



# SOUL FOOD

*A Film by Emily Teera* เอมีลี ทีระ

PRAYA LUNDBERG ปู ไปรยา  
TRUNGTA KAE WERNER ตรึงตา ไชยิตชัยมงคล

## **LOGLINE**

SOUL FOOD is a magical realist short that follows a mother and daughter, as they try to reconcile the love and pain in their imperfect relationship before time runs out.

## **THE STORY**

The film opens with Fah, a warm soul hiding her feelings with a good smile, at her mother's funeral. She puts up a strong front in an attempt to silence the million conflicting emotions she's experiencing. Fah steps out of the funeral as the procession begins to gather her emotions. At that moment a mysterious trail of coins appears before her. She follows the trail and ends up at a Noodle Shop in the middle of the forest. There she finds the soul of her mother, June, eating a bowl of noodles before heading to her next life. Fah reunites with her mother, but the reality of their conflicting natures shatters the brief moment of warmth. With the help of the owner of the Noodle Shop, Fah and June try to bridge the gap in their relationship before time runs out. They finally understand the depth of their unspoken love for one another when they both acknowledge the miscommunication between them. June finds peace and is able to move on to her next life. Fah is given a coin to hold onto and the Noodle Shop disappears. Years later, when Fah is pregnant the coin reappears in her life and she gives birth to a baby boy who has the same birthmark as her mother.

## **DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT**

**By Emily Teerasuphaset**

SOUL FOOD is my attempt to understand the emotional nuances in an imperfect relationship that, at its core, is built on real love. This story is about miscommunication and our inability to see through the pain we inflict on one another. But, it is also my way of figuring out how to find love and healing after turmoil. My hope is for this film to speak to those who have difficult relationships with their loved ones and, perhaps, by watching Fah and her mother explore complicated emotional nuances they can relate and feel seen, too.

# CREATIVE INSPIRATIONS

## UNCLE BOONMEE WHO CAN RECALL HIS PAST LIVES (2010)



The magical realist element in SOUL FOOD is inspired by Dir. Apichatpong's work in MY UNCLE BOONMEE, which follows a man who's dying of kidney disease as he spends his last days recollecting his current and past lives. I'm intrigued by the way Dir. Apichatpong blends fantasy and reality to create a unique flavor of magical realism that feels grounded yet ambitious. The spiritual quality of the film induces a trance that takes the audience on an emotional journey that leaves you thinking. I'm interested in leaving a similar aftertaste with SOUL FOOD. I'm inspired to explore Fah and June's relationship through this magical realist lens because there's an aspect of their reconciliation that feels borderline dream-like.



## SPIRITED AWAY (2002)



SPIRITED AWAY is a major aesthetic inspiration for the setting of SOUL FOOD. The colors in the night market scene bring a certain energy to the world we're in that feels visually enticing. This state of being in the in-between is reflected in the atmosphere of the night market where spirits come to do business or simply pass through. Similarly, the Noodle Shop in SOUL FOOD is a place between our world and the next. It is where souls go to have a final bowl of noodles before reincarnation. Sometimes, a human can stumble upon this place, just as Chihiro did, if they have a loved one who's about to travel to their next life.

## LADY BIRD (2017)



The challenges Fah and June face are not unlike those between Lady Bird and her mother. LADY BIRD is a big thematic inspiration for me. It's the character's inability to communicate with one another that tears them apart, but their love is what brings them both back together. While I want to explore the strain in Fah and June's relationship, I want the character as well as the audience to ultimately find some level of healing coming out of SOUL FOOD.

## VISUAL REFERENCES



*HORSE THIEF (1986) Dir. Zhuangzhuang Tian & Peicheng Pan*



*YI YI (2000) Dir. Edward Yang*





*RAISE THE RED LANTERN (1991) Dir. Zhang Yimou*



*HOUSE (1977) Dir. Nobuhiko Obayashi*



*CHUNGKING EXPRESS (1994) Dir. Wong Kar Wai*



# CONCEPT ART

## EXT. NOODLE SHOP - NIGHT



## EXT. FOREST - NIGHT

Fah looks at the coins... then follows.



**EXT. NOODLE SHOP - NIGHT**

June looks down at her bowl.



# CAST

Praya Lundberg



CHARACTER: FAH

Praya is a Swedish Thai actress and model. She is the UNHCR or United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees' Goodwill Ambassador and the first Goodwill Ambassador from Southeast Asia. Most recently she starred across Bruce Willis and John Travolta in PARADISE CITY, which wrapped in 2021 She made her acting debut in the TV series RAK DAI MAI THAE HUA JAI MAI PEAN and appeared in roles on TV hits such as SAO NOI NAI THA KIENG KAEW (2004) and NANG SAO SOM LON. Her first role in film was in the comedy MAA KAP PHRA (2006) and she also appeared in the action comedy BANGKOK ADRENALINE (2009). We are privileged to have such an compassionate and talented individual as the lead of SOUL FOOD!

Praya Lundberg IG: <https://www.instagram.com/prayalundberg/?hl=en>

Praya Lundberg IMDB: <https://www.imdb.com/name/nm2516330/>



## THE TEAM

**EMILY TEERA** (ເອມິລີ ຕີຣະສຸກະເສງຸ້ງ) (she/her) (Writer, Director)



Emily Teera (ເອມິລີ ຕີຣະສຸກະເສງຸ້ງ) is a Thai Chinese writer/director born and raised in Bangkok, Thailand. She is currently based in Los Angeles, where she graduated from LMU in 2019. Since then, Emily has worked at CAA and Theresa Kang's Blue Marble Pictures, where she has garnered experience in producing and development. Earlier this year, Emily wrapped production on her short film, SOUL FOOD, a Thai language film about loss and reconciliation starring Praya Lundberg. The film is anticipated to make its festival rounds in 2023. Most recently, Emily graduated from Hillman Grad's writing mentorship lab led by Lena Waithe as one of their hour-drama writers. As a self-identified third culture kid, Emily's drawn to telling stories about identity and miscommunication between generations and cultures.

**HALLEY ALBERT** (she/her) (Producer)



Halley Albert is a Creative Producer and self-proclaimed valley girl raised in Northern California's Salinas Valley and Silicon Valley. She is currently based in Los Angeles and received her BFA in Creative Producing at Chapman University in 2018. Since she started her studies, she has been fortunate to work with companies such as Bad Robot, A24, Blumhouse, Anonymous Content, VICE Media, Chernin Entertainment, and Sony's Columbia Pictures. She currently works at Gran Via Productions and is hoping to support artists/storytellers across various mediums.

**JAY SWUEN (孫偉傑) (he/him) (Cinematographer)**



Jay is an Asian, queer cinematographer based in Los Angeles, California. Swuen understands the significance of telling stories for underrepresented communities, with true sincerity and authenticity. Drawing inspirations from his multi-cultural heritage, he uses bold, visceral images to create an immersive world for each project. His works have been exhibited on many platforms, including Nowness Asia, New Filmmakers LA, HAAPI Film Fest, LA International Short Fest, etc. He was also the grant recipient of the Arri Franz Wieser Grant.

Jay Swuen's Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/jayswuen/>

Jay Swuen's website: <https://www.jayswuen.com/>



# SOUL FOOD SOCIALS / PRESS

- Hyphen Article  
<https://hyphenmagazine.com/blog/2022/01/hyphen-hollywood-podcast-writerdirector-emily-teeras-soul-food-serves-forgiveness>
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