

WE ARE KINGS

PRESS KIT



WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY
FRANK SUN

STARRING
KENNY RIDWAN & MAHI ALAM

TRIBECA FILM FESTIVAL 2025 OFFICIAL SELECTION
RUNTIME 12:12

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LOGLINE

Lin and his best friend sneak into his mom’s Chinese restaurant to pirate DVDs—until his high school crush walks in, he is caught between friend, family, and infatuation.

SYNOPSIS

Two immigrant teenagers, Lin and Walid, sneak into Lin’s mother’s Chinese restaurant to pirate DVDs they can sell at school. But when Lin’s high school crush, Amber, unexpectedly walks in, the afternoon veers from a harmless hustle into a moral dilemma.

Seized between his mother’s quiet sacrifices, his best friend’s loyalty, and Amber’s rebellious world, Lin is pulled into a car ride that becomes an emotional rollercoaster.





I've always been drawn to the chaos of ordinary life—the strange ways internal struggles find their way out. Shame, identity, insecurity—these things rarely announce themselves directly. Instead, they show up in awkward silences, misguided schemes, offhanded comments, and the comedy of trying too hard to fit in. There's absurdity in our motivations, and often a surprising tenderness too.

As a Chinese immigrant growing up in North Carolina in the late '90s and early 2000s, I learned that clash of cultures and assimilation doesn't always arrive as a dramatic conflict. More often, subtly trickled through laughter, contradiction, and moments I didn't fully understand until I was an adult.

In many immigrant communities, the unspoken task is to deconstruct your culture just enough to fit in. That's both heartbreaking and, frankly, hilarious. The tension between honoring your home and figuring out your journey has shaped so many of my stories—and *We are Kings* is no exception.

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This short film is a love letter to the strange rituals of adolescence, to friendship forged through scheme and survival, and to the quiet weight our families carry behind kitchen doors—our mothers, our friends who stand beside us. It's a story about love and home, and how we navigate the space between what feels safe and what feels foreign. But more than anything, it's about getting to know ourselves—our boundaries, our loyalties, and the values we carry forward.

Lin's story is a collection of feelings and moments drawn from my life and the lives of those I grew up with. Through his eyes, we explore how a harmless DVD hustle can spiral into a introspective reckoning with identity, connection, and the question of who we're really becoming.

We are Kings is about the drama and comedy of trying to belong. It's a small slice of life—but one I hope resonates with anyone who's ever felt caught between contradicting worlds.

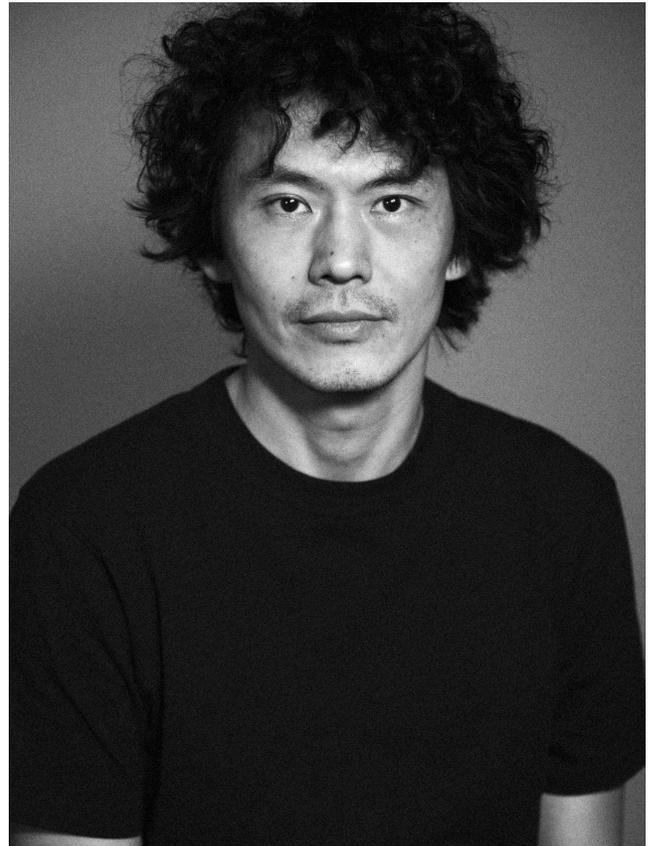


Frank Sun is a filmmaker and cinematographer based in New York City. Born in China and raised in the American South, he grew up navigating the contradictions of culture, assimilation, and identity—experiences that continue to shape his voice as a storyteller.

His films live in the in-between, moving through memory, belonging, and the ache of self-actualization.

Frank began his career shaping story on CBS's *Survivor*, where he learned to craft emotionally driven narratives in unpredictable environments. From there, he transitioned into directing and shooting commercial and branded work, with clients including Peloton, Ralph Lauren, Lexus, NYFW, etc. His visual style balances raw intimacy with cinematic polish, rooted in a deep curiosity for people and place.

After years behind the camera, Frank is now focused on developing original narrative work. His current slate of shorts and a debut feature explores ambition, abandonment, and cultural tension through drama and comedy — stories forged from contradiction, and told with heart, precision, and a touch of mischief.





<i>LIN</i>	KENNY RIDWAN
<i>WALID</i>	MAHI ALAM
<i>MOTHER</i>	YVOONE CHEN
<i>HOSTESS</i>	JESS CHEN
<i>AMBER</i>	JADE SPEAR
<i>AMBER'S FATHER</i>	VICTOR GIRONE
<i>MARK</i>	CALEB ELIAS-REYES

<i>CREATIVE AND EXECUTIVE PRODUCER</i>	SCOTT AHARONI
<i>EXECUTIVE PRODUCER</i>	ALEX CONSTANTIN
<i>PRODUCER</i>	LOU WANG-HOLBORN
<i>PRODUCER</i>	SAM KATZ
<i>CASTING DIRECTOR</i>	BETH MELSKI
<i>DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY</i>	STEFAN NACHMANN
<i>PRODUCTION DESIGNER</i>	STARR JIANG
<i>WARDROBE STYLIST</i>	ABIGAIL MARIE PEREZ
<i>HAIR AND MAKEUP DESIGNER</i>	MARY CHIPMAN
<i>EDITOR</i>	LOGAN K. TRIPLETT



**KENNY RIDWAN**

Kenny has appeared in many TV series such as *The Goldbergs*, *The Thundermans*, and *The McCarthys*.

He has also appeared as a guest star on *Perception*, *Bones*, *Modern Family*, and *House of Lies*.

**MAHI ALAM**

Mahi has portrayed the recurring character of Anuj in Disney+'s original series *American Born Chinese*.

He also plays Yakub in the NBC series *New Amsterdam*, and Samir in the Facebook Web Series *Strangers*.

**JADE SPEAR**

Jade is an NYC-based actor who grew up in Maine.

Alongside acting, Jade is a singer, dancer, musician and artist. They fell in love with entertainment by performing in plays and musicals around New England, with an extensive list of theater credits before stepping into film. They recently starred in a horror pilot based on the podcast "Let's Not Meet."

**SCOTT AHARONI****EXECUTIVE PRODUCER & CREATIVE PRODUCER**

Scott Aharoni is a producer and director who has screened his films at hundreds of festivals around the world including Sundance, SXSW, Tribeca, and many others; including a spot on the 94th Annual Academy Awards shortlist for Best Live Action Short.

His latest feature film stars Steve Buscemi, John Magaro, and Britt Lower won an Audience Choice award at the 2024 Tribeca Film Festival. He is currently the EP on *Chronology of Water*, Kristen Stewart's directorial debut and *The Carpenter's Son*, starring Nic Cage and Noah Jupe.

**ALEX CONSTANTIN****EXECUTIVE PRODUCER**

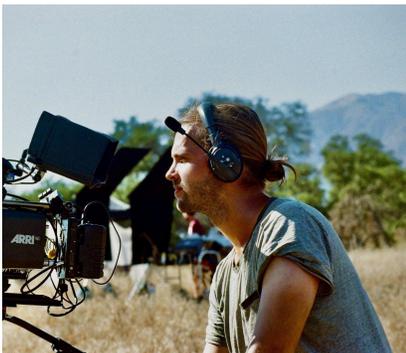
Alex is an Executive at The Walt Disney Company as the Global Lead of Commerce & Partner Operations for Streaming. He oversees operations to enable commercial sales, partnership launches and distribution of Disney's streaming services in over 130 countries.

Prior to Disney he was an Executive in streaming at Lionsgate. As an Romanian immigrant, he is particularly passionate about creating space for up-and-coming filmmakers from underrepresented communities with an eye on diverse storytelling.

**LOU WANG-HOLBORN****PRODUCER**

Originally from Beijing, China, Lou Wang-Holborn is an independent producer based in New York City. Most recently, Lou worked as the Associate and Post Producer for the feature film *BLUE SUN PALACE* which premiered at Semaine de la Critique, Cannes 2024. Lou's work has been supported by The Gotham, Center for Asian American Media, BRIC, CNEX, Doc Edge, Kartemquin Films, Hot Docs and the NYC Women's Fund.

Lou holds a Masters of International Affairs from The New School. She is also the founding member of Chinatown Mural Project.

**STEPHAN NACHMANN****CINEMATOGRAPHER**

Stefan is a Brooklyn-based Director of Photography from Germany. His international work ranges from music videos and commercials to narrative films and documentaries.

He was the 2020 recipient of the ARRI Volker Bahnemann Award for Outstanding Cinematography. He recently lensed the short *Nothing Except Everything* and is now being developed into a feature project with Darren Aronofsky

TRIBECA FESTIVAL 2025



RIVERRUN INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL 2025





IMDB

<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt33203963/>

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BTS

<https://shorturl.at/cAbUE>

FILM STILLS

<https://shorturl.at/6ZN4L>