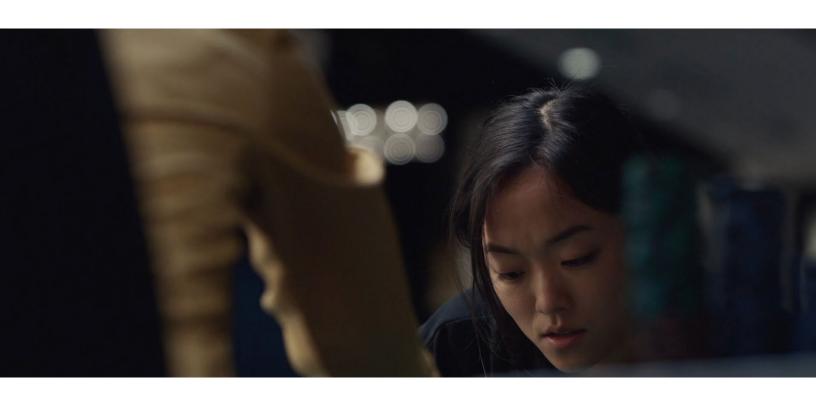
Surrender



Film Press Kit

STARRING

ANDREA BANG KEIKO AGENA
PHOTOGRAPHY BRYAN RUBEN MÉNDOZA EDITED FAROUKH VIRANI PRODUCTION SARAH FRANCES HOLMES
ORIGINAL ALEXIS MARSH AND SAMUEL JONES PRODUCED DARREN HARUO RAE GRAEHME MIDDLETON
WRITTEN AND 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

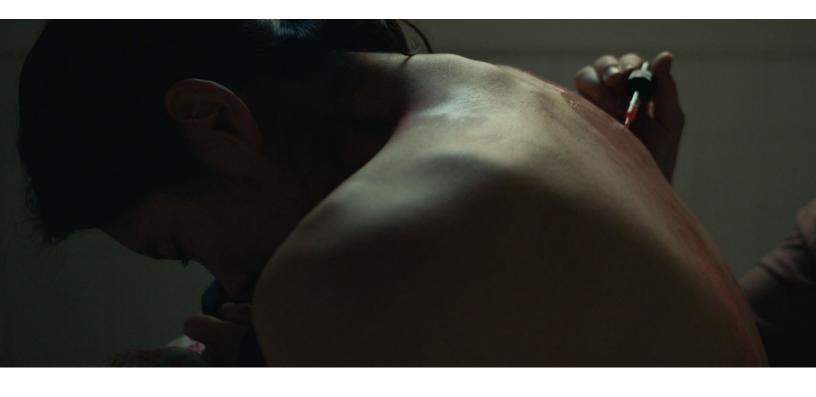
Surrender is the story of Naomi, a young Asian female who continues to wrestle with her past family trauma.

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

Naomi Andrea Bang Therapist Keiko Agena Blackjack Dealer Grace Shen

June, Mother Sook Hyung Yang Zhao, Father Brian Yang

Mi, Grandmother Alexis Rhee Young Naomi Brielle Santos

Crew

Written and Directed by Jess Dang

Produced by Darren Rae, Graehme Middleton

Cinematography by Bryan Rubén Mendoza

Editing by Faroukh Virani

Production Design by Sarah Frances Holmes

Original Score by Alexis Marsh, Samuel Jones

1st AD Robyn "Coco" Lee

1st AC Alexander Han 2nd AC Tye Edwards

Gaffer Malik Dowdy

Key Grip Cody Lewis

Grip Alex Aligo

Script Supervisor Alexandria Sanders

Production Sound Akos Meggyes

Makeup Artist Tracy Du

Costumer/BTS Photographer Joanne Garcia

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



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