

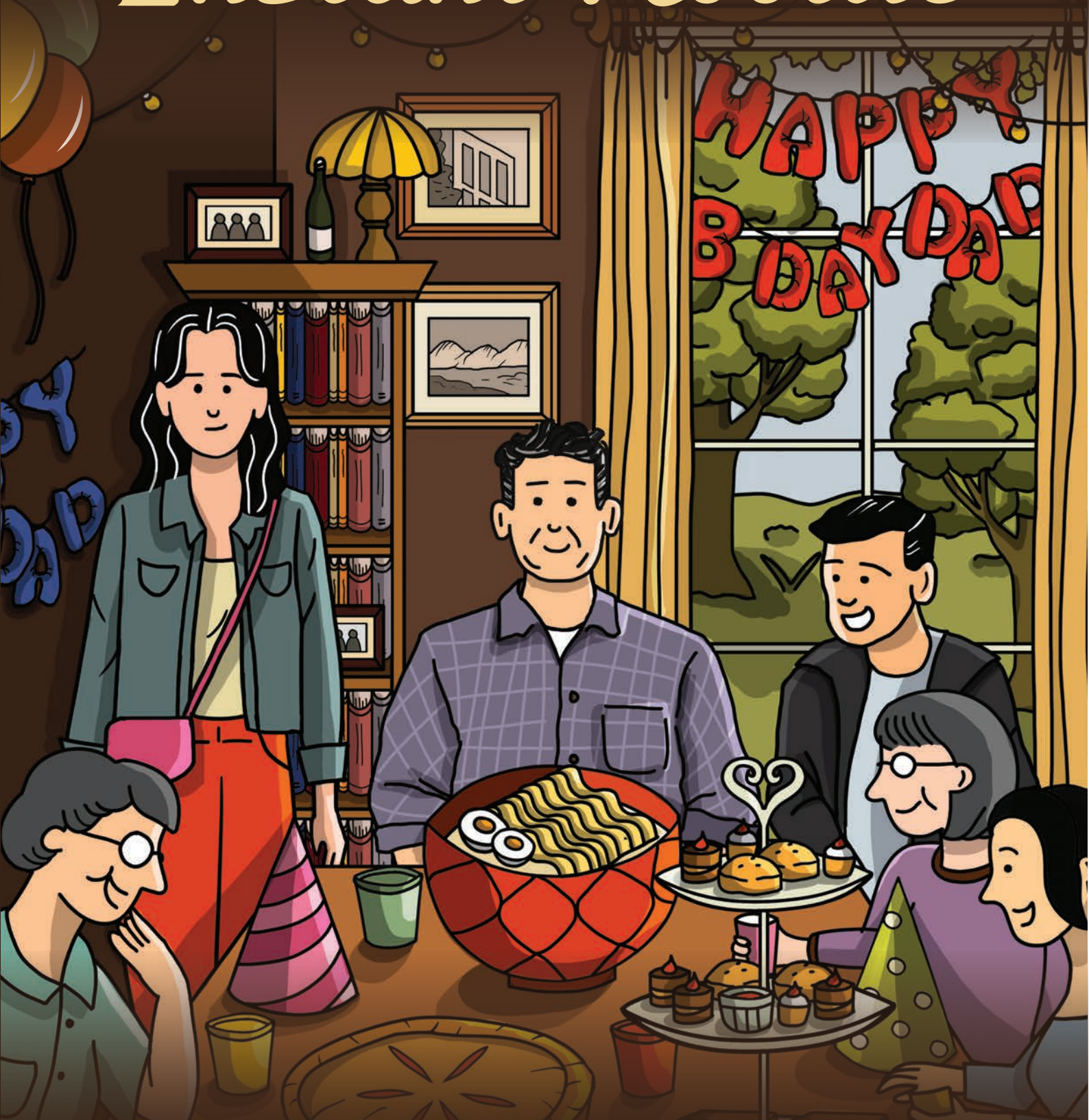
Bree  
MIGNANO

Jenny  
JANUSZEWSKI

Jeff  
LAWLESS

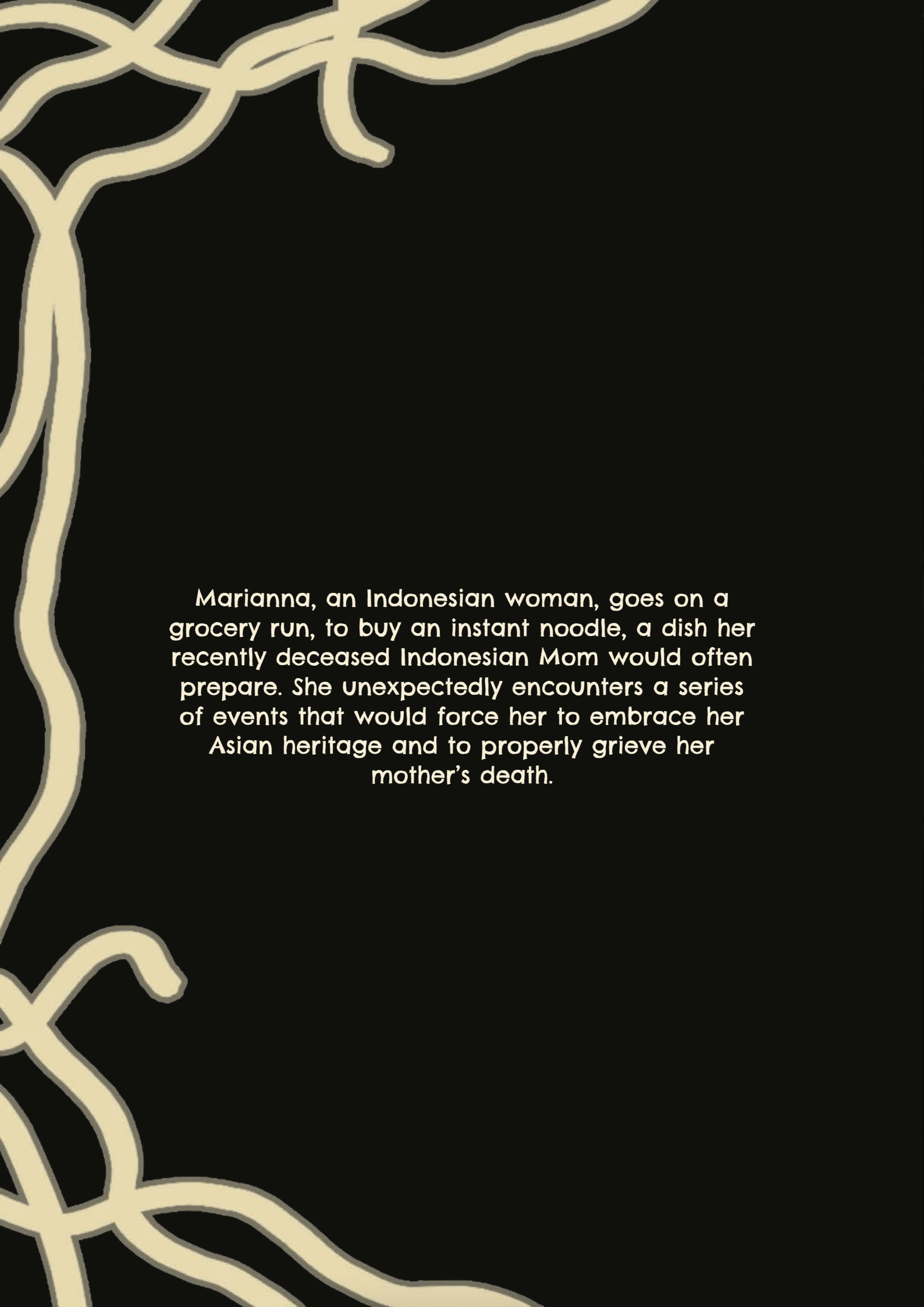
Chris  
DURMICK

# Instant Noodle



Directed and Written by MICHELLE SASRAATMADJA Produced by Jiayun Li NIDHI KULKARNI Executive Producer MICHELLE SASRAATMADJA Directed and Director of Photography VICKY RATTANAVIPAPONG Edited by BLAIR YIRAN BAI Production Designer DOWON YOON CHRISSIE (JIARONG) LU Directed and Sound Editing and Mixing by ALEX BOLOGNA Production Sound by Bunthoeun Real Original Music by PRATEEK RAJAGOPAL Casting Director STEPHANIE MACLEAN Visual Effects by CHARLES JOSLAIN Colorist RKM STUDIOS Hair and Makeup Artist GABBY FLORES Stylist MICHELLE SASRAATMADJA JIAYUN LI Cast BREE MIGNANO JENNY JANUSZEWSKI JEFF LAWLESS CHRISS DURMICK



A stylized, light-colored tree trunk and branches on a black background. The tree is composed of thick, wavy lines that branch out from the top and bottom edges of the frame, creating a sense of depth and structure. The trunk is vertical, and the branches extend horizontally and diagonally, some crossing each other. The overall effect is a minimalist, graphic representation of a tree.

Marianna, an Indonesian woman, goes on a grocery run, to buy an instant noodle, a dish her recently deceased Indonesian Mom would often prepare. She unexpectedly encounters a series of events that would force her to embrace her Asian heritage and to properly grieve her mother's death.



Bree  
MIGNANO

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a film by MICHELLE SASRAATMADJA

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# SYNOPSIS

Having lost her mother less than a year ago, MARIANNA, a biracial woman, comes home for her DAD's birthday. This is Dad's first birthday since the passing of MOM, who is Indonesian but ethnically Chinese. It is a hard time for Dad who longs for his wife's tradition of preparing instant noodles for birthdays. Although strange to some, in Chinese culture, the consumption of noodles symbolizes longevity. While struggling with grief, regret, and her inner conflict of embracing her Chinese Indonesian heritage, Marianna decides to forego the instant noodle for her Dad's birthday.







So, when her dad tells her that he would like to have the instant noodle for his birthday, Marianna is forced to go on a last-minute grocery run. Unfortunately, for Marianna, this tiny errand turns into a gargantuan task, when Marianna encounters a series of unfortunate events. Starting with her car breaking down, followed by her phone dying, and with her not enough cash to purchase the instant noodle.



Thankfully though, Marianna is not alone in this journey, because Mom is there to help, coming and going out of the story as a ghostly memory, a figment of Marianna's imagination. Along the way, Marianna meets people who help her on her journey. People like ANDREAS, the wise car mechanic, and AUDREY, a ten-year-old Indonesian girl, who helps Marianna find the instant noodle. Through these encounters, Marianna is forced to confront her struggles with her Indonesian heritage and her relationship with her mom.

At the end of her journey, Marianna is able to come to terms with her Indonesian heritage and properly grieve the loss of her mom to cancer by continuing her mom's tradition of making instant noodles for every birthday celebration.



# DEVELOPMENT

Instant Noodle, was written in August 2020, about five months into the Covid-19 Pandemic, for a USC advanced screenwriting zoom class. The story was conceived when Michelle was feeling particularly home sick and confined to her apartment. One day Michelle decided that she wanted to eat her childhood favorite Instant Noodle brand, Indomie, only to discover that she had none left, It was a dissapointing chapter of the Pandemic, but it was the inspiration behind this story.

The story was fleshed out upon realizing that Michelle and her friends was rediscovering, their strong attachment to childhood comfort foods. . These foods, regardless of cultural background, seemd have strong ties to family. The tragedies that unfortunately became all too common during the pandemic, emphasizes the importance of family and on how comfort foods can bring families together.

*"love loss and a bowl of noodle"*





# PRODUCTIONS

During the production of Instant Noodle, Michelle reached out to Indomie, and sent them her script, because the noodle brand meant a lot to her. Upon reading the script Indofood, the parent company of Indomie, gave Michelle the rights to use the Indomie brand, because they found the script to be very touching.







The production of “Instant Noodle” needed a strong team. Starting with Producers Jiayun Li and Nidhi Kulikarni, Cinematographer Vicky Rattanavipapong, Bun Real that led the on set sound, and Blair Bai as the editor. A team comprised of all multicultural students.

Most of the crew and cast of Instant Noodle, decided to join after learning about the story, thus a cast and crew of multinational and diverse team was formed.

A fact that we are very proud of.

Also, In order to stay authentic to the film, Michelle, Nidhi, and Jiayun reached out to multiple asian groceries, and was able to shoot their film in Medan Kitchen, an Indonesian market owned and operated by Indonesian Immigrants. We are thankful to have been able to receive the hlep of the tightly knit Indonesian immigrant community of Los Angeles.







# POST PRODUCTION

Blair Bai did a terrific job of editing Instant Noodle, and went off the emotional beats of the story and characters. Blair's brilliant work was accompanied by Prateek who was able to compose beautiful music to tie the film together, and by doing so they were able to bring the story into life.

Alex Bologna, then perfected the film by adding authentic sound design and mix to the movie. The finishing touches that completed the film was done by RKM studio who beautifully colored the film. RKM, happily accommodated our needs, and did a terrific job bringing character to the film and thus enabling us to finish "Instant Noodle."





# MOVIE CAST

The soul of a film resides in it's cast, and thanks to these magnificent actors "Instant Noodle" has no shortage of it.







# Jenny

Jenny Januszewski is an American stage actress and award-winning experimental artist. Jenny has received recognition in both film and photography. She has also toured the United States as part of a musical cast, and can also be seen in numerous TV and Film productions. Her foundation as a stage actress is rooted in experimental and dramatic black box theater as well as improv.

Her off camera work has earned her the award for Best Experimental Film in the Los Angeles 3D Film Festival. Her feature-length screenplays was also part of the Official Selections of the Beverly Hills Film Festival. Meanwhile, her photography documenting the COVID-19 Pandemic has been featured in the LA Times and is part of the permanent digital collection at the Los Angeles Public Library. Jenny is also a Mindfulness Life Coach







## Bree

Bree Mignano is an actress and musician based out of Los Angeles. She can most recently be seen in the upcoming indie film “Anxious Projections” as well as the Bollywood film “Yenni Thuniga”. She can also be seen in campaigns for Postmates, Facebook, Manscaped, and The Dodo. Bree has recently started writing and producing her own shorts and music videos and is currently in post production for her film “The Good Guys”. In her free time she enjoys making cinematic, fantasy pop music. You can follow her journey on Instagram [@breemignano](#).



# ILLUSTRATION



## *Mariana*

The character of Marianna, is loosely based on the writer's own personality. She is a conflicted character, who is still figuring out her place in the world. She is unsure of whether or not to embrace her Indonesian culture especially in her mom's absence.



# Mom

Mom is a tough cookie, she wants her kids to be strong & successful. She is not afraid to push them hard by whining 24/7.



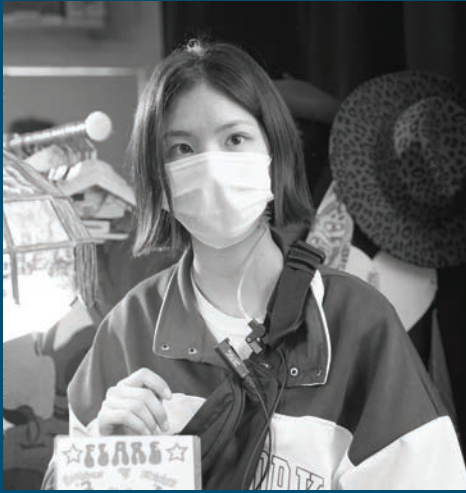
In the film, Mom is mostly seen wearing a red shirt. The use of red is taken from the Indonesian flag, in which the color red represents courage and also her cultural origin.



# CREW

I could never asked for a better crew to work with. We were never short in spirit or temper, no matter how hard the day gets. Everyone worked hard to make this movie happen, and thanks to their incredible talent this film was able to be completed and it is a piece of work we can all be proud of.

- Michelle Sastraatmadja



Production Designer **DOWON YOON**, Producer **JIAYUN LI**, **NIDHI KULKARNI**, Assistant Director **BECCA SUH-HEE HAN**, **JOHN YU**, Director of Photography **VICKY RATTANAVIAPONG** Editor **BLAIRE YIRAN BAI**, **NOBU GATTI**, **RUBY AMHAD**, **HANNAH KELLEY** Hair and Make Up Artist **GABY FLORES**





# Nidhi

PRODUCER

Nidhi S. Kulkarni is an upcoming producer-director who loves realistic, character-driven stories. She believes in using film as a medium to portray the complexities of life, but also has a soft corner for various genres like Romance Dramas, Musicals, and

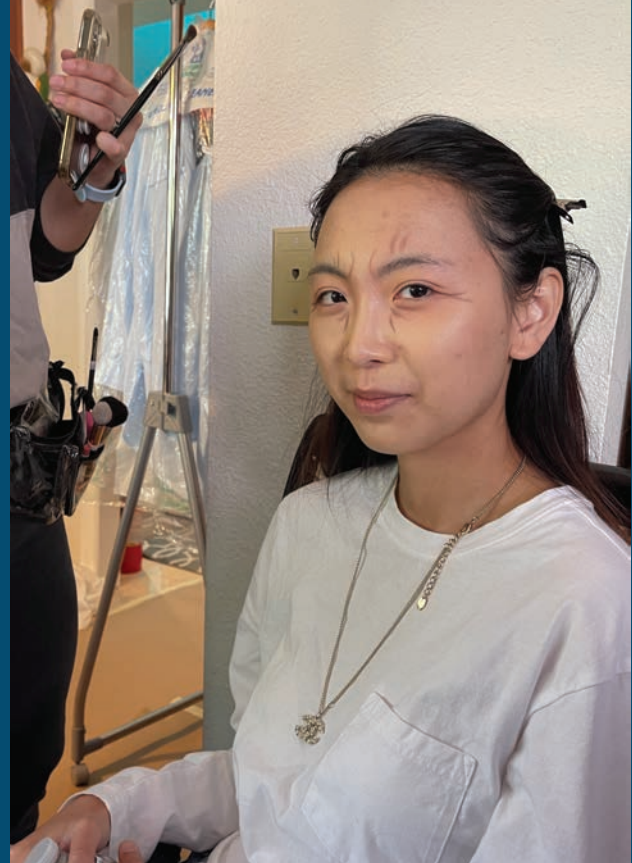
Crime Thrillers. She recently graduated from USC School of Cinematic Arts with an MFA in Film and Television Production. She graduated top of her class, with a Bachelor of Creative Arts from Srishti Institute of Art, Design, and Technology in Bangalore, India. During the pandemic, Nidhi safely and successfully completed the production of a BAFTA-GSA grant winning short "WITNESS".



Prior to that, she produced a USC-funded advance documentary-project called "IN HER CORNER" which premiered at the Catalina International Film Festival 2020. Before coming to USC, Nidhi worked as an assistant director on Rohit Shetty's first Marathi film "School, College ani Life". She also worked as an assistant director to Anusha Bose on her Royal Stag Large Short "SHAME" which premiered at the New York Indian Film Festival 2018.

# Jiayun

PRODUCER

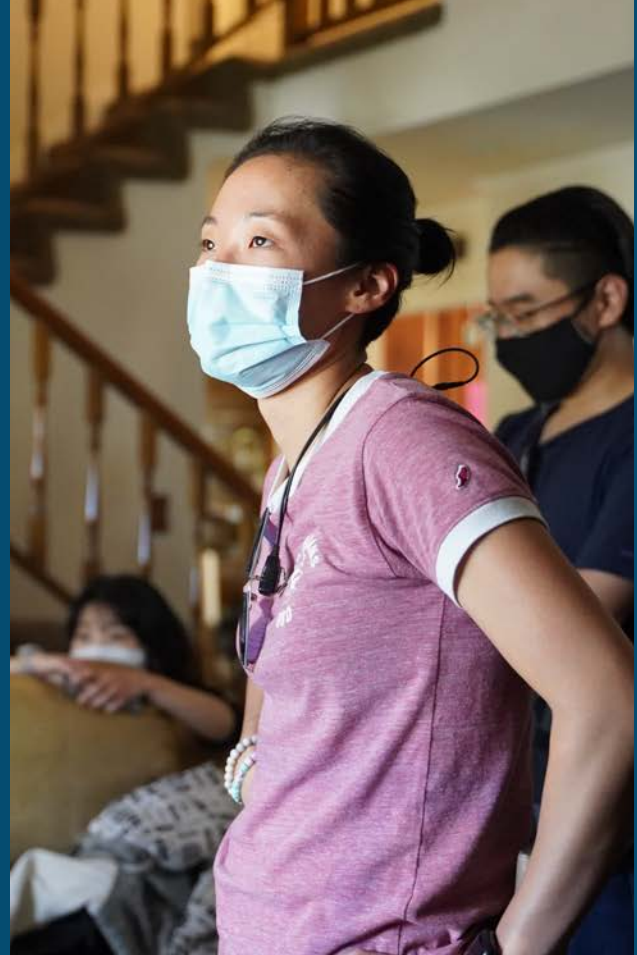


Jiayun Li is a director and producer based in Los Angeles and Beijing. She is currently pursuing her master's degree in Film and Television Production at USC. As a producer, she has produced more than 10 short films, music videos and commercials. In 2020, as the first assistant director for the animation short film "Simulacra" she won, the 47th student Academy Award and was awarded the Gold Medal. The short was also nominated by several other major film festivals in the United States. In the past, Jiayun also worked as a event host and has interviewed Zhenmin Liu, the Deputy Secretary and General social' of the affairs, United on behalf Nations of the Department film "China of economy".



# Becca

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR



Becca Suh-Hee Han is a Korean American filmmaker and currently a Film & Television Production MFA candidate at USC. Prior to enrolling at the School of Cinematic Arts, Becca graduated from Emory University in 2016. In the past Becca has also worked as a special effects technician in Atlanta, GA. Some of her past productions include: TAG, The Walking Dead, Amazing Stories, The Outsider, and Watchmen. She is currently a member of IATSE Local 479 and an Annenberg Graduate Fellow.

# Blair

EDITOR

Blair Yiran Bai is an LA-based editor. She received her BFA in Screenwriting from Beijing Film Academy and is currently pursuing her MFA degree at USC School of Cinematic Arts. She has worked on a large range of projects including short films, commercials, music videos, feature films and television shows. Her past works has been accepted to numerous film festivals worldwide, including Oscar qualifying film festivals such as “Riverrun International Film festival” and “Dead Center Film Festival”









Michelle Sastraatmadja,  
a storyteller, a filmmaker.



# Michelle

DIRECTOR

Having been born in Indonesia, a nation that is made up of hundreds of ethnic groups, Michelle can't help but fall in love with storytelling that originated from the vast cultures within Indonesia. Stories after all help built Indonesia, tying the stories and histories of the nation Archipelago.

Through the nation's trials and tribulations that challenged Indonesia's unity it was the people's stories that help kept the country together. The Indonesian people's love of storytelling could be seen from their use of traditional shadow puppets, comic books, film, and music. Only to continue and thrive today in modern internet subculture that is filled with stories of tragedy and comedy. All of this serves as an inspiration for Michelle to witness how stories can be use to rebuild a nation and it's people. Ever since then Michelle dreamed of becoming a storyteller, specifically a filmmaker.

Michelle Sastraatmadja, the Director, checking the shot





# FULL CREDITS

## Closing Credit

### Title Card Key Crew:

Directed and Written by:

**Michelle Sastraatmadja**

Produced by: **Jiayun Li & Nidhi S.**

**Kulkarni**

Director of Photography by: **Vicky**

**RattanaVIPapong**

Edited by: **Blair Bai**

Production Designer by: **Dowon Yoon**

**Chrissie (Jiarong) Lu**

Sound Editing and Mixing by: **Alex**

**Bologna**

Production Sound by: **Bunthoeun**

**Real**

Original Music by: **Prateek**

**Rajagopal**

Casting Director: **Stephanie McLean**

Visual Effects by: **Charles Joslain**

Colorist: **RKM Studios**

Hair and Makeup Artist: **Gabby**

**Flores**

stylist: **Michelle Sastraatmadja**

**Jiayun Li**

## Title Card Cast

**Marianna - BREE MIGNANO**

**Mom - JENNY JANUSZEWSKI**

**Jeff - JEFF LAWLESS**

**Dad - CHRIS DURMICK**

**Cashier - AMERY KEN THAO**

**Andreas - JIMMY ESPINOSA**

**Little Girl - AYAZHAN DALABAYEVA**

**Store Clerk - JAQUITA HARRIS**

**Little Girl's Mom - Ainura A**

**Birthday Party Guest - Lisa**

**Stojanovski**

- **George Tillis**

- **Julian Lano**

- **Jiayun Li**

**1ST Assistant Director**

**Becca Han**

**2ND Assistant Director**

**Wubetu Shimelash**

**Steadicam Operator**

**Lars Struck**

**Nickolas Smith**

**1ST Assistant Camera**

**Nobutaka Emura**

**Reece Scarpignato**

Binling Li  
2ND Assistant Camera  
Duc Anh Nguyen  
Ji Lee  
Gaffer  
Everd Rijzewij  
Key Grip  
Grant Samayoa  
Grips  
Thomas Wang  
Alexander McNab  
Gabriel Carusetta  
Shih-Chun Hsiao  
John Yu  
Chris Yang

Andrew Carpio  
Sofonias Feleke  
Vincent Walker  
Michael Solomon  
Zizhong Jiang  
Toby Ilogu  
Alejandro Silva

Script Supervisor

Tripp Joachim  
Xin Wang  
Art Production  
Assistant  
Ray Zhou

Janine Zhang  
Quinn C. Smith  
Clarinda Blais  
Ruby Amhad  
Hannah Kelley  
Natalie Shillinger  
Production  
Assistant  
Alejandro Silva  
Katie Mcfadden  
Jakari Coles  
Mickey Wang  
Peter Phan





Studio Teacher: **Stella Pacific**  
Catering: **IT Catering Diane Thompson**  
Postproduction supervisor:  
**Michelle Sastraatmadja**  
Title Design: **Ida Lasic**  
Poster Design: **Jessica Armelia**  
USC Mentor: **Brenda Goodman**  
**Michael Fink**

### Special Thanks to

**Medan Kitchen**  
**GIMME DANGER Thrift Store**  
**Noah Chang**

### Equipment

Camera: **Birns & Sawyer Inc**  
Light: **Birns & Sawyer Inc**  
**LiteGear Inc**  
Production Supplies: **Castex**  
Prop Houses: **Sony Pictures Studios**

**Special Effects Unlimited Inc, Hollywood**

**Edit: AVID**

Festival & Distribution/ Licensing: **Sandrine Faucher Cassidy**  
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