

MEDIA

PRESS KIT

SHORT FILM


THE WORLD I SEE

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED
BY

SHAWN LAI

PRODUCED AT NEW YORK FILM ACADEMY

STORY SYNOPSIS



In a colorful house, the jobs of RED, BLUE, and YELLOW puppet makers are making wooden puppets for the factory every day. The unchangeable system and tedious routines not only restrain their imaginations but also encourage them to only care about their everyday tasks. One day, the "rebellious" red puppet maker desires to bring to their lives a different spark after receiving a smiley Charlie Chaplin puppet. However, the co-workers deny the sudden change and become the blockage in the journey. Now, he has to find his way through the institutionalized working system to reach his ideal world alone.



DIRECTOR STATEMENT

Today, people are confined to institutionalized society that provides us with routines, habits and even rewards. We are convinced that comfort is the ultimate goal in life. On the other hand, some people believe that we deserve a better world; however, these dreams are denounced as mobs and riots when they try to challenge the formality of “peace.” When the visionaries reach out to the majority, the response repeatedly comes back questioning and suspecting their intentions.

Maybe what the changers want is never complicated, or maybe what they are seeking is a chance but is overlooked. By making *The World I See*, I look forward to taking viewers on the journey and experience every bit of joy and disappointment with the protagonist.

Vibrant colors are used in the fantasy film to create an irony of the dark side of society. Also, the silence is intended to form an allegory for the system that seems to be peaceful but institutional, and at the same time, to pay tribute to the kind happiness that lies in Chaplin's films, tranquil and true.

- Shawn Lai

CAST LIST



NIKIL JAYANT

RED PUPPET MAKER

A KIND-HEARTED AND BRAVE PUPPET MAKER. TO FIND EVERYBODY'S HAPPINESS, HE DESIRES TO DEFEAT THE INSTITUTIONALIZED WORKING SYSTEM UNDER THEM.

JOSEPH MILLER

BLUE PUPPET MAKER

A STUBBORN GUY. HE IS USED TO LIVING IN THE BORING ROUTINE BUT REFUSES TO CHANGE IT.



BRIAN FUNNAGAN

YELLOW PUPPET MAKER

SMALL AND COWARDLY. HE IS A FOLLOWER WHO ALWAYS DOES THE SAME THING AS OTHERS BECAUSE HE THINKS THEY ARE STRONG. IN FACT, IN HIS MIND, HE IS INTERESTED IN HAVING A CHANGE.



ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Shawn Lai, born in Taichung City, Taiwan, is a director, writer, and producer. He graduated from an MFA filmmaking major at New York Film Academy. During his school years, he made the short film, *The World I See*, and had participated in over twenty productions as crew members.

Shawn is passionate about using visual language to tell fairy tale stories which can influence and inspire both children and adults. In his stories, he loves to write the characters who struggle over what seems unchangeable in society or life and turn them into allegoric fantasy films.



ABOUT THE DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

Robert Nachman is a director of photography based in Los Angeles, California.

He is a graduate of American Film Institute Conservatory and has had his work featured in film festivals around the world (Clermont Ferrand, Seattle, Atlanta, Palm Springs, AFI Fest & Outfest) . His work has received a BAFTA for Student Live Action as well as won a Student Academy Award (Miller & Son).



ABOUT THE PRODUCER

Tancy Karat is an award winning producer who was born and raised in Canton province, China. Her enthusiasm to traveling the world expands her horizon with multi-culture.

She finds no better way to show these wonders than filmmaking. Thus, she started majoring in filmmaking in New York City, where she produced more than 5 short films and was involved with TV show collaboration with EnMaze Inc, and producing feature films with her mentor producer Jay Cannold. Now she comes to LA to continue expanding her producing fields, where she produced several MVs, LGBTQ+ friendly commercials, short films that range from horror, sci-fi, comedy to drama.



ABOUT THE PRODUCTION DESIGNER

Junke (Coco) Li, an award-winning production designer with 3 years of experience based in Los Angeles and frequently works in Los Angeles, New York, and Shanghai.

Coco completed her MFA in Filmmaking at New York Film Academy and BFA in Film and TV Directing at Shanghai University. Coco has designed and art directed for 39 productions, including TV shows In New York and Humans, TVC for VIVO NEX3 Cellphone, feature film When We Dance the Music Dies and From the Ocean. With drafting, model-making and construction skills, Coco is good at the design of Sci-Fi and fantasy genre. She holds the belief that "Every element speaks" so that her design always serves and elevates the story.



ABOUT THE EDITOR

Luqi Zhao is from Kunming, a city in Southwest China. She graduated from University of North Carolina Wilmington (UNCW) with a major in Film Studies in 2016, a minor in Digital Arts and a minor in Asian Studies.

During undergrad, she developed a strong interest in editing which led her to pursue her dream to become a film editor. She then moved to Los Angeles and worked in post-production at Market Street Productions in Venice, California for a year. In 2019, Luqi graduated from the Editing Program at American Film Institute Conservatory (AFI). She has edited 13 shorts and a feature so far.



ABOUT THE COMPOSER

Cali Wang. With her diverse musical background and a lifelong love of film and film music, Cali has worked in different mediums, from musicals, plays and exhibitions, to short films and commercials. In 2017, she was honored to receive the John Nordstrom Scholarship, and moved to Los Angeles to attend USC Thornton's Masters of Music program in Screen Scoring.

She is currently working at Blizzard Entertainment as Assistant Composer, and continues to collaborate on different projects with artists as well. She was honored and excited to be awarded last year's BMI Foundation Pete Carpenter Fellowship.

ABOUT THE SOUND DESIGNER

Bin Lin is a film editor, production sound mixer and sound designer who has worked in the TV industry since 2013.

He profoundly believes the subtleness of editing and sound designing will add the enormous emotional energy to the storytelling. Since emotion engagement is the foundation of the narrative storytelling, the art of film editing and sound designing is the art to emotionally engage the audience into the story. Bin committed himself to the path of striving for the perfect emotional expression through film editing and sound designing.



CREW CREDITS

UPM

YI CHEN

FIRST AD

JANE CHUNG

SCRIPT SUPERVISOR

YUAN MA

LOCATION MANAGER

DEAN LEMONT

JENNIFER LYNN

FOLEY ARTIST

ANDREE LIN

ART DIRECTOR

XIAOWEI XIE

WARDROBE DESIGNER

WENDELL ZHENG

MAKEUP ARTIST

JENNIFER HOPE

SET DRESSERS

FANGDA DU

YUCHI TIAN

FIRST AC

EMILIO OLIVEIRA

SECOND AC/ DIT

BREE HEARD

GAFFER

IGNACIO GENZON

KEY GRIP

TAYLOR FRONTIER

DOLLY GRIP

COBY MANNING

GRIPS

TIM LAI

DIEGO COLON

PRODUCTION ASSISTANTS

NICKY ZHU

HANQING MA

TAWEI LIN

STILL PHOTOGRAPHERS

QIYU CHIU

XINDI LOU



STILL PHOTOS

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