



FESTIVAL PRESS KIT

SOMEWHERE TO BE

A FILM BY CHRISTY CHAN
USA | 2025 | 9 min

PUBLICITY CONTACT
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LOGLINE

In this dark comedy short, an eight-year-old girl has to grow up quickly during a tense car ride. Set in 1985.

SYNOPSIS

On a scorching summer day, Shelly and her mom pull up to a gas station. When the gas station attendants refuse to serve them for looking “foreign,” Shelly’s mom refuses to leave. All the adults are soon yelling at each other in their different native languages. It feels like it’s up to Shelley to make the day go right.

Based off of Writer-Director Christy Chan’s childhood experiences in the rural South, *Somewhere To Be* transports us to a moment when an immigrant family faces the threat of violence and an Asian-American child does not have the privilege of innocence. In a time when we face a new tide of anti-immigrant sentiment, the film asks us to consider: Who gets to have power and voice in our country? When a world of racism is being preserved by adults, how are kids and their families to cope?



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PRINCIPAL FILMMAKER CREDITS

Writer-Director	Christy Chan
Producers	Keith Wilson, Jeremy Summer, Christy Chan
Executive Producers	W. Kamau Bell, Gordon Yamate
Director of Photography	Mario Furloni
Original Music	Jonah Moran
Editor	Jonah Moran A.C.E., Christy Chan
Production Co:	Christy Chan Studio, LLC

BIOS

Christy Chan, Writer-Director

Christy Chan is a U.S. Guggenheim Fellowship-awarded visual artist and film director. Informed by her early years in the rural South, her films use dark comedy to question the everyday systems and social codes that normalize racialized violence in the United States. Her past projects include “Who’s Coming To Save You?” (2015) and “Inside Out” (2019) which was censored by the government for featuring the stories of undocumented immigrants. She is the founder of “Dear America,” a roaming, guerrilla public art project that projected artworks of solidarity by AAPI artists on to San Francisco Bay Area skyscrapers at night- sometimes up to 25 stories high - in response to the epidemic of Covid-spurred, anti-Asian violence. Her visual art works and films have been presented by museums and cultural institutions throughout the U.S and Europe, including Mills Art Museum and YBCA in San Francisco; Interfilm / Kuki Film Festival in Berlin; NYFA in New York City; and on NPR programs, among other venues. She developed “Somewhere To Be” while an Artist-in-Residence at SFFILM House. The film is a proof-of-concept short for her upcoming feature film about growing up in a town with a Ku Klux Klan presence. She lives and works in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Keith Wilson, Producer

Keith Wilson is a producer, director, and artist based in New York City and Athens, Georgia, whose films have screened at Sundance, the Berlinale, the U.S. National Gallery of Art, documenta 14, and the Museum of Modern Art. He is the producer of Joonam (Sundance 2023) and I Didn’t See You There (2022), which won the Directing Award for U.S. Documentary at Sundance, the Grand Jury Prize at Full Frame, and a Film Independent Spirit Award. His live documentary performance Moore for Sale (2023) has been staged internationally at festivals, museums, and conferences including IDFA, Camden, True/False, the Museum of Moving Image and IDA’s Getting Real Conference. Keith is a member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences and an Assistant Professor at the University of Georgia.

W. Kamau Bell, Executive Producer

W. Kamau Bell is a stand-up comedian, director, producer, and dad. For seven seasons, he was the host and executive producer of the five-time Emmy Award-winning CNN docuseries United Shades of America. Kamau won a Peabody Award for his Showtime docuseries We Need To Talk About Cosby. He is also the co-author of the New York Times bestselling book Do The Work: An Antiracist Activity Book. His first book was his memoir with the easy-to-remember title: The Awkward Thoughts of W. Kamau Bell: Tales of a 6’ 4”, African American, Heterosexual, Cisgender, Left-Leaning, Asthmatic, Black and Proud Blerd, Mama’s Boy, Dad, and Stand-Up Comedian. Recently Kamau directed and produced the HBO documentary 1000% Me: Growing Up Mixed. As a stand-up comic, Kamau has recorded two comedy specials. The second one, Private School Negro, is available on Netflix. Kamau is on the board of directors of DonorsChoose - a non-profit that helps teachers raise money for class projects, and Live Free - a non-profit dedicated to ending gun violence, mass incarceration, and mass criminalization. Kamau also is the ACLU’s Celebrity Ambassador for Racial Justice. He lives in Oakland, California. He cares a lot... maybe too much.

BIOS

Jeremy Summer, Producer

Since co-founding San Francisco based studio Little Moving Pictures in 2014, Jeremy has produced films and dozens of ads and campaigns for some of the largest brands in the world alongside music videos for bands like Toro y Moi, the Dodos, and STRFKR, short films, concert films, and a feature length documentary, Forever Brothers for Fox Sports/Major League Baseball which was Executive Produced by Antoine Fuqua with narration by Public Enemy's Chuck D. Little Moving Pictures first short film Can You Read My Lips? (dir. David Terry Fine) has been featured by National Geographic, Short of The Week, Vimeo Staff Picks and the Atlantic. His short doc No Pain (dir. John Picklap) was an official selection at Palm Springs International Film Festival and won the audience award for best short doc at the San Francisco Independent Film Festival.

Gordon Yamate, Executive Producer

Gordon Yamate engages in philanthropy following his professional career as a corporate partner in a national law firm and general counsel of two public companies headquartered in Silicon Valley. He continues as a long-time member of the Board of Trustees of the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles, where he chaired the board from 2010 to 2015. He currently chairs the San Jose Institute of Contemporary Art's Board of Directors. In addition to teaching as an adjunct lecturer in law at Santa Clara University Law School, he has served on the boards of numerous nonprofit organizations, including the Silicon Valley Community Foundation and the National Conference of Christians and Jews, Silicon Valley Region. He is interested in using the arts to address issues of racism and to create relationships and opportunities that will promote understanding and tolerance among diverse and polarized communities.

Mario Furloni, Director of Photography

Mario Furloni is a Brazilian director, writer and cinematographer based in Oakland, California. His feature directorial debut Freeland premiered at SXSW to critical acclaim and won several awards on the international festival circuit. A graduate of UC Berkeley's Graduate School of Journalism with a focus on documentary filmmaking, he has established himself as a cinematographer known for his naturalistic approach. His camerawork can be seen in critically-acclaimed films including the documentary The Return and Crip Camp, Oscar® -nominated for Best Documentary Feature. He is a founding member of the Brazilian Filmmakers Collective, and half of the Furloni Brothers duo. Together, the Furloni Brothers have created shorts including Frio and Someone is Happy Somewhere.

Jonah Moran, A.C.E.

Jonah Moran, ACE is an Emmy and Eddie award nominated film editor versed in the worlds of narrative film, television and commercial storytelling. Equally comfortable in both narrative and documentary forms. Jonah is known for his work on the Emmy Award winning, Hamilton, from Thomas Kail and Lin-Manuel Miranda, for Disney+, the Emmy Award winning limited series Fosse/Verdon, for FX, starring Michelle Williams and Sam Rockwell, The Apple TV series, Little Voice, from Jessie Nelson and Sara Bareilles, as well as the National Geographic series, MARS, produced by Ron Howard and Imagine Entertainment, which fuses elements of scripted drama with real world documentary stories. A member of the ACE, as well as the Motion Picture Editor's Guild, Jonah has worked with a variety of clients including Disney, Showtime, Apple, ABC, PBS, MTV, Discovery Channel, Vogue, Cadillac, J. Crew, Gillette, Nike, National Geographic, and RadicalMedia to name a few. After the feature documentary film, Jay Z: Fade to Black, Jonah edited Zipper: Coney Island's Last Wild Ride, for which he won an award for editing from the NYC First Time Fest.



From Director Christy Chan

“Somewhere To Be is the movie I needed to see when I was a child and felt powerless in the adult world..... I made this film as a love letter to immigrant families - especially to women and girls who are brave, rebellious, joyful, confused, messy and yet so authentically themselves in the face of anti-immigrant sentiment.”

“Though this film feels like a romp and has a lot of joy, the existence of this film - with my authorship - is a journey of resistance in itself.... The film depicts an immigrant family that stands up against removal and anti-immigrant sentiment; I am an artist who was censored during the first Trump administration for telling stories about immigrants. So this film - while full of joy and resistance - was made after I myself felt silenced and small by the government. It is my way of coming back as an artist.”

“....This film is not just about portraying the coming-of-age of a child, but it’s also about the coming-of-age of our country.”

SELECT ADDITIONAL FILM CREDITS

Sound Designer and Re-Recording Mixer	Jeremiah Moore, PSE
Colorist	Robert Arnold
DCP	Robert Arnold
Visual Effects	Kevin Wong
Featured Actors	Hayden Tan Olivia Xing Robert Coleman Elijah Pinkham

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

About Christy Chan

NPR / Snap Judgement: [Christy Chan's story about writing letters to the KKK as a child](#)

New York Times: [Becoming Pen Pals with the KKK](#)

NPR /KALW: [Guerilla Projections Create Monuments of Light Against Anti-Asian Racism](#)

San Francisco Chronicle: [Dear America Project Gives Asian Americans Artists The Space to React to Anti-Asian Hate](#)

Kenneth Rainin Fellowship Announcement Video: [Meet Artist Christy Chan](#)

Hyperallergic Magazine: [The Horror and Banality of American Racism](#)

FILM INFORMATION

Country	USA
World Premiere	Hawaii International Film Festival
European Premiere	Interfilm / Kuki Film Festival Berlin
Screenings:	Cleveland International Film Festival, Florida Film Festival Dallas International Film Festival, River Run Film Festival
Running Time:	9:20
Film Format	Digital Video
Camera	Alexa Mini
Shooting Location	Plymouth, California
Production Company	Christy Chan Studio, LLC
Website	www.SomewhereToBeFilm.com
Social Media	IG: @Somewhere_To_Be_Film
Christy Chan	IG: @christychanart
Social Tags	



SOMEWHERE TO BE

featuring Hayden Tan Olivia Xing Robert Coleman Elijah Pinkham
director of photography Mario Furlani / editors Josh Moran Christy Chan
original music Josh Moran / executive producers W. Keanu Bell Gordon Yemelo
producers Keith Wilson Christy Chan Jeremy Summer / director Christy Chan

