

# Surrender



## *Film Press Kit*

STARRING

**ANDREA BANG KEIKO AGENA**

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY **BRYAN RUBEN MÉNDOZA** EDITED BY **FAROUKH VIRANI** PRODUCTION DESIGNER **SARAH FRANCES HOLMES**

ORIGINAL MUSIC BY **ALEXIS MARSH AND SAMUEL JONES** PRODUCED BY **DARREN HARUO RAE GRAEHME MIDDLETON**

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY **JESS DANG**

# Contact

## **Writer/Director:**

Jess Dang  
thejessdang@gmail.com

## **Producer:**

Darren Rae  
Darren@roannfilms.com

## **Distribution:**

Long Lunch Break, LLC  
newbiz@longlunchbreak.com

## **Running Time:**

19:33

## **Format:**

16x9

**Website // Instagram // Facebook**

# Logline + Synopsis

# Logline

**A recovering compulsive gambler responds to her past trauma after 100 days of abstinence.**

**Genre:**

Drama

**Category Tags:**

Women

Mental Health

# **Synopsis**

**Surrender is the story of Naomi, a young Asian female who continues to wrestle with her past family trauma.**

**As Naomi attempts to regain a sense of control, she is drawn back into the world of blackjack after abstaining for 100 days.**



# Production Stills + BTS Photos















# Director's Statement

*“We have this saying in Chinese: If you don’t gamble, you don’t know how lucky you are.”*

*— Anonymous Chinese gambler*

**It has taken me ten years to admit that I’m a compulsive gambler. I have silently struggled with a gambling addiction for the past decade and it is finally something that I am learning to live without.**

**As a Chinese daughter of immigrants from Taiwan and Indonesia, I have felt pressure to succeed in everything I pursue, often neglecting the state of my mental health. Growing up, I occasionally heard my parents discuss tragic generational gambling patterns; in many ways, these stories must have stored themselves in my memory bank as my curiosity about gambling peaked and became a secret outlet for me when I needed a temporary escape from the difficulties of life. My close friends and family members have witnessed the emotional spirals of this addiction’s impact in my life – incomprehensible behavior that resulted in active self-destruction.**

**It is commonly known that gambling is socially acceptable for most Asians but losing control and managing a problem is simply not. My disposition of navigating two worlds – suppressing my internal shame and inadequacy, while maintaining autonomy was tied to the fear of causing disruption to my family’s reputation. After many years of denial and rock bottoms, I started to embrace my path to recovery.**

**Surrender attempts to demystify gambling as a male activity, and provides the audience with an opportunity to experience the point of view of a recovering protagonist that is still entrapped by her family’s trauma. For me, as an Asian American woman, it is particularly important for me to change the narrative of how mainstream media portrays gambling and distorts reality; it has been documented that a high percentage of women suffer from this silent, progressive disease and I believe that there is a need for normalizing conversations about addictions among the landscape of Asian Americans today.**

**-Jess Dang, Writer/Director**



# Cast + Crew

# Starring



## Andrea Bang

**Andrea Bang is a Canadian actress from Burnaby, British Columbia. She is best known for playing Janet Kim in the CBC comedy series, Kim's Convenience, for which she was nominated for a Canadian Screen Award, Best Actress in a Comedy Series. She also starred in Fresh (2022 - Sundance Film Festival), Stay The Night (2020 - SXSW Film Festival), and Luce (2019 - Sundance Film Festival). Additional TV credits include a multi-season arc on ABC's A Million Little Things.**



## Keiko Agena

**Keiko Agena is best known for her series regular roles on the shows Prodigal Son where she played Dr. Edrisa Tanaka and Gilmore Girls, where she played Lane Kim for seven years and reprised the role in Netflix's Gilmore Girls: Seasons. As an improviser she's performed at UCB Sunset/NY, IO WEST and is a recent addition to the main company of IMPRO THEATRE. In between Agena has been a series regular on Hulu's The First and recurring on Better Call Saul, Dirty John and 13 Reasons Why.**

# Cast

<b>Naomi</b>	<b>Andrea Bang</b>
<b>Therapist</b>	<b>Keiko Agena</b>
<b>Blackjack Dealer</b>	<b>Grace Shen</b>
<b>June, Mother</b>	<b>Sook Hyung Yang</b>
<b>Zhao, Father</b>	<b>Brian Yang</b>
<b>Mi, Grandmother</b>	<b>Alexis Rhee</b>
<b>Young Naomi</b>	<b>Brielle Santos</b>

# Crew

<b>Written and Directed by</b>	<b>Jess Dang</b>
<b>Produced by</b>	<b>Darren Rae, Graehme Middleton</b>
<b>Cinematography by</b>	<b>Bryan Rubén Mendoza</b>
<b>Editing by</b>	<b>Faroukh Virani</b>
<b>Production Design by</b>	<b>Sarah Frances Holmes</b>
<b>Original Score by</b>	<b>Alexis Marsh, Samuel Jones</b>
<b>1st AD</b>	<b>Robyn “Coco” Lee</b>
<b>1st AC</b>	<b>Alexander Han</b>
<b>2nd AC</b>	<b>Tye Edwards</b>
<b>Gaffer</b>	<b>Malik Dowdy</b>
<b>Key Grip</b>	<b>Cody Lewis</b>
<b>Grip</b>	<b>Alex Aligo</b>
<b>Script Supervisor</b>	<b>Alexandria Sanders</b>
<b>Production Sound</b>	<b>Akos Meggyes</b>
<b>Makeup Artist</b>	<b>Tracy Du</b>
<b>Costumer/BTS Photographer</b>	<b>Joanne Garcia</b>



# Crew Cont'd

Set PA	Genevieve Villareal
Set PA	Keenan Willing
Supervising Stunt Coordinator	Sli Lewis
Stunt Coordinator	Cameron Early
Stunt Utility	Claire Hoogenboom
Studio Teacher	Angel Harper
Casting Support Service	Breakdown Services
Color Grading Services by	Company 3
Colorist	Jenny Montgomery
Assistant Editor	Wendy Sit
Post-Production Sound Services by	Skywalker Sound
Supervising Sound Editors	Qianbaihui Yang, Kimberly Patrick
Dialogue Editor	Cheryl Nardi

# Forever Grateful

Siu Yun Gina Dang  
Mie Lin Yong  
Nicoli Tucker  
Margaret A.  
Brenda Goodman  
Steven Kennedy  
Joanne Rolston-Martin



# LONG LUNCH BREAK

*Long Lunch Break, LLC. All Rights Reserved. 2022.*