

SAMNANG

Life could be sweeter with
another baker in the kitchen



AMERICAN FILM INSTITUTE Presents a BAND OF IMMIGRANTS Production "SAMNANG"
Starring JONATHAN NITASNEAK DOK KAYLENE MEN VICTORY V. HENG and AMY LYNDON
Costume Design by ARIEL BOROFF Songs by praCh Ly, RITA J & MOE POPE
Edited by VARUN VISWANATH Production Design by SAMMI WALLSCHLAEGER
Cinematography by CARLOS DIAZ Produced by KIMBERLY O'SHEA
Written by VANARA TAING Directed by ASAPH POLONSKY

samnangthefilm.com

SAMNANG

TAGLINE

Life could be sweeter with another baker in the kitchen.

LOGLINE

SAMNANG, a recent Cambodian immigrant, working as a donut baker at night, lives a life of solitude until he's ordered to train a new worker – the owner's sister, and fears the loss of his job.

SHORT SYNOPSIS

SAMNANG, a recent Cambodian immigrant who works nights at a donut shop in Long Beach, California, finds comfort in his new country by building a life of routine and solitude. But when his boss, NGOUN, orders him to train a new worker – his sister, VANNY, a spunky single mom, Samnang fears he is going to be replaced. During the course of the night will Samnang discover that life could be a bit sweeter with another baker in the kitchen?

LONG SYNOPSIS

SAMNANG, a recent Cambodian immigrant, works while we all sleep in a donut shop in Cambodia Town, Long Beach, bakes donuts by himself while learning English through an ESL CD and singing the songs of Cambodian legendary singer, Sinn Sisamouth.

At the end of the shift, he locks up, picks up his cash salary, smokes a cigarette and while we start waking up - he rides his bicycle back to his studio apartment which he shares with a snoring roommate and a gold fish.

But when Samnang, a man of solitude that has found comfort in his routine life, is ordered by his boss to train a new worker, his sister – VANNY, a spunky single mom, that had just lost her job, he fears that he'll be replaced by her and won't be able to keep saving money to bring his daughter from Cambodia to the States, he decides to do the opposite of what is boss ordered him, and do everything but teach her how to bake.

During the course of a one night encounter, will the threat become an opportunity? Will Samnang discover that life could be a bit sweeter with another baker in the kitchen?

PRODUCTION NOTES

An Indian, Cambodian, Israeli, Irish/Filipino, Puerto-Rican, and an American... No, this is not the beginning of a joke but the people behind the thesis film “SAMNANG” – a story about an isolated recent immigrant from Cambodia whose life of routine is interrupted when he is forced to train someone new. We all came from different backgrounds and cultures but all strive for a human connection, just like Samnang.

When Vanara, the screenwriter, gave me a few pages to read from “SAMNANG” even before the script was finished I knew I wanted to direct it. She caught the loneliness of a foreigner but also the struggle and the passion that comes with it. I was born in Washington, DC to Israeli parents and when I was 8 years old my family decided to move back to Israel. Two years ago I left my home again and returned to what was supposed to be my first home, the States. Even though I was born here, have a pretty good accent and pass as American, I feel far away from home and a stranger in the place where I live. Now, when I visit my “home”, Israel, I also feel in between places.

Vanara brought the story from her own family; her grandparents own a donut shop, many of her uncles are bakers and her mother inspired the spunky character of Vanny. Those elements mixed with a natural talent of writing are what brought us to an understated story about people that are awake while everyone is asleep and struggling to find a connection.

From the beginning it was discussed that this film would be shot on location, even if it would be almost impossible to find a donut shop that would open its doors to us. But Kim, the producer, found the perfect one – Gourmet Donuts in Long Beach. Even with a great location, there were limitations that Carlos, the D.P., and I were challenged to find creative solutions. On the other hand, because the location was spacious, it allowed for opportunities to shoot in spaces usually not found in most donut shops. Gourmet Donuts became our second home through pre-production, rehearsals, camera tests, baking lessons and research.

Because most of us worked on a film in a language we didn't speak we had to find actors that could speak both fluent Khmer and English. There are not a lot of Khmer speaking actors in the area and we quickly decided not to go the “normal route” of casting and instead, hustle with our feet to find non-actors. Kim and I walked in the hot days of summer in Long Beach, Cambodia Town, putting flyers everywhere we could and talking to as many people as possible.

In the end, with a little help from our new friends (such as Long Beach based Khmer hip-hop artist praCh Ly and Steve Meng), we started doing auditions in the local theater of Cambodia Town. Many came, and after 2 months we found the cast; Jonathan (Samnang), Kaylenne (Vanny) and Vic (Ngoun) joined our only professionally trained actress, Amy (Betty). Six weeks of rehearsals started and the non-actors became actors and the characters.

PRODUCTION NOTES

Not only did Jonathan have to learn how to act but also how to make donuts. When we were looking for bakers to teach him I was astonished (why was I?) that the bakers were treating him just as Samnang treats Vanny in the film – ignoring him, and being difficult in order to finish their work ASAP and go home to sleep. I remember one night I was trying to talk to a baker and rather than listen, he just watched the mixer work. This experience helped me get into Vanny's place as well. These interactions with bakers helped even more to build the conflict between Samnang & Vanny and to sharpen the scenes before the shoot.

Jonathan was not the only one who was learning how to make donuts, so was Sammi the Production Designer. Going in the middle of the night to look at bakers bake and how the kitchen looks through the progression of the night was crucial. Together with Carlos a color template was decided, mixing the warmth of the bakery with the coolness of the metal of the machinery in order to create the world of Samnang – a cold one that is striving for warmth. But the donut shop is just one part of Samnang's world. He also has an apartment that he shares with a roommate. And Sammi created a lonely and claustrophobic world with a touch of hope by adding a small but important prop – Samnang's fishbowl.

After shooting 6 nights it was now time for Varun, the editor, to cut a film in a language he does not speak. We were both happy that during the first cut he understood everything without translation. Varun has brought his own soul with a big dose of love and passion to the edit suite – playing around, changing and finding solutions.

We were lucky enough to get an old Khmer song from the legendary Khmer singer, Sinn Sisamouth, which was juxtaposed with the hip-hop music of praCh Ly, Moe Pope and Rita J.

I am extremely proud and honored to work with such creative talents, filmmakers, actors and musicians. Making this film was like its story: a labor of love.

Asaph Polonsky
Director - "SAMNANG"

TEAM BIOGRAPHIES



ASAPH POLONSKY
Director

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Asaph was born in Washington, DC in 1983. In Israel, where he grew up, he directed, wrote and independently produced two shorts films, both of which have been Official Selections of the Jerusalem Film Festival: "ZIPPER" (2009, funded by The Rabinovich Foundation), which was also screened in various Cinematheques, art houses and film festivals, and "IN BED AT 10 P.M." (2010, funded by The Makor Foundation) which won the 1st Prize at The 2012 First Annual Robinson Short Film Competition and the Jury Prize at the 2012 Galilee's Short Film Festival (Israel) and was screened also as an Official Selection at Toronto's 2011 CFC Worldwide Short Film Festival, The Milano International Film Festival, LA Shorts Fest and more.

Asaph also directed award-winning music videos, worked on various television projects and taught filmmaking classes for teenagers in Israel. He was awarded an Irwin and Sheila Allen Scholarship and an America-Israel Cultural Foundation Scholarship. He has recently started teaching writing and directing at the New York Film Academy.

His feature film screenplay, "ENDING SONG", was selected as one of the 12 screenplays to be developed in The Jerusalem International Film Lab 2011-2012.

"SAMNANG" for him is about loneliness and the never-ending search for love, and how those two powerful human elements are magnified while being far away from home.

TEAM BIOGRAPHIES



VANARA TAING
Writer

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Before coming to AFI as an Editing Fellow, Vanara's work was published in the journal *Meridians* and *Sojourner: The Women's Forum*. She was a producer at StoryCorps, editing their weekly series on NPR's Morning Edition. Her producing credits were a part of the 2012 Peabody Award-winning partnership between StoryCorps, NPR, POV, and the National September 11 Memorial & Museum.

In addition to her radio work, Vanara's short films have screened at New York's Museum of Modern Art, the Anthology Film Archives and the Portland Documentary and eXperimental Film Festival. She holds a B.A. in English from Scripps College and a master's degree from Harvard's School of Education. Vanara was awarded the Paul and Daisy Soros Fellowship for New Americans and the J. Michael Brinkman Scholarship by the Hollywood Post Alliance.

Vanara was born in the Khao-I-Dang refugee camp near the Thai/Cambodian border. Her family re-settled in the US, when she was 2-years-old. "Samnang" is inspired by Vanara's childhood memories of watching her family work to build a life in the United States through making donuts.

TEAM BIOGRAPHIES



KIMBERLY O'SHEA
Producer

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Kim is a Producing Fellow at AFI. She was a recipient of the CineVegas Emerging Filmmaker Award in 2009. She has worked as an associate producer, 2nd assistant director, unit production manager and assistant to the producer on various short films. She is a graduate of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas with a Bachelor of Arts in Film. Kim was born in the Philippines to a Filipino mother and an Irish American father. She spent the first seven years of her life there until her family relocated to Las Vegas, NV.

Raised in the states Kim has gone back to the Philippines numerous times growing up and has a deep connection to her and her mother's homeland. The story of "SAMNANG" resonates with Kim as it reminds her of her and her mother's assimilation process when first arriving in the United States. It wasn't easy for her mother, but through courage and love, like Samnang, she found a way.

TEAM BIOGRAPHIES



CARLOS DIAZ
Cinematographer

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Carlos Diaz is a second year AFI cinematography fellow from Puerto Rico. Drawing from his background in experimental media and traditional narrative structures, he has explored the life breath of an image and how to translate the words of story into the visual. Carlos's projects have ranged from music videos, documentaries video art for international conceptual artists and commercials for corporate sponsors such as "Gatorade" and "Sprint". His images have been shown at the MOMA, Istanbul Biennial, Whitney Biennial, Amsterdam International Documentary Festival and Havana Film Festival and on MTVLA.

Carlos feels a close relationship to the story of "SAMNANG" and what drew him was the portrayal of the immigrant experience and the chance of finding love. The themes are universal and yet the story is specific. Coming from Puerto Rico he understands being an immigrant, working alone and yet trying to connect with other people. The immigrant experience is one filled with much loneliness but there are times when this is magically changed by chance. Carlos came to this country, by chance met someone, fell in love, had a beautiful baby girl and now he knows that his life will never be lonely.

TEAM BIOGRAPHIES



SAMMI WALLSCHLAEGER
Production Designer

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Born and raised in Los Angeles, Sammi was introduced to "the industry" at an early age and has been drawn to it ever since. She recently received her MFA in Production Design from the American Film Institute. She interned with production design team Shaffner-Stewart, where she worked on sets for MISS USA, the INDEPENDENT SPIRIT AWARDS and several pilots. More recently, she worked as Assistant Art Director on THE TONIGHT SHOW WITH JAY LENO and DAYS OF OUR LIVES. She has also coordinated several events, both corporate and social. Sammi is currently a member of the Art Director's Guild Local 800. She is so proud to be a part of the Samnang AFI thesis team.

Sammi is the only member of the "Band of Immigrants" team who is not an immigrant. When joining the team, she did not know what to expect. A film about a culture she knew nothing about, in a language she had never actually heard of. In order to create a believable world for Samnang, Sammi visited several typical Cambodian homes and asked tons of questions about what a Cambodian-American would have in his home and at his workplace. It was an absolute joy to spend so much time in the Cambodian community and get to know so many people. In the end, for Sammi, "Samnang" is a film about moving forward and finding your way in a new environment-- a universal theme relatable to anyone, whether you are from Cambodia or have lived in the U.S. your entire life.

TEAM BIOGRAPHIES



VARUN VISWANATH
Editor

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Varun has lived and worked away from home for over 10 years. He was born and raised in India, after which his career took him to Singapore - where he worked as an Editor and Producer. He moved to Los Angeles in 2010 after being accepted into the AFI Conservatory as an Editing Fellow. He co-founded Bad Alliteration Films, an Independent Film Production company, where his recent work includes the feature films "The Insomniac" (2009) and "The Outsiders" (2011), which was accepted into the 24th Singapore International Film Festival, the Venice New Asian Film Exhibition 2011, and won an award at The Indie Fest in California.

Varun has traveled extensively and has had the opportunity to observe the culture of the locals and immigrants in various countries. The story of "Samnang" is very close to his heart, as it has a very real taste of immigrant life. He feels a deep connection between his personal experiences and the underlying themes of "Samnang" - the surprises and pitfalls of establishing a life in a new country, being misunderstood by people from other cultures, and yearning for companionship in a foreign land.

CAST BIOGRAPHIES



JONATHAN NITASNEAK DOK
Samnang

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Jonathan was born in Cambodia, in Svey Reang Province and grew up in the capital city of Phnom Pehn. When The Killing started in April 17, 1975, he was forced to move back to the countryside. He Escaped to Vietnam in 1977, during the Vietnamese military occupied part of Cambodia 24 hours period. In 1979 he escaped back to Cambodia during the Vietnamese invasion, ending The Khmer Rouge regime and escaped to different freedom fighter camps along Cambodia Thai border before. In early 1980, he escaped with his brother, sister, mother & Grandmother into Thailand, in Quo E- Dang refugee Camp, from there they moved to Philippine refugee camp for sixth months. He arrived in the United State on the summer of 1981, Long Beach, California where he attended Bancroft Junior High, Woodrow Wilson High School, Long Beach City College, and Cal-State long Beach. Jonathan is currently working as a Case Manager/Live Coach and managing a restaurant in Long Beach.

“I want to thank the crew in making ‘Samnang’, especially: Asaph Polonsky, Vanara Taing, Kimberly O’shea, Carlos Diaz, Sammi Wallschlaeger and Varun Viswanath. Also, I’d want to thank the bakers who trained me, those who bake at night to support their family. Samnang’s character in the film portrays the real live of many Cambodian donut bakers.

Playing the role of Samnang, allowed me to understand the point of view of a donut baker, as an Actor, I hope not to offense any baker out there - I admire the art of making the best tasty donut, and think that the Cambodian donut bakers make the best donut, period. In order to get into the role, I learned how to bake and I will always cherish that skill. I’m very happy and proud to have worked with a group of people who not just care about making a good film, but have the willingness to go extra mile to bring the story to live. I’m blessed and privileged to be a part of ‘Samnang’.”

Jonathan N. Dok
Actor/ Father/ Killing Field Survivor

CAST BIOGRAPHIES



KAYLENE MEN

Vanny

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Kaylene Kolvady Men was born in Cambodia and raised in Wichita, Kansas. After High School, she visited California and two weeks later, she decided to her red shoes from KS to California. She attended California State University of Long Beach and worked for numerous non-profit agencies such as American-Women Economic Development, Inc.; United Cambodian Community, Inc.; HealthNet, Inc. Kaylene has always been a trail-blazer for her thinking and for doing business. She started and helped numerous businesses for her family, her students and for herself. In work and in play, she continue to mingle and intertwined her two worlds she loves embraces, American & Cambodia and hope's to share what she has discovered and learned with all within her reach.

"I saw a casting flyer at my restaurant. My first thought, '...AFI...wow!! A film about Cambodian...donuts...I had a donut shop and so did my friends and their family at one time or another'. Not only that, it was written by Vanara, first Khmergirl screenwriter... So, I decided to call my friends and let them know about this opportunity.

I had so much fun recruiting my friends over the phone to go for the audition. We even practiced our speech for the award acceptance and practiced our red carpet walk and wave. I volunteered to drive all 4 of them. I had no intention to try out for the part... But my friends made me and I'm glad they did! I can feel and see the love all of the whole crew put into making this love story of "Samnang". Thank you for choosing me to be part of this journey. Because of you, I now stay longer in the movie theater to watch the credits and appreciate the hard work people put in."

CAST BIOGRAPHIES



VICTORY V. HENG
Ngoun

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“To survive the Killing Fields as a child and come to America as a refugee 31 years ago has been a blessing to me. Coming from a country of starvation and destruction to a place of opportunities and abundances is every man’s dream. So when the opportunity to be a part of a film that portrays that hope I would not let it pass me by, even though I have no acting experience. There was part of me that screams ‘You are making a fool of yourself’, but there was also a part of me that calmly answers ‘Why not? What do you got to lose?’ Going through the process, before and during the shooting, with Asaph and the crew was very pleasant and inspiring. Pleasant by the fact that Asaph, is gentle and understands how to work with someone who has no acting experience. I’m inspired by seeing the hard work and determination of everyone involved with the film. I am very honored and blessed to be a part of it.”

SAMNANG
SAMNANG

CAST BIOGRAPHIES



AMY LYNDON

Betty

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Amy Lyndon has been entertaining the public since the age of 10. Having grown up in New Rochelle, New York, formal training was as easy as jumping on a train. During her senior year, Lyndon studied at the Neighborhood Playhouse (NYC) and went on to England to tackle the prestigious London Academy of Performing Arts. After earning her BFA from Syracuse University, Lyndon flew out to LA to debut opposite Andy Garcia in the Feature Film "A Night In Heaven." Shortly after, Lyndon brushed up her chops with Stella Adler and Harry Mastrogeorge.

Lyndon has 40+ films to her credit. She can be seen in 5 LionsGate Feature Films: "B.T.K," "Bram Stoker's Dracula's Guest", "Chicago Massacre: Richard Speck", "Ed Gein: The Butcher Of Plainfield" and "Are You Scared?" She also has 6 more Feature Films coming out in '09 AND '10: "40 Sundays," "The House That Jack Built," "The Poughkeepsie Tapes," "Trinity: Gehenna," "The Loneliest Road In America" and "The Vanquisher." Lyndon also Starred with Chris Pratt in "Cursed Part 3," directed by Rae Dawn Chong.

On Television, Lyndon Guest Starred in over 25+ television shows including: "NCIS," "Ugly Betty," "Entourage," "NYPD Blue," "JAG," Recurring Roles on "The Bold and the Beautiful," "General Hospital," "Young and The Restless" and a Recurring Guest Lead in "Freddy's Nightmare."

On Stage, Lyndon's wacky performance as Bobbi Michelle in "Last Of The Red Hot Lovers" at The Tiffany Theatre garnered critical notoriety and earned her a Marquee Comedy Award. Lyndon worked her comedy skills at The Groundlings, The Comedy Store, CBS On The Lot and The Int'l Blend Comedy Troupe with Rick Overton.

Additionally, Lyndon is a Multi-Award Winning Director/Writer/Producer. Her film "Odessa" starring the late Yolanda King won top awards on the Festival circuit. As a Writer, Lyndon won the "Spirit of Moondance Award" for Best Family Screenplay in The Moondance Int'l Film Festival and as a Director her World Premiere play "The Parasites" was produced by The Met Theatre to sold out audiences. "Award-Winning," a recent film that Lyndon directed and produced, is currently winning Major Awards on the Festival Circuit. <http://awardwinningshort.com/>

Lyndon also owned and operated Gold-Levin Talent Management for 9 years and has been an International Booking Coach for close to 18. Lyndon created this Technique from her own successful booking experience and has helped 1000's of students learn how to book jobs and work as Series Regulars, Star in Feature Films and consistently earn their living as actors. To Name a Few... Adam Brody (The OC), Christel Khalil (The Young and the Restless), Masi Oka (Heroes), Hosea Chanchez (The Game), Maiara Walsh (Cory In The House), Cory Hardrict (Gran Tarino), Raini Rodriguez (Paul Blart: Mall Cop) and Sara Paxton (Aquamarine). Look for The Lyndon Technique "15 Guideline Map To Booking" Handbook in the bookstores.

MUSICIAN'S BIOGRAPHIES



praCh Ly

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praCh, is an internationally renowned, critically acclaimed, award winning artist. His debut album is the first #1 rap album in Cambodia. Newsweek proclaim him as “the first Cambodian rap star”. Through masterful lyrics of powerful rap music, his music not only entertains but also educates.

His lyric has been published by multiple publishing and is currently being use for South East Asian Studies. In 2004 he went on a 23 States tour across the United States and was a subject for Japan’s documentary film, which won NHK’s *Best Documentary of the Year (2004). His involvement in films ranges from scoring music for a baseball documentary ‘Rice Field of Dreams’ (2010) to creating original music for *Sundance Award Winning and *Oscar short-listed movie ‘Enemies of the People’ (2010). He is now the Executive Producer of Enemies of the People part 2 titled “SUSPICIOUS MINDS’ (2013/2014).

He lectures and headlines events in prestigious institutions and Ivy League universities, from the Smithsonian in DC, to the International ‘Freedom to Write’ festival at BROWN to the Scholars at Risk at HARVARD.

He’s been featured in the Cambodia Daily, Phnom Penh Post, Newsweek, Times, ABC, BBC, CBS, CNN, NBC, NHK, FOX, PBS, PRI, NPR, VOA, RFA, American Route, Press-Telegram, LA Times, New York Times, Frontline, The World.org, America.org, Khmerconnection.com and countless others.

He is the youngest coordinator of the Cambodian New Year Celebration in Long Beach California (2002). The GRAND MARSHAL of the 2nd Annual Cambodian New Year Parade (2005). Awarded by the Cambodian-American Business Association for “Successful Business, Entrepreneurship and Community Service Excellence” (2011). Founder/Coordinator of the Cambodia Town Film Festival, Chairmen of the Board-West Coast Committee for CELEBRATE ASIA, C.E.O. of Mujestic Records and Founder/Co-Owner of The ORPHANAGE Productions.

A highly recognized and respected public figure, praCh resides in California.

MUSICIAN'S BIOGRAPHIES



MOE POPE

<http://www.moepope.com>

<http://www.trustthebrain.com/directory/profile/moe-pope>

MC Moe Pope's career first took off in the early 2000s with Bay Area-based hip-hop band Mission (who later became known as Crown City Rockers) which also feat. Bay Area General Raashan Ahmad . After a series of 12"s, Pope appeared on the group's LP, One, in 2001, before he decided to return to Boston in order to look after his daughter. Back in his hometown, he connected with rapper/producer Insight and his five-man outfit, Electric (aka Electric Company). Along with Electric members Anonymous and Raheem Jamal, Pope broke off from the collective to form Project Move, issuing their debut album, Love Gone Wrong/Butterfly Theory, in 2006. As each group's members went off to make solo records, Pope reunited with his former Crown City cohort Headnodic for the 2008 well received collaborative album Megaphone.

2010-2011 had Moe Pope with a new production partner and a new label for his next , Life After God, paired in part with the mash up spectacle "Depeche Moe" taking the Vocals from the L.A.G album and fusing them with Synth Pop/New Wave legends Depeche Mode's sonic back drop...the man and his new band "Quills" consisting of Rain, Christopher Talkin, Chris Klaxton, and Michael McCarthy set out on a journey which Brands them as Itunes Rewinds top 10 albums of 2010, 2011 Boston's Best in the Phoenix, The Improper Bostonian Music Issue's New up and comer, and Boston Heralds Top local hiphop Album of 2010....

Stampeding Elephants...Moe Pope's Free Mixtape collaboration with Annie Mulz Clothing ...is a gift to fans eager for something to hold them over until the samples full length face melter "Let The Right One's In" releases on Brick Records with Rain creating a monstrous sound without the use of any samples...Envision the MC/Producer platform of Pete Rock & CL Smooth, a new age Tribe Called Quest blended with the abstract prose of Bob Dylan and the pure adrenalin angst of Bad Brains, prepare to "Let The Right One's In"...

MUSICIAN'S BIOGRAPHIES



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Walking a tightrope can be risky business, especially if you happen to be sporting high heels and a pencil skirt in the process. Since its inception hip-hop has largely been considered a man's world. Few women have attempted to claim the "emcee" moniker and even fewer have done so with a feminine touch. Armed with a writer's wit, and a short list of hip hop foremothers, Rita J has critically wounded the notion that an intelligent woman can't be heard over an 808. Raised in the talent rich pockets of Chicago's South Side, Rita J -- Rita Jackson when not on stage—was born to entertain. A trained dancer, Rita J has spent much of her life on stage often showcasing her artistic prowess in competition. Her experiences as a dancer taught her at an early age the value of hard work and passion—characteristics beneficial to any artist, and essential to an emcee.

While her own musical talents lay dormant for much of her childhood, the seeds were planted early on. The offspring of avid music listeners, Rita was raised on a sonic diet of 70's funk, soul, and R&B. Pilfering through her father's record collection for fun, Rita found herself captivated by the soulful croons of Bobby Womack, the rhythmic musings of groups like Slave, Shalamar, and the Bar-Kays, and the vocal and artistic depth of artists like Stevie Wonder, Patrice Rushen, Prince, and Phylis Hyman. Already a seasoned entertainer, her rich musical indoctrination further fueled her desire to seek out new forms of artistic expression. It would only be a matter of time before Rita herself would carry the mic on her own personal foray into the music industry.....

SCREENSHOTS



SCREENSHOTS



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PRODUCTION PHOTOS



From right to left: Actor, Jonathan Dok as Samnang and Director, Asaph Polonsky working with donut trainer, James Lay on a donut baking shot



From right to left: Donut trainers, Vanna Pov and James Lay with actor, Jonathan Dok



Jonathan Dok as Samnang



Director, Asaph Polonsky with actress, Kaylene Men as Vanny



Director, Asaph Polonsky and Jonathan Dok



Actors - Jonathan Dok, Kaylene Men & Amy Lyndon (Betty) in-between takes

PRODUCTION PHOTOS



Producer, Kimberly O'Shea with her team



Director, Asaph Polonsky and Steadicam Operator, Twojay Dhillon planning a shot



Cinematographer, Carlos Diaz setting up a shot



Kaylene Men and Make-up artist, Lorena Acevedo



Production Designer, Sammi Wallschlaeger preparing chocolate glaze for a scene

PRODUCTION PHOTOS



Jonathan Dok stretching between takes



Jonathan Dok and Amy Lydon



Kaylene Men



Art Director, Rollin Hunt and Steadicam Operator, Twojay Dhillon preparing for a shot



Actor, Victory V. Heng as Ngoun



Kaylene Men and Jonathan Dok

CREDITS

AFI Presents

SAMNANG

Directed by Asaph Polonsky
Written by Vanara Taing
Produced by Kimberly O'Shea
Cinematography by Carlos Diaz
Production Design by Sammi Wallschlaeger
Edited by Varun Viswanath

CAST

SAMNANG Jonathan Nitasneak Dok
VANNY Kaylene Men
NGOUN Victory V. Heng
BETTY Amy Lyndon
ROOMMATE Steve Meng
ESL English Voice Jyll Gartin
ESL Khmer Voice Sophea Pel

CREW

Unit Production Managers Chelsea Benson
Robert Powell
First Assistant Directors Sean Vawter
Jeff Keith
Second Assistant Directors Helena Bowen
Kyle Spleiss
Production Coordinator / Location Manager Michael Goodman

Supervising Sound Editor Alexander Pugh, MPSE
Re-Recording Sound Mixer Tom Marks

Costume Designer Ariel Boroff

Art Director Rollin Hunt
Set Decorator Sammi Wallschlaeger
Art Department PAs Candace Andrews
Tara Friis
Picture Vehicle Robert Kensington
Camera Operator Martin Kobylarz
First Assistants Camera Alan Vidali
Ezra Riley
Michele Peterson
Second Assistant Camera Jean Paul Bonneau
Loaders Nik Nikides
Elise Teller
Steadicam Operator TwoJay Dhillon
Still Photographer Temma Hankin
BTS Videographer Melanie Wainberg
Script Supervisor Chanel Raisin
Translators Sophinarath Chaeng
Munika Lay
Accountant Richard King

www.samnangthefilm.com

CREDITS

Chief Lighting Technician Yong Jin Kim
Best Boy Electric Emilio Marcelino
Key Grip Leslie Bumgarner
Best Boy Grip Kristen DiLiello
Grip & Electric Mario Rodriguez
Grips Terrence Laron Burke
Jason D'Alberti
Sean Emer
David Gidali
Blaine Munro
Onn Nir
Stefan Weinberger
Alex Yane
Swing Carolina Acosta
Miklos Buk
Tim Kang
Nich Musko

Production Audio by Icemen Audio
Production Sound Mixer Evan Menak
Boom Operators Chris Hall
Michael Capuano

Audio Post Production by Monkeyland Audio, Inc.
Dialog/ADR Editor Ben Whitver
Sound Effects Editor Peter Lago, MPSE
Foley Artist James Bailey
Foley Mixer Greg Maurer
Foley Editor Ian Shedd
Recordist Steve Utt

Technicolor Account Executives Dana Ross
Laura Borowsky
Bob Hoffman

Dailies Producer Denise Woodgerd
Dailies Colorist Rick Brunick
Dailies Assist Eric Chilpa
Digital Intermediate Colorist Adrian Seery
Digital Intermediate Producer Christine Dougherty
Digital Intermediate Editor Everette Jbob Webber
Audio Mixer Larry Barr

Subtitle Design Technicolor Localization Services
Subtitle Co-ordinator Suzanne Garner

Key Make-up & Hair Stylist Lorena Acevedo
Make-up & Hair Norelle Soriano
Venessa Ramirez

Donut Consultant & Trainer James Lay
Prop Donut Makers Heng Taing
Vanna Pov
Scenic Painter Monique Dias

CREDITS

Transportation Coordinator & Captain Drivers Les Halsteed
Evan Burns
Mike Hellerstein
Mike McDowell
Genny Driver Abel Guavera

Assistant to Producer Ian Anderson
Casting Coordinator Raul Staggs
Casting Assitant Shyree Mezick
Production Assistants Jessica Albara
Jack Bilotta
Anthony Gagnon
Cassady O'Neal
Albert Salazar

Catering Sophy's Restaurant - Long Beach
Craft Service Bihn Than
Tosha Johnson

First Aids Keith Galeno
Frank Aldopa

Security Victor Garcia
On-Site Location Rep Vanna Pov
Commercial Freezer Technician Kong Chrea

Website, Poster & DVD Designer Daniel Levy
Poster & DVD Illustrator Alina Gorban
Still Photographers - Website Shelly Seroussi
DJ McConduit
Script Translator Steve Meng
Khmer Flyer Translation Ryan Chance

SONGS

Mou Pei Na
Written & Performed by: Sinn Sisamouth
Courtesy of: Mujestic Records

The Making of You
Written & Performed By: The 2nd Language
Courtesy of: Mujestic Records

What You Need
Written & Performed by: Moe Pope
Courtesy of: Moe Pope

Sick and Tired
Written & Performed by: Rita J
Courtesy of: Rita J

Mech Jung Ha
Written & Performed by: praCh Ly
Courtesy of: Mujestic Records

CREDITS

EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS

Udi & Neta Polonsky
Israel & Rina Polonsky
Virak Taing
Vasudharini & Narayan Viswanath

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Jaswinder Singh, Technigroup
Sanjeev Ahluwalia, Teknion Furniture Systems
Raanan & Gali Tzury
Vered Tzury

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Naomi Levvari & Saar Yogev

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Moshe Mishali
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Sangeetha Narayanan
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Aileen Tat
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Sarah Turner
Deepa Vaidhyathan
Kate Vaughan
Moulie Vidas
Sammilan Vijaya
Sapir Yakov

THANK YOU

Long Beach Film Commission - Tasha Day & Team
Long Beach Homeland Cultral Center and Theater - Jim Regalaro & Mike Rivera
Sophy's Restaurant, Long Beach
Cambodian Coordinating Council - Steve Meng & Monaro Neth
Long Beach Police Department - Tom Swan
The Pike at Rainbow Harbor, Long Beach - Shannon Johnson, DDR Corp
United Cambodian Community
Long Beach Redevelopment Agency - Seyed Jalali
Long Beach Parks and Recreational Department - Heather Green
Yum Yum Donuts, Burbank - Alvaro Davila
The Donut Station
Urban Housing Properties - Christina De La Rosa
Marc Dyson & the tenants of 1805 N. Kingsley
Panavision - Mike Dellatorre

CREDITS

SPECIAL THANKS

Shir Alon
Shira Arad
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Meng Heang Hong
Rafael Kajatt

Ravi Kapoor
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Benjamin Mehlman
Moshe Mishali
Robb Moss
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An Na
Juna F. Nagle

Irit Neeman
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Blanca Rivera
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Anyia Simon
Vidyuth Srinivasan
Leslie Swartzenegger

praCh Ly
Steve Meng
Connie Eng - Gourmet Donuts, Long Beach

To Our Families For Their Love and Support

Vanny Pat
Lay Pat
Valerie Taing
Virak & Tina Taing
Gloria O'Shea
Don & Monique Wallshlaeger
Ella Wyatt
Vasudharini & Narayan Viswanath
Ondina Kai An
Nimrod Polonsky
Udi & Neta Polonsky

IN LOVING MEMORY OF MARK HERNANDEZ

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Production Format: 35mm

Aspect Ratio: 2.40:1

Screening Formats: DCP, HDCAM-SR, HDCAM, Blu-Ray, DVD (NTSC & PAL)

Sound: 5.1 Digital Stereo Surround Sound

TRT: 22 minutes

Language: Khmer & English (with English subtitles)

Date of Completion: January 31st, 2013

American Film Institute



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