



HELLO
你好

FROM TAIWAN
從台灣來的

LOGLINE

HELLO FROM TAIWAN is a poetic drama about a Taiwanese American family who struggles to reunite across language and cultural barriers, set in the late 1980s and told from a child's perspective.

SHORT SYNOPSIS

After a year of separation, a young Taiwanese American girl and her mom struggle to reconnect with her dad and two older sisters across familial and cultural divides.

LONG SYNOPSIS

A 1989 earthquake shakes the world of Christy, a Taiwanese American 5-year-old girl. When her and her mom reunite with her father and two older sisters at the airport after a year of separation, the cracks between them grow even wider. Through Christy's eyes, we explore the struggles of the family attempting to reconnect.



DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

I grew up as the youngest of 3 sisters in San Jose, CA. My parents, recent immigrants from Taiwan, had separated when I was a toddler, and my dad decided to return to Taiwan, taking my older sisters with him. After about a year or so, he came back, dropped off my sisters with my mom, and flew back to Taiwan.

One of my most vivid memories as a child was re-meeting my sisters at the airport. I knew they were my sisters, but at 4 years old, I was confused why we had been separated in the first place. There was a shift in culture between us, a rift. The significance of the transformation my family went through hit me only recently. Writing this script was a way for me to look back in reflection of the sacrifices and hardships we faced yet overcame.





TIFFANY FRANCES
DIRECTOR

Tiffany Frances is a Taiwanese American film director and writer working in commercials, music videos, and narrative film. Originally from, and currently living in Los Angeles after a decade of living in New York City, Tiffany Frances attended UCSD for undergraduate in Media with a minor in Theatre, and went to Art Center College of Design for her MFA in Directing.

Her background working as a photographer, producer, casting director, and editor, on commercials and music videos has made her a well-rounded director. She was selected for SHOOT Magazine's 2018 New Directors Showcase, where a trailer of her short film, WHAT I WISH YOU SAID, screened at the Directors Guild Theater in New York. Her short film MOVEMENT for National Geographic garnered over 1 million views on Facebook, while her films have screened at La Femme Festival, Nitehawk Shorts Festival, Brand Film Festival, Berlin Fashion Film Festival, while curated online on the Ladies with Lenses Vimeo Channel as well as Film Shortage. Her directing and photography work have been featured on Stereogum, Paper Magazine, Fast Company, Blackbook, The Fader, the Muse, Anthem Magazine, and Ladygunn.

Her commercial clients include National Geographic, Citibank, Thrillist, Acura, Glossier, Dia & Co, Tanya Taylor, Montiel, and Jonesy. She is a recipient of The Future of Film is Female fund in partnership with MoMA. She is currently developing a TV series based on her AFI DWW film HELLO FROM TAIWAN, as well as a feature film titled MY SISTERS.



GUO GUO
PRODUCER

After graduating from the University of International Relations with a BA in Communication, Guo Guo served as a production coordinator on 12 CITIZENS, the first Chinese feature film to win the People's Choice Award at Rome International Film Festival. Prior to AFI, Guo worked for 5 years in China as a producer, associate producer and line producer on feature films and TV series — including the feature film MEIDUO, filmed in Tibet, China and Lebanon; In addition, she worked on the feature film INODUS, which was officially selected as one of 30 projects presented at the Shanghai International Film Festival and the feature film AYKA, as its assistant producer, which was nominated for the Palme d'Or at 2018's Cannes and won best actress. With the experience of working internationally and growing up in various cultures, Guo Guo's goal is to bring people together through visual storytelling that can transcend time, space and everything in between.



WENJIE KONG
PRODUCER

Wenjie Kong graduated from New York University with BAs in both Journalism and Economics, and a minor in Producing. She has previously worked as Producer's assistant at Beijing Toptimes TV & Film Investment CO., LTD, a production and distribution house. In 2016, she served as the Assistant to the Director on the Chinese web series GAMERS' GENERATION, which received over 400 million views on Tencent.com and gained major popularity among the teenage demographics especially. Before joining the AFI Conservatory for her MFA studies, she worked as a Teaching Assistant at Loyola Marymount University, conducting weekly labs and lectures for undergraduate film students. Over the last three years, Kong has independently produced one documentary and eight short films in both the U.S. and China, a slate containing mostly dramas and dramedies featuring strong female characters and poignant social commentary. She was awarded the Movie Magic Producer Award by Entertainment Partners in 2019.



MARINA VISCUN
PRODUCER

Marina Viscun is a Los Angeles-based Moldovan-American filmmaker. As a producer, she received two Telly Awards for BIG VOICE and JOURNEY TO SAFETY, multiple Best Documentary awards for BIG VOICE, and Grand Jury and Audience Awards for ODE TO LOS ANGELES.

Viscun's screenwriting credits include TV pilot DRESS BLUES (quarter-finalist, Big Break 2017), feature SEEDS (semi-finalist, The Athena List 2018; first-round, Sundance Screenwriting Lab 2016), and shorts TAMING TAMMY (Top 15 Finalist, AT&T Hello Lab 2019) and REVERSE (semi-finalist, Oxford Film Festival 2019). She wrote and debuted ARE YOU A SPY? monologue at the Geffen Playhouse in 2019. Viscun's directing work includes music video NUKE CITY, military LACMA-supported short SCRATCH ON METAL, and LGBTQ+ short LAST NIGHT.

Marina Viscun is the President of Pingvin Productions, Founder of #WeAreWITI, and former Head of Production at Pulse Films US and producer with CAVIAR LA. She is a member of Alliance of Women Directors and Veterans in Media & Entertainment. She is trilingual (Russian, Romanian, English) and is a US NAVY veteran.



BENJI DELL
CINEMATOGRAPHER

Benji Dell is a Los Angeles-based cinematographer who has lensed music videos, commercials, and dozens of short films, including ZUG, a Student Academy Award Winner. His work has been featured three times on Short of the Week and twice as a Vimeo Staff Pick (HALA, KARMA). Past projects include works for GOOGLE, DISCOVERY CHANNEL, SKECHERS, COSMOPOLITAN, NIKE, INTEL, and GMC. He has lensed music videos for music artists Jaden Smith, Bad Bunny, Ciara, and more. He is a graduate of the American Film Institute ('15).



SHI MIN YONG
PRODUCTION DESIGNER

Born in Singapore and resided in Hong Kong for 8 years, Shi Min Yong is a graduate of the University of Central Lancashire (Singapore/UK), with a BA (Hons.) in Spatial Design. After earning her degree, Shi Min worked for 4 years as a commercial interior designer in Singapore, to produce quality and creative concepts from conceptualization to design development, tender bidding, and site supervision. Currently pursuing a MFA in Production Design at the American Film Institute, Shi Min has designed various short films and aims to push boundaries as a designer to further develop her design approach in visual storytelling to elevate the cinematic experience.



GUANGWEI "APRIL" DU
EDITOR

Born and raised in Beijing, Guangwei is a recent graduate from American Film Institute's Editing program and holds a BA from the Communication University of China in Film Directing and Editing. Her directing & editing short debut, PAST SUMMER, was selected as a special screening at the Cinequest Film Festival. Since then, she decided to focus on editing and became devoted to revealing ethereal human emotions through her work.

The films Guangwei has edited have been showcased at numerous festivals around the world, including Shanghai International Film Festival, Busan International Film Festival, Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia, and China Short Film Academy Award. She just finished a Chinese theatrical feature 'Over the Sea' with director Sun Aogian and executive producer Bill Kong, who has produced 'Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon'. The film gained worldwide recognition and just premiered at Busan International Film Festival.



LAUREN CULJAK
COMPOSER

Lauren Culjak is a Los Angeles based composer, artist, and producer. A classically trained pianist and self-taught producer, her sound palate ranges from industrial and gritty to ambient and orchestral.

As an artist, her brand of ethereal pop finds its distinct voice through her unique sense of melody, and has been spotlighted on Spotify's New Music Friday, BBC6, Sirius Radio, Pitchfork, SPIN, and Gorilla vs. Bear where her songs have been compared to the likes of Chairlift and early Madonna.

She composes music for film and television, and is currently composing for The CW's "Nancy Drew", the Disney Plus series "Love Simon", and upcoming feature film "Long Weekend".



SUZANNE YAVUZ, CSA
CASTING DIRECTOR

Suzanne Yavuz has worked extensively both in the studio system and in independent casting. She got her start as a casting assistant on the Starz series "American Gods," and worked her way up from casting assistant to associate casting director in record time, accumulating a diverse range of credits along the way under the tutelage of some of today's best talents in casting. Her varied credits run the gamut from network television programming (The CW's "Legends of Tomorrow") to big-budget studio features (20th Century Fox's "Predator") to animated features (Blue Sky Studios' "Ferdinand") to streaming series (Netflix's "Trinkets"). She has also worked on youth programs for Disney and Nickelodeon, on a number of television pilots for network, cable, and streaming platforms, and on various studio and independent feature films. Her notable recent credits include the Blumhouse/Hulu anthology series "Into the Dark" and the Netflix feature "Rattlesnake". She is currently working as an associate casting director on the CBS series "SWAT." Suzanne is a member of the Casting Society of America.



BRANDILYN CHEAH
CHRISTY

Asian-American actress Brandilyn Cheah broke into the entertainment business at age 5 with a bang, working many commercial and modeling roles for big-brand names like Disney, Paw Patrol, Kohl's, and Mattel. In 2018, she began her acting career filming the new, edgy Netflix show *AJ and the Queen* alongside RuPaul and Tia Carere, and directed by Bobcat Goldthwait. Most recently, Brandilyn has been working with Disney as part of the launching and branding of its new Disney Princess YouTube channel. In conjunction with Disney, she was selected to interview all the stars of *The Little Mermaid Live!* on the red carpet, including Auli'i Cravalho, Shaggy, John Stamos, and more! Born and raised in Los Angeles, she enjoys playing with her brother, as well as spending time with her parents and grandparents.



BARNEY CHENG
CARL

Barney Cheng landed on the Hollywood map as an actor in 2002 with his acclaimed performance in Woody Allen's *Hollywood Ending*. The *New York Times* described Barney's comedic timing as "surgically precise." The *Orange County Register* raved that Cheng "steals every scene he's in."

In addition to acting, Barney works as a writer-director-producer. His award-winning films have collectively screened in over 100 film festivals worldwide. Barney has participated in Ryan Murphy's Half Initiative Directing Program, the NBCUniversal Directing Fellowship Program and was a Writer-Director Film Independent Fellow. Fluent in Mandarin Chinese and Taiwanese, Barney is particularly proud of his Chinese-English language feature *Baby Steps* which received Tribeca Film Institute's All Access fellowship. Produced by the Oscar-winning producer of *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*, *Baby Steps* received jury and audience awards for best feature at numerous festivals. A Stanford grad, Barney resides in Los Angeles and is on the board of PFLAG San Gabriel Valley API. He delivers food every Friday for Project Angel Food.



JANET HSIEH
JOYCE

Janet Hsieh is a television presenter, actor, published author of six books, and concert violinist. She is the host of *Discovery Travel and Living's* longest running travel show in Asia: *Fun Taiwan*, which is currently in its 16th season, and has spawned several spin offs including *Fun USA*, *Fun Asia*, *Fun Taiwan: All-Stars*, *Fun Taiwan Challenge*, and *The Aqua Challenger*. A star of several movies and TV dramas on Netflix Asia, HBO Asia, and local networks, one of Janet's favorite roles has been the Mandarin voice of Princess Anna for Disney's smash hit *Frozen*.

As a violinist, one of Janet's earliest performances was for the President in the White House at eight years old. Janet has since performed in National Concert Halls around the world. As a published author, Janet has given hundreds of speeches at universities worldwide, and had the honor of being a TEDx Speaker. An ambassador for multiple brands, Janet hopes to continue utilizing her public image and active social media to promote environmental awareness, support for those with depression and persons with special needs.



LYDIA LIN
MIA

Lydia Lin has worked in many advertisements and movies since she was a child. Some of her work includes commercials for Toyota, Jin Ran, Marinaga, and T-Mobile. Films include "Hello From Taiwan" and "The Night Before Christmas". She also is a dancer. She is a performing group of DSAPA, and trained in ballet, jazz, lyrical, tap dance, and hip hop. Passion is in her natural genes.

Last but not least she always believes in the good in everything. She is the little sun at home, and as an actor she brings a positive and optimistic attitude to her work. She like challenges and often says "I think I can, I know I can. " And never give up!



KYRA LYN
DAISY

Kyra Lyn is a Southern California native, who followed in her brother's acting footsteps. At 3 years old, she was cast in a promo for *X-Men: Days of Future Past*. She went on to play Ivy's younger sister Missy, in the award winning and Emmy Nominated Amazon Prime movie, *An American Girl Story: Ivy & Julie 1976 – A Happy Balance*, which depicts the Chinese-American character's struggle to find a balance between her two cultural identities. Her television credits go on to include the pilot episode of *I'm Sorry*, and NBC's *Superstore*. In addition to voice acting, Kyra can be seen in commercial and print, representing brands such as: Barbie, Mattel, ROSS Dress for Less, AT&T, and most recently, on the runway for Love Baby J Couture. Outside of acting, she's an anti-bullying advocate, loves to design clothing for her dolls, and is learning to be fluent in Mandarin.



Production Still. L to R: Janet Hsieh (Joyce), Lydia Lin (Mia), Kyra Lyn (Daisy), Barney Cheng (Carl), Brandilyn Cheah (Christy)



Production Still. Brandilyn Cheah (Christy)



Production Still. L to R: Brandilyn Cheah (Christy), Janet Hsieh (Joyce)



Production Still. Brandilyn Cheah (Christy)



BTS Still of Cinematographer camera operating the Carl taking Christy scene. L to R: Brandilyn Cheah (Christy), Barney Cheng (Carl), Benji Dell (Cinematographer)



BTS Still of Director with Actors in parking garage scene. L to R: Lydia Lin (Mia), Kyra Lyn (Daisy), Tiffany Frances (Director)



BTS Still of steadicam operating Christy and Joyce walking through airport scene. L to R: Brandilyn Cheah (Christy), Janet Hsieh (Joyce), Nate Conant (Steadicam Operator)



BTS Still of Producers in holding. L to R: Wenjie Kong (Producer), Marina Viscun (Producer), Guo Guo (Producer)

Written and Directed by	Tiffany Frances
Produced by	Guo Guo Wenjie Kong Marina Viscun
Cinematography by	Benji Dell
Production Design by	Shi Min Yong
Edited by	Guangwei "April" Du
Music by	Lauren Culjak
Casting by	Suzanne Yavuz, CSA

Christy	Brandilyn Cheah
Joyce	Janet Hsieh
Carl	Barney Cheng
Daisy	Kyra Lyn
Mia	Lydia Lin
Danny	Jack Shand
Airport Worker	Alexis Simpson
Inspector	Kyle Overstreet

Background	Christian Araujo Madison Barrick Melanie Cain Cassie Chang Tina Chang Wei Wei Chang Ching-Yu Chen Johnathan Cher Grace Chiou Peter Jenq Shing Chiou Shannon Corbett Amali Dunmore Jason Ha Jimmy Hang Raven Estrella Harris Mitra Hooshmandi Crystal Huang Yolanda Huang Ian Kammer	Angelina Karo Robert Tanner Kerrins Eric Leung Christopher Lu Amber Nguyen Isabelle Roig Gary Suyemoto Kenji Suyemoto Zoe Suyemoto Fen Fen Tsai Molly White Dorrette G. Young Eagle Yu Li Zhu Tony Zuniga
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Unit Production Manager	Winnie Wong
First Assistant Director	Alisyn Ghivizzani
Second Assistant Directors	Nick Mann
	Lia Wang
Executive Producers	Yolanda Huang
	Jenny Huang
	Vincent Lin
	Matthew D'Amato
Camera Operator	Todd Sheridan
Steadicam	Nate Conant
First Assistant Camera	Kirsten Celo
	Joe McNairy
Second Assistant Camera	Michelle Suh
Camera Intern	Auston Mahan
DIT	Yu "York" Fu
Still Photographer	Rayana Chumthong
	Jimmy Hang
	Yolanda Huang
Script Supervisor	Omar Barahona
Production Coordinator	Julie Pheng
	Roxanne Griffith
Gaffer	Justin Hong
Best Boy Electric	Charles Rahn
Electrician	Javier Juanillo
G&E Intern	Michael Manzzullo
Key Grip	Noah Kelly
Best Boy Grip	Miles Gutierrez
Grip	Dane Ostensen
	Tanner Liddiard
Car Rigging Grip	Chris Walters
Dolly Grip	Ian Kammer

Location Manager	Jimmy Hang
Production Sound Mixer/Boom Operator	Miguel Rodriguez
Art Director	Qiongwen Rej Zhang
Set Decorator	Shannon Sweeney
On Set Dresser	Molly Moses
	Mari "Melissa" Tanaka
	Steven Alfaro
Art Department Coordinator	Esmé Jackson
Art PA	Yelizaveta Mamajeva
	Anna Calubayan
Costume Designer	Tzuhsuan "Anna" Lin
Costume Supervisor	Yimiao "Jamie" Zhao
Costume Assistant	Grace Hutchins
Make-up/Hair Stylist	Edward Mayeda
Post Sound Service by	Lime Studios
Lime Studios Executive Producer	Susie Boyajan
Re-Recording Mixer	Tom Paolantonio
Sound Designer	Kai Paquin
Color by	Company 3
Colorist	Bryan Smaller
Finishing Producer	Moises Cruz
Color Assistant	Valance Eisleban
	Nick Nassif
CO3 Data I/O	Artur Abelyan
	Aaron Maxey
CO3 Account Executive	Kingsley Fialho
CO3 Head of Production	Erik Rogers
CO3 President	Stefan Sonnenfeld
VFX Supervisor & Artist	Noah Poole
Assistant Editor	Yu "York" Fu

Driver	Jonathan Cher
Production Assistants	Cassie Chang Jonathan Cher Isabelle Roig
AFI Production Interns	Molly White Amali Dunmore
Studio Teacher	Lena Liu
Catering	Bru's Wiffle Impeccable Taste Catering Narai Thai
Craft Service PA	Marie Ricafrente
Casting Support Services	Breakdown Services
Stand In: Brandilyn Cheah	Zoe Suyemoto
TV Commercial Model	Christina Sturgeon
Voice Artist	Michael Anastasi Ian Kammer Tom Paolantonio Kai Paquin Adam Primack Arianna Ratner
"Sea Over Miles" Written by: Lauren Culjak Lyrics Written by: Agnes Chin & Millie Sung Performed by: Lauren Culjak Vocals Performed by: Millie Sung Violin Performed by: Jerry Jean	"Wouldn't You Rather" Written by: Paul Bessenbacher and Paul Schultz Performed by: Paul Bessenbacher and Paul Schultz Courtesy of: Emoto Music
"Lookin' For A Miracle" Written by: Lauren Culjak Performed by: Lauren Culjak	"Holding Back" Written by: Lauren Culjak Performed by: Lauren Culjak
"Vignettes" Written by: Paul Bessenbacher and Paul Schultz Performed by: Paul Bessenbacher and Paul Schultz Courtesy of: Emoto Music	"Triple Split Road" Written by: Lauren Culjak Lyrics Written by: Victor Hung Performed by: Lauren Culjak Vocals Performed by: Victor Hung Violin Performed by: Jerry Jean
	"For My Little One" Written by: Lauren Culjak Performed by: Lauren Culjak Viola Performed by: Jina An Cello Performed by: Roman Soto

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THE FUTURE
OF FILM
IS FEMALE



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