

HAPPY EVERYDAY

PARK LIFE IN CHINA

1 X 52 HD



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There are many ways to grow old, but few societies do it as successfully as the Chinese. *Happy Everyday: Park Life in China* presents a version of retirement unlike anything seen in the West—elderly Chinese citizens dancing to techno music, playing in mass maraca troupes, and taking over children's playgrounds for their exercises. Public parks in urban China have become a second home for many of the country's retired citizens, and some look almost like nightclubs for aging ravers whose youth was overshadowed by the violence and fear of the Cultural Revolution.

This aging generation has lived through an incredible series of mass upheavals—from civil war, through 25 years of relentless Maoist reforms, to the current wave of foreign investment and economic development. The long-held traditions of family-administered care, self-maintained physical fitness, and an active public life are still the norm for retired Chinese, though all of these traditions are in a potential state of flux as global economic and cultural standards take root, and working-age adults rethink how to look after—or pay someone else to look after—their elderly.

The antics of China's urban retirees are truly uplifting to watch, but in a place where social harmony and self-censorship reign supreme, this frenzy of eccentricity and self-proclaimed happiness builds to an unsettling crescendo. By letting the flamboyant characters tell the story, *Happy Everyday* takes viewers on a ride of chaos and discovery.

CREDITS

Producers: Philippa Campey, Sarah Wishart, Peter O'Donoghue

Director: Peter O'Donoghue

Photo: Courtesy of Park Life China Films

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