



GOOK

A JUSTIN CHON FILM



PRESS NOTES

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GOOK

Director/Screenwriter: Justin Chon
Producer: Alex Chi, James Yi
Co-Producers: Dan Fisher, Nam Luong, Lily Vi Pham
Editor: Reynolds Barney, Rooth Tang
Cinematographer: Ante Cheng
Cast: Justin Chon, Simone Baker, David So, Curtiss Cook Jr., Sang Chon, Ben Munoz
Run Time: 94 minutes
Language: English and Korean with English subtitles

SYNOPSIS

Eli and Daniel, two Korean American brothers who own a struggling women's shoe store, have an unlikely friendship with 11-year-old Kamilla. On the first day of the 1992 L.A. riots, the trio must defend their store—and contemplate the meaning of family, their personal dreams and the future

DIRECTORS STATEMENT

Over the past several years, there has been a lot of talk about diversity, but that's all it has been, TALK. As an artist, I believe that my true contribution to the issue of diversity is to create films I feel are important to the Asian American narrative. So for the past few years, my mantra has been create, create, create.

While I was developing GOOK, I asked myself what was important that I represent. First and foremost, I wanted to show regular guys I knew growing up. The 2 brothers in the film are simply blue collar working class Korean Americans with no ambitions other than to survive and make a living for themselves. They have no aspirations to run a Fortune 500 company, no desire to go to an ivy league or make enough to live in the suburbs. I grew up with many of these guys, yet in traditional media, Asian Americans are portrayed as being great students, intelligent, and very skilled at math. HAHA. While those traits are amazing, they do not represent the entirety of our community.

Through this project, I was able to represent two of the most underrepresented minorities in film...Asian American men and African American females. When I had the choice of either making my lead character a male or female, I found it to be a great opportunity to write in a resilient African American girl. My goal was to give the characters real wants and needs through three dimensional portrayals.

Another aspect traditional films don't address is the rift between the older and newer generations of Asian Americans. I wanted to show that even within our own ethnicities, we don't always get along. Hence the relationship between the boys and the liquor store owner across the street, Mr. Kim.

2017 is the 25th year anniversary of LA riots. It has been 25 years since the verdict of the Rodney King trial was read and things haven't gotten much better and in some ways, they have gotten worse. My father, Sang Chon, who plays Mr. Kim in the film, experienced the riots first hand. He had a store in Paramount, which was looted on the final day of the riots. I'm certain other films about the riots will be made, but I thought it was absolutely imperative that the Korean experience be told. Often times our struggle and loss during this event is not publicized and overlooked.

I feel it is my duty to honestly tell our story in a unique way and this is my contribution to what we Koreans experienced during those days in April 1992.

– Justin Chon

CAST BIOS

JUSTIN CHON – Eli, Writer, Director and Executive Producer

Justin Chon was born in Orange County, CA, and has worked as an actor for over 15 years. As a writer/director, his first feature film, Man Up, was distributed by Lakeshore Entertainment. He loves long walks on the beach and reading novels by candlelight.

SIMONE BAKER – Kamilla

Simone Baker is a Los Angeles based actor and singer. Born in Chicago, her future as a performer was already in the making. Simone's love for music and singing was noticed early by family and friends as she could also be heard singing or requesting to hear a song again and again. Her mother's involvement in the city's theater scene planted the seed for Simone's love of acting.

At the age of four, Simone moved to Los Angeles with her mother. Neither her or her mother had specific aspirations for Simone to be in the industry, but an afternoon visit to a local copy shop changed that. Noticed by an agent, the chance meeting started Simone on her entertainment path.

Since that fateful encounter, Simone went on to appear in several commercials and short films. She also performed in several theater productions including an adaptation of Frozen. Simone was able to showcase her acting and singing as the lead, Elsa. Although she had enjoyed the work she had done thus far, Simone wanted more significant opportunities. "My mom told me to always think big so when she asked me about my goals, I said I wanted to star in a feature film."

Her big opportunity came soon after with the film, Gook. The director, Justin Chon, and producers, James Yi and Alex Chi, sought out the film's lead character, Kamilla, from the Fernando Pullum Community Arts Center. At their initial visit to the Center, Simone was introduced to them by the director, Mr. Pullum. He asked her to sing for them as he often did for visitors to the Center. "I had no idea who they were but I love to sing, so I did." Simone didn't realize then what impact this meeting would have. When the Gook team returned to the Center for auditions, Simone signed up at Mr. Pullum's urging. "I almost didn't audition for the film because I waited and waited and thought they forgot I was there." Her patience paid off. She was cast that same afternoon as Kamilla, which also happened to be her birthday. "It was the best birthday present ever!"

Since playing Kamilla in Gook, Simone has continued performing. She attends a performing arts middle school where she showcases her singing and dancing. She has also performed in other local musical theater productions such as the Wiz. She was honored to guest star as Flora Harris on the season 6 finale of American Horror Story Roanoke directed by Bradley Buecker. Simone also voices the character "Puppy Sugar" in the soon to be released animated feature, "A Dog's Dream" directed by Kenny Roy.

In addition to performing, Simone loves to read, sew (especially clothes for her stuffed animals), draw, paint, bake, and of course eat good food.

DAVID SO – Daniel

David So (born March 30, 1988) is an American actor, comedian, youtuber, musician, performer, writer, and producer. So is of Korean descent born in Seoul, South Korea and raised most his life in Sacramento, California.

So began his career at the age of 16 working as a stand-up comedian performing throughout northern California. After high school, So enrolled into U.C. Riverside and shortly transferred to Sacramento State University while still performing at various stand-up comedy clubs. After a 3-year stint as a college

student and a working stand-up comedian, So decided to leave school and pursue the entertainment space by migrating his stand-up content to then new video online platform YouTube where he wrote and produced much of his original work on his first YouTube channel famously known as DavidSoComedy, which has accumulated over 1.4 million subscribers and over 245 million views. Online credits include hosting and writing music platform Vevo first original scripted series called The Comment Show. A founding and re-occurring cast member of hit online series Just Kidding News that as of December 1, 2016 has been viewed over 1 billion times. Most recently, So has leaped into the feature film industry as a co-producer / actor in his first feature film playing the character Daniel in the film "Gook" premiering at Sundance Film Festival 2017. Today, So resides in Los Angeles, CA.

CURTISS COOK JR – Keith

The son of artists, Curtiss Cook Jr. has been acting for as long as he can remember. As an adult, he has grown into a confident and passionate performer. Proud of his New York upbringing, he's had the privilege of studying at The Harlem School of the Arts, Shakespeare Lab Jr., and HB Studios.

His acting career leaped into action when Curtiss starred in short and feature films such as Ryan Koo's Amateur and Jay Dockendorf's Naz & Maalik. In addition to his film accomplishments, he's also been in commercials for Sprite and Dave & Buster's and television shows, Power on Starz Channel and Bull on CBS.

A versatile actor, he gained his regional theater debut in Brownsville Song (b-side for tray) for The Long Wharf Theater Co. and The Philadelphia Theater Company. Following his success regionally, Curtiss made his Off-Broadway debut in the Classic Stage Companys' production of Mother Courage and Her Children, starring in the role of Eilif.

Through his many successes, Curtiss stays thankful for the experiences he has garnered so far and eager for the next opportunity and challenge. Knowing that this is just the beginning, Curtiss Cook Jr. is well on his way to unlocking his fullest potential as an artist.

FILMMAKER BIOS

JAMES J. YI – Producer

James J. Yi was born in Seoul, South Korea and raised in San Francisco, CA. He is a passionate filmmaker who is dedicated to producing films that push creative and intellectual boundaries. He is a Producer and Line Producer known for award-winning films MOOZ-lum, Detroit Unleaded, and Twinsters. His current film GOOK, will premiere at the 2017 Sundance Film Festival.

ALEX CHI – Producer

Alex Chi is an up-and-coming film producer who was previously a Production Executive at Das Films where he worked on such films as INTO THE FOREST, THE GIRL IN THE PHOTOGRAPHS and HEARTBEATS. Prior to joining Das Films, he was the associate producer for KTOWN COWBOYS, which premiered at the 2015 SXSW Film Festival and was acquired for distribution by Freestyle Releasing. He is originally from Dallas, TX and graduated from Harvard University with a BA in Economics.

ANTE CHENG – Director of Photography

Ante Cheng is a Los Angeles based cinematographer from Taipei. His narrative works include Gook (Sundance 2017) and Afuera (LA Film Festival 2016). He has directed commercials (Heineken, Lexus, Samsung) and music videos (William Wei, Mayday) in Asia.

ROOTH TANG – Editor

Born in Bangkok and raised in Los Angeles, ROTH TANG is an international filmmaker crisscrossing between Asia and the US. After graduating from the University of California Irvine, Rooth began as an intern for producer Lynda Obst (Contact, Interstellar) and director Phillip Noyce (Rabbit Proof Fence) before moving on to work in post-production starting with the Sundance award winning documentary Nanking.

In addition to his editing, Rooth is also a writer and director whose projects have been showcased in festivals such as Tribeca and Palm Springs Shortfest. His feature-film directing debut, Sway, which told the story of three generations of Asian immigrants in the cities of Bangkok, Los Angeles and Paris, had its world premiere at the Toronto International Film Festival.

SHARON ROGGIO – Production Designer and Associate Producer

With more than 15 years in the film and television industry, Sharon 'Rocky' Roggio has significant experience in production.

Rocky's background includes high budget physical production on award winning shows and films such as House of Cards, Parks and Recreation, W/ Bob and David, Whip It and Red Dawn. She has worked with A-List talent such as two-time Academy Award winner Kevin Spacey, acclaimed directors David Fincher and Rob Reiner, actress/producer/director Drew Barrymore, box office star Chris Hemsworth, and Emmy winner, Amy Poehler.

A member of three IATSE unions and BA qualified, Rocky signed as a client with Bohemia Group in 2016 and has since joined the production team as a producer with Bohemia Group Originals in Los Angeles.

Rocky is currently attached to several television series and feature films in various stages of production and development.

EUNICE JERA LEE – Costume Designer

Eunice Jera Lee is a Korean American fashion stylist. Upon finishing her BBA at Parsons the New School for Design in Design + Management, she moved to London to complete her MA in Fashion Journalism at Central Saint Martins. During her studies at Saint Martins, she became the Online Editor for Wonderland Magazine.

After working with stylists such as Alex White and Camilla Nickerson at W Magazine, Edward Eninful and Panos Yiapanis, she is now a freelance stylist, consultant and costume designer.

She currently resides in Los Angeles.

ROGER SUEN – Composer

Roger is a veteran Hollywood composer and native Southern Californian. He approaches each project from the Wagnerian perspective of "Gesamtkunstwerk," - total work of art, for a seamless marriage of music and film. Some of his work includes such films as the X-Men Franchise, the Maze Runner trilogy, Prometheus, and the television show Daredevil.

When not immersed in scores, he can be found on the granite walls of Yosemite or sliding about on water.

END CREDITS

Written & Directed by JUSTIN CHON

SIMONE BAKER
DAVID SO
CURTISS COOK JR.
SANG CHON

Produced by JAMES J. YI
ALEX CHI

Executive Producers Justin Chon
Jin Young Lee
Pierre Delachaux
Eugene Lee
Sam Chi
Maurice Chen
David Joe Kim
Gigi Tsui Kim
Nathan Kwong
Raymond Kou
Kirstin Bianchi
Ian Choe
Blaine Vess
Jason Kim
James Sereno
Jason Morales
Edward Oh
Brian Shin
Dennis Kwon
Alan Pao
Naja Pham Lockwood

Co-Executive Producer Joseph Dang

Director of Photography ANTE CHENG

Production Designers SHARON ROGGIO
JENA SERBU

Costume Designer EUNICE JERA LEE

Edited by Rooth Tang
REYNOLDS BARNEY

Original Music by ROGER SUEN

Co-Producers NAM LUONG

LILY VI PHAM

Dan Fisher

DAVID SO

Associate Producers Alex Mabred
SHARON ROGGIO
ROGER SUEN
CLAUDIA DIAZ COJUANGCO

A Justin Chon Film

Kamilla SIMONE BAKER

Eli JUSTIN CHON

Daniel DAVID SO

Keith CURTISS COOK JR.

Mr. Kim SANG CHON

Jesus BEN MUNOZ

Regina Omono Okojie

Curtis ISAIAH JAREL

Bliss KIRLEW VILBON

Joseph Lando Wilkens

Cesar CESAR GARCIA

Vato 1 LOUIS DESMA

Vato 2 IGNACIO BAUTISTA

HipHop Kid GUY L. HOLMES

Vivian TRINECIA MOORE-PERNELL

Diane NEIDRA LEMON

Lisa TAYLOR THOMAS

Keisha DARINA LITTLETON

Customer DOMENIQUE BATISTE

Lady Customer SAADIQA MUHAMMAD

Older Customer ANNA YATES

Shoe Store Customer TEAIRA T. BRYANT

Doctor JEFF CORBETT

Nurse 1 NATALIE SUTHERLAND

Nurse 2 AIDA LEMBO

Tagger 1 ANDREW Magalanes

Tagger 2 XZAVIER GRAY

Rioter 1 CHRIS JAI ALEX

Rioter 2 TERENCE DICKSON

Security Guard TRAVELLE MCFARLAND JR.

Hospital Patient DAVID JOE KIM

Hospital Patient RAYMOUND KOU

Hospital Patient NATHAN KWONG

Hospital Patient GIGI TSUI KIM

CREW

Unit Production Manager ALEX CHI

1st Assistant Director James J. Yi

2nd Assistant Director LILY VI PHAM

Stunt Drivers YURI RANUM

MARTIN CROMWELL

DEATHKITTENS PRECISION

Dance Choreographer Lydia Paek

1st Assistant Camera SAMUEL KIM

2nd Assistant Camera LITONG ZHEN

Gimbal Technician JOHN ENRIQUEZ

Camera Utility DAVID HUYNH

Script Supervisor MICHI QUE DOAN

Sound Mixer CHUCK ROCKFORD

Gaffer ELIJAH GUESS

Additional Gaffers ERIC COLONNA

ENRICO TARGETTI

Grips VINCENT HORIUCHI

THACH HUMAN

TONY LUGO

JUSTIN NGUYEN

TATSUYA OUCHI

BRYAN TRAN

CHRIS VAN LIESHOUT

Property Master CARLOS BERRETO

Assistant Property Master VALENTINE PICOLET

Props DEANNA DAKAR

Graphic Designer VANESSA INTERRANTE

Costume Assistants ZOE BAI

OMAR BERUMEN

Wardrobe Assistant GRACE DEWSON

Key Make-Up Artist TIJERA JOHNSON

Visual Effects Supervisor SHAHRIAR RAHMAN

Assistant Visual Effects Supervisor John Enriquez

Visual Effects Artists DAN FISHER
KENSON LEE
Paul Turcott

Visual Effects Consultant Ed Park

Digital Artist PATTY LIN
Titles Jayson Won

Production Coordinator DANIELLE LEE
2nd 2nd Assistant Director DAVID BENJAMIN
Unit Publicist PMK-BNC
Still Photographer MELLEY LEE

Production Lawyer HARRY FINKEL
Key Production Assistant VANESSA DEWONG
Production Assistants GRACE DEWSON
KAREN CHI
ARIA SONG
GARRICK GRAHAM

Assistant to Producers Jaime Kim

Post Production Services Provided by Tunnel Post

Post Production Supervisor Alan Pao

Digital Intermediate Provided by TUNNEL POST
ALAN PAO

DI Producers HEATHER TOLL

DI Colorist SEBASTIAN PEREZ-BURCHARD

DI Editor TAYLOR MAHONY

Production Sound Services Provided by Tunnel Post

Audio Post House PRIVATE ISLAND AUDIO
Supervising Sound Editor MICHAEL J. MCDONALD
Background Editor SEAN BAKER
MICHAEL MONCLUT
Sound Effects Editor TERAH "BISHOP" WOODLEY II
BRAD WHITCANACK
Dialog Editor JASON "JAY" MILVERSTED
JOSEPH DE GUZMAN
ADR Recordist RAY QUINTANA
Foley Editor RAY QUINTANA
Foley Recordist RAY QUINTANA
BRAHM PATEL
Foley Artist JOSH PERKINS
JOSH MURPHY
VINCENT DENG
Re-Recording Mixer MICHAEL J. MCDONALD

Post Audio Booking ROBYN WHITNEY

Score Recorded & Mixed by PHIL MCGOWAN

Score Mixed at MCGOWAN SOUNDWORKS, LTD

Score Recorded at HENSONS RECORDING STUDIO, STUDIO A

Score Orchestrated & Produced by ROGER SUEN

Craft Service SNACKFEVER

Catering by Chung Pham
PINE & CRANE

Picture Car David Pachuco Lopez

Picture Car Orville Cole

Picture Car Frankie Kay

Music

Everytime I Wake Up

Composed & Produced by Anthony "DNA" Lee

Performed by Rob Law

K-Town Hustler

Composed & Produced by Anthony "DNA" Lee

Performed by Jae Ro

Let's Get it

Composed & Produced by Anthony "DNA" Lee

Performed by Roderick E. Sanckey Jr. aka HardRo

Beautiful World

Composed & Produced by Anthony "DNA" Lee

Written & Performed by Chris Golightly & Franci

Chillin' in LA

Composed & Produced by Anthony "DNA" Lee

Movin' Like

Composed & Produced by Anthony "DNA" Lee

Performed by Rob Law

Everything's Gonna be Alright

Composed & Produced by Anthony "DNA" Lee

Performed by Raskeen

Smoke wit Me

Composed & Produced by Anthony "DNA" Lee
Performed by Stacey Adamz

Flame In My Heart
Composed & Produced by Bartok Music
Performed by Bartok Music

Maneater
Composed & Produced by Sara Allen, Daryl Hall,
Performed by Hall & Oates

A Little More Time
Composed & Produced by David Choi
Performed by David Choi

I'm the One
Produced by Damon Wilson

Special Thanks

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Kevin Han
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Daisy Kim
Ellen Kim
Steve Kim
Jeff Lam
Congressman Ted Lieu
Paul Morales
Fernando Pullum
The Fernando Pullum Community Arts Center
Greg Shu
Tony Vu
Lando Wilkins
Damon Wilson
Jayson Won
Teo Yoo

Cinetic Logo
SAG Logo

Tunnel Post Logo
Sundance Logo