

Director, Writer, Executive Producer: ERICH RETTSTADT Producers: ANITA TUNG, C.K. HUGO CHUNG

www.tankfairy.com tankfairymovie@gmail.com





LOGLINE

Once upon a time, the magical TANK FAIRY delivered tanks of gas (with plenty of sass) to the home of young Jojo, a lonely dreamer in need of a glittery godmother...

SHORT SYNOPSIS

In Taiwan, "song wa si de" are workers who routinely supply gas tanks to street vendors and old residential buildings. The magical Tank Fairy delivers her tanks unlike any other - with sass, stilettos and a healthy helping of glitter. Her arrival upends the life of Jojo, a lonely ten-year-old who dreams of dancing and drag. Outcast by classmates and misunderstood by his stern, single mom, Jojo is inspired to live out loud by his fierce, propane-toting fairy godmother. TANK FAIRY is a musical extravaganza that encourages us all to embrace our authentic selves.

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Misunderstood by his stern, single mom, Jojo forges a friendship with the fabulous Tank Fairy. In a fluorescent fantasy sequence, Jojo falls under the Tank Fairy's spell, captivated by her bubbly self-confidence. Emboldened, Jojo begins to explore his own gender identity but is caught by his mom when trying on one of her dresses. Taken aback, she scolds Jojo but ultimately sweeps the uncomfortable incident under the rug.

Outcast by classmates, Jojo devises a plan to lure the Tank Fairy back to his home, craving her unconditional support. Jojo chops up his school uniform and stages an impromptu drag show on his rooftop, impressing the Tank Fairy but infuriating his mom. Realizing the Tank Fairy's influence on Jojo, his mom forbids the Tank Fairy from ever again delivering gas to their apartment.

Resigned to a glitter-free existence, Jojo abandons his newfound pluck and endures his bullies' taunts. But, the Tank Fairy remains determined to empower and uplift her young protégé.

One day after school, the Tank Fairy surprises Jojo with a show-stopping performance in front of his classmates and their parents. As his mom watches on with mouth agape, Jojo defiantly joins in, unafraid to live out loud. Through the joyous display of unapologetic self-expression, Jojo finally wins over his mom and dances off into the horizon with his propane-toting fairy godmother.

TANK FAIRY is a musical extravaganza that encourages us all to embrace our authentic selves.



DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Drag is all around us. It's the costume we put on in the morning, the character we play to survive in this unwieldy world. To the initiated, drag is an act of defiance against confining social structures and an opportunity to actualize a higher self. TANK FAIRY celebrates the power of fearless existence and unvarnished self-expression.

My ever-evolving definition of drag was first forged in the dive bars of Brooklyn where stages teem with undeniable talent and glisten with unidentifiable bodily fluids. After relocating to Taipei, I found camaraderie in queer spaces, connecting with the same vibrant, brazen energy of live drag shows on the other side of the planet. In collaboration with my Taiwanese partner, I embarked on developing a project to capture the art form's ubiquitous allure.

TANK FAIRY gives a campy makeover to a traditionally "male" dominated profession, defiantly rejecting antiquated notions of gender while paying respect to a distinct facet of everyday life in Taiwan. As characters dance among glittery gas tanks, laying claim to dynamic, intersecting identities, our story celebrates uniquely Taiwanese culture and circumstances while affirming our common humanity. TANK FAIRY casts a spell, reminding us all of our extraordinary fabulousness.





Erich Rettstadt is a queer American filmmaker and theater artist whose work emphasizes inclusivity and escapism. He obtained his BFA in Film Production from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts and MFA in Writing for Screen & TV from USC's School of Cinematic Arts. His short film STATE DEBATE was awarded a Panavision New Filmmaker Grant and played numerous festivals. As a result of the film's success, Erich was awarded membership in the National Board of Review. Erich founded Tisch New Theatre, the largest student theater organization at NYU, and worked at the off-Broadway Atlantic Theater Company as a teaching artist and inhouse videographer. His screenplay THE BRIDESMAN was a Quarterfinalist in The Academy Nicholl Fellowships. In 2017, Erich received a scholarship from Taiwan's Ministry of Education to study Mandarin Chinese at National Taiwan University. Erich currently lives in Taipei with his partner Tai; together, they are working to develop TANK FAIRY into a half-hour anthology series.

DIRECTOR'S FILMOGRAPHY

TANK FAIRY 2021 Writer, Director, Editor, Executive Producer Short Film Digital STATE DEBATE 2012 Writer, Director, Editor, Executive Producer Short Film 35MM



CAST AND CREW

Tank Fairy 桶妝仙女

Joio

Mom 媽媽

Writer, Director, Editor, Executive Producer

編劇,導演,剪接,監製

Producer 製片

Producer 製片

Director of Photography 攝影師

Production Designer 美術指導

Costume Designer 服裝設計

Hair & Makeup Designer 梳化師

Assistant Director 副導演

Soundtrack Producer 製作出品

Soundtrack Performer 演唱者

Choreographer 編舞

Still Photographer 劇照

Marian Mesula 瑪麗安

Ryan Lin 宥騰

Danielle Yen 顏卉婕

Erich Rettstadt 雷利

C.K. Hugo Chung 鍾政光

Anita Tung 董育麟

Danny Wang 王淳宇

Ming-Jen Hsieh 謝明仁

Taos Daw-Chyi Wu 吳道齊

Kimmy Mesula 洪育綸

Tsung-Yen Lin 林宗諺

Sonia Calico 賴思勻

Utjung Tjakivalid 舞炯恩加以法利得

Akuma Diva Xtravaganza 徐百川

Manbo Key 登曼波

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Shooting Format Black Magic Pocket

Cinema Camera 4K

Exhibition Format DCP 4K

Aspect Ratio 1.85:1 (FLAT)

Audio Format Stereo

Length 9 min 31 sec (Int'l)

9 min 17 sec (Taiwan)

Frame Rate 24 fps

Completion Date Se

Genre

Film Color

September 2021 Musical, Comedy,

Fantasy, Family

raniasy, ran

Color

Language Mandarin Chinese

Subtitles English

Country of Origin Taiwan, USA



CAST BIOS

Marian Mesula 瑪麗安

IG: <u>@marian_drag</u> Tank Fairy 桶妝仙女

As one of Taiwan's most recognizable drag artists and transgender performers, Marian 瑪麗安 is known for her comedic talents, charismatic personality and electrifying choreography. In 2020, Marian 瑪麗安 appeared in the drag competition series MAKE A DIVA on YouTube. Performing weekly in venues across Taiwan, Marian 瑪麗安 has built a loyal following and is excited to expand her fan base by appearing as the TANK FAIRY in her acting debut.



Ryan Lin 宥騰

IG: <u>@super kids ryan</u> Jojo

Ryan 宥騰 makes his acting debut as Jojo in TANK FAIRY. Born and raised in Kaohsiung, Taiwan, Ryan 宥騰 is eleven years old and has won numerous national street dance championships. He studies waacking, hip-hop, ballet, modern and other forms of dance at Apple Studio in Kaohsiung under the guidance of Akuma Diva Xtravaganza. In 2019, Ryan 宥騰 signed with the Korean record label and talent agency Kids Planet as a member of the K-pop boy group SUPERKIDS. Ryan 宥騰 is excited to share TANK FAIRY with the world and looks forward to performing internationally in the future.



Danielle Yen 顏卉婕

IG: <u>@danielleyen_official</u>
Mom 媽媽

Danielle Yen is an award-winning producer and actress. Known for her work in drama, live-action and documentaries, Yen produced such films as YOUR NAME ENGRAVED HEREIN (2020), A TRIP WITH YOUR WIFE (2021), BEST SISTERS FOREVER (2021) and THE YANI TSENG STORY (2023). Yen is the founder and CEO of Select Entertainment, an international media company that develops and produces content in combination with VFX, Virtual Production, Talent Management and Production Services.





CREW BIOS

C.K. Hugo Chung 鍾政光

Producer 製片

C.K. Hugo Chung is a bicultural writer-producer for Spotlight Entertainment Inc., a boutique production and distribution company based in Taipei, Taiwan. He has distributed more than thirty films and coproduced programs in both Taiwan and the United States.



Anita Tung 董育麟

Producer 製片

Anita received her MFA in producing from Beijing Film Academy. She has participated in many international co-productions including LIFE OF PI (dir. Ang Lee), SILENCE (dir. Martin Scorsese) and the Netflix TV show NOWHERE MAN. She also has years of experience promoting Taiwan cinema to the international film market.



Danny Wang 王淳宇

IG: <u>@murmur.b</u> Director of Photography 攝影師

Danny graduated from Tunghai University in Taichung, Taiwan in 2010. After graduating, Danny worked for years as a photography assistant at a local production house, contributing to many short films, commercials and music videos. In 2020, he shot HOME SICK, a short film commissioned by Taiwan PTV (Public Television), which was shortlisted by Taiwan's Golden Harvest Awards for Best Photography and by the Taipei Film Festival for Best Short.



Ming-Jen Hsieh 謝明仁

Production Designer 美術指導

Ming Jen Hsieh is a Taiwan-based production designer. Experienced in working on East Asian co-productions for over a decade, his art department credits include SILENCE (dir. Martin Scorsese), THE ASSASSIN (dir. Hou Hsiao-Hsien), SKY ON FIRE (dir. Ringo Lam), LONG DAY'S JOURNEY INTO NIGHT (dir. Bi Gan) and TILL WE MEET AGAIN (dir. Giddens Ko). In 2019, Ming-Jen was selected to participate in Berlinale Talents. Also in 2019, he worked as Production Designer on SISTERS' BUSY HANDS, which was subsequently shortlisted for Best Live Action Short Film at the 57th Golden Horse Awards.





Akuma Diva Xtravaganza 徐百川

IG: <u>@akumadivaxtrava</u>
Choreographer 編舞
IHOW Taiwan - Iconic House of Xtravaganza

Akuma Diva Xtravaganza is a world-renowned performer and choreographer with over a decade of experience in the international dance community. A member of the Iconic House of Xtravaganza and IHOW Taiwan since 2017, Akuma has traveled the world to teach, judge, compete and perform in cities across Europe, Asia, Australia and North America. Akuma's work has been featured in the New York Times and The Guardian. He continues to promote and cultivate the LGBTQ+ waacking and ballroom communities across the world.



Sonia Calico 賴思勻 IG: @sonia calico

Soundtrack Producer 製作出品

Born and raised in Taipei, DJ/Producer Sonia Calico has been at the forefront of Taiwan's dance music scene for years, bringing a sharp ear for music with fun, unique grooves. Former leader of the legendary Taiwanese electro punk band Go Chic, Sonia released her debut album "Simulation Of An Overloaded World" in 2020. Winner of Taiwan's Golden Indie Music Award for "Best Electronic Music", Sonia has been featured in international music publications including The Fader, FACT and Dazed and has performed at music festivals and events across the world including Boiler Room, SXSW, ADE and Sonar Hong Kong.



Utjung Tjakivalid 舞炯恩加以法利得

IG: <u>@utjung_59n</u> Soundtrack Performer 演唱者

Utjung is an award-winning indigenous Paiwanese singer, songwriter, actor, dancer and music producer. As a member of Taiwan's I-WANT pop music group, he wrote and performed the theme song for the 29th Summer World University Games. In 2017, Utjung won the award for Best New Actor at the Taipei Film Festival for his performance in the film ALIFU, THE PRINCE/SS. In 2020, Utjung released his first album "Apaz 根" to critical acclaim, written entirely in the Paiwanese language.





PRESS NOTES

In the summer of 2020, writer/director Erich Rettstadt began developing TANK FAIRY in close collaboration with members of Taiwan's LGBTQ community, including his partner Tai Chin and lead actress Marian 瑪麗安, one of Taiwan's most recognizable drag artists and transgender performers. TANK FAIRY was shot on location in Taipei City and New Taipei City, Taiwan over four days in early November 2020. The film completed post-production in September 2021 and had its World Premiere at Taiwan's Kaohsiung Film Festival in October 2021.

TANK FAIRY features a Chinese-language cover of the 1980s hit "Holding Out For A Hero", produced by Taiwanese electronica artist/DJ Sonia Calico and performed by indigenous Paiwanese singer/actor Utjung Tjakivalid. Additionally, the film features choreography from Taiwanese choreographer Akuma Diva Xtravaganza, member of the Iconic House of Xtravaganza, one of the most publicly recognized "houses" to emerge from the New York City underground ballroom scene.

LINKS

www.Facebook.com/TankFairyMovie

www.Instagram.com/TankFairy

Tank Fairy YouTube Channel

Tank Fairy Production Stills

Tank Fairy Posters

Tank Fairy Trailer

Director's Headshots

For additional information, please visit WWW.TANKFAIRY.COM