye stood at the back, listen to this while feeling less and less confident and wanting to sigh badly.

Those viewership ratings were too pathetic!

No, it should be called too motherfucking pathetic!

0.0-something percent? Were these even worthy of being called viewership ratings? Was this the present situation at Department 14? The present situation of the documentary industry? This was too damn low! What did a show with a 0.0-something percent viewership rating mean? For the most common types of TV shows, whether it was a variety show or an interview show, their viewership ratings would all be at least 0.x%! Compared to The Voice that Zhang Ye had brought to this world, such a viewership rating was as good as zero!

Previously, when Zhang Ye was still at Central TV Department 1, he had seen someone compile the viewership ratings with a very interesting data set in it. Central TV Department 1 would always end the day's broadcast at 4 or 5 AM by displaying a colored still image while playing background music. Yes, it

was exactly this still image that had nothing on it which would last until the morning, but can you guess the viewership rating for that? It could even get 0.02%! These ratings were from those who had been watching Central TV Department 1 from the night before but fell asleep without turning off their televisions. Therefore, the viewership rating signal could use this to calculate a viewership rating for that time period. Leaving the accuracy and precision aside, this was still included in the viewership ratings report somehow!

What did this mean?

A still image used by Central TV Department 1 to signal its end of day broadcast had a fucking higher viewership rating than a minority of the shows broadcast on Central TV Department 14 during the day, or perhaps even during a primetime slot. As for those other shows that had better viewership ratings than that end of day broadcast image, they weren't actually much higher at all. The highest rated show was the sports documentary involving the CBA league, which just barely hit 0.1% in viewership ratings!

This was as brutal as it could get!

This was so miserable it was unbearable to look at!

Zhang Ye didn't know whether to laugh or cry. He had once again gained a deeper and more intuitive understanding of this world's documentary channel. It was no wonder this channel was on the lowest rung of the viewership ratings when matched up against all the other Central TV channels!

Hai, it's a good thing I'm here now!

With this bro behind you all, I will make us so good that our department will shake up the world!

On the other side of the room.

Yan Tianfei nodded without showing much of an expression. "I understand."

Tong Fu smiled. "I won't disturb from your lunch anymore then."

After Tong Fu left, Yan Tianfei greeted Zhang Ye. "Here, have a seat."

Zhang Ye smiled and said, "Whoa, smells delicious." He looked at the two lunchboxes on the desk. "Did you make this yourself?"

Yan Tianfei pointed at the lunchboxes and said, "My wife made them for me this morning. I just need to heat them up in the microwave during lunch. It saves me so much hassle. You came just in time. She packed too much food for me today, so let's eat together. Come, sit down."

Zhang Ye said, "It's fine. I'll be going to the cafeteria later."

"The food there isn't that good." Yan Tianfei laughed. "You should try my wife's cooking. I guarantee you it tastes much better than that cafeteria food. I have some disposable chopsticks here. Come join me."

Seeing how Old Yan was not standing on ceremony and insisting that they eat together, Zhang Ye did not refuse. "Alright then, I'll have a share of your good food if you insist. The quality of the food at the cafeteria is indeed going from bad to worse."

After eating for a while.

Yan Tianfei asked, "What's the matter? What's that you're holding?"

Zhang Ye handed the documents over at once. "It's the proposal that I told you about this morning. Please have a look and give me your opinion."

"You finished it this quickly?" Yan Tianfei replied, rather taken aback.

Zhang Ye said, "I've been preparing it since the weekend."

Yan Tianfei took it from him and browsed through somewhat surprised.

Zhang Ye stopped eating and began introducing, "The front few pages cover the show preparations, then towards the back, it mentions the filming arrangements, expected daily schedules, and so on."

Yan Tianfei praised, "You're indeed Teacher Zhang. Just by looking at this briefly, I already know that you're on a totally different level from the program planning staff in our department." He flipped through the proposal page by page very quickly without reading the details. Then, Yan Tianfei placed the proposal down and said, "Alright, we'll go according to what I told you this morning. This show has been approved and you'll be its executive director and executive producer. The original team of The Voice will be readily assigned by you. On top of that, if you still lack manpower, you can take a few people from Section 1 to help you guys out with the shoot. As for the filming schedule, you can arrange it for any time you want. I'll be fine with it."

Approved just like that?

Without even reading the details? This is too nonchalant!

Zhang Ye was helpless at this. He knew that Old Yan did not have any expectations as well as totally not taking his show seriously. He did not even read the details regarding the show's content and filming style, probably because he did not want to appear like he was doubting Zhang Ye and was happy to let him make a show for the fun of it. He did not pin any hopes on Zhang Ye making a good documentary out of this. After all, the situation of Department 14 had always been at a low, so even if he were to leave it to the others to film the documentary or let Zhang Ye do it, it would still end up as a documentary that hardly anyone watched and probably have viewership ratings of just 0.0-something percent. So then, did it matter who made the documentary? Yan Tianfei surely felt that there was no difference.

If it was badly filmed, the viewership ratings would be 0.0-something percent.

If it was filmed well...it would also be 0.0-something percent.

0.01% and 0.09% viewership ratings, was there any practical difference between them?

Zhang Ye was right, because that was exactly how Yan Tianfei thought.

It was not that Yan Tianfei did not trust Zhang Ye, but the few years that Yan Tianfei had been here at Department 14 had given him a very deep understanding of the documentary industry. The more he understood, the more he knew how difficult it was. To him, or perhaps to their entire department, their highest expectation for a domestic documentary was to have an independently produced documentary win a domestic art award. By going the artistic route, they could still win some honor and reputation for themselves. As for viewership ratings? He had never hoped that a documentary would get much of any

viewership. The term “viewership rating” was a nonsensical expectation in the domestic documentary industry that they couldn’t possibly have access to! This not only applied to Central TV Department 14, even for the other television stations and the documentary industry, it was the same. No one would be laughing at others, since no one was doing any better than another!

Zhang Ye suggested, “Director, do you want to have a better look at it first?”

Yan Tianfei nodded. “Sure, I will go through it in detail over the next few days.”

Zhang Ye opened his mouth. “Then for the production budget...”

Yan Tianfei readily agreed, “I’ve already promised you 1 million RMB this morning, so go wild with whatever you want to shoot! After you’re done with the shoot, there’s no need to report back about any leftover budget. If you still want to shoot a second documentary after that, go ahead and do it. There’s not much restriction and a lot of freedom over here in our department!”

Leftover budget?

A second documentary?

Even if the budget for the equipment was taken into consideration, 1 million was still not enough to film a single episode!

The most worrisome part to Zhang Ye was the production budget. It was far too little. As a result, he couldn’t help but say embarrassed, “Ahem, so then, Director Yan, ah, about the money....Yes, could it...”

Yan Tianfei was taken aback. “What? Are you trying to tell me that this amount is still not enough?”

Since he had already put it that way, Zhang Ye found it even more difficult to speak further. After thinking carefully, he thought that Old Yan had really been very good to him so far. He had already approved the program without meticulously looking over the proposal, willing to support him with manpower resources, and giving him authority as well. It was only their first day coming into contact with each other, so they couldn’t be considered very familiar with one another, so Zhang Ye wondered all the more how he should touch on the issue.

Zhang Ye could only say, “It’s not like that.”

Yan Tianfei asked, “Then what did you want to ask me just now?”

Zhang Ye had already thought over what to say before he came here, so he brought up the next most important issue. “I would like to borrow a few high definition camcorders. From the main camera to the supporting equipment, I want the full set of them. It would be best if I could get my hands on three sets so that I can plan for three different film crews to do their filming concurrently at different locations. That would help speed up the recording progress.”

Yan Tianfei was taken aback. “HD equipment? Three sets?”

Zhang Ye replied, “Yes.”

Since the budget wasn't likely to be increased, if they could get the HD equipment, that would still take a large amount off the production budget. This sort of HD camcorder and supporting equipment were not cheap at all, in addition to three independent sets of the full setup for on-location filming?

Yan Tianfei asked, "Why do you require three sets?"

Zhang Ye said, "I would like to finish the entire recording by December. That was all written in the program proposal. Since it's almost winter now and as I hope to record more footage, we won't be able to capture some scenes once the weather turns extremely cold."

Yan Tianfei wondered. "Why must you want it in HD? Can't you shoot with the standard definition equipment?"

"Our channel's broadcast signal is HD ready. Although the station's programs are still following the standard definition requirements, which is also how it is for our country's documentaries, I actually find it to be a waste to keep it this way. Since we can broadcast in HD, then we should create better value with an HD show. Besides, the HD equipment does not only contribute to the image clarity, many of the professional shots and magnified closeup effects can only be achieved by using HD cameras," Zhang Ye explained.

Yan Tianfei said, "But no one has ever used HD equipment to shoot a documentary before."

Zhang Ye smiled and said, "Then we can be the first movers and shakers in the industry."

Yan Tianfei replied, "But that would greatly increase the shooting costs. Have you thought about this yet?"

Zhang Ye stated, "That's why I came to you to see if you could help solve our lack this equipment. Does our department have any such equipment?"

"We don't have them. Those things are too expensive and generally a big waste of money. The station hasn't assigned any of that equipment to us before either." Yan Tianfei thought over this for a moment before saying, "For such HD equipment, Central TV Department 1 has quite a number of them. But since I'm not on good terms with their directors anymore, I doubt I can borrow it from them. Then, there's the foreign channel which probably has two sets of them while the sports channel should also have four or five sets of HD cameras. I'm still on rather alright terms with their directors, so I think I might be able to borrow it from them for you."

Zhang Ye cheered up upon hearing this. "Then I guess I'll have to trouble you a little!"

Yan Tianfei threw up his hands and said, "I only said that I would give it a try. Who knows if they're also using them at the moment?"

"I'll only borrow it for two months. I'll get everyone to work overtime so that we can all quickly finish filming and return all the equipment back to our sister channels!" Zhang Ye promised.

Yan Tianfei added, "But I won't be able to loan their personnel over to our department. The cameramen and video journalists we have at our channel might not be able to handle those professional grade equipment."

Zhang Ye smiled at this. "No problem, I know how!"

Yan Tianfei didn't know how to react. He did not take Zhang Ye's claims too seriously and only felt that he said this to ensure that he could get his hands on the equipment. However, he did not say anything to it.

But in actual fact, Zhang Ye truly knew how to handle them!

In the previous lottery draw, not only did Zhang Ye win 100 Skill Experience Books for the Basics of Directing, he also received 101 Camera Techniques Skill Experience Books. Anything that had to do with filming equipment, he more or less knew how to handle them. 101 skill experience books was not a small figure at all. Even though he couldn't be truly called a professional, he could still be considered to be quite knowledgeable about it!

Yes, with the equipment issue now resolved, he wouldn't have to spend to purchase these items anymore. Then that would mean that he wouldn't need 10 million to shoot this documentary anymore. If he tried to cut further down on the expenses, then 6 to 7 million might just be enough? That was good news! Having lowered the production budget by quite a bit, the bad news now was that the show was still the same as before!

Where would he get the remaining amount from? He had to think of a way!

The documentary that Zhang Ye wanted to shoot this time was the famous representative show in the documentary field of his world. It wasn't like he couldn't go ahead with the shoot even though he did not have enough money. No matter how much the production budget was, he could still come up with an average documentary for sure. But if he were to do that, the show's quality would most certainly suffer greatly. It would definitely not be able to live up to the standard of imagery and effects as well as the viewership ratings that he had in mind. This was something that Zhang Ye could not accept no matter what. A reckless move like this was something that Zhang Ye would never do!

If he wasn't going to do it, then fine. But if he wanted to do it, then he would do it to the best of his abilities!

So much so that Zhang Ye had considered increasing the production budget further. He had wanted to have a production budget that was more than what the original documentary series had in his previous world. He wanted to do so because he felt that he could further fine-tune this classic documentary series to let the entire country's citizens and the entire world see the pinnacle of their Chinese documentary standards!

Oh, money!

Oh, money!

How was he going to make up for the difference of several million yuan??

Chapter 793: Using the Lucky Halo again!

Afternoon.

During the lunch break, Zhang Ye called his team into his office. When the 20-odd people gathered in the office, the originally spacious office was suddenly very packed. Everyone stood in a circle around Zhang Ye's desk or near the sofa. Because the office area in Section 1 did not belong to Zhang Ye alone,

being new, he did not want to behave too casually and did not feel at ease if he didn't treat himself as an outsider. Therefore, he summoned his team to his office instead.

"Has everyone already eaten?" Zhang Ye asked with a smile.

Zhang Zuo burped. "Yes, we just ate."

Little Wang said cheerfully, "I thought after changing to a new department, the food would be different. But I never expected that we would still have to go to that cafeteria for lunch. I'm already sick of eating the food there."

Zhang Ye chuckled, "Alright, I'll treat everyone to something special later."

"That's great. That's a promise then, Director Zhang," Little Wang laughed.

Ha Qiqi looked at Zhang Ye and noticed something was up. "Little Wang, enough of that, let's listen to what Director Zhang has to say first. It's definitely about our job arrangements."

Everyone looked at Zhang Ye.

Zhang Ye nodded and pushed the documents in his hands towards them. "Take this program proposal with you all, and don't photocopy or disclose it to anyone outside of our department. Just let our people read through and circulate it among yourselves to study it. Then, probably in the next few days, we'll be forming a new program team to get ourselves back to doing what we did before, so let's work well on this program together. I know that we have never dabbled in the field of documentaries before and it may seem rather unfamiliar. It's that way for all of you, as is the same for me as well. That's why we must spend more effort on it, since anything is possible, right?"

Ha Qiqi was a little taken aback. "We're making a documentary? Us?"

Zhang Zuo exclaimed, "Director Zhang, are we really going to do it? Our team will be formed in the next few days?"

Zhang Ye acknowledged, "I've already told Director Yan about this matter. Basically, it is approved and we are just waiting for some procedural documents and HD equipment. When everything has arrived, we can start work."

Wu Yi wiped his sweat away. "Is...uh...isn't this a bit too hurried? We still haven't familiarized ourselves with the work style here and have not even come into contact with documentaries before. H-how can we do the filming like this?"

Zhang Ye replied, "I've already thought of how we can shoot the documentary, so when the time comes, I'll arrange and assign the tasks accordingly. Since we are making a documentary now, everyone's job scope will definitely be quite different from before. But I'll also take that into consideration and plan accordingly when the time comes, so don't worry too much. Just get yourselves familiarized with the program proposal and also with the various job details in making a documentary. I believe that everyone will not have a problem since we are the best program team in the country's variety show industry. Be it the variety show industry or the documentary industry...that will remain the same!"

Everyone knew about Zhang Ye's temperament and knew that he would definitely not idle around. He would surely stir up something after coming to Department 14. They were already mentally prepared

for it. Although they knew that the documentary industry did not have any future and it wasn't likely to have good viewership ratings or popularity, since there was nothing else to do anyway, they would just try their hands at making a documentary, treating it as a game or practice. No one could have expected that Director Zhang could not even wait a fucking day. They had just transferred to Central TV Department 14 for one day now and he was already finished with the proposal? And the program team schedules were planned out as well?

This was way too fast!

It's just a documentary, do you need to go to such extremes?

It would be fine if it was just filming for fun. Could it be that you're really planning to shoot a documentary with a viewership rating of a variety show in mind? You want to be the best in the documentary industry as well? How could you possibly get number 1? To clinch number 1 in an industry that can only get 0.0-something percent of the viewership ratings, is there any meaning to that? Besides, it was still a big question mark if they could even achieve a 0.0-something percent viewership rating. They were just an amateur team that had never come into contact with documentaries before and many of them didn't even understand the core essence of a documentary. They believed Director Zhang was just the same as them. For a director of a variety show leading a team of variety program staff who were totally clueless, how far could they possibly go in the documentary industry!?

Zhang Zuo made eye contact with Ha Qiqi.

"Are there any questions?" Zhang Ye glanced at everyone.

"No!"

"Uh, we will listen to whatever you say!"

"Yeah!"

"Director Zhang, we'll follow your arrangements!"

"Please assign the tasks. We're your subordinates anyway, so anything is fine."

Everyone replied positively as they could only respond that way. What questions could they have? Some disagreements could only be left unsaid.

Zhang Ye voiced his understanding while smiling. "Alright, there's nothing more from me then. I'm just informing everyone about this. You guys don't have to feel too pressured. Let's just regard this as practice since that was also Director Yan's intention. It doesn't matter how the shoot turns out. We don't have to care about the viewership ratings either."

With Zhang Ye saying that, everyone heaved a sigh of relief!

Just film it as we like it?

And we can even disregard the documentary's viewership ratings?

Only then did they walk away smiling.

The reason Zhang Ye said that was because he did not want to give them any pressure or push them too hard. There was no point in telling them too much, but the main point was that no one would believe him even if he told them. If that was the case, wouldn't it be better to just let everyone feel relaxed and treat this as a sort of game? As long as Zhang Ye knew how to prioritize, that would be good enough. The team only needed to ensure they completed their assigned tasks up to par and need not worry about any other things. In this way, he could potentially better bring out everyone's potential instead.

Next, it was the issue of money. This must be solved immediately. If the production budget was not dealt with, they would not be able to carry out the filming for the show!

He began thinking of different approaches!

Use his own money? Impossible. The executives would not agree to it and the station would not allow this. This was not his personal show and the procedures would be wrong too. Besides, Zhang Ye might not even have several million in his account anymore. As a person who had never accepted doing commercial events, he only depended on the meager sums earned from the few novel copyrights he had. On top of that, he had bought a car, spent on food and other expenses, all this often without a second thought. There was probably no other B-list celebrity who was poorer than Zhang Ye.

How about requesting for more funding from Yan Tianfei? But he couldn't bear to touch on that. Besides, their Department 14 was not considered a large channel. It was just a new channel ranked at the bottom, and it was a question whether they even had so much money!

What should he do?

What could he do?

Zhang Ye did not know what to do. He just walked around in circles inside his office, his hands behind his back with a constantly changing expression!

This was a major stumbling block!

He had no more ideas! No ideas whatsoever!

Suddenly, Zhang Ye sat down and lit a cigarette. He concentrated and raised up his hand to open up the game ring's interface. It had been a long time since he had used the game ring, and without any other options left, Zhang Ye could only go for the last resort. The game ring!

What tricks did he have up his sleeve?

It was the upgraded Lucky Halo of course!

During this period of time, Zhang Ye had earned a lot of reputation points which he did not get to use much, so most of them accumulated until now. This Lucky Halo was very powerful, especially after he had gained the "upgraded" version of it. The reputation points that it consumed was so fast that it was like that of a running tap. This speed was so scary that Zhang Ye had not used it much since he gained the purchasing rights to the Lucky Halo (Upgraded) at the Merchant Shop. But he was left with no choice today. He had to use it!

He needed the luck and the money urgently!

Almost without hesitation, Zhang Ye took a deep breath and opened the Merchant Shop to press the Lucky Halo (Upgraded) item immediately!

The Lucky Halo was activated.

A dazzling, angelic, white ring of light appeared over his head suddenly and his reputation points decreased rapidly!

-100,000!

-100,000!

-100,000!

Zhang Ye clasped his hands together and prayed!

Please bless me!

Give me some power!

[I'm Really a Superstar](#)

Chapter 794: Here's 10 million! Spend it all!

At this very moment.

At the recording studio of Rise to the Dance.

Chen Ye was currently giving instructions. "The first batch of auditions will officially start the day after tomorrow. Although it will not be broadcast, the stage must still be ready since the auditions will be conducted here. Set up all the signs and supporting beams properly!"

"OK."

"Understood!"

"Teacher Chen, leave it to us!"

Everyone answered enthusiastically and got busy with their work.

The stage here was originally The Voice's and it was designed completely by Zhang Ye himself. Now that, Zhang Ye was put into cold storage and dumped over to that "desolate" Department 14, this variety stage that had taken a large sum of money to build and was ranked among the best in the country would naturally be given to Xu Yipeng and Chen Ye's team who had taken over. The signboard and logo of The Voice had already been removed and the workers were now hanging up their Rise to the Dance's large signboard and slogan in place.

Chen Ye said, "Move it slightly to that side!"

That worker said, "Do you mean here, Director Chen?"

Chen Ye said, "No, move it a bit more!"

That person said, "Uh, is it alright now?"

Chen Ye said, "No, no, no. Aiyo, why can't the few of you understand what I'm saying?! Move it this way!"

Without warning, a worker suddenly lost his footing on the ladder and with a tremble of his hands, the large signboard fell out of his hands. On the other side, another worker who was standing on the ladder supporting the other end of the signboard could not react in time and also lost his grasp as it slid out under the horrified gaze of everyone. The signboard was still suspended from a steel cable, but only on one side, making the signboard swing like a pendulum in midair!

The steel cable broke as it swung.

And hit two long rows of lights at the side with a loud bang. Boom boom boom. With several exploding noises, those two rows of lights were completely smashed and the signboard and lighting frame dropped to the ground together. No one knew what it hit when it landed. With several thunderous crackles, it was as though lightning had struck!

This was not the end. While the signboard was swinging, the two workers standing on the ladder were shocked and instinctively stretched out their hands to try to grab hold of it. However, that only made matters worse. They did not manage to catch hold of the signboard and the ladders they were on tipped over amid the screams of everyone. Then the ladders crashed directly down onto the stage's largest main equipment in the rear!

Smash!

Smash!

The entire place was a complete mess! Everything was smashed!

There was even a device making a crackling sound as it exploded with glaring sparks at the next moment. The entire place was in shambles!

Chen Ye was stunned!

All hell broke loose!

"Ah!"

"Quick, rescue them!"

"How are they? How are they?"

"Aiyo, what happened?! What happened?!"

"It's over! All the equipment is broken!"

"Get away quickly! In case it explodes again!"

"Oh my god! What, what should we do?!"

A moment later, Xu Yipeng rushed over frantically. When he arrived, he saw the scene in front of him and started cursing immediately. The two slightly injured staff who were putting up the signboard were scolded until their faces turned green. For such a big incident to happen at this critical juncture, how

would they be able to hold the audition in two days? If they were to repurchase the equipment and repair the stage, would they still make it in time for the broadcast in December? Their plans were disrupted. Besides, even though they had 100 million RMB for the production budget from Central TV Department 1, the use for this money was already all planned out. They did not have much money to spare to repurchase the equipment and repair the stage anymore. It was likely that even a few million would not be enough to cover the damage on these equipment!

Being the leaders of the program team, the first thought that came to Xu Yipeng's and Chen Ye's mind was: Where would they get this money from? How could they fill this shortfall?

Not long after.

The news of the incident at the Rise to the Dance recording studio had spread throughout Central TV!

Many people were shocked when they heard about it.

"Holy shit, why are they so unlucky?"

"Are you serious? Such a big accident?"

"There was even nearly a fire?"

The people of Rise to the Dance are really unlucky. But then again, that stage was originally designed and built by Zhang Ye, so it was just restoring it back to its original state. A lot of the equipment were damaged and I even heard that the electrical wirings of the lights were destroyed. Repair? It looks more like they'll have to rebuild it from scratch!"

"This is really strange."

"That's right. The main problem is that the electrical circuits and equipment are all damaged!"

"Is there anything that is related to Zhang Ye not strange?"

"I just passed by Central TV Department 1 and noticed their directors getting anxious. It won't be a small sum of money. If they have to repair the stage, then what's left over of their production budget will become even less and that might affect their ability to invite big shot celebrities. Back then, when Zhang Ye made The Voice, he raised the celebrity joining fees by around two times the market prices. With that as a benchmark now, the conditions for a celebrity to appear as guest on variety shows has also become much higher! Let's just see how they'll handle it."

...

At the Deputy Station Head's office.

Yan Tianfei was called over by the deputy station head.

"Old Yan, sit," the deputy station head said pleasantly.

Yan Tianfei asked curiously, "Old Zhou, what's the matter?"

"Hur hur. I heard that Zhang Ye and his team were transferred to your department? How are they doing?" the deputy station head asked.

Yan Tianfei said, "They're quite fine. Everyone knows how capable Little Zhang is, so you might as well say that he's wasting his talents over at our department. Old Zhou, if there's anything you want to say, just say it. We've known each other for over twenty years now. So stop beating around the bush."

The deputy station head cleared his throat and said, "OK, then let me give it to you straight. Did you hear of the incident regarding Rise to the Dance? Your Department 14 has actually gotten quite a good bargain this time. Not only was Zhang Ye transferred over, even his entire elite team of people from The Voice have been incorporated by your department. Since Central TV Department 1 has given you so many talented people for nothing much in return, now that something has happened on their side, you should express some gratitude, right? Since you all don't have any new shows lined up for now, you should take out a portion of your production budget and lend it to Central TV Department 1 first. I think just 10 million would do. It's not much."

Upon hearing that, Yan Tianfei was angered. "Old Zhou, do you think that our Department 14 can be bullied around like that?"

The deputy station head frowned. "How can you say that?"

"It's because Central TV Department 1 stole two of our rookies in first place. When I went to request for the two of them back, they refused. Since Zhang Ye and his team were already getting the cold storage treatment from Central TV Department 1, they were dumped over to our Department 14 to free up their staffing. How did it turn out to be that I'm the one who owes them? They created the trouble themselves, but I have to clean up the mess for them now? Help them out with our money?" Yan Tianfei laughed loudly. "Don't bullshit me!"

The deputy station head said, "It's just a loan. I'll be the guarantor for them and make sure that they will return it to you all later."

Yan Tianfei did not give in to either soft and hard approach. "If they want to borrow money, tell them to borrow from the station. Don't set your eyes on our Department 14!"

"The station doesn't have much money now since our spending has already been planned beforehand, so there aren't many surplus funds to move around for the time being." The deputy station head said, "I hope you can look at this from the bigger picture, Old Yan!"

Yan Tianfei said angrily, "The station does not have surplus funding, Department 1 does not have surplus funding, then why does it fucking seem like only our Department 14 have surplus funding?! How much do the other departments get for their annual budgets? How much does our Department 14 get for our annual budget? We have the least amount among all the channels! Old Zhou, don't tell me you don't know that!"

The deputy station head was also fuming. "It's been many years now and yet your temper is still just as terrible! That's enough, I'm won't be discussing this with you anymore. The station will cut your department's production budget this year. Tell your department's financial personnel to come look for me!"

Yan Tianfei sneered, "If you can take it directly, so be it. But let me tell you this first: there's not a single cent left in our department's account anymore!"

...

At Central TV Department 14.

In Zhang Ye's office.

As he looked at his reputation points decreasing rapidly, Zhang Ye could feel his heart wincing!

-100,000!

-100,000!

Ten minutes passed!

Another twenty minutes passed!

It was consuming 100,000 reputation points every second! Seeing that his reputation points were almost used up, Zhang Ye still did not know if the matter was resolved or not. Therefore, he did not risk deactivating it in case the Lucky Halo just took effect but ended up getting stopped by him suddenly. If that happened, it was as good as giving up halfway and all the reputation points spent up until now would be for nothing!

Hurry!

Just what was the situation like now?

Could any investors be taking the initiative to contact this bro for the title sponsorship right now? Or could it be...

As he was feeling restless, he heard the sound of someone hastily walking outside. He could hear Department 14's Director Yan Tianfei shouting for him from a distance away, "Teacher Little Zhang!"

Zhang Ye was stunned and quickly turned off the Lucky Halo (Upgraded). He walked out from his office in a hurry to look for the direction where the sound came from. He then saw Yan Tianfei taking large strides towards him with an infuriated expression.

Sensing that something had happened, the staff of the department's two sections were also startled as they looked over. Some of them even ran over in a flurry.

"Director?"

"Director Yan, what's the matter?"

"What happened? What's made you so angry?"

Zhang Ye also asked puzzled, "Director Yan, you're looking for me?"

Ha Qiqi, Zhang Zuo, and the others appeared as well, not knowing what was going on.

As they were clamoring, Yan Tianfei walked up before everyone. After he caught his breath and stifled his anger, he shouted at Zhang Ye, "Teacher Zhang, set up a program team immediately for the new show that you mentioned earlier. Establish an independent program team from Section 1 and 2 of the Department right now. You will be the team leader and the program team's account will be separate

from Department 14's. I will give you 10 million and you shall lead your team to go film the documentary!"

Everyone was dumbfounded by what they heard!

"What?"

"10 million?"

"A documentary? 10 million?"

"This...this..."

"Director Yan, what's this about?"

Zhang Ye was also a little confused. Damn, just what the hell was happening? He's handing out the money just like that? And it was even for a budget of 10 million which had surpassed his requirements? This was more than enough for him to shoot the entire documentary! There would even be a lot of surplus funds leftover!

Zhang Ye exclaimed, "Director Yan!"

Yan Tianfei was not afraid to say what he wanted and interrupted, "Don't say that it's too much. I won't let you reject this either. I don't have any requirements for the documentary and it doesn't matter if the viewership rating is low or not! The only thing you need to do is to spend all 10 million on this documentary! You must spend it all! Don't leave a single cent! All the money will be handed to you!"

All of a sudden, he was given 10 million!

And he must even fucking spend it all??

Zhang Ye was elated and immediately said, "OK! I will definitely complete this mission!"

Yan Tianfei nodded. "Good! Very good!"

Everyone's jaws dropped as they did not know what was happening here!

Only Zhang Ye knew clearly that it was because of the power of the upgraded Lucky Halo. All the problems he had were easily solved. It was just that awesome!!

[I'm Really a Superstar](#)

Chapter 795: The new show will be called—

The developments that followed could only be described as swift. After Yan Tianfei gave the word, Zhang Ye and his team received the orders and established a new program team immediately. Before even confirming the staff assignments and related work duties, the program team's bank account was already set up and running. Yan Tianfei specially approved their department's Finance Section to transfer the 10 million RMB over to the program team. It was done in about ten minutes, as though that money would disappear if they did not quickly get it done. Around ten minutes later, Zhang Ye already had his hands on a legal-looking document with the official department stamp on it that detailed the establishment of the new show.

Yan Tianfei's high efficiency made everyone's jaws drop!

Instantaneously, everyone started discussing in whispers what just happened.

"Wha-what happened just now?"

"I don't know. What on earth is Director Yan doing?"

"Excluding the copyright purchase funds, our department should only have around 10 million or so left in our production budget, right? All of that has been allocated now? All of it will be used for making a documentary? I'll faint if that's true. What's Director Yan thinking?"

"10 million RMB for a documentary? That is enough for 100 documentaries!"

"If they spend it carefully, it might even be enough to shoot 200 documentaries!"

"What on earth is going on?"

"Did anyone hear about anything?"

"I heard that Director Yan went to see the deputy station head, and he's been like this since came back!"

"There wasn't any warning that this would happen, neither have I heard of anything! Uh, but there was an incident that happened at the stage of Central TV Department 1's Rise to the Dance. Could this be related to that?"

Nobody could figure out what was happening.

Tong Fu of Department 14 suddenly exclaimed, "I get it! The deputy station head must have tried to make some arrangements on behalf of Central TV Department 1 and asked for access to our department's production budget to be diverted over to Department 1! There were precedents of such actions before, like last year when the station's funding was tight, didn't they ask for our department's budget to help tide them over!?"

Huang Dandan slapped her thigh, creating a loud pop. "Oh, that's true!"

Tong Fu continued, "Could it be that Director Yan does not want them to have their way, therefore distributed all the money to Director Zhang using a newly set up bank account? He'd rather spend it all than give it up for nothing to Central TV Department 1!"

Someone cursed, "Fuck! Central TV Department 1 has really gone too far!"

Another person said, "They're outright bullying us!"

"Do they think that Department 14 is so easy to pick on? Ah?"

"It's the same with the station. They're always siding with Department 1!"

"Seems like Central TV Department 1 is Central TV's biological child while we're merely the stepchild!"

Little Wang grunted, "That bunch of people at Central TV Department 1 are always behaving in that way!"

Ha Qiqi said, "The Voice's copyright that belonged to Director Zhang was almost sold off by their management who wanted it for themselves. I wouldn't be surprised by what that bunch of people are capable of!"

Wu Yi said, "Those immoral people!"

Zhang Zuo said, "Don't talk about it anymore. I get angry just at the mention of it!"

The people on Zhang Ye's team also started scolding with the same thoughts in mind.

These two groups of people held a grudge with Central TV Department 1, some of it was new, some of it was old.

Zhang Ye was listening to this from the side all this while, suddenly realizing that something had happened to Rise to the Dance's stage! As he was in his office using the Lucky Halo, he did not know about it yet. Needless to say, this was definitely the work of the Lucky Halo. The stage was built by Zhang Ye himself according to the original version of The Voice of China in his previous world. Zhang Ye had spent much time and effort to recreate it and it represented his blood and sweat. It also represented a lot from his previous world, so now that it had been destroyed? It was just as well. The new show had been taken away by Chen Ye and his team, but that was not an issue to him. However, the stage must not be left to them. With his activation of the Lucky Halo this time, it also helped him bring down the entire stage setup in an instant. It was so powerful that Zhang Ye secretly felt a little afraid of it!

So this was the upgraded Lucky Halo!

The reputation points needed to keep it activated were many, something that Zhang Ye would never be able bear in normal circumstances. However, when it was used, its power was very significant. It had the ability to cause an earthshaking effect that could turn things around!

Ha Qiqi said to Zhang Ye, "Director Zhang, although Director Yan has already given the word, but for this 10 million production budget, how should we spend it? There's nothing much that we can spend on when it comes to documentaries, right? Usually, a documentary can be made with just 80 to 100,000 RMB."

When Zhang Zuo heard this, he gave a wry smile and added, "The problem now is that we have to spend it all no matter what?"

Tong Fu and Huang Dandan, along with the rest of Department 14's staff, all knew best about a documentary's expenses. For a documentary, this 10 million was indeed an astronomical figure. To put it bluntly, even if the 10 million yuan budget was given to them, they couldn't spend it all.

When Zhang Ye heard this, he rolled his eyes. This bro was just worrying about the lack of money and only managed to get this 10 million after having such a hard time, so how could he possibly not be able to spend it all. Don't worry, there won't even be a single cent left! It was even better since he was just considering increasing the production budget to replicate the popular documentary series of his world in its whole to present it to this world. This 10 million had arrived timely and the funding was all of a sudden in such great excess!

With so much extra funding, he was no longer limited to just filming the first season of the documentary series. He could even go ahead and do the second season as well, as long as he did not waste too much time. By not capturing unnecessary footage, he could easily finish filming for the two seasons' worth of the original series. There should be enough money now to support this change of plans. Zhang Ye's advantage was that he knew the final cut of the documentary, thus reducing the time needed for him to repeatedly test his shots. In most cases, a documentary had the lowest percentage rate when it came to recorded footage making it into the final cut. Perhaps a little more than a dozen shots out of a thousand would be selected while the remaining would end up not being used, but none of that was a worry for Zhang Ye. The footage he was going to film would have already been "chosen" by the professionals of his previous world who had spent so much time fine-tuning and refining their shots and were later market-tested when the documentary was broadcast. Because of all those reasons, he would undoubtedly be able to avoid wasting any unnecessary expenses. This was an advantage that no one could ever beat him at!

At this moment, Yan Tianfei's secretary walked into the office area hurriedly.

"Director Zhang, are you busy?" the secretary asked politely. "Director Yan just informed me that your team has a total of around 20 people and that all of you are working from Section 1's office space for now, so it has gotten a little crowded here. He told me to unlock and open up Section 3's office space and get it cleaned up before telling you about this, but starting today, your new program team will operate from the Section 3 office space which will become your independent work area."

For a team of around 20 to have their own workspace might seem like it was too much, but with their team setup, they were also considered to be qualified to use it since they were a full team after all.

Zhang Ye smiled and replied, "Great, thank you. Help me thank Director Yan as well."

The secretary smiled. "You can also pick out a few people from Section 1 and 2 to join your new program team. Director Yan has considered the fact that since you're still new here and might not be too familiar with our documentary department's operation and filming process, you would probably need a few old hands to help familiarize you with the work here."

Zhang Ye remarked, "OK, but since I'm still new, I'm not familiar with the people either..."

"Shall I recommend a few people to you then?" the secretary asked.

Zhang Ye answered, "That would be great."

The secretary turned around and looked at the people of Department 14 before saying, "Tong Fu is quite good. When the department was first set up, he was already here, so you could consider him veteran around here. Every time our department has a self-produced documentary job to handle, Tong Fu usually follows along. He knows all about the workflow and approval standards for the documentaries."

Zhang Ye smiled and stated, "Alright then, but I will still have to respect his wishes and not force him to join my team." Saying that, he looked at Tong Fu. This was someone he had a good feeling about since he arrived at the office this morning. He was one, while Huang Dandan was the other. Both of them were very active and cheerful, and it was exactly this type of person Zhang Ye preferred getting acquainted with.

Tong Fu chuckled, "Of course I don't have a problem. I'm just afraid that Director Zhang will find me unreliable. As long as you don't mind, I'll surely give my all!"

Zhang Ye was very happy at that. "Then it's confirmed!"

Tong Fu immediately started packing his things to prepare to go over to the Section 3 office space. However, as he packed, he kept signaling to Director Yan's secretary with his eyes, making it seem like they knew each other very well or something.

Director Yan's secretary glanced at him and coughed, then pondered as he pointed at a girl—Huang Dandan. The secretary said, "Well, Director Zhang, Huang Dandan is quite good as well and she's rather spirited too. She's also well-versed in communication skills and interview techniques. Not only is she one of the more excellent video journalists in our department, she can handle filming very well too if you don't have enough cameramen. Whenever there's a shoot that follows the soccer or basketball leagues, she's always the first choice to go along with the film crew. Her experience is definitely good enough."

"Ahem, you're praising so much that I feel embarrassed. Am I that good?" Huang Dandan scratched her head and then stepped up. "Director Zhang, from now on, wherever you point, Tong Fu and I will follow. Now that I'm a part of your team, I can't guarantee other things, but I definitely won't embarrass you!"

Zhang Ye put out his hand. "Welcome aboard!"

Tong Fu and Huang Dandan both shook Zhang Ye's hand.

Actually, Zhang Ye had already noticed something. He saw the two of them throwing looks at each other every so often and believed that they were probably a couple. It was likely that everyone else in the office knew about this as well.

Next, Director Yan's secretary recommended another two people and Zhang Ye gladly accepted them without hesitation and took them into his fold.

Seeing that, the secretary felt his heart warm. He knew that this was down to Zhang Ye's trust for him. "Director Zhang, regarding the equipment that you requested, Director Yan has already settled it all. He just made some calls a while ago and everything should be sent over by tomorrow."

Zhang Ye reacted with surprise. "That fast?" Accustomed to the red tape in a television station and the delay from the department leaders, Zhang Ye was still not used to working under a leader who was so efficient.

The secretary said, "It was just a few sets of HD equipment, so they still gave us some face regarding that request. Uh, Director Zhang, do you still need me to recommend a few more people for your team?"

Zhang Ye laughed and said, "No, it's alright, that's more than enough. If I were to get more people, then the other sections would be emptied out soon and Director Yan would surely take it up with me if that happens, right?"

After confirming the team members, some people kept their composure as though nothing had happened while a few others clearly looked disappointed. It seemed like they had wanted to go over to the new program team as well, but were unfortunately not chosen to do so. Zhang Ye was still a

legendary figure in the industry and his team was also the one who had created the miracle of the variety world. Joining this legendary team and working with them would surely have been a good experience that they could mention to others in the future: I worked on a show as part of Zhang Ye's program team before! Who wouldn't be impressed if they heard that? Even if they were to leave Central TV, with that line in their résumés, they might even be able to get a better job!

Hua la la. The metal chains on the door were removed by Director Yan's secretary.

The office space at Central TV Department 14's Section 3 was officially opened for Zhang Ye's program team starting today.

The money was in place!

The equipment was in place!

The staff were also in place!

Zhang Ye suddenly felt very emotional. OK, with everything ready, the platform has been set up. The rest will be up to me now! This bro will show those people at Central TV Department 1 that even if I get transferred over to Department 14, even if I end up making documentaries, I will still be able to fucking demolish you all!

The secretary suddenly asked, "Director Zhang, what is your new show going to be called? I'll get someone to make the plate for you to place on the office door."

Ha Qiqi, Zhang Zuo, and the others looked over.

Tong Fu, Huang Dandan, and the rest of the Department 14 staff also perked up their ears in curiosity.

Zhang Ye looked at everyone and then smiled before announcing, "The new program will be called—A Bite of China!"

Chen Ye?

Rise to the Dance?

Central TV Department 1?

Let's meet again in December! See you then!

[I'm Really a Superstar](#)

Chapter 796: The cameras start rolling for A Bite of China!

The next day at work.

News of the matter started spreading internally at Central TV. Many of the Central TV staff who came to work were chatting privately about the matter which they had heard from their friends or seen in the media.

"Hey, have you heard? Zhang Ye got his new show approved by Yan Tianfei the very same day he assumed his new duties at Department 14 yesterday. I heard that Yan Tianfei has established a program team and specially set aside an office area for Zhang Ye and his team. He even borrowed HD equipment

from everywhere and allocated a production budget to him. It seems that the cameras will start rolling soon for the new documentary that Zhang Ye's team is going to make. Central TV Department 1 had the intention to freeze Zhang Ye, but Department 14 doesn't care about this. It looks like we'll be able to watch Zhang Ye's documentary very soon."

"Seems that they were allocated 10 million RMB for it as well."

"What? How can that be?!"

"It's true! I've also received very reliable news that it's 10 million RMB!"

"10 million?"

"Can they spend that much money on a documentary?"

"That's because there is something more to this. Yan Tianfei did not want their money to land in the hands of Central TV Department 1. That's why he allocated all the money to Zhang Ye in a fit of anger."

"What's the new documentary about?"

"I'm not sure, but I've heard that it's about cooking?"

"A documentary about cooking? What's so interesting about that?"

"Who knows? But even if it's not based on cooking, there's nothing to look forward to in a documentary. After all, documentaries are a niche genre. No matter how they're shot, they are more or less still the same. I've heard that they even intend to shoot the documentary with HD video cameras? That's a purely superfluous move. Is there even a need to shoot a cooking documentary with HD equipment? I've never heard of anyone using HD video cameras to shoot a documentary! That's such a waste of money!"

"Who knows what Zhang Ye is thinking?"

"Hai, then what do you expect him to do? The place that Zhang Ye went to is Department 14. It's the only place willing to take him in and give him the money to make a show. Do you think that he still has a choice? All he can do is to brace himself to produce a documentary. Therefore, all of you shouldn't be thinking too hard. Hur hur, my guess is that Zhang Ye himself also does not know how his documentary might turn out this time. I bet that he just got tired of idling around and so chose to make a casual documentary for fun. Probably no one is taking this too seriously."

"You're right on point."

"Yes, I think the same as you."

"Hai, Zhang Ye is finished. He has at least another half a year to go in his contract at Central TV and this is as good as being frozen. Right now, what's getting the most attention from everyone at Central TV is only Department 1's Rise to the Dance. Even the Central TV station leaders are placing a great deal of emphasis on it. Didn't their stage just get badly damaged yesterday, and then on the same night, the station started withdrawing funds from everywhere else so that they could use it to cover Xu Yipeng and Chen Ye's show? Who wouldn't notice that favoritism? All of Central TV's people and resources have to make way for Rise to the Dance since it's a critical show that will help cement Central TV Department 1's

position as the best in the variety show industry. They cannot afford to mess this up. As for everyone else? All the other shows? All of them will have to step aside!"

"That's unavoidable since Department 1 has a special status at Central TV."

"But there are certain things that Central TV Department 1 has indeed gone overboard with. Regarding Zhang Ye back then, they never gave their full support to him. Frankly, ever since the beginning, Central TV Department 1 has never treated him as one of them. They would only trust someone like Chen Ye who has been a long-serving employee of Central TV."

"Don't say any more. There are some things that we just cannot do anything about, hai."

"That's right, this is a fight between gods. Let's just watch from the sides."

Not long after, it was on the news as well.

"Zhang Ye to oversee and produce a documentary!"

"A new challenge faces Zhang Ye and the team of The Voice: A documentary series!"

This news was not very prominent and the number of the media outlets reporting were not that many either. However, when it was published, it attracted a whole lot of attention!

Zhang Ye's friends were all stunned!

Crosstalk actor Yao Jiancai posted on Weibo in shock: "Little Zhang is going to shoot a documentary?"

Singer Chen Guang: "Is he crossing over into other industries again? This should be considered crossing industries, right?"

Dong Shanshan, the host of Beijing Television's Do You Remember: "I wish everything goes well for my old classmate. Always supporting you! Hur hur."

Beijing Television's program team lead, Hu Fei: "A documentary? That won't be easy to shoot at all."

A popular contestant of The Voice, Luo Yu: "Director Zhang is challenging the impossible again!"

The netizens could not stop discussing.

"A documentary? Did they make a mistake?"

"I know that Zhang Ye has gone over to the Central TV Documentary Channel, but I never expected that he would really be making a documentary!"

"Will the final product be watchable? Fuck, who even watches documentaries anyway?"

"I don't."

"I don't watch them much either, ahem."

"Documentaries are overdone with the same old topics. There's nothing interesting about them!"

"Get lost! Even if Teacher Zhang shoots a documentary about dog shit, I'll still watch it!"

"Right! Supporting Teacher Zhang!"

"There's finally news of Teacher Zhang's new program. Praise be! But it's just too bad that it's a documentary. Sob! How do you expect us to watch a documentary?! Even if I forced myself, I wouldn't be able to watch it! The educative nature of a documentary is too strong and too boring! Hai. In any case, I'm not keeping my hopes up, but really it's not because I don't support Teacher Zhang!"

"Making a documentary after making a variety show? This jump is a bit too much!"

There were all sorts of differing opinions.

Even some of Zhang Ye's fans also expressed that they wouldn't be able to watch if it were a documentary, much less those who were not his fans. Not many netizens believed that it would do well at all.

Almost instantaneously, the heated discussions about Zhang Ye's new show died down. Many people's attentions turned back to discussion posts or Weibo posts related to Rise to the Dance and they talked about it fervently. Regarding Central TV Department 1's large-scale dancing talent show, many people were more optimistic about it. In the past few days, under Central TV Department 1's intense promotions and troll army led commentary, the discussions about this topic never ceased and stayed fresh in the minds of everyone.

"Chen Ye's status has risen again."

"It's probably the same for Xu Yipeng too. If Rise to the Dance becomes popular, do you think Old Xu can land the position of executive director for this year's Spring Festival Gala? He has even taken on the role of assistant director at previous Spring Festival Galas before."

"I'm looking forward to this dance show."

"Yes, I'm already tired of watching the recent variety shows, but there really haven't been any dancing talent shows before!"

"Central TV Department 1 really has the makings to become the dominant force of the variety show industry."

This was the entertainment industry and it had always been so realistic. If you had good works, stories, or news, everyone's discussions would revolve around you. Once you were out of new works, or if your stories became boring, even if you were an A-list celebrity, everyone would stop following you. With time, if you didn't have any new works, no topics of discussion, and no popularity, even an A-list celebrity would drop to the B-list and a B-lister would drop to the C-list. There were many celebrities who ended up like that, and Zhang Ye was also in that awkward position now. However, the difference between him and the fallen celebrities was that this fellow had great capability. Even if he couldn't perform in his own profession, he could still pull in fame from his ventures in the gaming and mathematics worlds to maintain his popularity. Although it might not increase his popularity much, at least it helped in not letting it decline for the time being.

Therefore, Zhang Ye had nothing to worry about or had any concerns for now. His popularity was already stable for the time being. He did not need to consider other matters and only needed to shoot the documentary well. When A Bite of China got broadcast, everyone would find out whether his show was good or bad!

...

In the afternoon.

The last set of HD equipment was finally delivered by the staff of their sister channel.

Zhang Ye's heart was set and he immediately called out, "Little Wang!"

Little Wang blinked as she walked over. "Are you looking for me, Director Zhang?"

"Go and book the plane tickets. The teams will be split into three according to plan. We will set off on time tomorrow morning, so no one is to be late as the plane will not wait for anyone!" Zhang Ye instructed.

Little Wang was stunned. "Ah? Tomorrow morning?"

Ha Qiqi also asked, "Director Zhang, why...why are we in such a hurry?"

All the other program team staff of A Bite of China were not at all prepared either.

Zhang Ye smiled and said, "It will already be winter if we keep dawdling like this. We won't be able to film at many of the northern locations if that happens. We can wait, but time does not wait, so let's just endure the hardship for now and start packing once you all get back home in the evening. For a period of time, everyone will be working outside of Beijing on a business trip. Unless you have a very special reason, you won't be going back home for a while. Therefore, please inform your family about this beforehand. When we are finished with our work, I will apply to Director Yan to give everyone a long vacation."

"Sure."

"Understood, Director Zhang."

"Then we'll go prepare!"

Zhang Ye also called home to his parents.

Du du, the call connected. His mother answered the phone.

Zhang Ye said: "Mom, help me pack my luggage and put in more clothes. I'm afraid that I might not have time to pack when I get home. I'll be flying out tomorrow morning."

His mother asked: "Where are you going off to?"

"I will be filming a show. It's a documentary." Zhang Ye said.

His mother nearly fainted. "You're truly serious about filming the documentary? Can you do it?"

Zhang Ye laughed: "You'll know once the documentary is broadcast!"

After hanging up, Zhang Ye went to report to Yan Tianfei again. His application for the business trip was officially approved, and after he returned, Zhang Ye immediately announced, "The cameras will officially start rolling tomorrow for A Bite of China!"

[I'm Really a Superstar](#)

Chapter 797: Filming in progress!

Yunnan.

Shangri-La.

At the boundary of the deep mountains and forest, the film crew of A Bite of China had set up a temporary camp for communications one kilometer away at a small village where they had built tents and set up communication equipment. Zhang Ye and around nine of his colleagues were at the foot of the mountain, worn out from their journey here. As they stood close to nature, their spirits unwittingly started broadening. This was indeed the legendary tourist attraction. Many of those who were here for the first time would immediately fall in love with this place. It was a haven for nature's animals and plants alike, with nature's beauty unreservedly presented in front of one's eyes. This sight would make one feel very relaxed and happy.

The smell of grass was everywhere.

Ha Qiqi praised, "This is such a nice place!"

Little Wang was also spoiled with delight. She whispered, "I thought that this would be a tough assignment, having to rush out dozens of episodes for the documentary series within two months. But who could've guessed that Director Zhang has arranged such a nice place for us? Isn't this as good as going on a tour?!"

Tong Fu laughed. "It's still Director Zhang who takes the most care of us!"

Huang Dandan spread her arms out to embrace the air, "How refreshing! Those who didn't join our film crew will definitely regret it. I'll send them a picture afterwards to make sure of this, hehe!"

At this moment, a wispy group of clouds drifted overhead and everyone looked up to watch, exchanging words about this scenic view.

Zhang Ye came over. "Are all the preparations done?"

"Everything is ready."

"The video cameras have been checked as well."

"Director Zhang, everything is A-OK!"

Everyone got ready.

Zhang Ye said satisfied, "Alright, Tong Fu, Dandan, Little Wang, Old Wu, you guys follow me up into the mountains. We will scout ahead first and try to find a spot where we can set up the cameras."

Wu Yi asked curiously, "Set up the cameras?"

Zhang Ye explained, "I want to record a full day's footage from day until night, highlighting the changes of the cloud cover over several hours and the fog movement, all of which requires a long take.

Therefore, we need to find a spot that has a panoramic view for this appropriate scene to be recorded.

During that time, we will also need someone to stay up there to look after the equipment and ensure that there are no problems with the shoot."

Wu Yi immediately volunteered, "I'll do it."

"Good." Zhang Ye then said, "Sister Ha, what's the status of the thing I asked you about earlier?"

Ha Qiqi replied, "I've already informed the villagers. When they learned we were from Central TV, everyone was so passionate and were fine with us filming anything we wanted to film. I've also arranged for our food and accommodation for the next few days."

Zhang Ye nodded. "That's good then. There's still another matter. I need a mountain guide, but even though I say it's a guide, what I need is actually someone who can appear on camera as well. Go and find out if there are any volunteers for this task. If the filming progresses smoothly, it will only take a day or two. Let them know about this clearly beforehand and also inform them that they will be compensated for their time. You can decide on the amount to pay them. Oh, the guide will need to have experience in picking pine mushrooms and it'd be best if it's a young woman."

Ha Qiqi was a little taken aback. "A woman? Young? I don't think there are many who suit that profile."

Zhang Ye stated, "Even so, try to get one. I'll leave that to you then."

"OK, I will get it done for sure," Ha Qiqi said.

After assigning a few more tasks, Zhang Ye led them up into the mountain forests.

"Eh, this spot seems pretty good."

"The view is really good too!"

"Old Wu, set up the camera and take some test shots!"

"OK."

"The framing here looks good, so we can pick this spot. This camera needs to keep recording for at least five hours and has to be securely stabilized at this spot. You must ensure that the mountain breeze doesn't knock it over or sway the camera's framing!"

"Director Zhang, do we need to record audio as well?"

"Get the audio down too, but I'm not too particular about it. We can edit out parts of it to be used when the time comes."

"Alright!"

After a full two hours of working in the mountains, they familiarized themselves with the routes and environment. There was also an update from Ha Qiqi's side, as she brought along with her a local Tibetan girl—Sangyé.

Ha Qiqi said breathlessly, "Will she do, Director Zhang?"

Sangyé who came with Ha Qiqi did not look tired at all from the trek here. Her eyes sparkled with interest as she looked at everyone and the equipment in their hands, while she herself was a little shy.

Zhang Ye smiled and said, "Hello, my name is Zhang Ye. I'm the director of the film crew."

Sangyé quickly said, "I am Sangyé, hello."

She could speak Mandarin, but just at an average level although it was still quite understandable.

After a simple chat and posing some questions to her regarding pine mushroom harvesting, Zhang Ye finally said, "Alright, you'll do. I'll be troubling you for the next two days, Sangyé. We can start filming immediately. Are you OK with that?"

Sangyé nodded. "I'm fine." Saying that, she hesitated for a moment before mustering her courage to ask, "I...Will everyone be able to see me on television?"

Ha Qiqi smiled and replied, "Yes, of course. When the time comes for the broadcast, I will give you a call to let you know beforehand. We're from Central TV Department 14 and you will be able to receive the signal here as well."

Sangyé was suddenly delighted at that and immediately led them up the mountains.

Zhang Ye said from the side, "Sangyé, you don't need to be so nervous. Just be yourself and act natural. Yes, your expression can be a little more natural, just think of us as nonexistent and you'll be fine. Walk ahead like you would usually do when you're harvesting for pine mushrooms since that's what we want to capture on camera." After a few test shots, Zhang Ye checked the footage from the video camera but was not too satisfied with the results. He quickly got everyone to stop what they were doing and told his staff, "Someone come and help Sangyé touch up a little."

Little Wang said, "Let me do it. Should I put on some makeup?"

Zhang Ye said, "No need for makeup. Just help her tidy up a bit, so that her hair won't look messy."

This was Zhang Ye's first time directing a documentary shoot and also the first time most of his team were filming a documentary. As everyone needed a little bit of a familiarization process, this slow development at the beginning was already expected by Zhang Ye. He believed that after today, the filming process would only get faster and faster. But for now, they would have to take things one step at a time so that their basics could be honed. No shot could have a mistake in it. If they returned to Beijing after the location shoots were completed and discovered that a certain key scene could not be used? At that time, they wouldn't have the time or resources to come back here to re-record the footage! Therefore, Zhang Ye could accept a slow start, as long as they kept improving their quality of shots!

During the break.

Zhang Ye looked at his cell phone and saw that there was still a signal. He quickly made a call to the second film crew who were sent to Zhejiang, with Assistant Director Zhang Zuo being assigned as the temporary director of their group.

"Hello, Director Zhang!" a tired-sounding Zhang Zuo answered over the phone.

Zhang Ye immediately asked, "Have you all arrived?"

Zhang Zuo replied breathlessly, "Phew, we have just reached the site and found the village. This place is quite inaccessible by vehicle."

"Great, it's been tough for you guys," Zhang Ye said. "Just get some rest first and take a breather. As for the rest of the work, just follow the arrangements that I briefed you guys on earlier. Brother Zhang, the task that I assigned to your team is the most urgent one. Try to get all the footage recorded by tomorrow, then head to the next filming location. It's going to be October very soon, so it might be a little late to get the footage of the harvesting of the winter bamboo shoots. But if we drag it on any longer, I believe that we won't have a chance at getting that footage anymore. I'll need you all to put in a lot of effort and tire you guys a little this time to record that footage over there. Tomorrow afternoon, when I can get the plane tickets booked, I'll fly straight over and we'll head to the next filming location from there."

Zhang Zuo said, "How hard can it be for us? You're the one having it the worst, so just leave this to us and don't be worried."

After the call ended, Zhang Ye made a call to the third film crew.

The three film crews of A Bite of China were already assigned and sent out to their respective locations by Zhang Ye at around the same time. Zhang Ye could not oversee everything by himself and could only follow one film crew at a time, so he went with Ha Qiqi's team first to help them become familiar with the shooting and to let them know what kind of style he was trying to achieve. After that, Zhang Ye would rendezvous with the next team on the second day, and then the third team a day or two later. All of the recorded footage would need to satisfy Zhang Ye before he would use them. If he did not have a look for himself, he would not be able to stop worrying. A Bite of China might look like it was easy to film, but the truth was that there were many techniques used to film this documentary. The simpler a scene looked, the harder it was to capture. The massive amounts of information and content, and even the artistic mood of the documentary could sometimes only be found in those several simple scenes. Nothing could be wanting at all, and if it was, it would surely affect the documentary's quality!

As the executive director of A Bite of China, he could not run away from the fate of having to travel all over the country to oversee the filming progress. There was no way, especially with time so tight!

For example, the scene featuring the winter bamboo shoots harvesting.

For example, the scene of the pine mushrooms harvesting which was also found in the first episode.

They all needed to be filmed right now, not later. The harvesting of winter bamboo shoots would have ended in mid-September and they could almost no longer film this harvesting process anymore at this point in time. Meanwhile, the pine mushrooms harvesting season ended a little later, just before mid-October. But when something like that was so dependent on the weather, if waited until the rainy season of Shangri-La was long over, then there might be no more traces of any pine mushrooms in the mountains anymore. All of these tasks were a race against time, which was why Zhang Ye had given a recording schedule to each of the three film crews before they set off from Beijing. With the three film crews headed off to different locations, the shooting process was not done in accordance to the timeline of A Bite of China back in Zhang Ye's previous world. It was planned accordingly to which shoot was more urgent, and only in that way would they be able to ensure that everything could be completed successfully.

As for the footage which could not be filmed during September and October? After all, in the original version of A Bite of China, there were also many scenes that took place in spring and summer.

So Zhang Ye thought of a plan.

He had two ideas to solve this:

1. Change locations. Although it was winter in the north, there were locations where it was spring all year round. Surely they could get the footage they wanted at those places, right?
2. Change the types of food. A Bite of China was a documentary that focused on food, the people, and its culture. By changing the type of food featured, he wasn't changing the idea behind the documentary. They would still be able to show the food and its history in that way, except that Zhang Ye would have to start thinking a bit harder and try to write a script which would follow according to the format of the original A Bite of China. The amount of food that required changing wasn't that much either, so his workload shouldn't be too great. Zhang Ye had already used the Memory Search Capsules to retrieve all the information of A Bite of China from his previous world. All of the scenes and details have been fully memorized by Zhang Ye, and when coupled with his Basics of Directing and Camera Techniques Skill Experience Books, he could mimic those scenes without affecting the quality of the documentary.

The film schedule was resolved.

The race against time was resolved.

And thus, there were no longer any problems!

[I'm Really a Superstar](#)

Chapter 798: I have not left yet!

On the first day of shooting, the film crews were all very excited, relaxed and treating it as a holiday tour.

On the second day of shooting, the film crews were beginning to feel a little tired.

On the third day of shooting, the first casualties started appearing, with some staff from all three film crews falling sick at the same time. Some either caught a cold or couldn't acclimatize, with one suffering from altitude sickness, but was recovering well after being given an oxygen mask at a local hospital.

On the fourth day of shooting, the film crews were all complaining incessantly.

"We still have to fly today?"

"We're going to Guizhou this time?"

"Fuck me! I can't take this anymore!"

"Director Zhang, can we request for a day off to rest?"

"Yeah, Director Zhang, everyone's almost at their limits. We have been hiking in the mountains and crossing streams every day, coupled with rushing to our flights and making our way into the villages on ox carts. We're all used to sitting in the office at work, so doing all these activities has suddenly taken a real toll on our health. We really can't take it anymore!"

"Director Zhang hasn't even complained yet. Who are we to say anything?"

"Right, let's endure a little more. We can catch some z's on the plane."

"We can do it. Back in the days of preparing for The Voice, how many of us really got any rest in the two months leading up to the broadcast? Didn't we also work every day for more than ten hours? We could even survive those difficult times, so what is this hardship now? It's not easy for Director Zhang either, so let's not complain anymore."

There were some who complained, but also others who encouraged.

When Zhang Ye heard this, he could only try to cheer them on by saying, "We can't afford to rest in the next few days. There are still two more locations that we have to complete shoots at, so why don't we wait for the day after tomorrow instead? By then, we can get a day or two of rest, so please try to endure a little more."

Today, Zhang Ye was following the second film crew around on their film schedule. This crew were all made up of the staff who were previously from The Voice. He knew the reason why everyone could not take this anymore. Other than the mountain hikes which took a lot of their energy, there was one other reason. It was the lack of something to look forward to. When they were recording for The Voice back then, everyone was successively clocking overtime to finish their tasks because Zhang Ye had pulled in an astronomical title sponsorship fee. On top of that, he also pulled in big shot celebrities like Zhang Yuanqi, Chen Guang, and Fan Wenli to join the program. With the public's eye on them and the media reporting about their program almost every day, everyone surely had the motivation to work harder.

However, this time?

This time they were shooting a documentary program which seemingly had no future to them!

It was only reported by a few scattered and small media outlets before quickly dying down. They did not even seem to be interested in the title of the documentary, much less give it any further attention. Knowing that the documentary they were shooting would not be seen by too many people, everyone's motivation naturally dropped by quite a bit.

Zhang Ye told them, "Just endure a little bit more. Perhaps when everyone looks back on this in the future, you all might discover that this hardship was very well worth it. Who knows, this documentary just might bring us a great surprise!"

Everyone broke into a sweat.

Surprise?

Surprise my ass!

What surprises could a documentary possibly have!? They would be more than satisfied if the viewership ratings did not get too frighteningly low. No one was hoping for a miracle and felt that this was just Director Zhang painting pies in the sky to raise their morale.

AD Zhang Zuo led everyone by saying, "Director Zhang, don't worry. Since you can hold up, we'll be fine as well! There definitely won't be someone who holds us back!"

At this moment, a call from Beijing came in.

It was Department 14's Director Yan Tianfei.

Yan Tianfei asked: "Teacher Zhang, how's the progress of your shoot going?"

Zhang Ye immediately answered: "It's been very smooth up until now. We're stepping it up to try to get more footage recorded."

Yan Tianfei coughed: "You don't have to rush. It's not like we must definitely broadcast in December anyway. I've heard that some of your crew members have fallen ill since yesterday? There was even someone who suffered from altitude sickness? Please take it easy and watch out for everyone's safety. That is of the utmost importance. It doesn't matter if it affects the show, but our people must definitely not have anything happen to them. I know that you have very strict requirements when it comes to the arts. You always want to achieve perfection and excellence, but a documentary is different from other programs, so there's no need to push it so hard, am I right? Just do OK and it'll be fine."

Zhang Ye laughed: "Director, rest assured. I have a sense of propriety. I'll certainly bring back everyone in the same condition as when I brought them out here."

"Alrighty then, as long as you know what you're doing." Yan Tianfei had wanted to say a bit more, but after hearing Zhang Ye reassure him in that way, he couldn't really interfere anymore. Since the film crews were already assigned to Zhang Ye, with him as their boss, it wouldn't be too good if Yan Tianfei had to stick his nose in. He only called because he got worried after hearing that some people had fallen ill and hoped to persuade Zhang Ye not to push the teams too hard. However, he guessed that Zhang Ye probably did not really take his words to heart. Hai, it was good that he was responsible in his work and sought perfection in what he did, but there was no need to be like this. Does Little Zhang really intend to make something fancy out of this show called A Bite of China?

How could that be!?

Yan Tianfei had read through the program proposal repeatedly, but he did not find anything unusual about it.

Recording cuisine, recording ingredients, recording people and cultures, it was a very standard template that you could find in eight out of ten documentaries. Their department had also done similar documentaries like this before, where they would visit forested mountain regions to document the untouched way of life. Wasn't this how all documentaries were filmed? The only difference was that they had never used HD video cameras in the past, so rather than just saying that the staff on Zhang Ye's filming crew did not anticipate the documentary much, or that the media and audience of the entire country also did not anticipate it much, even an experienced director of a documentary channel like Yan Tianfei also did not anticipate it much.

Well, whatever. As long as the entire 10 million was spent, everything else was not an issue! He wasn't going to be bothered by anything else anymore and just left Teacher Little Zhang alone to handle this matter. He could do it however he liked, and no matter how poor the viewership ratings ended up, Department 14 wouldn't care about it. In any case, they were already at the bottom rung of the entire Central TV structure, so no matter how badly they did, they couldn't do any worse than they were already doing!

...

Meanwhile.

In Beijing.

While the film crews of A Bite of China were slaving away, rushing to the different locations to film their scenes, the program team of Central TV Department 1's Rise to the Dance was in contrast much more relaxed.

The preliminary auditions had already begun!

Their program had taken up at least half of the entertainment news headlines!

"Chen Ye's marriage on the rocks?"

"Internal rumors rife: Rise to the Dance's executive director, Xu Yipeng, to host the coming Spring Festival Gala!"

"According to sources, Rise to the Dance's actual production spending could rise to 120 million RMB!"

"Beijing Dance Academy's senior year school belle rumored to be competing in Rise to the Dance?"

"Preliminary auditions, fierce competition. A talented dancer emerges!"

All these headlines were mainly to hype up the show. Some were real and some not, but all of them were just rumors.

Then, there was also some confirmed news.

Beijing Times: Rise to the Dance has officially invited dancer Teacher Lili to join the program. Our reporter has received an official confirmation about this news from Teacher Lili's management company. Undoubtedly, this would add another heavyweight claim for Rise to the Dance. Teacher Lili is one of the few famous dancers from China to have received an international professional dance award before, so her status in this industry was unquestionable!

Southern Entertainment News: A-list celebrity Huo Dongfang confirms that he has joined Rise to the Dance, with a rumored joining fee of 18 million RMB. As everyone knows, "Sect Leader Huo" started out as a professional dancer before crossing over to become an actor. Back then, the movie Dancing in the Air earned the accolade of Best Picture in China. Sect Leader Huo played the lead role without needing a stand-in. All the dance scenes in the film were performed by him, and he even played a part in choreographing them. From that alone, his strength in dancing was evident. The addition of him to Rise to the Dance was truly a great move. With Huo Dongfang joining Rise to the Dance, he brings along a great deal of his followers as well, and he could be considered one of the most suitable guests to be invited onto the show. Yes, as to why we say "one of the most," that is because there is another even more suitable guest—Heavenly Queen Zhang Yuanqi. It's rumored that the people in charge of Rise to the Dance have been in contact with Sister Zhang's agency. If they really manage to invite the Heavenly Queen who's also extremely well-versed in dance to helm the show, then it would only make the show even stronger!

The news of the day in the entertainment circle was mostly about Rise to the Dance!

...

Guangxi.

At a small civilian airport.

Zhang Ye and his team were waiting to show their boarding passes to board the plane. At this moment, his cell phone rang. It was Zhang Ye's former boss at Beijing Television, Hu Fei, who called.

Hu Fei: "Little Zhang, where are you?"

Zhang Ye said, catching his breath: "I'm in Guangxi right now."

Hu Fe cleared his throat. "You went all the way there?"

Zhang Ye: "Yeah, right now I'm in Guangxi. Later, I will be in Guizhou. I'm actually waiting to board the plane right now."

Hu Fei: "You always give your all when it comes to work. I've heard that you're making a documentary this time, so I thought of giving you a call. You should know that a documentary is really difficult to handle. When I graduated all those years ago, my first job was to work on documentaries. I've produced several of them before, so you can say that I have some understanding of them."

Zhang Ye laughed: "It really isn't easy to shoot. I've come to realize that greatly in the past few days."

Hu Fei said: "Have you already read about Rise to the Dance's promotions?"

"I flipped through some newspapers and saw them. It seems like they're really promoting it quite a lot," Zhang Ye replied with a laugh. Although he had been spending much of his time in the mountains and small towns, but when it came to his opponent's news, how could he not keep himself updated?

Hu Fei declared, sounding rather stressed: "It's more than a lot! I haven't seen their ads yet, but the speculation and publicity in the news are always changing every day. They've already managed to move Huo Dongfang and Teacher Lili and get them to join the program with their joining fees one higher than the other. I've also heard that Chen Ye is trying to convince Sister Zhang to join them, having gone over to discuss with them personally twice already."

Zhang Ye blinked at that. "Did Sister Zhang agree?"

Hu Fei said: "No, a joining fee of 20 to 30 million won't be able to move the Heavenly Queen. In the entire entertainment industry, the Heavenly Queen will only give face to you. Xu Yipeng and Chen Ye could never do that. However, even without the Heavenly Queen, Rise to the Dance still has a glittering lineup. Our entire program team is already feeling the pressure from them, possibly because they're not letting up in their promos at all. The recent viewership ratings for Do You Remember has already dropped slightly, while the other talent shows are also experiencing the same thing. This Rise to the Dance show is already creating such a wave even before it starts broadcasting. I really cannot imagine what it will be like when they start their broadcast! From now on, I'm afraid that our good days are going to be over. I just had a meeting yesterday to discuss with Dong Shanshan and the others. We're already preparing to implement the changes that you told us about back then to change the show's rules and format. Hopefully, this will help freshen the program a little for the audience."

Zhang Ye nodded when he heard that. "That's OK. Since Do You Remember has already been on air for so long now, it's also the right time to introduce some changes."

Hu Fei sighed: "If only you were still around in the television industry, Rise to the Dance would never be able to act so arrogantly. After you left, no one in the variety industry is able to keep them under control."

Zhang Ye laughed: "Brother Hu, who says that I have left?"

Hu Fei sounded a little startled. "Huh?"

Zhang Ye added: "Because I...have not left yet."

[I'm Really a Superstar](#)

Chapter 799: Filming wraps for A Bite of China!

After the call with Hu Fei ended.

They still could not board the plane yet. This time, Zhang Ye received a rather unexpected call—from Chen Guang's wife, the famous singer, Fan Wenli.

"Director Zhang, are you busy right now?" Fan Wenli asked.

Zhang Ye laughed: "I'm not busy at the moment, just waiting to board the plane. What's the matter, Sister Fan?"

Fan Wenli's tone sounded like she was somewhat embarrassed. "There's something that I think I should inform you about first. After discussing with Old Chen, he also said that I should let you know as well."

Zhang Ye was taken aback. "Huh? What's the matter?"

Fan Wenli said: "Rise to the Dance has invited me to join their show, and I've agreed to it."

This was something that Zhang Ye did not expect at all. Why would a dance show invite Fan Wenli? Wouldn't there be more suitable candidates? Even though Fan Wenli was considered a big sister of the music industry and a very popular singer who knew how to do simple dances, surely she didn't have much in relation to a dance show, right?

However, on second thought, Zhang Ye understood. Did it matter that she wasn't in the dance profession? How many of Rise to the Dance's future audience would really understand dance as an art as well? In the numerous dancing talent shows of Zhang Ye's previous world, not only were there singers who joined the judging panels of those dance shows, there were even crosstalk actors who did the same. The main qualifying criteria still boiled down to the celebrity's popularity and ability to present themselves onstage. Fan Wenli had good looks and could also dance a few moves. It didn't matter if her dance was not professional, it would still be able to attract attention. After all, she had already worked her way up as an artist involved in the performing arts industry, and had even been a teacher before as well. She did not lack the foundation in this area, so it was definitely acceptable that Rise to the Dance invited her to join the program. Besides, Fan Wenli was also a guest coach on the recently ended but successful Central TV Department 1 variety show The Voice. By inviting her, Xu Yipeng and Chen Ye were probably hoping that Fan Wenli would be able to help build Rise to the Dance's audience base by pulling in fans of The Voice, thereby letting them smoothly succeed the previous show.

Having considered it all, Old Fan was truly quite a good pick for the show.

Of course, that also meant that the program team of Rise to the Dance probably failed to invite Zhang Yuanqi on board, otherwise they wouldn't have gone for the next best choice, Old Fan.

Zhang Ye laughed and asked: "How much are they paying you? If it's too little, you should not go."

"It's about the same as The Voice," Fan Wenli said embarrassedly.

Zhang Ye nodded. "Then that's fine. Why would you need to inform me about this? The viewership ratings for Rise to the Dance shouldn't be too bad. Since they're promoting the show so aggressively, if you joined them, it will definitely help with increasing your popularity. Besides, the joining fee isn't a small sum either, so why would you not agree, right?"

Fan Wenli said: "Everyone knows that you don't get along with Chen Ye and the both of you even fought on Weibo before. Besides, if not for that incident, this program should have been helmed by you instead, so I—"

Zhang Ye interrupted: "Aiyo, Sister Fan, come on. You and I have already known each other for some time now. Am I really such a petty person in the eyes of Old Chen and you?"

Fan Wenli chuckled when she heard him say that. "Well, no."

"Then that settles it." Zhang Ye really did not think much of this and even joked: "Just do it knowing that I don't mind at all. However, I hope that you won't do your best for them and just do your job averagely. Most of the people in that group aren't good people and they will not appreciate you even if you try your best for them."

Fan Wenli was tickled at this. "I'm really relieved to hear you say that. If only you did not leave, because even if you offered me half of what you did before, I would still be willing to join your shows."

Zhang Ye suddenly stated, "Rest assured, Sister Fan. There will still be chances for us to work together in the future."

After hanging up, Zhang Ye shook his head. It was yet another assumption that he had left? He had already heard this being mentioned so many times in just a short period of time.

Leave?

Of course he didn't leave, but it was just that everyone thought that he had left. All of the media, his peers, as well as the audience believed that after he was dumped to the Central TV Documentary Channel, he would lose the ability to compete for viewership ratings against the other variety shows, so they automatically excluded Zhang Ye from there. But Zhang Ye never thought this way before. Whoever dictated that the prerequisite to getting first place in the nationwide viewership ratings was to have a variety type of entertainment program? Other than variety shows, did all the other genres not have the right to fight for the number 1 spot in the viewership ratings?

Hur hur.

Perhaps this might be the case in the past. But from now on, that was no longer necessarily true!

This time, Zhang Ye wanted to let everyone know. To come out top in the viewership ratings? Even a documentary would stand a chance! On the day that A Bite of China broadcasts, all of you better be prepared for a fright!

In front of him.

Zhang Zuo turned around, probably curious after hearing Zhang Ye's conversation on the phone.

"Director Zhang, Teacher Fan Wenli has also joined Rise to the Dance?"

The others from the film crew also looked over.

Zhang Ye had no reason to hide this so just nodded and said, "It's confirmed. Teacher Fan has just called me to let me know about it."

"Sister Fan has really joined their show?"

"Damn, then their lineup will really be strong!"

"With Teacher Fan on board, their show will be supported by the momentum gained from The Voice!"

"Director Zhang, are we just going to look on like this?"

"Yeah, I really can't take this lying down! It's so infuriating!"

"What else can we do? We have already been reduced to making documentaries! There's no way for us to go and compete with them in the ring anymore! We won't even qualify for an entrance ticket!"

"How annoying!"

Everyone had their share of opinions. Having their show taken away from them had already left them very unhappy, but what made it worse was that this bunch of people who took their show were still getting featured so regularly in the media that they couldn't avoid seeing them at all!

However, Zhang Ye spoke very calmly, "Alright, don't complain anymore. Just leave them be. We'll carry on doing our own things. There shouldn't be any point of conflicts in what we do. I was thinking of our schedule just now. Maybe we can add a visit to the Wuyi Mountains for a scenic shoot. It's not that urgent, so we can leave that location for last."

Zhang Zuo was taken aback. "Director Zhang, was our program proposal only a half completed one?"

Zhang Ye laughed and said, "We don't lack any money now anyway, so why not shoot a few more episodes?"

Zhang Zuo voiced with trepidation, "10 million is indeed not a small sum. But if we go on like this, I'm afraid that this 10 million would also be insufficient for us. It looks like we're making a large-scale documentary already?"

"The money should be enough. I'll keep it in mind," Zhang Ye replied.

Back then, the proposal that Zhang Ye had given a copy to Yan Tianfei and his team staff only touched on the first season of A Bite of China. But due to the Lucky Halo's effects which landed them a 10 million RMB windfall, Zhang Ye decided to make some changes to the proposal by adding the second season

into the filming schedule as well. With the tasks and scenes doubled, he began to slowly add schedules bit by bit across all three film crews.

As for how he would fuse seasons one and two of A Bite of China together? Zhang Ye already made his plans. The simplest solution: cutting down on the scenes that touched on the stories of people and culture in season two of A Bite of China. There wasn't a great deal of difference between the first and second seasons, except that the second season featured a lot more stories about the people and culture surrounding the featured foods. Some netizens rated season two of A Bite of China to be lower than the first season because of all the scenes that it dedicated to talking about the people and culture, while there was less of a focus on the food itself. But regardless of whether that opinion was objective or not, since Zhang Ye wanted to edit the two seasons into one, then he needed to have the storytelling be consistent. With food as its central focus, Zhang Ye would definitely choose to cut out the irrelevant scenes of season two of A Bite of China. With this small change, it might even help push their viewership ratings even higher than he wanted them to be.

The Voice's viewership ratings had defied all sense and it achieved many records in this world as well. It also achieved the top spot in the nationwide viewership ratings, amazing everyone except Zhang Ye, who was not that impressed with the results. Although he knew that the two worlds could not be compared using the same standards, the viewership ratings of The Voice in this world was really quite terrible when compared to his previous world. This was due to the variety show environment, the viewing habits of the audience, as well as many other factors. But the details of this were not important at this time anymore. Zhang Ye had pinned all his expectations for a better viewership rating on A Bite of China!

There mustn't be any more "discounts"!

This time, with A Bite of China, there had to be no mistakes. Zhang Ye even hoped that A Bite of China would do exceedingly well in this world as he believed it had the potential and also the capability to do so!

In his previous world, season one of A Bite of China took a long time to become popular. At the beginning, the viewership ratings were extremely low until it started spreading by word of mouth about how good it was. By the time season two of A Bite of China aired, the viewership ratings began rapidly climbing until it reached a peak. What must be cleared up here is that in the previous world, A Bite of China was not promoted, and had no celebrity stars or much funding. It was even broadcast on television at a very bad time. Regarding this, Zhang Ye had no plans to replicate those conditions!

Promotions?

I will fucking promote it well!

No celebrities?

I will personally narrate A Bite of China!

Lack of funding?

I will throw money at every scene with the greater production funding than the original version, so that every image shown will be better perfect!

As for the broadcast schedule?

Whatever primetime slot that Rise to the Dance will be broadcast at, we will also broadcast it at that time!

I will give whatever you all want and I will make up for whatever you all don't have! Zhang Ye did not have any extravagant hopes other than for A Bite of China's viewership ratings to start off with a bang!

With this expectation and determination, the filming was also systematically carried out!

On their journey, all kinds of incidents kept occurring. Equipment failures, staff injuries, plane delays, the film crew getting trapped in the mountains due to weather, etc.

This was Zhang Ye's attitude towards the arts and also his purpose as an executive director of the show.

A documentary was unlike a variety show, with the latter for entertainment, while the former existed as a form of art. They were not the same at all!

...

Two months passed in no time.

As November came to an end.

Winter arrived as the weather turned cool. It also started snowing in many places.

The second film crew at Anhui were the first to have completed all their tasks at this moment. At about the same time, the third film crew at Jiangsu also completed all of their team's schedules!

On the same day.

Zhang Ye and the first film crew finished their final shoot at the Wuyi Mountains!

Along with Zhang Ye, they excitedly wrapped up their work and cheered!

"We're done shooting!"

"We're finally done!"

"My god! I'm exhausted!"

"We can finally go home! Hooray!"

"It's been two long months already! We can finally wrap!!!"

Everyone in the film crews nearly burst out into tears. All those days really had not been easy for them!

[I'm Really a Superstar](#)

Chapter 800: Da Hong Pao doesn't exist in this world?

In the afternoon.

Wuyishan City.

The members of the first film crew were all inside their hotel suites. Some of them were packing up the equipment and luggage, some of them were finishing up their final bit of work, and some were laughing and chatting happily. The atmosphere was very relaxed. Having worked on the documentary for two full months now, once the filming wrapped, they suddenly felt no tinge of tiredness anymore.

Zhang Ye was standing at the window, on the phone.

"Brother Zhang, we've also completed our work over here."

"Congratulations, Director Zhang."

"I should congratulate you too. Have you guys booked the plane tickets yet?"

"Yes, we've already booked them. We'll be taking this afternoon's flight back to Beijing."

"Alright. I've already told the third film crew that they can go back as well. Our side here will be taking tomorrow's flight since we didn't manage to get today's plane tickets on time, so we will head back a day later than you guys."

"Alright, then we will wait for you to get back."

"Don't bother waiting for me. After you guys get back, take it that I have given my approval for you to have a few days' rest. Since we're already done with the filming, the remaining work will be the editing and voiceover recording. That will be my job and I'll have to spend a few more days to edit it. Most of you can just take a break."

"OK."

"Then that's all. Handle the equipment and source footage carefully when you get back. Don't damage anything."

"Understood."

"We'll meet back at Beijing then."

After hanging up, Zhang Ye immediately made a call to Yan Tianfei. He definitely needed to report back to Old Yan that they had successfully completed the first stage of production.

When Yan Tianfei heard about this, he was overcome with emotion. "You've finally completed the shoot! Well done! Well done! I've heard all about the hard work that you guys have been putting in for the past two months. Teacher Zhang, it's been hard on you."

Zhang Ye quickly replied: "Hur hur, Director Yan, listen to what you're saying. This is my job and whatever I did was all part of my job. It's been hard on our brothers and sisters of the film crews though."

Yan Tianfei asked: "How much of the production budget have you spent?"

"Slightly more than 9.9 million RMB." Zhang Ye laughed and said: "I was controlling our spending. Another night at the hotel and another meal later, there should be almost nothing left of the remaining money."

Yan Tianfei also chuckled: "Good, it's a good thing that you've spent it all. The station has been pressuring us to lend them the money every day. I heard that Central TV Department 1 still does not have enough funding, so even if there is money left over, we won't be able to keep it. It's great that you've spent it all! After you guys have returned, I'll throw a celebratory feast for everyone."

Zhang Ye smiled and said: "Alright, I'll thank you for that first, Director Yan."

When the call ended, Zhang Ye heard Ha Qiqi and the others chatting behind him.

Ha Qiqi was all smiles as she said to the several of them, "I never knew that shooting a documentary could be so expensive. Back then, when I heard that we were given 10 million RMB for our budget, I thought that it would be impossible for us to spend it all. In the end, I couldn't have expected that if we didn't control our spending a little, we might not even have enough to last us the entire trip. Spending 10 million RMB to film a documentary? I think it's only us who try to make a documentary this way in the entire country! This is really a genuinely expensive documentary to produce!"

Tong Fu didn't know whether to laugh or cry. "That's right. There's really no one in the country who will spend so much money to shoot a documentary. Some of the 30 to 40 episode documentary series would at most cost around 2 million RMB to make, but as for us? Looking at Director Zhang's program proposal, it's only a total of 10 episodes?"

Little Wang asked, "What are your opinions about this documentary?"

Tong Fu exclaimed, "Regarding this, I don't know."

Huang Dandan coughed, "Yeah, it's indeed hard to say."

After hearing from these two staff members who were the only ones with real documentary making experience, it became clear to the several of them that those two were also in the same situation as them. After shooting for two months, they still did not understand what was so special about this documentary. They were only shooting the documentary in the traditional manner, albeit with HD video cameras, and they did not notice anything in the entire process that looked like a flash of brilliance. They just shot as much footage as they could, doing as they were told and following Zhang Ye's instructions. If Zhang Ye said they were to look for a certain type of food, they would go look and for it. Basically, they did not understand much of what they were doing at all.

Zhang Ye walked over with a smile. "What're you guys talking about? I heard everything."

Everyone suddenly felt awkward.

"Uh, we aren't talking about anything much," Tong Fu scampered to reply.

"Director Zhang, where should we go in the afternoon?" Little Wang changed the subject.

Zhang Ye said, "Whoa, you guys aren't tired?"

Little Wang smiled gleefully and said, "I'm don't feel tired. Our flight is tomorrow anyway, and we will have plenty of time to rest once we get back to Beijing."

"I agree!" Huang Dandan pumped her fist in agreement.

Ha Qiqi laughed. "The mountains and rivers here are quite scenic, but I don't think there's much of anything else to do here? Are there any local attractions in Wuyishan City? Or anything good to eat?"

Wu Yi said, "I don't know. I think it's the first time that all of us are here."

Zhang Ye suggested, "Why don't we go out in the afternoon to drink some tea?"

Little Wang clapped her hands as she mentioned, "I like drinking tea!"

"Since we're at Wuyishan City, if we don't give Da Hong Pao a try, we would really have come in vain." Zhang Ye smiled. "Of course, I'm talking about cultivar tea. We won't be able to afford to try the tea leaves that comes directly from the parent trees, and neither would they sell it to us anyway."

Ha Qiqi was stunned. "Da Hong Pao?"

Wu Yi also blinked and asked, "Cultivar tea? What cultivar?"

Little Wang was feeling puzzled. "Parent trees?"

Zhang Ye looked at them. "What? Have you all never heard of Da Hong Pao?"

How disgraceful! Aren't you all being a little too tacky! This is the noblest tea among all the famous teas!

Hearing Zhang Ye mention about this Da Hong Pao, the others all looked at each other puzzled!

Tong Fu asked with a confused expression, "What kind of tea is this Da Hong Pao?"

Scratching her head, Huang Dandan smiled embarrassed and asked, "Is there such a tea? I've never heard of it before."

"If Director Zhang says there is, then it must exist. Our limited knowledge can't compare to Director Zhang," fawned a staff member, though his eyes were filled with doubt at the same time. Da Hong Pao? Are you sure you're not referring to clothes? Is there even a tea that goes by this lousy name?!

This time, it was Zhang Ye's turn to be confused. It was understandable if one or two of them had never heard of it before, but for everyone present to have never heard of Da Hong Pao? That was somewhat inconceivable. Zhang Ye's keen sense of awareness told him that there was something wrong here, so he immediately probed further. "What about oolong tea?"

Little Wang said immediately, "I know about oolong tea. There are many types of it, but I like to drink Tieguanyin the most."

Ha Qiqi asked, "Do they have Tieguanyin here?"

"It doesn't seem like they have any exceptionally famous teas in Wuyi, right? Although it also seems like they grow tea here, their reputation and quantity aren't comparable to Suzhou's and Hangzhou's tea," Wu Yi said.

Wuyi's teas are not famous?

Fuck, are you from another planet?! The parent trees of Da Hong Pao are located right here! They sell those tea leaves by the gram in auctions! Each auction's winning bids could easily reach several hundred grand! Yet here you are telling me that there are no famous teas in Wuyi? Are you kidding me?

However, judging from everyone's expression and doubtful faces, Zhang Ye thought that he was probably the one who came from another planet instead. He was full of curiosity now. Could it be that there wasn't any Da Hong Pao on this planet? That those parent trees did not exist? But it was impossible. Even though there had been some changes in this world, there hadn't been much of a deviation from history. The more critical point was that those few old tea trees older than several hundred years should not be related to history at all! It should be an issue of geography and the mineral makeup of the location instead! In this world, Shanxi was still mining coal, Daqing still had oil fields, while Burmese jade was still as popular as ever, so there shouldn't be any changes in this area, right?

Then why did Da Hong Pao not exist here?

Or could it be that those parent trees did not actually disappear, but that the people of this world were still unaware of how precious and valuable it was?

At the thought of this, Zhang Ye's heart began thumping faster and faster as he became quite excited. The parent trees of Da Hong Pao were as good as money trees. It was the most expensive tea in the world! Moreover, nothing could even come close to its price, as it was countless times more expensive than gold was worth its weight! If only he could manage to get hold of some of the parent trees. The thought of that left him trembling in excitement!

Zhang Ye could no longer hold back his curiosity. "Let's go to the Wuyi Mountains scenic area and have a look!"

Ha Qiqi said, "Sure, I'll follow Director Zhang."

Little Wang cheered, "Oh, let's go then!"

One of the staff members was feeling tired and volunteered to remain back at the hotel to look after the equipment.

The others packed and changed. Then, together with Zhang Ye, they headed straight to the famous Wuyi Mountains scenic area.

Somewhere in the scenic area was the exact location where the Da Hong Pao parent trees grew. In Zhang Ye's previous world, this location was a prominent scenic spot called the Da Hong Pao attraction where tourists were allowed to take pictures from outside the perimeter surrounding the parent trees. Zhang Ye knew exactly where it was located!