

FOUND

A short film written and directed by Reena Dutt
Starring Michalyn Steiner-Killian and Annie Yim

Executive Produced by WeXL.org, Penelope Wong,
Pequod Studios and Stageworks NW



LOGLINE

Tabitha is stuck between two worlds. When the Artistic Director of her theatre company tokenizes her for his Equity, Diversity and Inclusion initiative, she faces her reality of living in two skins as a Korean adoptee.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

I have fought so hard in my lifetime to be relatable in a room full of strangers. To be a metal loving, pool shooting, all-American girl, a Jersey-born North Carolinian. To not be an Indian American woman walking into a room collecting preconceived opinions of how my skin and culture are perceived to the common public. All of this to say, I won't skimp on a good cup of chai, Diwali celebrations, or a baller tandoori meal, which I hold so close to my identity, at the same time.

But when my new friend swung by in my quarantine-home of Longview, WA, soon after the shooting in Atlanta, I was forever grateful to be Asian. Proud "just to be Asian", as Sandra Oh put it. There was a connective tissue that I had with this brand new friend that punched my heart. Noone in her immediate sphere was worried about her emotional well-being as an Asian...except the adoptive parents whose children she taught, who also happened to be transracial adoptive families. She was a transracial adoptee herself, after all, and the idea that she was raised "white" was enough to make immediate members of her family assume she was unaffected by this hate crime.

The idea that people who looked like her own family could open fire on people who looked like her, was affecting.

With that experience - just being a friend and lending an ear - I realized how complicated a transracial adoptee's identity might be. I then began to think about our racially charged world at large, and the 'adjustments' so many institutions are making in order to accommodate the inherent racism that exists in our country. As an example Dear White American Theatre has their list of demands that will hopefully, with time, even the playing field.

What happens for someone whose insides don't match their outsides from a visceral level - not just the assumptions of their interests and passions, but also of their cultural upbringing? How does the judgement of the cover, rewrite their book?

In FOUND I want to explore this slice of life experience of Tabitha, in a brief exploration of how complicated one's heart may be, when being raised as a transracial adoptee, during these trying times.

CAST





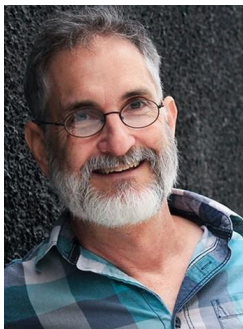
Michalyn Steiner-Killian (TABITHA) is a choreographer, performer and educator in ballet, jazz, and musical theatre. Recent choreography credits include Mamma Mia, The Music Man, and Seussical the Musical at Mainstage Theatre and The Pirates of Penzance, Some Enchanted Evening, and Return to the Forbidden Planet at Stageworks Northwest Theatre. Her last acting roles were Helen in The Trojan Women (2020) and Corie Bratter in Barefoot in the Park (2019) at Stageworks Northwest Theatre. Michalyn studied theatre arts at Portland State University and has been choreographing shows since 1999. After traveling extensively, Michalyn now resides in the small town she grew up in, just north of Portland, OR. She feels it is vital to make contributions to the arts in her hometown as it directly affects the culture and community where she raises her two children.



Annie Yim (WON YUNG) is a native Texan who can indeed ride a horse. Since moving to the Seattle area, Annie has worked with Seattle Children's Theatre, Seattle Shakespeare, Book-It Theatre, Taproot Theatre, Theatre 22, and Cafe Nordo. Film roles include Rammy Park's The Homecoming Queen. Most recently, she was seen in the US premiere of Kim's Convenience, which inspired the hit show on Netflix. She has done numerous voice over commercials, corporate videos, and video game characters. Selected NYC and regional work: NY Theatre Workshop (Coney Island Avenue), LaMAMA (Richard III), HERE Arts Center, and Colorado Shakespeare Festival. Annie earned her BFA from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts and her MFA from Columbia University.



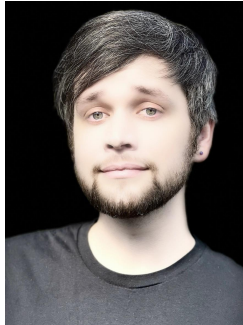
Janeene Niemi (TRACY) has been active in theatre since high school and is excited to have recently accepted the position of Artistic Director at Stageworks Northwest, a dynamic community theatre in SW Washington. Favorite roles include Dotty in *Noises Off*, Wendi in *Angry Housewives*, Betty in *The Great American Trailer Park Musical*, Gloria in *Return to the Forbidden Planet*, and most recently the title role in *Shirley Valentine*. Favorite productions include co-directing *Peter Pan the Musical*, bringing Audrey II to life as a puppeteer in *Little Shop of Horrors*, and directing the classic *Barefoot in the Park* (with the added pleasure of the talented Michalyn Steiner-Killian in the role of Corie). She is anxious for theatres to begin the reopening process and is particularly looking forward to Stageworks resuming production of *Clue on Stage*, interrupted by the pandemic more than a year ago. She is honored to be a part of this important project, telling a much-needed AAPI story and helping local filmmakers bring it to life.



Paul Bright (BILL) is most widely recognized for his role as an unrepentant cult member in IFC's series Documentary Now *Batsh*t Valley* starring Owen Wilson and Michael Keaton. His film credits started with Blake Edward's *Miki and Maude* starring Dudley Moore in the 80s, and include TV series, films, informercials and advertisements spanning forty years. He trained for theater in Los Angeles and New York and performed roles ranging from Don Quixote in *Man of La Mancha* to Hinesy in *The Pajama Game*. He founded the Gaslight Theater and served as the Artistic Director, producing 33 shows in the Austin Texas area. In Portland he performed numerous roles for The Pulp Stage directed by Jeff Kuenle, *Sex We Can* directed by Eleanor O'Brien, Portland Actor Ensemble's *As You Like It* directed by Sara Fay, Fuse Theatre Ensemble's productions of *Popcorn Girl* and *The Temperamentals*, Chapel Theatre Play Festival's *Transmit Now* directed by Steve Koeppen, and in 24 hour play festivals produced by Profile Theater and Haywire Theater. Over the past year he's performed online in a different play every week with the Masticators Theatre Troupe. This summer he will film the leading comedic role in the feature film *Pocket Mouse Protector*.



Julisa L. Wright (KRISTEN) is an actor and comedian who's early stage work began in her hometown of Longview, Wa. Ranging from pantomime, comedias, Shakespeare, and musicals, Julisa took her love of acting and performing to Los Angeles where she continued her study of comedy at iO West, Groundlings and Second City. She spent 10 years working both in front of and behind the camera for television, film and award shows. She currently resides back in her hometown where she shares her passion and knowledge gained in the entertainment industry with the theatre community in Southwest Washington while also owning and running a chocolate and bookshop, Storyboard Delights, in the historic downtown area of Longview.



Dylan Disch (JEFF) studied theater at Lower Columbia College before becoming a flight attendant. However, his passion for performance overcame sensible pursuits and now he leaps at any opportunity to express himself creatively. He recently portrayed Cookie in "Return to the Forbidden Planet" and he was Clifford in "Deathtrap" at Stageworks Northwest. He also played Dr. Jodi in "How to Survive a Zombie Apocalypse" and Seymour in "Little Shop of Horrors". He's so grateful for his opportunity to be a part of such an important story.

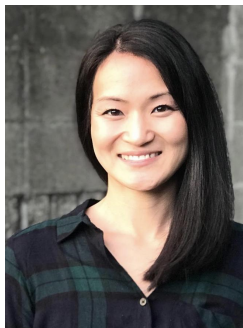


CREATIVE TEAM



Reena Dutt (Writer/Director) is a city girl with a country soul who believe in creating with a conscience, on and off stage. Directing Credits: Film/TV: “Good Trouble” (Disney|FreeForm, Shadow), “Too Many Bodies” (Director). Awards/Honors: 2019 South Asian Film Festival of America Audience Award (Full list of 11+ awards for “Too Many Bodies” available on request), In theatre she has directed and assistant directed in Los Angeles, New York and San Francisco with most notable works at The Geffen Playhouse (Assistant Director), Sacred Fools, The Vagrancy, Playground LA and SF, and East West Players. She is a 2021-Present Drama League New York Directing Fellow.

As a producer, her films have been seen at Sundance, Los Angeles Film Festival, Outfest, Frameline, Inside Out, Whistler, Cucalorous, and NBCUniversal. She has produced for John Legend, Lulu Wang, Justin Lin’s Youtube Network, and Evite.com. Fellowships and Awards: 2020 Drama League NY Directing Fellowship Semifinalist, 2016 SFFilm KRF Fellowship Recipient, 2014 Project Involve at Film Independent, 2012 Finalist NewFilmmakers: On Location Competition. Unions/Affiliations: Lincoln Center Directors Lab, Directors Lab West (Associate Producer), SFFilm, Film Independent’s Project Involve, IFP, Cinefemme. Website: www.ReenaDutt.com (dir) | www.PaintedTreeRoad.com (prod)



Michalyn Steiner-Killian (Producer) is a predominantly a choreographer in the Pacific NorthWest and is taking on the challenge as one of the lead producers for FOUND. She is thrilled to bring the Longview community together through this partially-autobiographical story that needs to be told, now. As a choreographer and dancer she has worked in Florida, California, Oregon and Washington, and skipped across waters as a performer on cruise ships and in the Bahamas. She is a proud Longview native, bringing her choreography back to her hometown in hope it influences young lives as positively as it influenced her own. She is proudly sitting on the Production Team at Stageworks Northwest.



Jeanette Li (Cinematographer) is based out of Portland, OR. They have a background in 35mm film photography and documentary (previously having directed a documentary on Chinese American communities living in the south.) They have spent the past 7 years working in various positions in camera department on short films, music videos, and narrative features (The Dark Divide, The Last Hot Lick). Jeanette first made the transition to cinematographer with a modern day web series adaption of The Secret Garden in 2015. That year Jeanette earned two nominations for Best Cinematography for their work on the web series adaptation and another short film at the Portland Indie Film Awards. Recently they were awarded a grant by the Regional Arts and Culture Council to complete photography on a surrealist trans Chinese American ghost story.

Their approach to storytelling is shaped by their experience growing up non-binary, queer, and Asian American in a small Southern town and is rooted in a desire to shift culture and build a collective memory around identities that are often left unexplored in mainstream media.



Vincent Hoai Pham (Producer) Vincent Hoai Pham is a Vietnamese-American media and film Producer born and raised in Portland. "Growing up AAPI in the NW, I learned you can make a lot of great friends but still feel a bit different because your parents didn't come from the same place as everyone else's. The idea of being in good company, but still feeling alone is an Asian-American & Bipoc story I'm honored to help Reena tell."

After graduating from Portland State Film School, Vincent jumped on as many projects as he could on the west coast from short films, feature length movies, commercials and TV Series. Vincent currently works as a Studio Producer at BGI, creating media content with UFC Athletes and US Olympic Wrestling.

On Discovery Channel true-crime show "Wonderland Murders" Vincent was responsible for contracting and handling vehicles as picture car coordinator, also ensuring they are historically accurate. Vincent has collected significant experience in acquiring shooting locations, forming agreements with cemeteries, hospitals, fighting gyms, retail, office spaces, and scouting for Ford/Lincoln scenic ads. More recently, Vincent has practice in planning logistics for producing short films while maintaining covid regulations.



Julisa Wright (Production Designer) has worked in the entertainment industry for 20 plus years. From stage to screen, Julisa's passion is visual communication and storytelling. She has travelled across the US, the UK, and Western Europe soaking in design elements, cultural histories, and meeting people with eclectic backgrounds. While living and working in LA for 11 years, Julisa worked not only behind the camera but in front of it as well. Working on small budget indie films, large studio t.v shows, and a handful of big award events such as the AMAS and the Oscars.

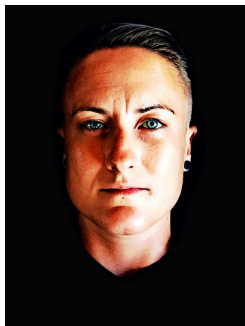
Whether creating social media content, production design and set design, merchandising products, or styling photoshoots, she is extremely sensitive to every detail within the viewers eyes and creates environments that depict a feeling and story.



Faroukh Virani (Editor) is a Los Angeles based editor who moves between narrative and documentary editing, as he finds one storytelling discipline informs the other in his work. Faroukh recently edited the feature documentary "Ottolenghi and the Cakes of Versailles," and has post-production credits on "WALKER" and "iZombie" for CW, and the Amazon series "HUNTERS." He has a background in Film Production at USC's School of Cinematic Arts (MFA) and NYU's Tisch School of the Arts (BFA).



Jon Chau (Composer/Sound Designer) began his journey in the world of cinematic music, providing music and sound design to a multitude of acclaimed television shows, films, and video games such as *The Walking Dead*, *Black Mirror*, *10 Cloverfield Lane*, and *God of War*. Since then, his focus has grown to many other mediums such as record production, live visual experiences, and sample creation. Recently he's released a solo EP, opened a beat store, and collaborated with creators like Strangeloop Studios, 88 Rising, and Zedd. On an unending quest to evolve creatively, his unique experience and love for storytelling can always be heard.



Ro Rowan (Cellist) Ro Rowan is a cellist, sound designer, and composer from Los Angeles, California. They graduated summa cum laude from Berklee College of Music with a B.M. in Electronic Production and Design, recognized with 10 awards and scholarships while attending. Ro also holds a B.A. in Musicology from UCLA.

Ro's performance credits include over 400 albums, film scores, television shows, documentaries, commercials, trailers, video games, and sound libraries. Most notably they have played on *The Lion King*, *A Quiet Place II*, *Transformers: The Last Knight* and as a soloist on *Gemini Man*, *Jupiter's Legacy*, and *Minari* which was nominated for six Oscars.

Additional Post Production:

Jesse Glucksman (Colorist)

Lex Benedict and Long Lost Pictures (Video Effects)



Lex Benedict (Digital VFX Artist) is an Editor and Digital VFX Artist who is from Panama City, Florida who landed in Los Angeles in 2010. Over the last decade, she's edited a wide variety of projects including several narrative and documentary features, short films, music videos, commercials, web series and has worked as a digital paint artist in unscripted television. Her recent editing work includes the film *Alaska is a Drag* distributed by Ava DuVernay's company, ARRAY for Netflix and *Switched* available on Amazon and Pureflix. Currently she is finishing post-production on her eleventh feature film "The Greatest Inheritance" from Mustard Seed Entertainment. It is Lex's fourth to be awarded the IMDBPro "ReFrame Stamp" for gender-balanced productions. Her films have featured many high-profile actors including Mena Suvari, Jaleel White, Chandra Wilson, Yvette Nicole Brown, Jason Scott Lee, Margaret Cho, Denise Richards, Rob Huebel, and Michaela Watkins. Lex loves science-fiction, horror, fantasy and dark comedy. She collects vinyl records, dime store sci-fi novels and vintage metal robots. She has an Australian Cattle Dog, Dash Render, who is never far from her side and a blind tabby cat named Tango Foxtrot that keeps her on her toes!



Jesse Glucksman (Colorist), CSI is an independant colorist based in Los Angeles. He has provided color grading services for a wide range of media, from feature length and short films through music videos, documentaries and unscripted television. A graduate of Boston's Emerson College, Jesse moved to Los Angeles in 2002 with the intent of becoming a cinematographer. After learning that professional production just isn't as much fun as shooting student films he transitioned into post-production and ultimately color grading, which is a fantastic way of performing visual artistry on moving pictures while getting to stay indoors in a comfortable chair.

About Painted Tree Road Media

Painted Tree Road is founded by Reena Dutt, an alum of the San Francisco Film Society/Kenneth Rainin Producing Fellowship and Film Independent's Project Involve. As a Creative and Line Producer, her projects have appeared at over 75 film festivals internationally including Sundance Film Festival, Los Angeles Film Festival, Outfest, NBCUniversal Shorts, Frameline, CAAMfest and Whistler. She has produced a wide array of films including THE FIRST SESSION (AmPav's Emerging Filmmaker showcase @Cannes Film Festival), EL DOCTOR (Acquired by Latino/PBS), TOUCH (NBCUniversal Shorts Finalist), UNFINISHED (BET Network), ...OR DIE, and SHAMELESS. Web/Digital series include SQUAD 85 available on Justin Lin's network YOMYOMF.com, the 2nd season of KISS HER I'M FAMOUS on TelloFilms.com (Co-producer) and The Real Girls' Guide to Everything Else as seen on Tello.com (Co-producer) and featured on NPR. She has worked on music videos for John Legend, Adam Zwig and Satyricon, and political work for NoRAnow.org and Survivors Empowered. In the branded and commercial spectrum her work has included Nestle, Mondelez, Moet Chandon (spec) and Mr. Tummee. Dutt is a member of Independent Film Project, Women in Motion Pictures, San Francisco Film Society, and Film Independent.

About Pequod Studios

Filmmaking and branded content creations. Producing films with quirk, humor, and heart. Showcasing small and local businesses in the Pacific Northwest.

PRODUCTION

Director/Writer

Reena Dutt

Key Grip

Jenny Torgersen

Executive Producers

Penelope Wong

WeXL.org

Stageworks Northwest Theatre

Pequod Studios

Sound Mixer

Michael Gibson

1st AD

Anchitta Noowong

Producers

Vincent Hoai Pham

Michalyn Steiner-Killian

Painted Tree Road Media

We Make Movies

Production Design

Julisa Wright

Costume Design

Jamie Hegstad

Associate Producer

Seleste Astronomo

Makeup and Hair Artist

Chelsea Ryan

Director of Photography

Jeanette Li

BTS Photographer

Seth Lonborg

Gaffer

Markus Lim

CAST

Tabitha

Michalyn Steiner-Killian

Jeff

Dylan Disch

Bill

Paul Bright

Kristen

Julisa Wright

Won Jung

Annie Yim

Tracy

Janeene Niemi

Background Actors

Stage Manager

Alyssa Wittrock

Rose

Jamie Hegstad

Herbie

Dennis Yalchi

Tessie Tura

Amber Humphrey

Mazeppa

Shae Coleman

Electra

Ashley Lachney

Funder

Steve McElhinny

Jeff's Partner

Ryan Hesketh

Big Brother

Eric Wright

Dad

Rich Niemi

POST PRODUCTION

Editor

Faroukh Virani

Colorist

Jesse Glucksman C.S.I.

Visual Effects

Lex Benedict

Composer & Sound Designer

Jon Chau

Re-Recording Mixer

Ryan Sanchez

Recording Engineer

Kevin Jarvis

Solo Cello

Ro Rowan

Thank You to our Crowdfunders...

A Special Thank You

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Janeene Niemi and Stageworks
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Cristi Delgado
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Dana DeRuyck

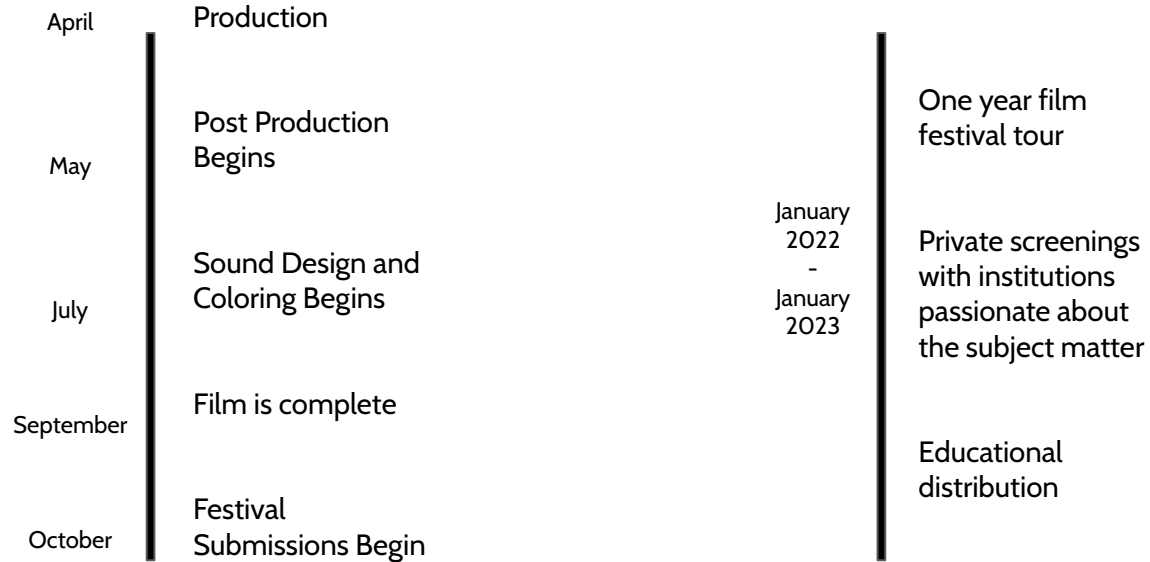
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PRODUCTION + IMPACT



THANK YOU

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