

ELITE MATCH

a short film by Kathy Meng



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seeking men:	40 - 60
within 10 miles of:	Boston, MA
Relationships:	Divorced
Kids:	One
Ethnicity:	Asian
Body Type:	Slender
Height:	5'3" (160cm)
Religion:	Spiritual but not religious
Smoke:	Non-Smoker
Drink:	Social drinker



LOG LINE

Lily is a Chinese mother who is adjusting to living in the United States, being single, and dating online. One evening, she leaves her daughter at home to attend a singles mixer but things don't go according to plan.

Length: 15 mins.
Production year: 2021
Genre: Dramedy
Shooting location: New York

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

At the age of 45, my mom left a comfortable job and a stable marriage in China to move to suburban Massachusetts. My mom moved due to feeling repressed from the lack of social freedom in China. Yet in America, a seemingly freer place, she still felt sad and lonely.

Growing up, my mother was conservative about discussing love or dating with me. While living together with my mom during the pandemic, she opened up to me about her experiences online dating. Her stories were bizarre, tragic, and—at times—funny.

She described one host of a dating event who warned all the women there to have low expectations. It was incredible that all this happened to her when I was 10-years-old and we lived together, yet I didn't know these stories until recently. The idea that teenagers are not the only ones who hide their dating life—parents hide their dating life from their kids too was interesting to me.

Being the child of a single parent, I know at times how the parent-child roles can be reversed. The child becomes more independent in helping out the single parent compared to a household where both parents can balance the workload. The single parent may rely on the child more as a friend.

Another theme I wanted to explore was online dating. The introduction of online and app dating in the 21st century has had tremendous impact on dating habits and relationships. Though the media tends to focus on online dating among millennials, this quest for companionship online is a universal experience for people of all ages.

Inspired by my mom, the protagonist is a middle-aged single mom and a recent immigrant, who tries online dating. This quest for love while balancing family and career is still a relevant feminist issue. In film and in life, single moms often struggle in the background. By telling these slice-of-life stories, I offer a lesser-seen cinematic representation of Chinese women facing unconventional relationships.

A woman with dark hair is sitting at a table, looking towards the camera. She is wearing a light-colored top. In front of her is a glass of water and a small teapot. The background shows a green wall and a window with a view of a building. The overall tone is intimate and observational.

tone & style

Stylistically, the film will use the documentary tactic of interview format to focus on the life stories of various women and men at the dating event. The camera will be directed straight on their faces, as if they are speaking to the audience, similar to the docufiction films of Agnès Varda.

The film will contain the complex family dynamic of Edward Yang's films, the dry humor and awkward characters similar to Scandinavian filmmakers such as Roy Andersson and Ruben Östlund. There are subtle moments of inner turmoil shown by close-ups on Lily. The colors at the dating event will be bright and tacky versus the more subdued color of Lily's modest apartment. The audience can intuit Lily's loneliness through wide shots of her alone at the event.









INTENDED AUDIENCE

The primary audience of the film is women over 35 since the film focuses on middle age women who have been marginalized. The second audience target is male over 35. Moreover, I aim to submit this film to renowned international and local film festivals, with a focus on female-focused and Asian American themed film festivals. Having worked at the Tribeca Film Festival, Hamptons International Film Festival, NewFest, A24, DOC NYC, and the Independent Filmmaker Project, I see this as a key way to reach audiences.

Eventually, I will put the film online for the public to view. More than before, there are numerous platforms catering to the short film format. I will submit the film to Omletto, Short of the Week, Film Shortage, Nowness, Le Cinema Club, and Vimeo – all these websites are known for their quality short film content.

FILM REFERENCES



Alice Doesn't Live Here Anymore (1974)
Directed by Martin Scorsese



Gloria Bell (2018)
Directed by Sebastián Lelio



Documenteur (1981)
Directed by Agnès Varda

A background image showing a person in a blue shirt adjusting the hair of a person in a green shirt. The person in the green shirt is lying down, and the person in the blue shirt is leaning over them.

KEY TEAM MEMBERS

Kathy Meng, Writer & Director

Kathy Meng graduated from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts in 2016. Her previous short film *My Boyfriend's Daughter* signed a TV distribution deal with ShortsTV. *My Boyfriend's Daughter* continued on to screen at Queen's World Film Festival, CineAsian Films, Miami Shorts Film Festival, and others.

Her 2016 short film *Nanny* was a student finalist at Fusion Film Festival. *Nanny* received craft awards in best actress and screenwriting from First Run Film Festival. The film screened at numerous film festivals. Her films are rooted in realism, depicting modern Chinese women who are outsiders and want intimacy yet are deprived of it due to society's prejudices. She draws inspiration from her upbringing in Beijing and Massachusetts to tell stories through a multicultural lens. She is a Richie Jackson Artist Fellowship finalist.

Carolyn Panknin, Producer

Carolyn Panknin is a producer, filmmaker, and production designer based in New York City and Chicago. She received her BFA in Photography from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts. While studying at NYU, Carolyn interned at *Saturday Night Live*, the Comedy Central show *Broad City* and Sony Pictures Classics' film *Maggie's Plan* (2015). She went on to become the art department coordinator on Ira Sachs' film *Little Men* (2016). Her TV credits within the art department include CBS' *Instinct*, USA Networks' *Mr. Robot*, the TV Land series *Younger*, and Amazon Studios' *The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel*. She production designed Kathy's short films *Red Hot Shorts* (2015), *Nanny* (2016), and *My Boyfriend's Daughter* (2019). Her work as producer includes the short film *Escape from Ohio* (2021).

The background image is a dimly lit interior space. On the left, there is a wooden bookshelf filled with books. In the center, a table is partially visible, covered with a red and white checkered cloth. A window in the background shows a view of a city with buildings and a bridge. The overall atmosphere is quiet and somewhat cluttered.

KEY TEAM MEMBERS

Kylie Billings, Producer

Kylie Billings currently works in film distribution for A24 Films. Prior to her time at A24, she was an executive assistant at Creative Artists Agency. Originally from San Diego, Kylie began her career interning at Saturday Night Live, NBC Universal, and Oscilloscope Laboratories. Kylie has also served as a programmer for the female filmmaker focused Fusion Film Festival. While studying at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts with an emphasis in producing, she met Kathy working as an art assistant on her short films Red Hot Shorts (2015) and Nanny (2016).

Joe Kuperschmidt, Producer

Joe Kuperschmidt is a transplant to Brooklyn from the far-away land of New Jersey where he was born and raised. He graduated from Yale University in 2017 with a degree in Film and Media Studies, and while there, he produced the web series Our Modern Lives (2015) and the sci-fi short Peripheral (2017). Since then, he's continued to produce, edit, and write, but he spends most of his days working and screening for film festivals. He's been a part of the teams at the New York Film Festival, the Hamptons International Film Festival, the Gotham (formerly IFP), and the Tribeca Film Festival. And on at least one occasion, he's been an actor, having appeared as an Ice Cream Patron in Kathy's last film My Boyfriend's Daughter (2019).



KEY TEAM MEMBERS

Sancheev Ravichandran, Cinematographer

Sancheev Ravichandran is a cinematographer based in New York. He graduated with a BFA from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts in 2016 and is a member of the International Cinematographers Guild.

Sancheev has photographed a number of music videos, branded content pieces, and commercials. He's also filmed content for clients including Seventeen, The Oprah Magazine, Elle, the ACLU, Samsung, etc. However, his true passion lies in shooting narrative. He has shot dozens of short films including Kathy's previous short *My Boyfriend's Daughter*. He will be shooting his first feature, *The Feeling of You*, later in 2021.

Marie Fucile, Art Director

Marie is a filmmaker based in New York, specializing in art direction and props work. In her work, she seeks to bring authenticity and playfulness to the worlds she creates with her collaborators through color, in-depth research and specific set decoration and prop design. In addition to her freelance art directing work, Marie also currently works as production secretary at the CBS show, *Blue Bloods*. She holds a B.A. in Film & Politics from New York University's Gallatin School of Individualized Study, with a minor in Business of Entertainment, Media, and Technology.

PAST WORK



A FILM BY KATHY MENG

NANNY

CLAIRE HSU JOYCE LUO SHIRLEY HUANG FENTON LI

OFFICIAL SELECTION
Miami Independent
Film Festival
2017

OFFICIAL SELECTION
WALLABOUT FILM
FESTIVAL
2017

OFFICIAL SELECTION
FESTIVAL
2017

OFFICIAL SELECTION
Lighthouse
International Film
Festival
2017

OFFICIAL SELECTION
Harvard
College Film
Festival
2017

OFFICIAL SELECTION
Shanghai
International Film
Festival
2017

OFFICIAL SELECTION
First Run
Film Festival
2017

OFFICIAL SELECTION
First Run
Film Festival
2017

OFFICIAL SELECTION
First Run
Film Festival
2017

OFFICIAL
SELECTION
JANUARY 2017

Written and Directed by
Produced by
Assistant Director
Cinematography by
Assistant Camera
Second Assistant Camera
Gaffer
Best Boy Electric
Key Grip

Kathy Meng
Max Worrin, Carly Oscar,
Alicia Brown, Evan Wood,
Evan Wood
Neeraj Jain
Sunnie Kim, Isabella Tan
Jun Sekiya, Jeremy Ligoort
Ahmad Mustafa
Benjamin Haber
Yuling Chen, Ingle Enan

Production Design by
Art Director
Art Assistant
Line Producer
Script Supervisor
Production Assistant
Sound Mixer
Edited by
Sound Design by
Original Music by

Carolyn Panknin
Rachel Brown
Kylie Billings
Griffin Stoddard
Samuel Schmitt
Rohan Chatterjee
O. Gonzalez, Braulio Lin
Ningxin Xie
Philip Kim
Lin Dong

Nanny (2016)
13 mins, English/Chinese
Written & Directed by Kathy Meng
<https://vimeo.com/192295707>

MY BOYFRIEND'S
DAUGHTER



CLAIRE HSU GRACE VENSEL

A FILM BY KATHY MENG

ALSO STARRING ANNELISE HAGEN, GUY VENTOLIERE, AND BENJAMIN FERRELL
WRITTEN BY SPURLY LIN PRODUCED BY ISABELLA JACKSON, REID HANNAFORD, KATHY MENG
EXECUTIVE PRODUCED BY NICK ROMANO ASSISTANT DIRECTED BY EVAN B. WOOD
CINEMATOGRAPHY BY SANCHEEV RAVICHANDRAN COSTUME DESIGN BY KENDALL KLEINBERG
PRODUCTION DESIGN BY CAROLYN PANKNIN SOUND DESIGN BY PHILIP KIM
ART DIRECTION BY LAINE ELLIOTT EDITED BY BRAULIO LIN DIRECTED BY KATHY MENG

My Boyfriend's Daughter (2019)
10 mins, English
Written & Directed by Kathy Meng
<https://vimeo.com/341730290>
PW: DadsGirls123