



Hot Films in the Making  
**Roy W. Dean Short  
 Grant 2021**



Finalist  
**Jacob Burns Creative Culture  
 Fellowship Fall 2021**



Top 10 Finalist  
**Marcie Bloom Film  
 Fellowship 2021**



# ELITE MATCH a short film by Kathy Meng



seeking men: 40 - 60  
 within 10 miles of: Boston, MA

Relationships: Divorced  
 Kids: One

Ethnicity: Asian  
 Body Type: Slender  
 Height: 5'3" (160cm)  
 Religion: Spiritual but not religious  
 Smoke: Non-Smoker  
 Drink: Social drinker

[« previous photo](#)

[next photo »](#)

## **LOG LINE**

Lily is a Chinese mother who is adjusting to living in the United States, being single, and dating online. One evening, she leaves her daughter at home to attend a singles mixer but things don't go according to plan.

## **SUMMARY**

Lily is a Chinese mother adjusting to living in Massachusetts after moving there from Beijing with her daughter, Joyce. One afternoon, Lily leaves Joyce at home alone to attend a mixer hosted by the dating website Elite Match. The singles mixer is filled with more women than men, making Lily increasingly discouraged. As Lily is about to leave, she meets a nice guy named Art. While speaking to Art, Lily receives a call from her ex, alerting her that Joyce may be upset. Panicked, Lily departs the event. Upon arriving home, Lily discovers that Joyce is not there. Lily must find Joyce and reconcile with her daughter during what remains of the evening.

**Length: 14 mins.**  
**Production year: 2021**  
**Genre: Dramedy**  
**Shooting location: New York**

## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

At the age of 45, my mom left a comfortable job and a stable marriage in China to move to suburban Massachusetts. My mom moved due to feeling repressed from the lack of social freedom in China. Yet in America, a seemingly freer place, she still felt sad and lonely.

Growing up, my mother was conservative about discussing love or dating with me. While living together with my mom during the pandemic, she opened up to me about her experiences online dating. Her stories were bizarre, tragic, and—at times—funny.

She described one host of a dating event who warned all the women there to have low expectations. It was incredible that all this happened to her when I was 10-years-old and we lived together, yet I didn't know these stories until recently. The idea that teenagers are not the only ones who hide their dating life—parents hide their dating life from their kids too was interesting to me.

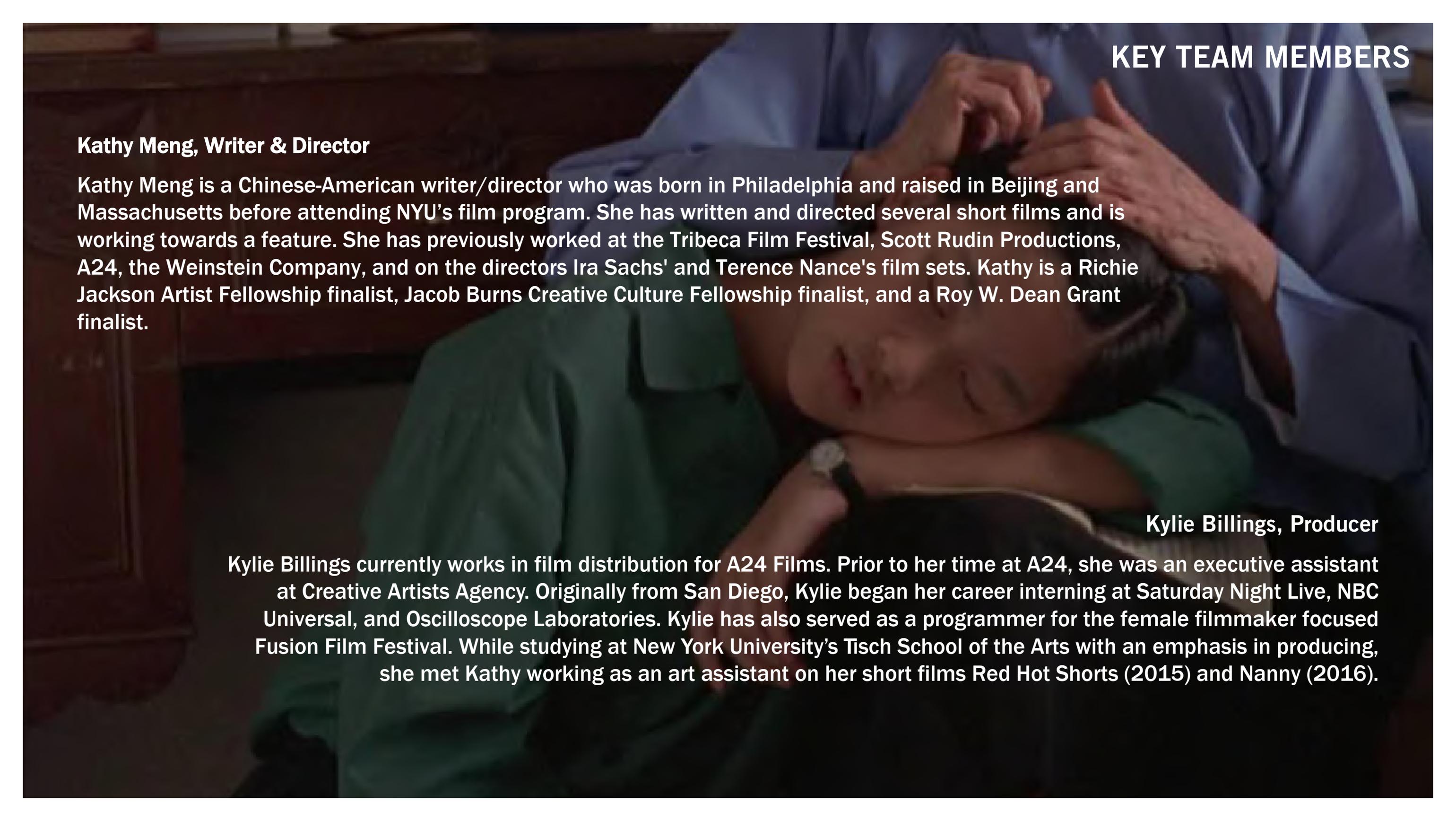
Being the child of a single parent, I know at times how the parent-child roles can be reversed. The child becomes more independent in helping out the single parent compared to a household where both parents can balance the workload. The single parent may rely on the child more as a friend.

Another theme I wanted to explore was online dating. The introduction of online and app dating in the 21st century has had tremendous impact on dating habits and relationships. Though the media tends to focus on online dating among millennials, this quest for companionship online is a universal experience for people of all ages.

Inspired by my mom, the protagonist is a middle-aged single mom and a recent immigrant, who tries online dating. This quest for love while balancing family and career is still a relevant feminist issue. In film and in life, single moms often struggle in the background. By telling these slice-of-life stories, I offer a lesser-seen cinematic representation of Chinese women facing unconventional relationships.

# FILM STILLS



A woman with dark hair, wearing a green button-down shirt, is lying down with her eyes closed. Her hands are clasped near her head. A person wearing a light blue button-down shirt is leaning over her, with their hands resting on her head and hair. The background is dark and out of focus.

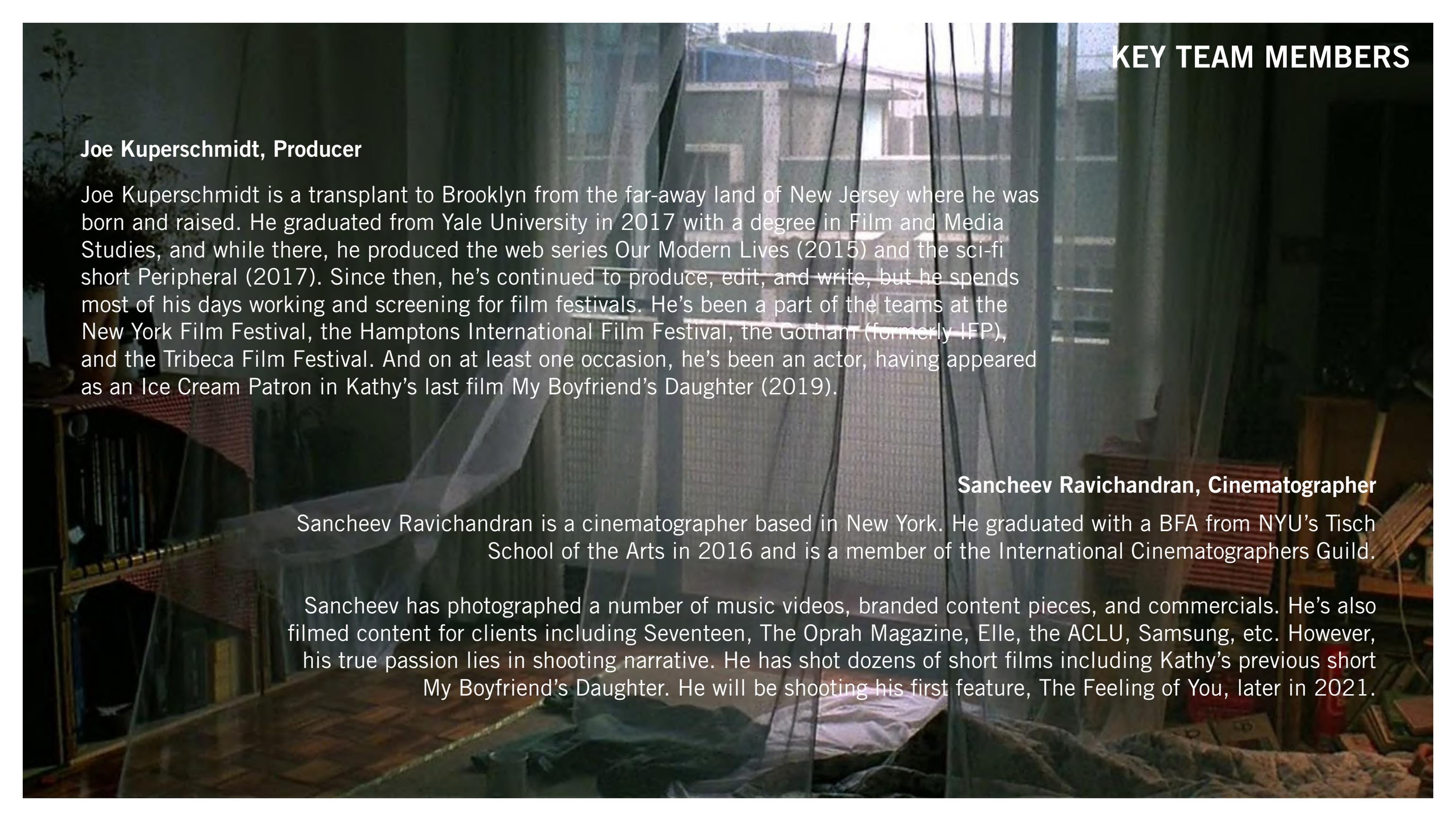
## KEY TEAM MEMBERS

### **Kathy Meng, Writer & Director**

Kathy Meng is a Chinese-American writer/director who was born in Philadelphia and raised in Beijing and Massachusetts before attending NYU's film program. She has written and directed several short films and is working towards a feature. She has previously worked at the Tribeca Film Festival, Scott Rudin Productions, A24, the Weinstein Company, and on the directors Ira Sachs' and Terence Nance's film sets. Kathy is a Richie Jackson Artist Fellowship finalist, Jacob Burns Creative Culture Fellowship finalist, and a Roy W. Dean Grant finalist.

### **Kylie Billings, Producer**

Kylie Billings currently works in film distribution for A24 Films. Prior to her time at A24, she was an executive assistant at Creative Artists Agency. Originally from San Diego, Kylie began her career interning at Saturday Night Live, NBC Universal, and Oscilloscope Laboratories. Kylie has also served as a programmer for the female filmmaker focused Fusion Film Festival. While studying at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts with an emphasis in producing, she met Kathy working as an art assistant on her short films Red Hot Shorts (2015) and Nanny (2016).



## KEY TEAM MEMBERS

### **Joe Kuperschmidt, Producer**

Joe Kuperschmidt is a transplant to Brooklyn from the far-away land of New Jersey where he was born and raised. He graduated from Yale University in 2017 with a degree in Film and Media Studies, and while there, he produced the web series *Our Modern Lives* (2015) and the sci-fi short *Peripheral* (2017). Since then, he's continued to produce, edit, and write, but he spends most of his days working and screening for film festivals. He's been a part of the teams at the New York Film Festival, the Hamptons International Film Festival, the Gotham (formerly IFP), and the Tribeca Film Festival. And on at least one occasion, he's been an actor, having appeared as an Ice Cream Patron in Kathy's last film *My Boyfriend's Daughter* (2019).

### **Sancheev Ravichandran, Cinematographer**

Sancheev Ravichandran is a cinematographer based in New York. He graduated with a BFA from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts in 2016 and is a member of the International Cinematographers Guild.

Sancheev has photographed a number of music videos, branded content pieces, and commercials. He's also filmed content for clients including Seventeen, The Oprah Magazine, Elle, the ACLU, Samsung, etc. However, his true passion lies in shooting narrative. He has shot dozens of short films including Kathy's previous short *My Boyfriend's Daughter*. He will be shooting his first feature, *The Feeling of You*, later in 2021.

## LEAD CAST



**Rachel Lu (Lily)**

Best known for her role as Tiger Mom on ABC's *What Would You Do?* Rachel Lu has appeared on stage, films and TV commercials. She was recently seen in *Chinglish* (Portland Center Stage/Syracuse Stage) and brownsville song/b-side for Trey (Florida Studio Theatre). Her Film/TV credits include playing a conspicuous fashionista in *Front Cover* on Netflix, *Wu-Tang: An American Saga* (Hulu), and *Two Sentence Horror Stories* (CW). She was nominated for Best Actress in a short film for her performance in *Paper Wrap Fire* and received her MFA from Columbia University. Connect with Rachel at [RachelLu.com](http://RachelLu.com)



**Hana Kim (Joyce)**

Hana Kim is a 12-year old Korean/French-American actress. Hana was born in Paris, spent her early years in Beijing and Shanghai, and currently resides in Los Angeles. She is a gifted 7th grade student and speaks French, Korean, Mandarin Chinese, and Spanish. Hana loves comedy, art, and to write and draw and aspires to make movies and TV as an actor, writer, producer, and director.

## SUPPORTING CAST



**Elena Ouspenskaia**  
(Elena, Elite Match event host)

Elena Ouspenskaia was born in Tver, Russia. She wanted to be an actress since age 11. Studied acting in Moscow at the State Institute of Theatre Art (GITIS) now The Russian Institute of Theatre Arts. Worked around 25 years on the stage of the theaters of Orel and Saint-Petersburg, Russia. Moved to USA New York in 1992. Known for Miriam Terzian - *For Life* S2E4, Petra Pinkas - *Love Life* S1E2 Old Russian Woman in “The Rusalka” episode of *Madam Secretary* CBS (2015) Winifred in HBO’s Project Greenlight Finalist: Winning Entry (2015).



**Eliud Kauffman (Art)**

Eliud Kauffman Garcia is a film, TV and stage actor. Known for *Hands of Stone*, *Bel Canto*, *From Nowhere* (Audience Award at SXSW) , *The Intern*, *Lloro* (Best Actor in Leading Role Nomination at the New York International Film Festival), *Elegy* (Directed by John Flynn (co-producer of “The Garden Left Behind” directed by Flavio Alves and Audience Award winner at SXSW). *Con Dios*. TV: *Boardwalk Empire*, *Law and Order Special Victims Unit*, *Flesh and Bone*. Off Broadway Theatre: *Roundabout Theatre (72 Miles to Go)*. Eliud was born in Monterrey, Mexico. He is a Princeton University graduate and an alumni of the Conservatory Program at T. Schreiber Studio in New York.



OFFICIAL SELECTION  
45TH ASIAN AMERICAN  
INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL  
NEW YORK 2022



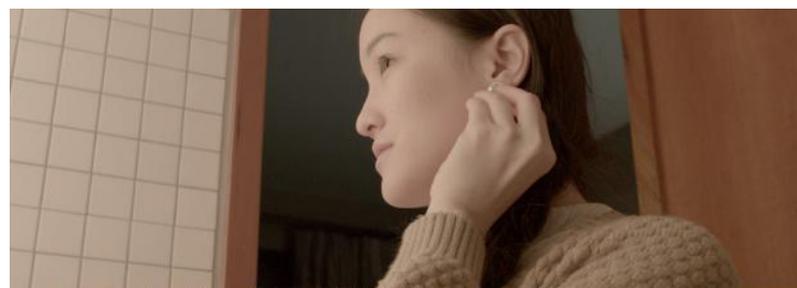
# Elite Match



a film by *Kathy Meng*

Rachel Lu  
Hana Kim  
Elena Ouspenskaia  
Eliud Garcia Kauffman  
Paul Spriggs  
Emerson Buchholz





A FILM BY KATHY MENG



NANNY



CLAIRE HSU JOYCE LUO SHIRLEY HUANG FENTON LI

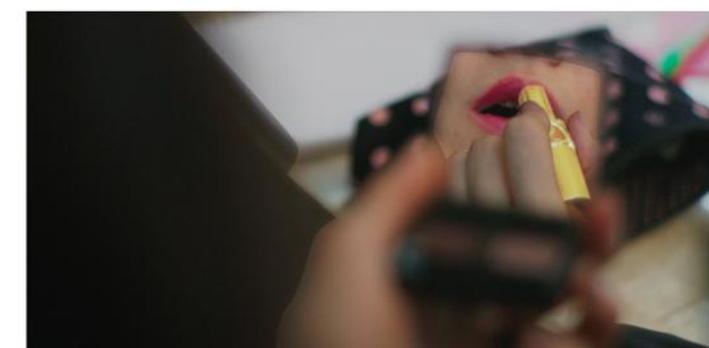


**Written and Directed by** Kathy Meng  
**Produced by** Max Worth, Carly Oscar, Arick Brown, Evan Wood  
**Assistant Director** Evan Wood  
**Cinematography by** Hanko, Jack  
**Assistant Camera** Sennie Kim, Isabella Tan  
**Second Assistant Camera** Jan Saklyk, Jeremy Liggett  
**Gaffer** Arnel Restani  
**Best Boy Electric** Benjamin Haber  
**Key Grip** Yuhong Chen, Hugh Egan  
**Production Design by** Candan Bertram  
**Art Director** Rachel Brown  
**Art Assistant** Kylie Briggs  
**Line Producer** Griffin Stoddard  
**Script Supervisor** Samantha Schmitt  
**Production Assistant** Rohan Chatterjee  
**Sound Mixer** El Guzman, Brando Lin  
**Edited by** Philip Kim  
**Original Music by** Liu Dong

**Nanny (2016)**  
 13 mins, English/Chinese  
 Written & Directed by Kathy Meng

<https://vimeo.com/192295707>

MY BOYFRIEND'S DAUGHTER



CLAIRE HSU GRACE VENSEL



A FILM BY KATHY MENG

ALSO STARRING ANNELISE HAGEN, GUY VENTOLIERE, AND BENJAMIN FERRELL  
 WRITTEN BY SPURLY LIN PRODUCED BY ISABELLA JACKSON, REID HANNAFORD, KATHY MENG  
 EXECUTIVE PRODUCED BY NICK ROMANO ASSISTANT DIRECTED BY EVAN B. WOOD  
 CINEMATOGRAPHY BY SANCHEEV RAVICHANDRAN COSTUME DESIGN BY KENDALL KLEINBERG  
 PRODUCTION DESIGN BY CAROLYN PANKNIN SOUND DESIGN BY PHILIP KIM  
 ART DIRECTION BY LAINE ELLIOTT EDITED BY BRAULIO LIN DIRECTED BY KATHY MENG

**My Boyfriend's Daughter (2019)**  
 10 mins, English  
 Written & Directed by Kathy Meng

<https://vimeo.com/341730290>  
 PW: DadsGirls123