

SINGLE MOTHER ONLY DAUGHTER

PRESS KIT

*DIRECTOR BIO

Ellie Wen was born in Hong Kong and moved to Los Angeles when she was eight years old. She attended Stanford University and graduated with a BA in Drama and a Minor in Sociology.

Upon graduation from Stanford, she moved back to Los Angeles to pursue a career in the film industry. Ellie was selected for the Project Involve fellowship program and was named the Barbara Boyle Scholar. She has directed and produced numerous shorts, documentaries, and features, including *White Frog*, which she co-wrote. In addition to creating independently, she has also worked at CAA and CBS Films in all aspects of film finance, sales, acquisitions, production, and development. Most recently, she was the Director of Development in Original Series at Super Deluxe, an independent entertainment studio funded by Turner.

Her documentary *Single Mother Only Daughter* screened at the American Cinematheque's Annual Focus on Female Directors and premiered online on Short of the Week and was a Vimeo Staff Pick. She just released a short documentary series on SoulPancake's digital channels called *Doing Good Business* about social entrepreneurs around the world.

Ellie is currently pursuing her MFA in Documentary Film and Video at Stanford University.

*FILMMAKER STATEMENT

I made *Single Mother Only Daughter* during a UCLA Extension documentary course. I had originally set out to make a different documentary, but then on the eve of my shoot, my subject suddenly fell through. Up against the deadline, I was forced to think small and look at my own life for inspiration. And so I ended up making an intimate, personal documentary about the complicated relationship between me and my mom.

Every step of the way, I had doubts that it would even qualify as a documentary because it was so unconventional. I worried that it was too personal, perhaps to the point of being uncomfortable. But I knew I had to make it because it captured such an honest conversation between a parent and a child.

The scariest moment was when I showed it to outsiders for the first time. I nervously sat in the back as my small test audience watched the film. As the lights came back on, I watched people

wipe their eyes and dab their splotchy faces. All the time while I was fretting that my documentary would be too personal and too revealing of my relationship with my mom, I never imagined that other people would relate to our specific dynamic and see themselves in it. In that moment, I discovered that it is truly in the specific that you find the universal.

In the end, working on the film turned out to be a very cathartic process. The conversation itself, and subsequently the film, brought me and my mom even closer. My mom told me that this film is the greatest gift I could ever have given her, and that's the best reaction I could ever ask for.

- Ellie Wen

*CREDITS

Director: Ellie Wen

Producer: Ellie Wen

Cinematographer: Ellie Wen, Greg Katz

Editor: Ellie Wen, Greg Katz

Sound Mixer: Eddie Bydalek

Colorist: Peter Swartz

* FESTIVALS & SCREENINGS

Vimeo Staff Pick

Short of the Week online premiere

UCLA Extension Film Festival

American Cinematheque's Focus on Female Directors

Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival

Vancouver Lift-Off Film Festival

San Diego Asian Film Festival

NewFilmmakers Los Angeles DocuSlate Film Festival