

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA PRESENTS

MIKE



PRESS KIT

RUNNING TIME: 16 MINUTES | FORMAT: HD | ASPECT RATIO - 2.39:1
COLOR | ENGLISH & VIETNAMESE | USA
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DISTRIBUTION

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MIKE

SYNOPSIS

LOGLINE

A Vietnamese exchange student seeks to make friends, but faces racism, on his first day of school at an all-white Christian high school in SOUTH DAKOTA.

SYNOPSIS

MIKE is a dramedy short that follows Hiep Nguyen, an exuberant Vietnamese exchange student, who is attending his first day of school at an all-white Christian high school in South Dakota, USA.

At the school, Hiep stumbles into the challenge of conforming to an environment full of racist & religious Midwesterners. As he finagles his way through hilarious obstacles emerging from intense cultural clashes, Hiep will have to ask himself:

Should you accept yourself wholly, or should you change in order to connect with others in this school?

MIKE

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT



I went to American high schools equipped with knowledge gathered from the cultural phenomena that are "High School Musical" and "American Pie".

Quickly, however, I realized America is a much different place than I had expected. Especially for minorities. Immediately, I faced blatant ignorance, cultural difference, and racism, which caused me to resent my own Asian identity.

To cope with the isolation stemmed from this treatment by others, I began "erasing" my identity as a Vietnamese in any ways possible.

First, it began with using an American name.

My experience had led me to write this coming-of-age short.

Stop being who you are,
thus, becomes a survival mechanism. It begins with changing your name.
Long before you know it, you become unsure of who you really are.

MIKE is about the American dream, examined within the modern landscape, where international student comprised of 1 million students in the USA. 36% of them reported to have experienced mental health issues and identity crisis.

By exploring genuine comedy and pain of being a minority in this country, I hope anyone out there who has to go through the same treatment will feel seen.

That they will become brave enough to see
what their true self has to offer.

MIKE

CREW



DUC ANH NGUYEN - WRITER / DIRECTOR

Duc Anh is a MFA graduate of the USC Film Production program. Previously, Duc Anh completed his BFA degree at George Washington University (GW). He also led GW's only filmmaking organization, became GW's international student ambassador, and held positions at marketing agencies as a media producer & editor.

Hailing from Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, Duc Anh has lived across 5 different states in North America as an international student. His filmography is influenced by this experience, exploring themes of racism, cultural clashes, social issues, and human identity - often with a sense of humor.

CHRIS MEROLA - PRODUCER

Chris is a filmmaker from Long Island, New York (don't worry, the accent only comes out when he's frustrated). Before starting at USC, he earned a Bachelor's in Psychology at Fordham University.

He likes to refer to people as 'gamers' just to throw them off a bit - life is more fun with a little of the unexpected..



JANINE ZHANG - PRODUCER

Janine is an Asian female artist with a multi-cultural background and experience in filmmaking, architecture, and business. Before starting her MFA in Film Production at USC, she earned a bachelor's degree in Communications at NYU.



CREW

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

NOBU EMURA

FIRST ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

JI LEE

PRODUCTION DESIGNER

RAZA RIZVI
SHAN JIANG

EDITOR

ACHIM MENDOZA
DUC ANH NGUYEN

SOUND

YO CHANG
WILLA CUTHRELL-TUTTLEMAN

COSTUME

ROSIO SELDEN

MUSIC

CHRISTA DUGGAN

MIKE

CAST

HIEP NGUYEN

JACKIE TRAN

CHRISTIAN

COLE CRISHOLM

MRS. JACKSON

KYRA HEENAN

MOM

LIEN NAM DANG

JAKE

AIDAN DRISCOLL

NANCY

NICOLE SWIRSKY

PRINCIPAL WEBSTER

GEORGE TRIPLET

JILL

ANDREA HARHOFF

MR. HANSON

JOSEPH STEVEN

JILL

ANDREA HARHOFF

MR. EARP

JOHN MINCH

NEW YORKER WANNABE

KELLY KOZAKEVICH, RACHEL SLACK

STUDENT

CHRIS MEROLA, THEODORE ZARITSKY, LILY ROSE DIRAT,
SAMANTHA HENDERSON, TARYN GATES, JOESY DE PALO,
CHEYENNE SARKISSIAN, AUSTIN PEERY, GAVRIEL DORIAN

CREDIT

WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY
DUC ANH NGUYEN

PRODUCED BY
CHRIS MEROLA
JANINE ZHANG
DUC ANH NGUYEN

ASSOCIATE PRODUCER
LUNA DE BURETEL
LENTI LIANG
NED IRONS
CHASE JOHNSON

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER
BRENNAN BEAVERS
KEVIN MEROLA

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY
NOBUTAKA EMURA

PRODUCTION DESIGNER
RAZA RIZVI
SHAN JIANG

1ST ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
JI LEE

EDITED BY
ACHIM MENDOZA
DUC ANH NGUYEN

SOUND BY
YO CHANG
WILLA CUTHRELL-TUTTLEMAN

COSTUME DESIGNER
ROSIO SELDEN

CASTING BY
PAUL SINACORE, CSA

MUSIC BY
CHRISTA DUGGAN

CREDIT

2ND ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

TARYN GATES
DON JOHN
VARSHA RAMACHANDRAN

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT

TIANYU (STELLA) SHI
AUSTIN PEERY

SCRIPT SUPERVISOR

DANIEL EPEGA
JOCELYN KOO
SHIH-CHUN HSIAO

1ST ASSISTANT CAMERA

ABHINEET KUMAR
ELISABETTA FOX PIANTONI

2ND ASSISTANT CAMERA

JUI-EN (RAY) CHANG

GAFFER

HARNISH AMBALIYA

KEY GRIP

HYE YOUNG RA
MAX HUANG

STORYBOARD ARTIST

YUNYI ZHANG

DIT

ACHIM MENDOZA
DON JOHN
JOCELYN KOO

G&E

IAN RAYBURN
STEVE VICKERS
AUSTIN PEERY
SAM LUO
KEVIN SHUM
KNEO FLORES
SCHE-HAO THOMAS WANG
GAVIN LEE
FEDERIC PERRERA

GRIP SWING

JUSTIN KIMATA

CREDIT

MAKE-UP ARTIST

ZHIXUAN LI
BEATRICE WAN

SET DRESSER

YILIN XU
SHARON ZHOU
SOHEIL AZADI

ART PA

ERNESTO GONZALEZ
JUSTIN KIMATA

POST SUPERVISOR

JI LEE

COLORIST

SHAN JIANG

MUSIC MIXING ENGINEER

MICHAEL GOSSARD

END CREDIT DESIGNER

ACHIM MENDOZA

GRAPHIC & POSTER DESIGNER

CHUTONG LIU

SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGER

AVANA WANG

STILL PHOTOGRAPHER

JUI-EN (RAY) CHANG
JUSTIN KIMATA

SOCIAL MEDIA PHOTOGRAPHER

IAN CHEN

USC FACULTY

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THESIS MENTOR: STEVEN ALBREZZI, BRENDA GOODMAN
PHYSICAL PRODUCTION OFFICE: HASHEM SELPH, BECCA HAN
THESIS STUDENT ADVISOR: JOON CHO, NGUYEN DUC ANH

CREDIT

SPECIAL THANKS

DUC DIEN NGUYEN
TOI THI TRINH
LIEN NAM DANG
CHUONG QUANG DANG
LILY ROSE DIRAT
DANNY SHEAHAN
MICHELLE HOANG NGUYEN
MIGUEL ESTRELLA
GIA BAO HANG
THIEU HOA DANG
LIEN HOA DANG
MINH VU
DINH DONG DANG
MILO & BEAR
ALEX CHANG
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MEGHAN ROSS

SEED & SPARK DONORS

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RONAK D SHAH, MODESTO ESTRELLA
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JACQUELINE HAU, JULIAN DOAN
CJ TAVOLARO, J K SOTOMANGO
NGOC LE, BEN JOHNNJAMIN
UMAIR KAPADIA, CHARLOTTE LEWIS
JENNIFER WOLFZORN, KYLE PARKER
KHAI TAM TRAN, TYLER SEECOF
DANIEL NGUYEN, AISLINN KEELY

CREDIT

SHOT ON
SONY

LENS BY
CANON

EDITED ON
AVID

COLOR ON
RESOLVE

CROWDFUNDED ON
SEED & SPARK

CASTING SERVICES
BREAKDOWN EXPRESS

FESTIVAL & DISTRIBUTION
SANDRINE FAUCHER CASSIDY

FOR MY GRANDFATHER

"MIKE"

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MIKE

STILLS



MIKE

STILLS



MIKE

STILLS



MIKE

STILLS



MIKE

POSTER

JACKIE TRAN

MIKE

BE NOT YOU.



UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA PRESENTS "MIKE" MUSIC BY CHRISTA DUGGAN CASTING BY PAUL SINACORE
COSTUME DESIGN BY ROSIO SELDEN PRODUCTION DESIGN BY RAZA RIZVI SHAN JIANG CINEMATOGRAPHY BY NOBUTAKA EMURA
EDITED BY ACHIM MENDOZA DUC ANH NGUYEN SOUND BY YO CHANG WILLA CUTHRELL-TUTTLEMAN
1ST ASSISTANT DIRECTOR JI LEE EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS BRENNAN BEAVERS KEVIN MEROLA
PRODUCED BY CHRIS MEROLA JANINE BUJIE ZHANG DUC ANH NGUYEN WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY DUC ANH NGUYEN