

302 Press Kit

Logline (17 words): A young officer cadet opens a can of worms when he declares “302” to the Singapore army.

Synopsis (53 words): Young officer cadet, Aaron Hafiz, opens a can of worms when he declares “302” to the Singapore army. Category 302 is a medical code used to classify personnel as “homosexual”. Navigating the aftermath of his decision, Aaron is forced to grapple with complex feelings, balancing the weight of his responsibilities, desires and ideals.

Festivals

2024 – 15th KASHISH Pride Film Festival
2024 – 6th Singapore Shorts
2024 – 35th Hong Kong Lesbian & Gay Film Festival
2024 – 44th Hawaii International Film Festival
2024 – Singapore Youth Film Festival
2024 – Queer Here Cinema
2025 – Mardi Gras Film Festival (Sydney)
2025 – Chennai Rainbow Film Festival
2025 – Amsterdam LGBTQ+ Film Festival
2025 – Queer East Film Festival
2025 – NewFilmmakersLA

Production Context

"302" was born when producer Ser En approached director/writer Leon Cheo to make a short film based on her friend Bryan's experience of declaring his homosexuality to the Singapore army. Openly gay servicemen face a glass ceiling and are unable to be commissioned officers or hold “sensitive” positions. We hope that the film can stir conversation and more importantly, change.

"302" was born when producer Ser En approached director/writer Leon Cheo to make a short film based on her friend Bryan's experience of declaring his homosexuality to the Singapore army. Being gay, Leon immediately said yes because the story combines two of his favourite spheres of storytelling - the political and the personal - and how they are so intertwined in our lives. Openly gay servicemen face a glass ceiling and are unable to be commissioned officers or hold “sensitive” positions. We hope that the film can stir conversation and more importantly, change.

Director Biography (46 words)

Leon Cheo is the writer/director of the International Emmy-nominated short form Singapore gay series “People Like Us”. The last in a trilogy of short films, “302” continues his interest on the impact of policies that have human consequences such as on citizenship, family planning and sexuality.

Director Biography (276 words)

When Leon Cheo was growing up in Singapore, he wanted to watch the “Mighty Morphin Power Rangers” movie but his parents forbade him to because they thought that it was

violent and unsuitable for children. He was devastated because all his cousins could go. But that did not stop him from falling in love with movies and developing an interest in queer stories, family drama, and the human cost of government policy.

Now based in Los Angeles, Leon is the creator, writer and director of the Emmy-nominated short form series "People Like Us". In 2022, he was selected for season two of the Hillman Grad / Indeed Rising Voices program in which he is mentored by Destin Daniel Cretton to make "The 25th Filial Exemplar" which premiered at the Tribeca Film Festival.

Other highlights include: "SIN-SFO" which competed at the Oscar-qualifying 25th Austin Film Festival, and won Best Live Action and Best Director at the 2019 National Youth Film Awards in Singapore; "The Three Sisters" which won 'Best Short Film' at the 2012 NETPAC-Jogja Asian Film Festival; "Move Out Notice" which broadcast on the Lifetime (Asia) channel and nominated for Best Script at the Singapore Short Film Awards; and "Nuts" which received honourable mention for the YOMYOMF Interpretations 2.0 competition, founded by Justin Lin ("Fast & Furious").

Commercially, Leon has worked with KFC, HSBC, 7-Eleven, Channel NewsAsia, Pink Dot SG, and government ministries and agencies. A graduate of Chapman University with a BFA in Creative Producing, and Ngee Ann Polytechnic with a diploma in Film, Sound & Video, Leon is also an alum of Outfest InFusion (2016), Berlinale Talents (2014), Asian Film Academy (2013) and Talents Tokyo (2012).

Director Filmography

2024 – 302
2023 – People Like Us: S3
2022 – Two Is Enough
2022 – The 25th Filial Exemplar
2021 – It Never Rains on National Day
2019 – People Like Us: S2
2018 – SIN-SFO
2016 – Nuts
2016 – People Like Us: S1
2015 – Move Out Notice
2013 – Departure (*Asian Film Academy*)
2012 – The Three Sisters
2011 – Triple X
2010 – Swing
2008 – Four Dishes
2007 – Bu Ye Tian (Nightless Day)

Main Cast

Aaron Jin as Aaron
Kelly Lim as Aaron's Mother
Darius Tan as Colonel Roger Tan
Fadhil Daud as Medical Officer
Daniel Ong as Wei Liang

Credits

Director & Writer: Leon Cheo

Producers: Low Ser En, LC Lim
Executive Producer: Bryan Tan
Cinematographer: Rachel Liew
Production Designer: Javeus Toh
Wardrobe Designer: Eve Tan
Hair & Makeup: Jeffrey Linus Lee
Editor: Ben Niu
Composer: Hollie Buhagiar
Sound Editor: Grace Wong

Stills: [Download here](#)

Press/Screeners/Distribution: Leon Cheo leoncheo@gmail.com

Technical Specs

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| Original Title | 302 |
| Shooting Format | 4K, Alexa Mini LF |
| Exhibition Format | DCP, ProRes422HQ |
| Aspect Ratio | 2:1 |
| Sound | Stereo |
| Running Time | 16:00 |
| Original Language | English |
| Year of completion | 2024 |