



2020

## Days / Afternoon

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*Directed by*  **TSAI MING-LIANG**

*Starring* **KANG-SHENG LEE, TSAI MING-LIANG,  
ANONG HOUNGHEUANGSY**

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*Blu-ray/DVD*

*Released* **21 OCTOBER**

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**W**ith its finale in the form of a 20-minute stare, in 2014, *Stray Dogs* seemed the apotheosis of Tsai Ming liang's work. As such, Tsai's retirement from feature filmmaking made sense; his series of "walker" installations, in which star Lee Kang Sheng walks glacially across various landscapes, seemed to confirm that there was nothing left for the director to express via conventional narrative. But in 2020, he blessed the world with another fiction feature, *Days*, a work that builds upon his signature style, somehow finding still more to say through slowness, attention, atmosphere, and mood.

The film is more of a refinement than a departure for Tsai: another rumination on forces of estrangement, connection and desire. Lee Kang Shang wanders, seeking refuge from chronic pain. He meets Anong Hounghueangsy, a Laotian masseuse in Bangkok. Their extended sequence together is amongst the most beautiful, romantic engagements ever captured on film. *Afternoon*, also included on the disc, is the ultimate bonus feature, and sneakily also one of Tsai's best films. It sees Tsai and Lee sat in two chairs by a window in a suitably derelict looking corner of Tsai's home, talking about their life, work, and philosophies together, generously unpacking the nature of a muse and maker collaboration that goes far beyond straightforward friendship but equally can't be described simply as love. **MATT TURNER**