



EUREKA

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION
BEST LIVE ACTION SHORT FILM - 95th ACADEMY AWARDS®



LOGLINE

A young indentured Chinese prostitute must overcome her toxic dependency on the brothel madam on the eve of the 1885 anti-Chinese riot in Eureka, California.

A group of men in silhouette holding torches, with one man's face visible in the background.

SYNOPSIS

In 1885, the racial tension has reached a boiling point in Eureka, CA. The white residents have issued a final eviction notice to the Chinese. Longlong, an 18-year-old indentured prostitute, clinches this as an opportunity to rebel against the brothel madam. Upon given the option to leave, however, her will falters. She must reconcile her hatred with her toxic dependency on the madam, and discover what freedom really means outside the brothel door.



DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Chinese women living in the 1880s American West faced two forms of oppressions, oppressions for their gender as well as their race. As a Chinese woman who barely spoke English, being a prostitute was one of the only ways to survive. As a Chinese immigrant living in the American West, they were seen as cheap labors stealing white people's jobs. Being in America was often not their choice. Most of them were sold as indentured labor by their parents in China.

Being at the bottom of the social hierarchy with no support from their family, I can't help myself but to ask, who did they see themselves as? Did they embrace their identity as Chinese? Did they embrace their identity as women? As a trans filmmaker born in China and has lived in the United States for the past twelve years, I ask myself these questions all the time.

There's scanty any first hand account of these women's lives, but I want to imagine their experience. I want to pit these two forces of oppressions together, setting the story at the eve of the real historical event of the Eureka riot. I want my protagonist to make a choice, a choice that allows her to break out of the confinement of her inherited identities, a choice that she readily desires to make but doesn't understand its consequence. What does it mean to walk out of the door, into the great unknown, into a world perhaps even crueler, darker, yet full of vague promises of freedom?

I don't attempt to answer the question. I'm on my own journey through such unknown too. Neither do I know the destination, but the journey is worth it.

LONGLONG

The literal translation of Longlong is “dragon dragon” (龙龙). Born in China during the tumultuous years of 1870s, Longlong was sold to America by her parents under the false promise that she would find a better life oversea. Little did she know, she was sold as an indentured prostitute to the American West. The extraordinary dreams were quickly replaced by the cruel reality, but she never bowed down to the hardship of life. She wouldn't quit fighting for her freedom, for a better life, even though she knew nothing about what freedom meant.





MRS. MA

Born in China during the 1840s, she was amongst the first wave of Chinese women sold to the American West for prostitution. She worked under an indentured contract, and eventually earned her freedom. She started her own brothel and ran a successful business. Because of her own experience as a prostitute, she shared sympathy for her girls. However, business still came first, as making a living in the American West amidst heightened anti-Chinese sentiment was very difficult.



Miida Chu, director

Miida Chu is a Los Angeles-based writer-director. Her short film EUREKA won the prestigious Golden Reel Award at the 38th Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival, which qualifies the film for award consideration for the Academy Award. As a screenwriter, she specializes in high concept queer romantic fantasy. Her feature script, OBLIVION, was a semi-finalist at the Outfest Screenwriting Lab and a Quarter-finalist at the ScreenCraft Feature Competition. She was one of the seven cinematic arts finalists of the 2014 National YoungArts Competition.



Xianqi Crystal Du, producer

Xianqi Crystal Du has produced numerous projects over the past six years, reaching a diverse selection of Chinese, English and Korean audiences. She has experience producing in China, Singapore, South Korea and United States. She worked as the Assistant Producer at Optical Films, responsible for the internal and external communication of projects in the company. Most recently, She worked in international sales and distribution team at TriCoast Studios and VMI Worldwide. She holds a Bachelor of Computing in Information Systems from National University of Singapore.



Qingzhuo Wang, cinematographer

Qingzhuo Wang studied film directing at Central Academy of Drama. He received his MFA from Art Center College of Design. His films were official selections at numerous international film festivals. He was also an influential guitarist and bassist in the music industry. His band Bye Bye Noise was one of the most groundbreaking bands in the Beijing rock scene. The wealth of experience working in different artistic mediums has gained him a unique taste in aesthetics. He enjoys shifting gears between contrasting visual languages, crafting the experience audience has never experienced before.



Xi Chen Chou, production designer

Xi Chen Chou has a BFA in scenic design from the National Academy of Chinese Theater Arts in Beijing, an MFA in scenic design from CalArts, and an MFA in production design from AFI. She served as scenic designer, scenic artist, art PA, sculptor, graphic artist, and illustrator in various art departments in TV series and theatrical films, for projects including: Luna, a short film produced by the Warner Bros.; Them: Covenant, a TV series produced by Netflix; Blindspotting, a TV series produced by Lionsgate. She also worked in the art department for the 2021 Golden Globe Award. Recently, she joined the Panda Express 2021 commercial as the assistant art director.



Minjae Kang, editor

Minjae Kang is a South Korean filmmaker who received his BFA from CalArts. His works focus on poignant, symbolic visuals and lessons about family life and acceptance. His recent short film, Huff, was awarded the Panavision Filmmaker Grant. He served as production assistant to the producers on the feature film Spa Night, shot in Los Angeles. He served as assistant editor to the staffs in the Media Arts Department at the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles. He served as additional editor for the feature Flint Tale. He also served as assistant editor for features. Some of his credits are Indigo Valley, The Rehearsal, and Under the Lantern Lit Sky.

SELECTED SCREENINGS

Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival **won Golden Reel Award**
HollyShorts Film Festival
Miami Film Festival
DC Asian Pacific American Film Festival
New Jersey International Film Festival
WorldFest-Houston International Film Festival **won Special Jury Remi Award**
Nevada City Film Festival
SENE Film Festival **won Best Director**
Tallgrass Film Festival **won Outstanding Female Filmmaker**
Arizona International Film Festival
Riverside International Film Festival
Rochester International Film Festival
San Antonio Film Festival
Fort Myers Beach International Film Festival
Chelsea Film Festival
Soho International Film Festival
Orlando Film Festival
SPE Media Festival **won Best Women's Film**
Vancouver Island Short Film Festival
The American Film Award **won Best Short Film**
Houston Asian American & Pacific Islander Film Festival

AFI Fest
Omaha Film Festival
South Dakota Film Festival **won Best Action Short**
Brooklyn Film Festival
Vancouver Asian Film Festival
Boston Asian American Film Festival
Philadelphia Asian American Film Festival
FirstGlance Film Festival Philadelphia
In Moments Film Festival **won Experimental Spirit Award**
Balkan New Film Festival **won Best Female Director**
Cyprus International Film Festival
Bare Bones International Film & Music Festival **Best Foreign Language Short Runner Up**
Sundial Film Festival **won Best of Festival**
Catalina Film Festival
Lighthouse International Film Festival
Blue Whiskey Independent Film Festival **won Best Sound and Best Cinematography**
Long Island International Film Expo **Nominee**
Fastnet Film Festival
River Film Festival Salento International Film Festival
Vizioni Corte International Short Film Festival
USA Film Festival **Finalist**

See full list on: <https://www.miidachu.com/eureka>

EUREKA is represented by Joshua Jason Public Relations, who has run many successful Oscar campaigns for short films including 2019 & 2020 Oscar® live-action short film winners SKIN and THE NEIGHBOR'S WINDOW, and the 2022 Oscar® nominated shorts ALA KACHUU - TAKE AND RUN and PLEASE HOLD.

JJPR

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written, directed, and composed by
produced by
cinematography by
production design by
edited by

Miida Chu
Xianqi Crystal Du
Qingzhuo Wang
Xi Chen Chou
Minjae Kang

longlong
ma
bao
feng
white miner
young longlong
prostitutes

Ying Yue Joyce Chong
Cici Lau
Erick Young
S.K. Wong
Robert Factor
Reagan To
Bolia Ruinan Gong
Theresa Bome Kim
Sharon Li
Stephanie Lim

longlong double
xian

Jessica Ma
Shane Ainsworth

stunt coordinator

Deven MacNair

townspeople
Melissa Wahe
Wilber Gabino Velazquez
Devin DiNardo
Jeff Hendrick
AJ Dana
chinese helpers
Richard Zheng
Marble Du
chinese civilians
Hao Geng
Haoh Guo
Yancey Wang
Clement Yang

white rioters
Nicolai Perez
George Marken
Yarema Oconnell
Jason Shanely
Mario Alverson
Jeff Hendrick
Jonathan Bailsteri
Taylor Mock
Shauna Sloan
Omari Brown
Alexander Meridy
Loren L. Fenton
Da Quan Johnson
Aykushik Tonyan
Mick Primmer
Melissa Wahe
Catherine Carreon
Scott Schultz
Darcy Vernier
Ted Buchanan



unit production manager	Spencer Wilson	gaffer	Jonas Fischer
first assistant director	Nick Mann	BBEs	Neelix Ramirez
second assistant director	Jane I-Chen Chung		Vahagan Gukasyan
music composed and arranged by	Mida Chu	electricians	Mike Williamson
score production supervisor	Jonas Tarm	key grips	Dante Diaz
casting director	Kara Sullivan	dolly grip	Connor Bjornson
camera operator	Jack McDonald	grips	Lee Tolbert
first assistant camera	Xun He		Tianni Chen
second assistant camera	Max Hardman		Ran You
steadicam operator	Tobiad Harbo		Giancarlo Diaz
camera b first assistant camera	Slava Makarov		Dane Lac
camera b second assistant camera	Ran You		Gerald Tineo
camera PA	Brett Rogstad	location manager	Cole Egilson
DIT	Minsung Kang	on-set rep	Ruofeng Zhang
still photographers	Haye Yukio		Runqiu "Rachel" Ma
	Minsung Kang	2nd second assistant director	Marc Veluzat
		assistant editors	Joseph Huang
line producer	Moyiang "Alice" Zhu		Mengyao Mia Zhang
script supervisor	Noah Shearer		Luodawei Xiao
production coordinator	Tim Edmond		Augustine So
assistant production coordinator	Perry Billett	production sound mixers	Jake Miller
set PAs	Jeff Wing	boom operators	Woody Stubblefield
	Ricky Jauregui		Mehmet Adli
			Ivy Lindsey

story editor Warner James Woods
cantonese translator Rachel Lee

art directors Olivia A.T. Ferguson
Beibei Hu

construction coordinator Zachary Compton
assistant construction coordinator Magdiel Carranza
carpenters Billie Sutton
Ezra Balcha

scenics Joule Voelz
Nicole Espinoza

set dressers Carmelita Rojo
Coco Li
Liudmila Simdyanova
Vivien Xie

costume designer Nan Zhou
costume assistant Glaucia Stanganelli
make-up/hair stylist Fengwan "Jingjing" Qing
assistant make-up/hair stylists Noemi Torres
Maddie MacCollum
Desiree Ojeda

special effects coordinator
special effects foreman
special effects technicians

transportation coordinator
water truck driver

extras casting
studio teacher
catering
craft service
set medic
FSAs

Terry Mack
Charles Woods
Lucy Mack
Dior Mack
Daryl Black
Jesus Corral
Jeff Zarrus
Karim Williams

Michael Hellerstein
Jerry Roberg

Dom Deroches
Elieen Sterling
Too Tasty Catering
Moyiang "Alice" Zhu
Gardy Hallaian
Greg Kidman
Peter Irrgang
R.B. Nielsen
William Moorhead
Barry Curtis
Tim Stilson

post sound services provided by
Tab Sound Design

sound designer & re-recording mixer	William Tabanou
dialogue editor	Ruge Sun
foley mixer/artist	Greg Mauer
foley artist	Doug Madick
foley mixer	Calvin Pfeffer

Hong Kong ADR services provided by
DoubleDouble Creative & Production

additional post sound services provided by
Monkeyland Audio

DI colorist	Corinne Bogdanowicz
DI producer	Rob Phillips
DI editors	Manny Dubon
	Matt Blackshear

additional photography

unit production manager	Yaxuan "Jaden" Chen
first assistant director	Jenny Dominguez
first assistant camera	Zhou Jo
second assistant camera	Allison Webster
gaffer	Siwei Li
BBG	Diane Lac
key grip	Kate Ketcham
still photographer	Hannah Criswell
production sound	Ira Storozhenko
costumer	Hannah Criswell
make-up/hair stylist	Fengwan "Jingjing" Qing

Symphony No. 10 - Adagio
composed by Gustav Mahler
arranged and performed by Mida Chu

executive producers

Hongmei Hu
Ni Tao
Binbing Ruan
Philip Sun

sponsor

Rui Tang

partners

Cao Jidong
Hu Xianli
Hu Yili
Lirong Zhou
Liyang Mei
Marvin Ma
Moyiang "Alice" Zhu
Xiaohan "Hannah" Li
Zhang Ping

benefactors

Carly Hong
Chengnan Hu
Jia Si
Liu Xuan
Martin Schreibman
Tian Miao
Wang Qingxiao
Wanghu Bojue
Wangtae Lim
Wei Baoxin
Yan Hongwei
Yao Jiajia
Yuqing Zhu
Zhuang Huixin
Zhuang Weiming

supporters

Aaron Zhang
Adam Pating
Alexander Somlo
Bai Qianqian
Cao Xun
Chen Shufang
Chen Yingxi
Craig Thorogood
Dang Zhuoyue
Ding Guanhao
Gao Yidan
He Shuyang
Hogan Justin
Hu Hongmei
Jialing Li
Jiang Tianyu
Kathryn McCarthy
Li Hao
Li Jing
Li Xiangyu
Liu Jiayi
Liu Yingwei
Luo Tao
Matthew Schlomer
Max Hardman
Nino Khvedeliani
Pan Yitian
Paul Weintrob
Qin Tian
Qin Yidan

Rachel Ma
Ren Lekang
Rex Reyes
Sheng Ruize
Sun Cheng
Sun Zeyu
Varun Visnawath
Wang Yu
Wen Di
Wu Rigen
Xi Jiaqi
Xia Wenke
Xiaoliang Xin
Xingshu Yin
Yang Dongju
Yang Jianfeng
Yiting Chen
Yu Diao
Yu Ying
Yuan Hao
Yuan Jianchun
Yuan Ying
Zeng yuwei
Zhang Zilong
Zhou Jinyi
Zhou Yafei

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Liangcheng Chu
Lilly Hu
Mark LaFleur
Miles Carey
Ruan Binbing
Soochul Kang
Yaning Wang
Zhiyong Wang