

Name: **Michael Nie**

Project: **Dust - Fantasy**

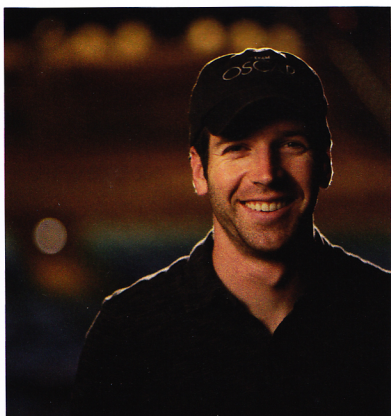
Gear: **RED MX, 2K**

Class: **2nd AC**

Location: **Los Angeles, CA**

Years in Guild: **9**

Union Love: **"My time as a member of the Cinematographers' Guild has been about exposure. I am not talking about foot-candles and T-stops. Rather, I am referring to having the opportunity to work with and learn from a number of highly skilled cinematographers and their accomplished crews."**



Michael Nie prides himself on achieving much with little, which was invaluable on his second ECA-winning film, *Dust*, a short film with a small crew that had immense scope. (His first ECA was for *Not Your Time* in 2011.)

"As a cinematographer, I thrive on the challenges of location filmmaking," he describes. "*Dust* is an example of location filmmaking at its best." Just two days before principal photography began in rural Japan, Typhoon Chaba rolled in unexpectedly. "While this affected the look we had in mind from scouting, we embraced the weather," he continues. "To this day, I believe the story is that much stronger visually due to this influential 'gift' from nature."

Nie's favorite sequence tracks the two main characters from the city to an abandoned village. "The shift in tone is palpable as momentum builds," he explains. "Visually, the

story opens up as the characters venture into the unknown. The body language of the characters speaks volumes and is supported by a number of choice compositions. It's the point of no return in the story and for the audience."

It is projects like *Dust* that keep Michael behind the camera. "The most rewarding work I do is that which offers a fresh perspective on the world and challenges the human condition," he reflects. His style is authentic to the story being told. "We are all in for a lifetime of learning, and I am always looking for the next challenge."