



THE LITTLE THIEF

AFI CONSERVATORY PRESENTS "THE LITTLE THIEF" STARRING KUE LAWRENCE NELL GEISLINGER MICHAEL MAINO
MUSIC BY MIKLÓS PREISZNER EDITED BY BENJAMIN TOLENTINO PRODUCTION DESIGNER ASTRID ANDERSON COSTUME DESIGNER ANDRÁS RÓDER
PRODUCED BY JERVIS LI WRITTEN BY ANDRÁS RÓDER DIRECTED BY NICOLE VANDEN BROECK



THE STORY

LOGLINE

After stealing a bean from a local market, a young boy experiences guilt for the first time.

SYNOPSIS

Set during the early 50s, a 6-year-old boy discovers the feeling of guilt for the first time after stealing a bean from a local market.

ABOUT

The Little Thief is a 35mm visual essay created by a group of filmmakers as part of their Master of Fine Arts degree from the American Film Institute Conservatory. The piece is a character-driven drama that explores themes such as loss of innocence, guilt and moral codes.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

The feeling of guilt is a moral emotion and an adaptive response to transgressions. But when should we feel guilt and when shouldn't we?

As a kid, I remember stealing small things that were useless to me. The action was more related to the thrill of the moment with friends, the adrenaline we felt by doing so and maybe, at a subconscious level, looking for some sort of social approval or belonging. It also came from an innocent place, probably not even thinking if it would affect anyone.

As we grow up we start questioning our own principles as individuals. Society has established rules that we must follow in order to regulate our behavior and within time, we decide which one of these are a part of our set of values or moral compass as humans inhabiting the world. In this short piece, a young boy steals a single bean from a stand and experiences the emotion of guilt afterwards, even though no one is actually aware of his action.

This little story intends to portray guilt as becoming aware of our own actions. There is a difference in feeling guilt because someone is telling us we should or because we are actually discovering and building our own consciousness. When the latter occurs and we are able to recognize our actions by our own means, we are growing up.

THE FILMMAKERS

NICOLE VANDEN BROECK DIRECTOR

Originally from Mexico, Nicole graduated from the Universidad Iberoamericana with a BA in Communication. She also attended the Universitat Pompeu Fabra in Barcelona for the Audiovisual Communication program. Nicole is one of the co-founders of the independent production company 6pm Films based in Mexico City and she recently completed her MFA in Directing at the AFI Conservatory.



ANDRÁS RODER WRITER, CINEMATOGRAPHER & EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

Began his career in Hungary working for theaters. Filming became his passion at an early age when he began experimenting with visual storytelling. He's been working as a cinematographer for the past ten years in Budapest, New York and Los Angeles. He earned his BA in Cinematography and Film Production from Brooklyn College and an MFA in Cinematography at the American Film Institute Conservatory.



JERVIS LI
PRODUCER

Jervis Li is a graduate of the Producing program at the American Film Institute Conservatory. He was born and raised in Shenzhen, China. His family owns a production company in Beijing, China. He got his B.A. from Loyola Marymount University in Film Production Major and Film Study Minor. He worked in several award-winning shorts both in China and America and interned in Gran Via Productions.



BENJAMIN TOLENTINO
EDITOR

Filipino editor who attended the Berlinale Talent Campus with the support of the Berlin International Film Festival. He's edited features that have premiered in festivals such as Festival de Cannes, Venice Film Festival, and also edited Transit, the 2014 Academy Awards Foreign Language entry of the Philippines. He edited his first feature back in 2011 and has since won multiple awards in the Philippines and abroad.

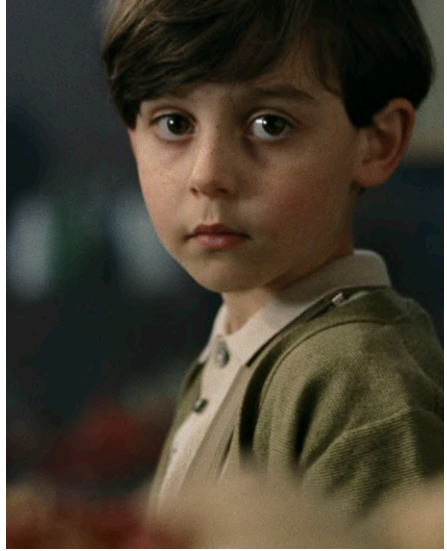


THE TALENT

KUE LAWRENCE

THE LITTLE THIEF

Kue Lawrence was born on April 22, 2011 in Thornton, Colorado, USA as Kue Kellyn Lawrence. He is an actor, known for Atypical (2017), Beautiful Boy (2018) and Good Girls (2018).



MICHAEL MAINO

THE STAND OWNER

Michael Maino was born in Jersey City, NJ. While attending St. Peter's College in Jersey City, he joined its Drama Club. Since then, Michael has become a full-time actor. He completed a 3-year course with the New Jersey School of Dramatic Arts, which led to numerous roles in independent films, national commercials, and live theater.

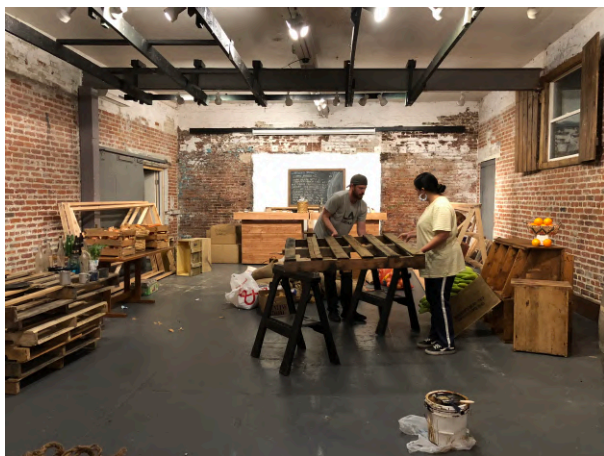
NELL GEISSLINGER

THE MOTHER

Nell was born in LA and raised in Ashland, Oregon, where her father Bill Geisslinger is still an actor with the Oregon Shakespeare Festival. Nell joined the acting company and she occasionally does musical and variety type shows with her mother, in which she accompanies her on piano, guitar and provides backup vocals.



BEHIND THE SCENES



PRODUCTION
DESIGNER
ASTRID ANDERSON



BACKGROUND ACTOR
THE MILKMAN



CREW
HAO HAO YAN,
ANDRÁS RODER

BACKGROUND ACTORS &
COSTUME DESIGNER
NATALIE
SHAHINYAN



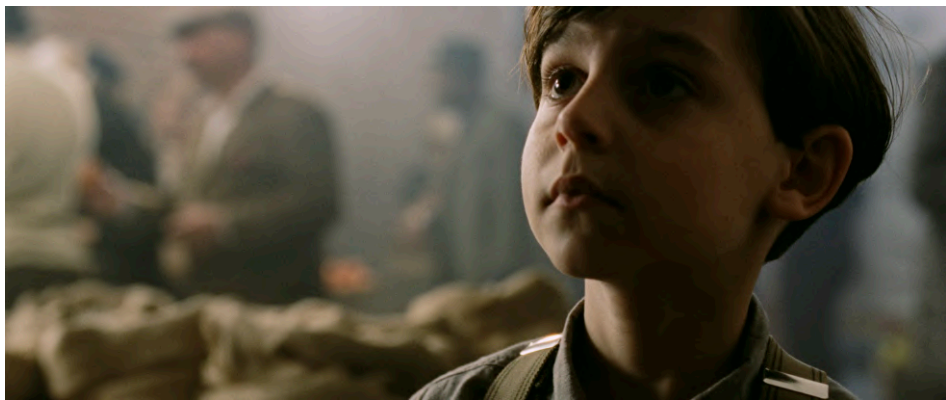
PRINCIPAL CAST
MICHEL MAINO,
KUE LAWRENCE



CINEMATOGRAPHER &
SUPPORTING ACTOR
ANDRÁS RODER,
MICHAEL MAINO



STILLS







CREDITS

AMERICAN FILM INSTITUTE PRESENTS

THE LITTLE THIEF

DIRECTED BY
NICOLE VANDEN BROECK

WRITTEN BY
ANDRÁS RODER

PRODUCED BY
JERVIS LI

CINEMATOGRAPHY BY
ANDRÁS RODER

PRODUCTION DESIGN BY
ASTRID ANDERSON

EDITED BY
BENJAMIN TOLENTINO

CREW

UNIT PRODUCTION MANAGER
FIRST ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
SECOND ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

GABRIELLE CORDERO
HAOHAO YAN
MARWAN MOKBEL

SCRIPT SUPERVISOR
PRODUCTION COORDINATOR
STUDIO TEACHER

REX REYES
MEI-LE APALUCCI
C. KING

COSTUME DESIGNER
HAIR & MAKEUP STYLIST

NATALIE SHAHINYAN
AMBER HAMILTON

ART ASSISTANTS

JAMES LULLO
LIBBY SALEMI
ANA GABRIELA CORDERO
FRANCESCA NOBILI

FIRST ASSISTANT CAMERA
SECOND ASSISTANT CAMERA
LOADER

TECK SIANG LIM
PAULA PALUMBO
LUCIA RINALDI

GAFFER
BEST BOY ELECTRICIAN
ELECTRIC

ANTOINE COMBELLES
NICK SAINT GEORGE
WIL PRADA

KEY GRIP
BEST BOY GRIP
DOLLY GRIP
GRIP

VAUGHN GREVE
ALEX KENNISON
GUIDO RAIMONDO
MAUD LAURENT

GRIP TRUCK
CATERING

MARC TARCZALI
IT CATERING

SOUND DESIGN
ORIGINAL SCORE

SEALTIEL ALATRISTE
MICHAEL RUSSO
MIKLÓS PREISZNER

FESTIVALS AND AWARDS



FOR FURTHER INQUIRIES

THE LITTLE THIEF

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