



**Ringling College
of Art + Design**

THE ACCIDENTAL SUICIDE

Written and directed by Zhao Quan, Wong

6 minutes. Drama.

Production Dates: 17th – 18th October, 2014.

SYNOPSIS:

TONYA (21) is a financially struggling medical student and a passive personal assistant to an unpleasant wheelchair-bound MR. BOWER (late 50's), a retired alcoholic writer. One day, she is ordered to assist with her employer's suicide. Due to her inherent propensity to acquiesce than to argue, Tonya is forced to deviate from her passive predisposition to refuse Mr. Bower's demand, so she will be unencumbered by impurity of action and, especially, unemployment. And it is the cumulative anger within Tonya that leads to an unexpected outcome.

CHARACTER BREAKDOWN:

Tonya (21):

Sweet and beautiful, shy and fragile, Tonya, a financially struggling medical student and personal assistant, has the tendency to acquiesce than too argue.

She grew up in a household with average income. Tonya spent the first few months of her life in Ukraine when her family migrated to Michigan due financial instability. She had a younger brother with leukemia, whom she was close to until his death at the age of 10 on Tonya's 12th birthday. This has inspired her to pursue a medical profession in, superseding the prior ambition to become a painter. However, her parents struggle to support her tertiary education in the medical sphere in Florida. Through meager financial aid, she manages to work her way through college by undertaking multiple jobs at popular bistros and restaurants, and also at a hospital. While working at the hospital, she stumbled upon an employment opportunity requesting a personal assistant to wealthy old man with cardiac troubles named Mr. Bower. She is surprised that no one has taken this high paying job after a while, so she decides to take it for financial reasons. And that is how she met...

Mr. Bower (late 50's):

Rude, vulgar, ill tempered, and misogynistic, Mr. Bower is a *retired writer* with *alcoholic issues, depression and cardiac troubles*. He has a notable voice for high-flown verbiage that are often profane and controversial. He lacks the social sensitivity of emotional empathy for others.

Mr. Bower is the sole lineage of a wealthy cotton plantation owner in the 19th century. During his early 20's, young Mr. Bower was conscripted into the army in Vietnam where he remain for 2 tours, developed depression, and lost his ambulatory skills. From then on, he became wheelchair bound. Upon returning to the States, he met a woman in a bar named Lucy. They were dated for 1 year and married soon after. A few months into the marriage Lucy ran away with most of Mr. Bower's money. The police failed to capture Lucy. With the threat of bankruptcy, Mr. Bower decided to undertake the cotton plantation endeavor. However, it was not to fruit. Abandoning cotton, he relocates his attention to writing after discovering his shtick for colorful and controversial verbiage. While writing a memoir on his days in Vietnam that would soon become a bestseller, he married a woman named Geraldine. They spawned 3 daughters, all of who had gone out of state for education and eventually living. Obsessed with writing another bestseller, his blind ambition has led to his divorce after he found out that his wife had an affair with someone else. His children, however, sided their mother and have grown farther apart from their father. After his second book failed to live up to the glory of the first, he delved into alcoholism to smolder the depression arising from his recent tumult. He eventually became a well-known nuisance in the local town where most people avoided him. One day, he survives a heart attack while dining at a local steakhouse and was sent to the hospital. With no one to look after him, the hospital released an employment opportunity to become a personal assistant for him. However, well acquainted with his drunken antics, no one was up for the job until a foreign woman named Tonya, who is unfamiliar with Mr. Bower, decided to take the job for financial reasons.

Zhao Quan, Wong

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