

“So F*cking Happy For You” – short film, 2016

Filmmaker Statement, by Lina Suh

When I first read the script for *So F*cking Happy For You*, I knew immediately there was a very interesting story here. Friendship, and the jealousy inherent in close relationships -- between friends, family, lovers, colleagues -- are universally understood. It's an emotion that few like to admit to feeling but it's very human. It can even be embarrassing. Then the story probes the question a little deeper - can a friendship survive one friend's success?

I had to make the choice whether to make the film straight comedic, or take a darker tone. With no personal background in comedy, I went out to do my research. I went to a lot of comedy open mikes, YouTubed a bunch of standup, and talked to many comedians. I discovered this whole community of standup comics, that is a world of its own. I was also realizing more and more how comedy so often comes from a sad place. Then, discussing characters with the incredible actors Christine, Scout, Dave and Rich, we delved into their backstories, and created character relationships beyond the script. The backstories became specific and nuanced as they brought their own experiences in professional comedy to our discussions.

It is because my original interest in the story was with the character relationships, that the tone veered more to realism and the surreal moments -- such as the kitchen scene when Denise (Christine Nangle) is getting high and Mel (Scout Durwood) barges in to tell her that Sarah Silverman came in while Mel was doing her set -- were more character driven rather than comedy driven. In both image and sound, we are rooted above all, in Denise's WTF experience of what's happening in that moment.

Also because this piece was my first exploration into the lives of comedians, and my greatest common ground with these characters was the struggle to “make it” that the story made sense to me in a darker, dramatic way. I was more interested in who Denise and Mel were as people, and fascinated by the dark landscape of the comedy world. I was trying to understand these people and the community. How they made jokes out of their pain.

If there are future iterations of these characters, I think I may now be able to allow Denise and Mel to show the world how hilarious and charming they can be. However, I needed to see their real human side first in this short film version of “So F*cking Happy For You” as I explored this new space of comedians and their friends.

Two close girlfriends in competition, it's *Broad City* by way of *Amadeus*. But I sincerely believe that their friendship will survive the turmoils life throws at them and be a greater success than either of their careers.

Key Cast & Crew BIOS

LINA SUH - Director

Lina Suh grew up in the American Midwest, New York City and Seoul, Korea. Lina received a BFA in Dramatic Writing from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts, and produced award-winning NYU thesis shorts DIDA REEMA ANJANA (dir. Bornila Chatterjee), FATHER'S DAY (dir. Brian Rolling) among others, and directed a short documentary film FLOW ON THROUGH in Cambodia. The doc was featured in a World Bank-issued water sanitation program, distributed to NGOs in developing countries. She produced a first feature film – LET'S BE OUT, THE SUN IS SHINING, collaborating again with writer/director Bornila Chatterjee, that received the Audience Choice Award at the 2012 New York Indian Film Festival. Lina taught a screenwriting workshop for ESRA (Ecole Superieure de Realisation Audiovisuelle) a French film school's satellite program in New York. She has an MFA in film production from USC's School of Cinematic Arts. The short film she directed independently -- "So F*cking Happy For You" has been featured on Short of the Week and Nowness Picks. She is in development for a dramatic feature film she wrote and will direct as a co-production with South Korea, and attached to direct a half-hour dark comedy pilot in Los Angeles.

HELEN KRIEGER - Writer

Helen grew up with her ultra-conservative family on Highway 0 in Wisconsin. For fun they would stock the bomb shelter and prepare for the world to end. When it didn't, Helen happily set off to try something new. She was a journalist in Boston, a stripper in Dallas, a realtor in New Orleans when Hurricane Katrina hit. She and her husband sold their house to make a feature film about that experience, *Flood Streets*, then they created a Webby's honored digital series, *Least Favorite Love Songs*. Helen is an Annenberg fellow and stand up comedian who writes about driven, fringe characters in search of a tribe.

CHRISTINE NANGLE - Denise, lead

Christine Nangle is an actress and improviser from Philadelphia, as well as a six-time Emmy nominated writer and proud alumna of the Upright Citizens Brigade in NYC.. As a writer for Comedy Central's groundbreaking "Inside Amy Schumer," Nangle received the prestigious Peabody Award. She has also written for Comedy Central's "Kroll Show" and NBC's "Saturday Night Live."

SCOUT DURWOOD - Mel, lead

Scout Durwood is a chanteuse/comedienne, as well as one of six starring cast members on Oxygen's "Funny Girls" and the lead in MTV's half hour comedy "Mary+Jane." Scout was recently named one of The Huffington Post's "20 Burlesque Stars to Know," as well as Funny Not Slutty's "10 Women Who Rock Comedy" and Stand Up Talk's "Five Awesome Women's Musical Comedy Acts." Last spring, Scout released her debut comedy album, "Woman of Whimsy." She has been featured as a comedian on playboy.com,

Bridgetown Comedy Festival, Chicago Women's Funny Festival, After Ellen, Nylon, XFINITY, CBS Radio and *The Mindy Project*.

BENJAMIN DELL - Director of Photography

Benjamin Dell has lensed music videos, commercials and dozens of short films, including ZUG (2013), a Student Academy Award Winner, and HALA, a vimeo staff pick. His work and clients include projects for the BUTCHER BROTHERS, DISCOVERY CHANNEL, SKECHERS, NIKE, INTEL, GMC, and MOUNTAIN DEW. He is currently shooting a web series for Sony's Full Screen while developing features with his favorite directors. He holds a Masters in Cinematography from the American Film Institute (AFI).

MICHELLE MAN - Editor

Born and raised in Hong Kong, Michelle Man came to the U.S. three years ago to study print journalism at USC. She first began her journey as an editor through directing and editing documentaries and broadcast packages. Through her Cinematic Arts minor at USC, she was able to discover her ultimate passion – film. Storytelling is a skill she gained and loved through studying journalism and she wants to do the same in the editing room. As, Walter Murch once said, “Every film is a puzzle really, from an editorial point of view.” Her favorite movies include Wong Kar Wai’s “In The Mood For Love”, Stephen Daldry’s “The Hours” and Andrew Lau’s “Internal Affairs” trilogy.

QIANZHU LUO - Editor

Born and raised in China, Qianzhu Luo moved to the U.S. in pursuit of her dream as a filmmaker. She is interested in making science fiction and comedy. In 2015, she received the Jack Oakie comedy scholarship. Since then, she worked as an editor on a short musical film (*Mango Sticky Rice*), a dark comedy (*So F*cking Happy for You*) and a dramedy (*Your Old Man*).

CAST

DENISE
MEL
SCOTT
TODD

Fan Girl
Bartender
Mel's Date

Bar Patron
Bar Patron
Bar Patron
Bar Patron
Bar Patron
Bar Patron

CREW

Directed by
Written by
Produced by
Associate Producer
(share above "Associate Producer")
(share above "Associate Producer")
(share above "Associate Producer")

1st Assistant Director
2nd Assistant Director

Director of Photography
1st Assistant Camera
2nd Assistant Camera
Production Sound Recordist
Boom Operator
Script Supervisor
Gaffer
Gaffer
Key Grip
Grip & Electric

NAME

Christine Nangle
Scout Durwood
Dave Hill
Richard Pierre-Louis

Jenn Gordon
Crystal Lee
Ariel Heller

Gabriel Brugni
Rachel V. Byrd
Jean-yves Joseph
Helen Krieger
David Liu
Rachel Summers

NAME

Lina Suh
Helen Krieger
Jay Dasgupta
Noopur Sinha
Tiffany McDonald
John Palmer
Enoch Kim

Robert McDermott
Miriam Arghandiwal

Benjamin Dell
Sohil Vaidya
Qaisal Arghandiwal
Ramon Cortes
Nick Manting-Brewer
Rommel Villa
Justin Ivan Hong
Avner Mayer
Brien Chatfield
Michael Miller

Peter Haig
Reeyaz Habib
Ariel Heller
Kyle Wahaus
Brenner Luther
Stephen Nuwer
Arturo Sanchez

Production Designer
Art Department
Hair & Makeup
Set Photographer

Katia Nájera (accent over first 'a')
Ana Corro (one 'n' in Ana)
Victoria Strimov
Brandon Faber

Edited by
Edited by

Qianzhu Luo (no u after Q)
Michelle Man

Sound Design & Mix by
Music by

Dustin Elm
Jen Schwartz

SONGS

"Cool Morning Fever"

Written by Randy Robert

"Concrete and Heartbreak"

Performed by Birds of Prey

"If I Go To Heaven"

Written & Performed by The Tens

Written & Performed by Alexandra Scott

Motion Graphics Designer
Additional Motion Graphics Designer
Title Animation
Visual Effects
Visual Effects

Jake Hostetter
Zoe Serbin
Zoe Serbin
Guenever Goik
Yimin Zhang

SPECIAL THANKS

NAME

Bruce Block
Gabriel Brugni
Alexandria Chu
Jamie Flam
Guenever Goik
Seth Hauer
Ariel Heller

Caleb Heller
Juli Juteau
Josh Kadish
Ian McClellan
Davin Michaels
Colleen O'Halloran
Erich Rettstadt
Yung-ho Suh
Katherine Sweetman
Johnson Thomasson
Greg Vannoy
Jarrett Woo
Joseph Wright
Hyewon Yoon