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TIL IT BLOOMS

A SHORT FILM BY WENDY XU

TIL IT BLOOMS CAST TOM CHOI CHEN CHEN JULIAN JOSIE HUNG IKUO YUI AND ANDY SUN WRITTEN DIRECTED AND EDITED BY WENDY XU PRODUCED BY PO WEI SU WENDY XU AND VICTORIA WOSER
PRODUCTION DESIGNER MARI KURE ART DIRECTOR ROBERT SUTTON MAKEUP LINA LARSON COSTUME DESIGNER THOMAS GEDRICE MUSIC HOLLAND ANDREWS SAMSON YOUNG JOHN DE KADT DARK DAZEY

LOGLINE:

In the face of uncontrollable sorrow, an emotionally-constipated father desperately suppresses a "grief flower" sprouting from his face before his big speech at his own father's funeral.

SYNOPSIS:

Taking place in one afternoon, we follow an emotionally-constipated man who finds courage to step out of his shield to speak for his late father. A reserved man in his 40s, while arranging his own father's funeral, finally sheds the stigma against men showing intense vulnerability and sensitivity.

While the guests await the commencement of the funeral, Bo is hiding in his bathroom, for he finds that grief flowers are sprouting from his face and body. Embarrassed, anguished, and increasingly frustrated, he avoids his wife and attempts suppressing the plants alone. As memories of his father continuously flood, he caves and becomes one with the plants. Perhaps it's the way he was brought up to be tough, or the complex relationship he has with his father, he is unsure of how he feels and what to say...

Inspired by the emotions of my own family at my grandpa's funeral, the short sheds some light on how grieving and men's vulnerability are viewed in Asian culture and the hopeful release of that stereotype some day.





WENDY XU 徐雯仪 | DIRECTOR-PRODUCER
wendyxuwy@gmail.com

Wen Yi (Wendy) Xu is a rising Chinese-Canadian filmmaker. A true Third Culture Kid, she was born and raised in Shanghai, China, later immigrated to a small town named White Rock in Vancouver, Canada, and is currently in Los Angeles, completing her senior year at Loyola Marymount University in Film Production and Business.

No stranger to feeling that she belongs everywhere yet nowhere at the same time, she holds subjects of intersectionality and multiculturalism close to her heart. She consistently asks her film audience what it means to wear one's Asian skin in a myriad of social or cultural environments. Her narrative recipes also never fail to include just a pinch of absurdity and humor. Andrew Thomas Huang, Lulu Wang, and Bi Gan are some of her big inspirations.

During her time in University, she worked as a producer for more than 8 thesis films while interning at Paramount Pictures, United Talent Agency, and being mentored by Emmy-winning producer Janet Yang. Her producing and directing projects have won at Indie Fest and the Shanghai Student Film Festival. She looks forward to the many stories she has to offer in the coming years!

FILM STILLS AND BEHIND THE SCENES



CAST



TOM CHOI | as BO

Tom Choi was born in Taegu, South Korea and moved to Des Moines, Iowa. He graduated from The University of Washington with a bachelor's degree in Drama. Moving to Los Angeles, he has continued to act in film, television and many commercials. He attended the LACC School of Cinema and Television and now adds producing, directing and writing to his credits. His notable characters and voice acting include Ken Yukimura from TEEN WOLF, Liu Kang from MORTAL KOMBAT X, and Frontman from SQUID GAME.



CHEN CHEN JULIAN | as LILI

Chen Chen Julian is an award-winning actress based in Los Angeles, California. Born in Chongqing, China, Chen Chen moved to the United States after high school. She attended Santiago Canyon College in Orange and then transferred to UCLA to complete her B.A. in Communications with a minor in Theater. Following her graduation from UCLA, Chen Chen decided to pursue her passion for acting. Since then, she has been in numerous films, including "The Sparrows: Nesting" alongside Christopher Atkins. Chen Chen also attended the 2015 Cannes International Film Festival for the short film "Dead Bird Don't Fly" in which she was the lead.

CREDITS

CAST

Bo **TOM CHOI**

Lili **CHEN CHEN JULIAN**

Son **IKUO YUI**

Daughter **JOSIE HUNG**

Grandfather **ANDY SUN**

EXTRAS

Funeral Attendee 1 **JOSEPH MANVILLE**

Funeral Attendee 2 **JIMMY MAY**

Producers	Po Wei Su Wendy Xu Victoria Moser
Director of Photography	Thomas George
1st Assistant Camera	Leika Wong
2nd Assistant Camera	Jacob Kau
Gaffer	Zack Rayner
Key Grip	Claudio Del Pino
Production Designer	Mari Kure
Production Designer Assistant	Liliana Chomsky
Art Director	Robert Sutton
Sound Mixer	Henry Vaughn
Special Effects Makeup	Lina Larson
DIT	Carson Bennett
Editor & Sound Design	Wendy Xu
Sound Designer	Annie Villalobos
Assistant Sound Designer	Dylan Rivers

Visual Effects Artist

Andrew Cepollina

Colorist

Tom Bolles

“Ascension” & “Naiad” By Holland Andrews | Used with permission from Third Side Music

“Roxy / for amplified string quartet and electronics” By Samson Young | Used with permission from Samson Young

“The Eagle” (Instrumental) By John De Kadt | Used with permission from John De Kadt

“Blue Gatorade” By Dark Dazey | Used with permission from Dark Dazey

Additional Compositions By Tomii Chan | Composition ownership of production

SPECIAL THANKS

Professor Han Dai-Yu

Professor Leena Pendharkar

Professor Graham Morgan

Professor Candice Young

Professor Skinner Myers

Ashley Hsu

Antonio Zi Yang

Jacob Staudenmaier

Nicole Gillette

Playa Del Ray Florist

Jenny Miao and Kevin Xu (Mom and Dad)