

PARACHUTE GIRLS



THE PILSEN NATION PRESENTS PARACHUTE GIRLS
A HEADFOOT PRODUCTION
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY ALEJANDRO WILKINS EDITOR TODD ZELIN
PRODUCED BY PRADEEPA JEEVA EXECUTIVE PRODUCER EMILY C. CHANG
CO-PRODUCED BY MAITELY WEISMANN AND MURTAZA AKBAR
ASSOCIATE PRODUCERS HAYDEN SCHOLASSBERG, CHI-KAI KING, ABIGAIL BRADEN
MATT SWAIN, KARTHIK SELVAKUMAR, JUSTIN SEVAKIS
PRODUCTION DESIGNER DAVID HARRY YOON MUSIC BY GOH NAKAMURA
WRITTEN BY EMILY C. CHANG DIRECTED BY ALEX RUBENS

PARACHUTE GIRLS

Genre

Drama

Logline

A woman shows up at her sister's dinner party after years of no contact and threatens to reveal family secrets to the guests.

Synopsis (short)

Two estranged sisters essentially abandoned as children by their parents are reunited when Ellie, the younger sister, crashes older sis Evelyn's dinner party and begins to destroy Evelyn's suburban illusion of the perfect family.

Social Media Links

Official Twitter: @paragirlsfilm

Official Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/paragirlsfilm>

Producer/Writer/Actress Emily C. Chang: Twitter: @chihuac

Director Alex Rubens: Twitter: @atrubens

Co-star Lynn Chen: Twitter: @mslynnchen

PARACHUTE GIRLS

Bios

Emily C. Chang :: Actress/Writer/Producer

Emily C. Chang is an Emmy Award-winning performer and writer who was born in Baton Rouge, Louisiana and grew up in New Jersey. She most recently recurred as Ivy on the CW's Vampire Diaries, as well as other guest starring roles on Community, How I Met Your Mother, Bones, Intelligence, Days of Our Lives, NCIS, The Young & The Restless, 90210, and Brothers and Sisters, and the recent remake of the classic sci-fi movie, Total Recall. Emily has starred in dozens of TV commercials and indie films, including the Ruffles Ultimate commercial, where she is perhaps best known as the "Ba-zing!" girl (landing her a spot on Complex Magazine's Top 10 Hottest Women in Commercials). She's also done extensive television hosting for talk shows and travel shows, including On the Frontlines: Doing Business in China, co-hosted by The Atlantic's James Fallows, garnering them 2 NY Emmy nominations and 1 win. As a writer/director and producer, she co-wrote and directed the award-winning comedic shorts, Mouthbreather (an official selection of Tribeca Film Festival/Maker Studio's "The Picture Show" and TIFF's channel for United Airlines) and The Humberville Poetry Slam (winner, Gold Coast Award, Hollywood East FF; finalist, Golden Reel Award for Best Short, LAAFF) . She graduated from the University of Chicago and received her master's from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts. Check out Emily on IMDb at www.imdb.me/emilychang.

Alex Rubens: Director

Alex Rubens is an Emmy Award-nominated, WGA Award & Peabody Award-winning writer for the hit TV shows Key & Peele (Comedy Central), Community (NBC/Yahoo Screen), and Rick & Morty (Adult Swim). Rubens currently has two movies coming out this year: Keanu (New Line Pictures) and Substitute Teacher (Paramount). Rubens is a graduate of Yale University.

Pradeepa Jeeva: Producer

Pradeepa is currently Director of Development at Machinima, a next-generation video entertainment network. She is founder and CEO of Jeeva Productions, dedicated to creating branded content and increasing social media presence for non-profits. She

was formerly head of production at Justin Lin's YOMYOMF network, as well as head of production at Tobuscus, Inc., YouTube star Toby Turner's company.

Angela Lee: Consulting Producer

Angela's first feature film, *Songs My Brothers Taught Me*, premiered in competition at the 2015 Sundance Film Festival and Directors' Fortnight at the Cannes Film Festival. Angela is a 2015 Sundance Institute Creative Producing Fellow and has also been supported by IFP, PGA Diversity Workshop and the Center for Asian American Media.

Lynn Chen: "Ellie"

Lynn Chen began performing on the Lincoln Center Stage at the age of 5. She made her feature debut in Sony Pictures Classic's *Saving Face*, a role that won her the title of "Outstanding Newcomer" at the 2006 AXAwards. Since then, she has become a fixture on the film festival circuit - including Sundance, Toronto, Tribeca, SXSW - setting an unofficial record at the 28th LAAPFF with five concurrent movie roles. She is currently Skype's Acting Ambassador. She is also a body image activist and founder of the popular blogs, *The Actor's Diet* and *Thick Dumpling Skin*.

Christine Elise: "Joy"

Christine Elise McCarthy has been acting professionally for more than 25 years and is recognized primarily for her roles as U4EA-popping bad girl, Emily Valentine, on *Beverly Hills, 90210*, as Harper Tracy on *ER*, and as Kyle, the gal who killed Chucky in *Child's Play 2*. Her short film, *Bathing & the Single Girl*, was accepted into over 100 film festivals and won 20 awards. *Bathing & the Single Girl*, inspired by the short, is her debut novel.

Drew Powell: "Ash"

Best known as Butch Gilzean on the hit series, *Gotham*, Drew's first television role was the recurring character Cadet Drew on Fox's *Malcolm in the Middle*. Drew's first starring role in a major feature film was in the 2011 remake of the 1971 film *Straw Dogs*. Other feature film appearances include *Starship Troopers 2*, *The Marine*, *Mexican Sunrise*, and *1408* with John Cusack and Samuel L. Jackson, as well as numerous television series including *Ray Donovan*, *Modern Family*, *House*, *Leverage*, *the Mentalist*, and *Southland*.

Brent Bailey: "Jonathan"

Brent Bailey is from Tucson, Arizona, and is perhaps best known as Alex Knightley in the hit Pemberley Digital series, *Emma Approved* - a modern day adaptation of Jane Austen's *Emma*. He co-stars along Bryan Cranston in HBO's upcoming biopic about Lyndon B. Johnson. He has appeared on multiple national commercials, short films, and TV such as NBC's "life," *Californication* "Going Down in La-la-land," followed by Interwoven Studios "Crimson Winter," "Think Like A Man," and "Republic of Two."

PARACHUTE GIRLS

CAST

EVELYN.....EMILY C. CHANG
ELLIELYNN CHEN
JONATHAN.....BRENT BAILEY
JOY.....CHRISTINE ELISE
ASH.....DREW POWELL

CREW

DIRECTED BYALEX RUBENS
WRITTEN BYEMILY C. CHANG
PRODUCED BYPRADEEPA JEEVA
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER.....EMILY C. CHANG
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY.....ALEJANDRO WILKINS
CO-PRODUCER.....MAITELY WEISSMAN & MURTAZA AKBAR
EDITED BY.....TODD ZELIN
MUSIC BY.....GOH NAKAMURA
ASSOCIATE PRODUCED BY.....CATHERINE KRESGE AND BENSON QUACH
ASSOCIATE PRODUCERS.....ABIGAIL BRADEN, MATTHEW SWAIN,
HAYDEN SCHLOSSBERG, KARTHIK SELVAKUMAR, CHI-KAI KING
1ST ASSISTANT CAMERA.....COLIN KELLY
SOUND BY.....CHRISTIAN GECOSALA
PRODUCTION DESIGN.....DAVID HARRY YOON
ASSISTANT PRODUCER.....JESICA VU
POST-SOUND MIX.....CHRISTIAN GECOSALA AND DAVID CROCCO
COLOR CORRECTIONRYAN KUNKELMAN

PARACHUTE GIRLS

Filmmaker's Statement

Two things inspired us to make Parachute Girls:

1. Growing up, I always wanted a sister. The sisters I knew always seemed to be sharing some secret language, some shorthand for communication. Pushing each other down the stairs one minute, and laughing hysterically the next. A love/hate relationship that is bound by blood. As an actress, I wanted to explore sisterhood and what it means when you're bound so closely to someone with a shared history.

2. Growing up, I had some friends and cousins who were "parachute kids" - kids whose wealthy parents sent them from overseas to the U.S for school. To me, they seemed to have the coolest life - a world without adult supervision and lots of partying. Now that I'm older, I wonder, What would I have done in their place? How did growing up without a mother or father present affect their self worth as children, and did it affect their ambition in life? Currently, the effects of the parachute kid phenomenon are being targeted by more and more sociologists, and studies examining the negative effects of being parentless and rich are coming out.

Parachute Girls explores what happens when your ideal of "family" doesn't match up to your reality. When your sister is your mother, or your friend is your brother; when your parents are merely shadows of a memory who materialize through money and gifts sent from afar. Beneath all this lie questions of immigration and assimilation - how people of color in the U.S. can sometimes whitewash and conform themselves in order to belong - to a society that's full of well-meaning people who often unknowingly reinforce the very racist and classist ideals they're politically against. All this...over dinner. Parachute Girls is a short look into the lives of two Taiwanese parachute kids - sisters who were essentially abandoned by their parents when they sent them off to school in the U.S. - and how they each adapted (or didn't at all) to white, upper-middle-class suburban America. We explore issues of family and belonging, as well as race, class, and identity in the U.S. - topics that are, for better or worse, constants in today's headlines. But more than just social phenomena, these characters are people we know - our neighbors, our friends, our cousins.

This project is the product of a collaboration between myself and actress Lynn Chen. It started as a running joke about how we are long lost sisters from New Jersey, and over the years of our friendship developed into a genuine creative collaboration based on our shared experiences as Asian American actresses, our sister-like friendship, and our Taiwanese heritage and upbringing.

PARACHUTE GIRLS

Contact Info & Specs

PRINT TRAFFIC

Pilsen Nation Productions

Please email for mailing instructions:

chihuac@gmail.com

PRESS INQUIRIES AND OTHER INFORMATION

Pradeepa Jeeva

Jeeva718@gmail.com

RUNNING TIME: 11:53

ASPECT RATIO: 2.39:1

SOUND MIX: STEREO