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Author(s)	David Overbey
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Autumn Moon Clara Law (Chuck-yiu)

Hong Kong/Japan, 1992, 108 minutes
Colour/35mm

Production Company: Trix Films/Right Staff Office
Company Ltd./Eizo Tanteisha

Executive Producer: Kohsuke Kuri, Kaizo Hayashi
Producer: Clara Law (Chuck-yiu), Fong Ling Ching

Screenplay: Fong Ling Ching

Cinematography: Tony Leung

Editor: Fong Ling Ching

Art Director: Timmy Yip

Sound: Tat Leung, Wai Wong

Music: Lau Yee Tat, Tats

Principal Cast: Masatoshi Nagase, Li Pui Wai, Choi
Siu Wan, Maki Kiuchi, Sung Chung Hung

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2-26-20 Kitazawa, Setagaya-Ku, Tokyo 155, Japan.
Tel: (81) 3-3485-2900. Fax: (81) 3-3485-3641.

Foreign Sales Agent: Right Staff Office Company,
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155, Japan. Tel: (81) 3-3485-2900. Fax: (81) 3-3485-
3641./Trix Films, 6A Duke Street, Ground Floor,
Kowloon Tong, Kowloon, Hong Kong. Tel: (852)
338-2722. Fax: (852) 338-1835.

Clara Law says that the inspiration for *Autumn Moon* came from her noticing that the Mid-Autumn Festival lanterns are no longer made of bamboo and paper lit by candles, but from plastic lit by light bulbs. A walk through a huge housing development brought the observation that children were no longer playing the old games together outside but were holding their video games alone. A drive through Hong Kong made her aware that buildings were constantly being pulled down. Her memories of being taught to read and write Chinese poems and write calligraphy by her grandfather were tempered by her time spent in English school where Chinese history began in 1911 and English was the medium for thought. All of this is included in *Autumn Moon*, transposed but very much present. Tokio is a young Japanese tourist who is visiting Hong Kong in search of good food. He does all of the tourist spots; and when tired-out, he decides to fish in the harbour. A 15-year-old Hong Kong girl, Wai, passes to tell him there are no fish left in the harbour. They become friends, and she takes him home to eat her granny's cooking. Wai's parents are in Canada, busying themselves with immigration papers and Wai has been left with Granny. Visually, *Autumn Moon* has a striking beauty. No one has captured the splendours of Hong Kong in exactly this way before. Law has laboured so that the cool colours (particularly blue) carry a good deal of the emotional thrust of her film. She has managed to create four characters about whom we care, and she has captured the most subtle interplay between them, their different cultures, and the city. The film is deeply moving, but not at expense of laughter which is — with love — the glue that holds everything together. None of this is to deny the glories of Granny's cooking, of course.

Clara Law (Chuck-yiu) was born in Macau and educated in Hong Kong. She graduated in English literature from the University of Hong Kong, and from 1978 worked for Radio Television Hong Kong where she directed 12 dramas. From 1982 to 1985 she attended the National Film School in London where she completed her first feature film, *They Say the Moon is Fuller Here*. When she returned to Hong Kong in 1985, she continued to work for television while developing her next feature film. Her collaboration with Fong Ling Ching began with *The Other Half and the Other Half* (88) and has continued to the present. Films include: *The Other Half and the Other Half* (88), *The Reincarnation of the Golden Lotus* (89), *Farewell, China* (90), *Autumn Moon* (92).

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David Overbey