

A JIANG STORY INC.

PRESENTS



A FILM BY BETTY WEN WEN JIANG

72 min., Canada, 2021

(Updated 06/09/2021)

Publicity

Betty Wen wen Jiang

+1-778-836-9187

bettyj@alumni.sfu.ca



LOGLINE:

The Gap Between Her Legs is an experimental LGBT love story about a young bulimic woman who enters a state of bliss by giving in to her true homosexual identity.

SHORT SYNOPSIS:

In the story of "The Gap Between Her Legs," Montreal born entrepreneur and bulimic girl Bella wants to escape her alcoholic mother, Mariel. Bella thus moves from Montreal to Vancouver. In Vancouver, Bella falls in love with an aspiring Vancouver Lawyer, named Ivanka. The latter act consequently forces Bella to leave her fiancé, Louis. Bella and Ivanka then move in together. While Bella tries to run her expensive clothing store on Main Street, Ivanka seeks employment in the legal field. In the legal field, Ivanka faces discrimination, including sexism and sexual assault. Consequently, Ivanka develops anorexia nervosa. As the two females try to make ends meet, Bella gains the courage to recover from bulimia. However, Ivanka spirals downward. Anorexia threatens the life of Ivanka.

This experimental love story is filmed like a rehearsal, taking place both in the theatre and the real world.



WRITER INFLUENCE:

Story concept by
Betty Wen wen Jiang (left)

"I met a French girl once at "Coco et Olive Cafe" on Main. The cafe still rests near her past vintage clothing shop, "The Lip Lounge." This girl had come for a past audition and decided she could not commit her personal voice to a casted role. But I fell in love with this Montreal actress. I fell in love with her blue/green eyes, and I still see the acting potential inside her. She appeared very vivid to me, and exhibited a confidence I did not have myself. She stood there, in Coco et Olive, stirring perhaps sugar in her latte and foam. She told me, during our first meeting, that she did not buy this latte. She had

to use her boyfriend's money to purchase her own coffee. I felt hurt hearing this. Because I know she is a smart, bright girl, with heavy knowledge of the human spirit. But, beneath the make-up, the fresh hair cut, and wealthy fashion attire, she was poor, and will eventually go broke.

Her name was Corine Corriveau. She escaped Montreal, and came to Vancouver. She had bulimia nervosa for eleven years or so. I immediately felt attracted to her sickness, because I always wanted to write a story about my past anorexic experience as a Chinese."

"The Gap Between Her Legs" is dedicated to all the females who have lost their lives to the eating disorders anorexia nervosa and bulimia nervosa. During the story of "The Gap Between Her Legs," Montreal born entrepreneur Bella moves to Vancouver. In Vancouver, Bella falls in love with an aspiring Vancouver Lawyer, named Ivanka. Such acts consequently force Bella to leave her rich male fiancé, Louis. The two young business women then move in together. While Bella tries to run her expensive clothing store on Main Street, Ivanka seeks employment in the legal field. As the two women try to make ends meet, Bella and Ivanka also develop the eating disorders bulimia nervosa and anorexia nervosa.

The film expresses the difficulty for some young women to start a life while living in one of the most expensive cities in the world; and to make their own careers. It also depicts how females can come together and form growing, unshakable, and memorable respect and admiration for one another. Ultimately, the story will use cinema as a tool to honour those who live and fight such mental illnesses in future females. At the same time, it celebrates the lives of the past women who are missed.

I wish to undertake this project at this time because there are many young women who finish their education and are left jobless, sometimes for very long extended periods of time. They may have a masters degree but they may end up working at a coffee shop, and with a load of debt to pay off. There are many talented and educated young people in life. But their potentials are not always being recognized or respected. This can lead to depression and influence the development of mental illnesses such as bulimia nervosa and anorexia nervosa. Furthermore, I also want to celebrate and explore how two women can come together in times of crisis, how they can form a friendship in times of crisis. Though such talent may be ignored and may not set

a proper functioning foot in society, through friendship and having a coming together, women can recognize each other as valuable and smart.

My own inspiration is my own past anorexia, and how my body became a rebellion towards the ignorance and lack of attention that was given to me when I was a teenager. I was very much caught up in the idea that having 'a gap between my legs' was necessary to fit into society. I felt left out and shut out of my own shell. It was not until I saw the empathy and tears of the doctors and loved ones around me that I knew I was loved, and I gained the courage and motive to get better again. But I was lucky, and therefore avoided death.

The key artists leading the project include Polish Canadian Actress/dancer Lorie Medynski (Bella), and Colombian Canadian Actress Juana Samper (Ivanka). Lorie's Credits include performing dual roles on the London stage in the UK premier of 'It's All True, which garnered five star reviews and Critic's Choice awards, 'Emma' a feature film that partnered with the Toronto Make-A-Wish foundation, short film 'Breakfast with Pete' which screened at the Cannes Film Festival and recently starred in experimental short film 'A Night In' with Sonder Films. Juana's has starred in many theatre plays, including Miss Julie by August Strindberg and A Tragic Role by Anton Chekhov. From there she moved onto starring in network television shows and TV movies such as Covert Affairs and Little Girl Lost. Her short films have appeared in TIFF and World Montreal.

I have directed actors Lorie Medynski and Juana Samper. We have, at Carousel Theatre For Young People, been rehearsing part-time for about a year, portions of the script."

-Betty Jiang

CAST & CREW:

Lead Actress-JUANA SAMPER-plays "IVANKA JIANG"



"To whom it may concern,

I am involved with the film 'The Gap Between Her Legs' in the capacity of leading actress playing the role of Ivanka. I decided to collaborate with director Betty Jiang on this project for two main reasons. The first being that I respect her training and artistic vision as a director and story-teller. She writes complex female characters and respects the journey of the actor in bringing them to life. The second reason is the content of the story, a very personal story to Betty. It tells us how women struggle to find their worth in this society, and within their family structure; and how friendship, forgiveness and love are true redeemers. Also, it

speaks to eating disorders as being the result of mental illness (childhood trauma), and not based on an obsession to attain a specific physical image. I believe this is important and urgent

message to highlight as many girls (and boys) suffer from anorexia nervosa and bulimia in the dark without proper treatment or understanding.

So I support Betty on her creative journey to explore her unique voice as a female director and story-teller, and also in the need to bring light to the pressing and relevant issues her project talks about. I believe that if given the opportunity and support she could be a special addition to Canadian cinema, one that does not fit any preconceived molds.”

-Juana Samper



Lead Actress-LORIEL MEDYNSKI-plays "BELLA CORRIVEAU"

“My name is Loriel Medynski and am an actor and dancer from Alberta. I am cast in the role of Bella in 'Gap Between Her Legs'. I support this project as a way to investigate female relationships and the personal journey of a young woman in our current society. As well as the exploration of eating disorders and how we can better understand them.”

-Loriel Medynski

Supporting Actress-CHARLENE LUEDKE-plays "MARIEL CORRIVEAU"



“To whom this may Concern,

I am an actress playing the role of Mariel, the mother in Betty wen wen Jiang’s “The Gap Between her legs”.

I fully support Betty we wen Jiang in the creation of this very meaningful project. Much of our rehearsal work can be viewed on film. Betty works hard and likes the film rehearsals for further analysis. We then get together and collaborate. Not many film projects have this luxury or take this amount of time to develop characters. I have contributed many hours for script analysis and learning lines. I have logged approximately 94 hours of rehearsal time starting in August 2017, including Skype

time with my scene partners. I believe this project is a good one. It sends a lot of pertinent messages to today's world and women. It's more than ready to go."

Sincerely,

Charlene Luedke

OTHER CHARACTERS

**STEPHEN BENJAMIN
FOWLER as "Barista"**



**SHASTINA KUMAR
as "Barista Assistant"**



**JODI HAYNES
as "Brooke Taylor"**



**JOHN DAVID EDWARDS
as "Louis Pierre"**



**KAI LYDGATE
as "David Lawrence"**



**DAHLIA KERR
as "Sophie"**



DIRECTOR/PRODUCER/EDITOR- "BETTY WEN WEN JIANG":

Betty Jiang (Jiang, Wen wen) was born in Shanghai, China and at the age 3, immigrated with her family to Vancouver, Canada.

Jiang's interest in the Fine Arts began at the age of 3 (after falling off her bed, breaking her ankle and being stuck in a cast for weeks with nothing to do but colour and sketch figures on paper.).

Now Jiang Wen Wen works for "A Jiang Story Inc." Her past experience as an actress includes 8 theatre shows covering playwrights Gao Xin Jian, Jean Paul Sartre, Don Nigro, Dario Fo & Franco Rame, Tennessee Williams, and Arthur Miller.



Jiang Wen Wen's film works include His White Eyes (Slamdance), Her Blue Shanghainese Eyes (3 Rising Star Awards-Canada International Film Festival), Vancouver Rhapsody (London Film Awards-Golden Lion Award)

Jiang also works as a Lighting Technician - under IATSE 891, with such shifts occurring on "The Exorcist-Season 2", "X-Files-Season 11", and "The Good Doctor-Season 1."

<http://www.betty-jiang.com>

FILM FESTIVALS/AWARDS TO DATE:

International Independent Film Awards-Betty Jiang-Best Director-Gold Winner 2020
International Independent Film Awards-Betty Jiang-Best Editor-Gold Winner 2020
International Independent Film Awards-Juana Samper-Best Lead Actress-Gold Winner 2020
International Independent Film Awards-Loriel Medynski-Best Lead Actress-Gold Winner 2020
International Independent Film Awards-Charlene Luedke-Best Supporting Actress-Gold Winner 2020
Best Director Award - Betty Jiang - Semi-Finalist - London(UK) - December 2020
Top Indie Film Awards - Official Selection - LA (USA) - Winter Edition 2020
Sweden Film Awards - Finalist - Best Director - Betty Jiang - Sweden - January 2021
Sweden Film Awards - Best Actress-Loriel Medynski - Sweden - January 2021
Best Female Actress Awards - Best Actress - Juana Samper - London - January 2021
Best Female Actress Awards - Best Supporting Actress - Charlene Luedke - London - January 2021
London International Monthly Film Festival - Honourable Mention Best Directing - Betty Jiang - January 2021
London International Monthly Film Festival - Honourable Mention Best Editing - Betty Jiang - January 2021
London International Monthly Film Festival - Honourable Mention Best Acting - January 2021

Iconic Images Film Festival - Official Selection - January 2021
Anatolia International Film Festival - Official Selection - Istanbul (Turkey) - February 2021
Prague International Monthly Film Festival - Finalist - Prague (Czech Republic) - March 2021
White Unicorn International Film Festival - Best Woman's Film; Best Director - West Bengal (India) - April 2021
Paris International Film Awards - Finalist - Paris (France) - May 2021
Athens International Monthly Art Film Festival - Best Director - Betty Jiang - Athens (Greece) - May 2021

CREDIT LIST:

Story Concept by
Corine Corriveau & Betty Wen Wen Jiang

Loriel Medynski as Bella Corriveau
Juana Samper as Ivanka (Iv) Jiang
Charlene Luedke as Mariel Corriveau
John David Edwards as Louis Pierre

Stephen Benjamin Fowler as Barista Owner
Shastina Kumar as Barista Assistant
Kai Lydgate as David Lawrence
Dahlia Kerr as Sophie & Mrs.Locke(v.o.)
Jodi Haynes as Brooke Taylor

Written, Directed, & Edited by
Betty Wen Wen Jiang

Filmed by
Betty Wen Wen Jiang

Sound Edited/Mixed by
Christopher Clark
& RootChord Sound

Music Performed by
Cool Cat Music

Cool Cat Songs
"Pink Diamond"
"Ships in the Night"
"Look for a Rainbow"
"Spoonful of Jam"
"When Tomorrow Comes"
"Shared Sunset"

Special Thanks
Corine Corriveau

Filmed on location at "Carousel Theatre For Young People" in Vancouver, BC
Produced with the co-operation of the Union of B.C. Performers