



# THE STORY

## LOGLINE

An Asian-American teenager at a traditional prep school longing to fit in with the school's elite is forced to choose between her morality and belonging in their exclusive group.

## SYNOPSIS (short)

Jamie, an Asian-American teenager, struggles to carve a new home and identity for herself at her elite boarding school. After helping her crush avoid trouble, Jamie is finally invited to an exclusive after-hours party hosted by the popular boys in her class. Faced with an unforeseen event, Jamie is forced to confront the reality that belonging in their exclusive group has a price - her silence.

## SYNOPSIS (long)

Even in her senior year, the Asian-American Jamie struggles to carve a new home and identity for herself at her elite boarding school, Elmwood. After helping her popular crush avoid trouble, Jamie is invited to an after-hours party hosted by the school's elite and decides to break the rules in order to attend. But when a girl in Jamie's dorm falls unconscious and is harassed by the boys hosting the party, Jamie is forced to confront the reality that belonging in their exclusive group has a price - her silence.

## ABOUT FLECK

FLECK is a thesis film created by a group of filmmakers as part of their Master of Fine Arts degree from the American Film Institute Conservatory. An intimate and dramatic character study, FLECK questions the lengths we go to in order to belong.

The boarding school that the Asian-American Jamie lives at is a traditionally masculine environment. Though Jamie doesn't quite fit in, she longs to be a part of it and on a deeper level, she longs to finally feel at home. Jamie scores an invitation to an after-hours party hosted by the school's elite, and it feels like being beckoned into an exclusive club she only previously dreamed of entering. When a girl in Jamie's dorm falls unconscious and is harassed by the boys hosting the party, Jamie is forced to confront the reality that belonging in their exclusive group has a price - her silence.

FLECK puts the audience in the shoes of a girl living a boy's world. The film compounds this with the acute discomfort of being a racial minority in a place filled with white privilege; the culture of tradition and silence at Jamie's school allows toxic masculinity to fester. The conflict at the film's core cannot be more relevant in our expanding world: how can one truly feel "at home" if home wasn't originally made for you? FLECK asks powerful questions about how gender and power work in emotional and intimate ways, especially in most our formative years as we search for a sense of belonging and a place in the world.

# DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

It's difficult to be a girl in a boys' world. We've all seen films about boys at a boarding school. *Dead Poet's Society*. *Scent of a Woman*. *School Ties*. The boys in these stories struggle with the repression that thrives in these traditional institutions. But what about the girls?

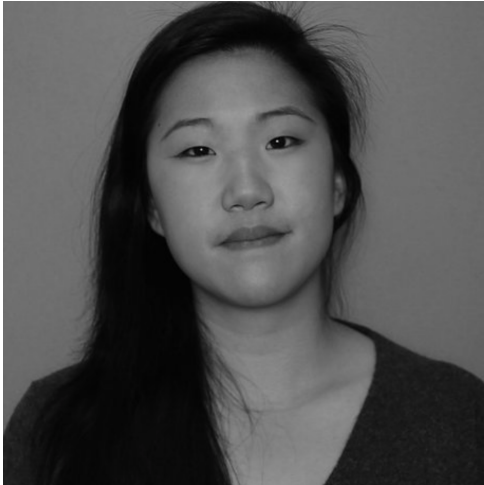
I wanted to tell a story that was different and deeply rooted in my own personal experience as a boarding student in a New Jersey prep school. I was an Asian girl living at a school with two centuries of history, grappling with traditions that weren't formed for or by women of color. It dawned on me how many times I had felt silent in morally challenging situations because I felt like an outsider. After the life-changing situation depicted in *FLECK*, I began to speak in my own voice and realized how important it was to reflect my experience in the stories I tell.

It was important for me that audiences understand that whatever acceptance Jamie might temporarily feel could be an illusion - that her race and her gender exclude her from this prep school world by default. It was also important that I depict the culture of silence that allows masculine traditions to run rampant accurately.

Everybody has been in a situation where we knew what the right thing to do was, but the choice was difficult all the same. Many of us look at our pasts and our traditions through lenses tainted with nostalgia, but it's only when we look at the imperfections in the past, however, that we can begin to reshape the world for people with all kinds of voices.



# THE FILMMAKERS



## JING AI NG WRITER/DIRECTOR

Born in Kuala Lumpur but raised between Malaysia and Miami, Jing Ai Ng is a writer-director currently based in Los Angeles. Jing brings her global perspective to telling stories that raise questions about social institutions and the messy world we live in.

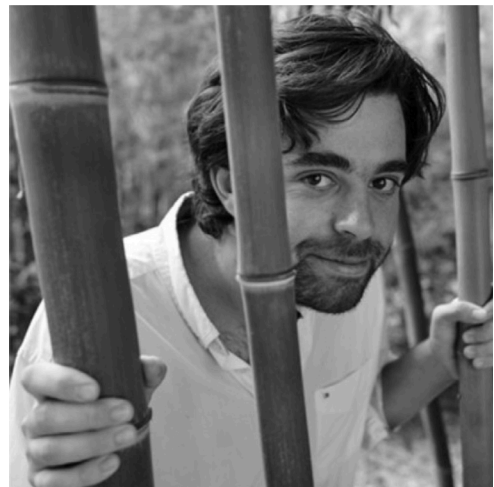
After graduating with a degree in Creative Writing from Emory University, she worked at Paramount Television and A24 before deciding to pursue directing full-time. She is the first director of Malaysian origin to attend the American Film Institute Conservatory and is a 2015 Telluride Film Festival Student Symposium fellow.

## MIGUEL LOZANO PRODUCER

Born in Madrid, Spain, Miguel Lozano is a graduated producing fellow from the AFI Conservatory.

Before coming to the United States, Miguel worked extensively for some of the most important television programs in Spain and acquired experience producing and developing theater and short films.

He served as the producer on 2018 short film *ANIMALS*, which was the recipient of the 2019 ASC Heritage Award.





## **JOHN LOZADA**

### **PRODUCER**

John J. Lozada is a Colombian filmmaker who moved to the United States in 2005 to pursue a career in graphic design. After working in the hospitality industry in Miami for over 10 years, he realized his true passion was to become a producer. He went back to school at the Miami Media School and got a degree in Radio and TV production. He has worked as a production manager on numerous short films, TV shows, and feature films.

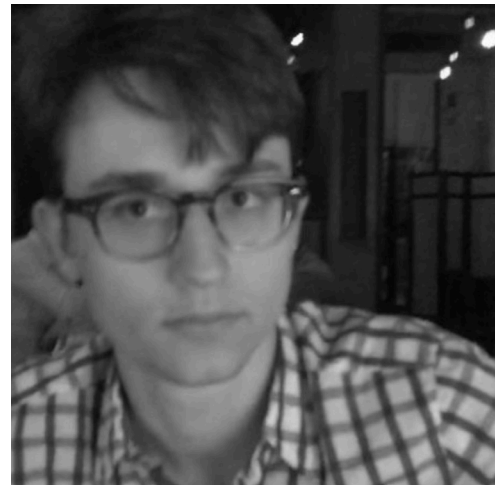
FLECK is his seventh project as a producer.

## **JAN RISCHBIETH CÓRDOBA**

### **CINEMATOGRAPHER**

Born & raised in Honduras, Jan Fernando is a cinematographer based in Los Angeles. He received his master's degree in cinematography from the American Film Institute (AFI) Conservatory.

Interested in sciences at a young age, Jan found his way into analog photography through chemistry & physics. Having spent most of his formative years in the dark-room, Jan specializes in creating expressive visuals.



## **BRIANA CHMIELEWSKI**

### **EDITOR**

Briana Chmielewski is a recent graduate of the American Film Institute, earning an MFA in Editing. Before attending AFI she graduated from Pepperdine University, earning a BA in Film Studies.

During her undergraduate years, she studied abroad in London and Sydney where she worked as the editor on the short film, NIGHT LIGHTS. The film went on to screen at Sundance Film Festival as part of the Windrider Forum. She is currently working as an assistant editor at Bunim-Murray Productions for an Emmy award winning television show.



# THE TALENT



## STACY CHU

Stacy Chu is an independent filmmaker based in Los Angeles. She creates films in which she writes, directs, produces and acts. She is of Chinese descent and speaks fluent mandarin.

Stacy was pressed into acting at a young age and later on went to school for film directing. She attended School of Visual Arts where she completed her thesis film, BLUE CRANES, shot in Hang Zhou, China, in which she wrote, starred and directed.

## ALYSSA LATSON

Alyssa Latson is a young actress from San Diego, California. In 2017 she was cast as the lead in PALM TREES & POWER LINES (2018), which played at Cannes Film Festival's prestigious Cinéfondation.



## KAI CASTER



Kai Caster is a Los Angeles native who started acting from at a young age. Since his start, he who has landed roles on series like HOUSE OF LIES, NEW GIRL, SHAMELESS and CSI: CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATION. He has appeared in feature films like 2008's BABYSITTER WANTED and 2014's MOCKINGBIRD.

More recently, he appeared in Ryan Murphy's AMERICAN HORROR STORY: APOCALYPSE as William Banks.



# STILLS









# CREDITS

AFI Conservatory Presents

## FLECK

DIRECTED BY  
**JING AI NG**

WRITTEN BY  
**JING AI NG**

PRODUCED BY  
**MIGUEL LOZANO**  
**JOHN J LOZADA**

CINEMATOGRAPHY BY  
**JAN RISCBIETH CÓRDOBA**

PRODUCTION DESIGN BY  
**EDUARDO BAUTISTA**  
**JORCHUAL GREGORY VARGAS**

EDITED BY  
**BRIANA CHMIELEWSKI**

## CAST

Jamie	Stacy Chu
Maddie	Alyssa Latson
Brianna	Sami Sandzimier
Hudson	Kai Caster
Brandon	Tucker Genal
Jasmine	Courtney Mae Bandako
Lauren	Emily Schlachter
Casey	Tara Kaye Burgh
Chris	Gerson Macias
Candace	Veronica Schlette
Mr. Wilder	Hans Christopher
Coach Ferguson	Hugo Pierre Martin
Taylor Stevenson	Cecily Glouchevitch
Mr. Stevenson	Stuart W. Howard
Mrs. Stevenson	Kathrin Kana
Crockett	Luke Caso
Security Guard	Walter Cignetti
Stunt Coordinator	Amon Platis

## EXTRAS

Heaven Fletcher	Ryan A. Willis	Hannah Gustafson
Claudia Camarena	Alex Cane	Erick Clointeros
Sarah Zamanian	Sophia Koivisto	Cory Manning
Olivia Handwerk	Thomas Hubbel	Devin Christy
Damien Greene	Natalie Sanchez	B. Alexander
Enrique A Reynoso	Maria Avilez	John Lozada
Meagan Coolidge	Melanyi Garcia	Ricky Goncalves
Aisha Saleem	Anjenee Mariam	Andrew Pearce

## CREW

Unit Production Managers	Josh Moyers	
	Andrew Pearce	
First Assistant Director	Cara Lawson	
Second Assistant Directors	Justin Daering	
	Emily Schroeder	
Original Score by	Ian Chen	
Camera Operators	Guido Raimondo	
	Diego Trenas	
Underwater Camera Operator	Kalilah Robinson	
First Assistants Camera	TJ Thickett	
	Felipe Larrondo	
Second Assistants Camera	Chris Brooks	
	Slava Makarov	
	Laura Caruso	
DIT	Sander Lebeu	
Still Photographer	John Londono	
Script Supervisor	Teresa Hartmann	
Production Coordinators	Andrew Pearce	
	Danielle Nunley	
Gaffers	Leo Purman	
	TJ Signaigo	
Key Grips	Evan Parquette	
	Matthieu Seguin	
Best Boy Grip	Dae Kim	
Dolly Grip	Noah Kelly	
Best Boy Electrics	Sam Pemberton	
Swings	Matt Crouchley	Dane Ostenson
	Egor Zdoroviyak	Fabiana Fonseca
	Abe Molinero	Ryan Garcia
	Zackery Ramos Taylor	Carlos Valdez
	Emma Juncosa	Dave Wilway
	Jakob Caruso	Jens Ericsson
	Olivia Freshwater	Jesse Olaguez



2nd Second Assistant Director	Catherine Quan
Assistant Editor	Maria Freire
Production Sound Mixers	Delroy Cornick
	Christian Lainez
Boom Operators	Chris Cole
	Michael Ayden
	Miguel Angel Rodriguez
	Adam Borel
Supervising Sound Editor	Jose "Chipi" Estrada
Re-Recording Mixer	Jose "Chipi" Estrada
ADR Recordist and Mixer	Jose "Chipi" Estrada
Post Sound Edit and Mixing Consultant	Gregory Hainer
Post Production Sound Services	VOXX Studios
Mixed at	Musicians Institute College of Music
Digital Intermediate provided by	Company 3
Color and Finish provided by	Company 3
Color provided in	Company 3 - Santa Monica Studio
Executive Producer for Company 3	Stefan Sonnenfeld
Colorist	Tyler Roth
Finishing Producer	Cindy Bond
Digital Intermediate Executive	Jackie Lee
Digital Scanning Manager	Michael Boggs
Digital Intermediate Technologist	Mike Chiado
Color Accountant	Ian Sullivan
Set Designer	Nicolas Orjuela
Set Decorators	Diego Gudiel
	Jeffrey Podany
Property Masters	Reka Vivians Szabo
	Tatiana Sitnikova
Art Assistant	Sebastian Garcia
Costume Designer	Page Peterson
Costumer	Janise Garcia
Key Make-up Artist	Moung-Hui Park
Make-up Artists	Akihiro Sawada
	Silvia Bottini
Transportation Coordinator	Mike Hellerstein
Drivers	Walter Spohn
	Johnny Samiento
	Manny Velazquez
Extras Casting	Arian Khoroushi
Key Set PA	Saleh Alem
Production Assistants	Megan Coolidge
	Slava Makarov
	Mitchy McGhan
	Lisa Hu

Catering	IT Catering
Craft Service	IT Catering
First Aid	Nile Adams
	McKinley Murphey

Second Unit Director	Justin Daering
Second Unit Cinematographer	Ignacio Genzon
Second Unit First Assistant Camera	Will Randall
Second Unit Second Assistant Camera	Shannon Connally

"Mr. Scarecrow"  
Written by: Cab Ellis Band  
Performed by: Cab Ellis Band  
Courtesy of: Cab Ellis Band

"Bounce"  
Written by: Cab Ellis Band  
Performed by: Cab Ellis Band  
Courtesy of: Cab Ellis Band

## THE FILMMAKERS WISH TO THANK

### DONORS

Vilma Benitez  
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Edited on Avid Media Composer

Camera equipment courtesy of Panavision

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Produced at the AFI Conservatory in partial fulfillment of the requirements of the Master of Fine Arts Degree or Certificate of Completion.

Briana Chmielewski, AFI Editing Fellow  
Jing Ai Ng, AFI Directing Fellow  
Jan Fernando Rischbieth Cordoba, AFI Cinematography Fellow  
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