

BRATTLE STREET FILMS PRESENTS ALTARIUS SHU WILLIAM YUEKUN WU
JEANETTE ENG IN "SOMEONE GOOD WILL FIND YOU" BASED ON
THE SHORT STORY "BREAKING THE PIG" BY ETGAR KERET
DIRECTED BY LEELILA STROGOV PRODUCED BY JESSICA KINGDON

SOMEONE GOOD WILL FIND YOU



FILM INFORMATION

FILM TITLE

Someone Good Will Find You

LOG LINE

Someone Good Will Find You is the story of a boy who learns an unintended lesson when his immigrant father attempts to teach him the value of money.

CONTACT INFO

Leelila Strogov - Director
leelila@gmail.com

Jessica Kingdon - Producer
jessica.kingdon@gmail.com

SOMEONEGOODWILLFINDYOU.COM

TECHNICAL INFO

Running Time: 08:40
Exhibition Format: .MOV, DCP
Aspect Ratio: 1:78 (16x9 video)
Shooting Format: HDV
Color / black and white, English

PRESS RELEASE

July 6, 2016

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT:

Leelila Strogov, Director
leelila@gmail.com

Brattle Street Films Releases *Someone Good Will Find You*, a Dramatic Short About a Chinese Immigrant Family Adapting to Life in America

New York, NY – Brattle Street Films announced today the release of *Someone Good Will Find You*, a short film inspired by the short story “Breaking the Pig” by renowned Israeli author Etgar Keret. *Someone Good Will Find You* reimagines Keret’s tale through a Chinese-American lens, setting it in New York City. This adaptation underscores the pressure immigrants in America often feel to give their children the tools they’ll need to assimilate and succeed.

In the film, when 8 year old David becomes enamored with a Superman costume he sees in a store window, his well-meaning Chinese father sees an opportunity to teach his son a lesson about how to “make it” in America. Though David’s father intends for his son to learn about hard work, frugality and delayed gratification, the lessons David learns about compassion, loyalty and kindness transcend those his father hoped to teach him, contrasting the values of a mercantile society with the purity and virtues of childhood.

Broadcast journalist and debut filmmaker Leelila Strogov is a native New Yorker, a fluent speaker of Hebrew, the wife of a Chinese man, and the mother of two half-Chinese children, all of which influenced her choices when adapting Etgar Keret’s short story for the screen. “By turning an Israeli fable into a Chinese immigrant family’s story in New York City, I was able to merge my connection with the two cultures, and a city that is an icon of capitalism, to explore different interpretations of what it means to be successful and find meaning,” said Strogov.

Producer Jessica Kingdon has an equally strong connection to the film as someone raised in New York City by a Chinese mother and Jewish father. “When Leelila approached me with this project, I was immediately struck by the universal appeal of Keret’s story and the ways in which we could add additional layers through the filmmaking process,” said Kingdon.

Shot against the rich and vibrant backdrop of New York City, *Someone Good Will Find You* explores the idea that the lessons we try to teach our children are often much less important than the lessons they learn on their own.

Someone Good Will Find You runs 8:39 and stars Altarius Shu, William Yuekun Wu and Jeanette Eng. For more information about the film, visit: www.someonegoodwillfindyou.com.

About Brattle Street Films: Brattle Street Films is a privately-held media venture founded by Leelila Strogov and Ernie Liang. The company focuses on story-driven media including drama, documentary, and investigative reporting projects. Brattle Street Films leverages Strogov and Liang’s collective experience in broadcast journalism, fiction and non-fiction storytelling and entrepreneurship.

SYNOPSIS

SYNOPSIS (SHORT)

A well-intentioned Chinese immigrant father tries to teach his son, David, how to “make it” in America. When David becomes enamored by a Superman costume in a store window, his father sees an opportunity to impart to him the importance of hard work, thrift, and delayed gratification. But when the time comes for David to reap the rewards of his efforts, it turns out that the lessons he’s learned transcend those his father intended. Revealing the human capacity for connection, compassion, and sacrifice, *Someone Good Will Find You* is a story about the lessons parents try to teach their children, and the unintended ones children learn on their own.

SYNOPSIS (LONG)

A well-intentioned Chinese immigrant father tries to teach his son, David, how to “make it” in America. When David becomes enamored by a Superman costume in a store window, his father sees an opportunity to impart to his son the importance of hard work, thrift, and delayed gratification.

By doing chores and saving coins, David begins to acquire the money needed to purchase the coveted costume. In the meantime, though, he forms an unexpected friendship that ultimately eclipses his initial objective. When the time at last comes for David to reap the rewards of his diligence and frugality, it turns out that the lessons he’s learned transcend those his father intended.

The film follows the story of a young boy who, led by his yearning for a material object, ultimately finds something of much greater worth. Revealing the human capacity for connection, compassion, and sacrifice, *Someone Good Will Find You* is a story about the lessons parents try to teach their children, and the unintended ones children learn on their own.

FAQs

1. HOW WERE YOU ABLE TO FUND THE PROJECT?

Friends and family (very kind ones), as well as reaching deep into our own pockets and hearts. So much of the work was done for nothing or close to it.

2. WHAT WAS YOUR INSPIRATION FOR THE FILM?

The story "Breaking the Pig" by Israeli author Etgar Keret, a remarkable man with a remarkable mind. This film essentially transforms a modern-day Israeli fairy tale into a story about a Chinese immigrant family trying to adapt to Western life in New York City.

3. I LOVE YOUR FILM, BUT I DON'T COMPLETELY UNDERSTAND IT?

Someone Good Will Find You is about discovering that the life lessons people try to teach us rarely fall into neat and tidy categories. Humanity is never neat and tidy, is it?

4. HOW LONG DID THE PROJECT TAKE?

I had been thinking about making this film for several years. In terms of the actual production and post-production, the film took about a day to write, four days to shoot, and a few months to edit, decide on the graphics, get the sound and music just so... And there were often spans of a few months in between each of these mini-projects. We had a whole host of technical problems after shooting that took forever to sort out. So all in all, between trying to come up with solutions in the shower and having midnight phone calls with editors and other saviors on and off set, in and out of various studios, edit bays, and living rooms, you're talking about over a year of angst!

5. WHAT IS YOUR GOAL FOR THE FILM?

The goal for this film is to prove a few points: that we can tell a story in pictures and that we're worth betting on when it comes to making our next film!

6. WHAT WAS YOUR FAVORITE PART OF PRODUCTION?

Learning from the many talented members on our team, especially producer Jessica Kingdon (a longtime friend and hopefully ongoing collaborator); cinematographer Aharon Rothschild; editors Mark Tickell (with whom I've worked for years in news) and Raul Santos; as well as art director Dani Tenenbaum.

ABOUT THE PRODUCTION

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

I had been thinking about this film for several years before I began work on it. As a broadcast journalist and founder of the literary magazine, *Swink*, I have always been fascinated by stories and how to tell them. And as a native New Yorker married to a Chinese man and raising two half-Chinese children, I am especially compelled by stories involving assimilation and identity. All parents long to give their children the tools they'll need to succeed and to instill in them the kinds of values that will guide and protect them. But I've observed that in immigrant families, there's often a particular brand of urgency in imparting to children the sorts of lessons that will help them thrive in America.

I am a huge admirer of the Israeli author, Etgar Keret, and I wanted to adapt his comedic short story, "Breaking the Pig," about a young boy who, through the process of saving money to buy a toy he wants, ends up forming a deep emotional attachment to a piggy bank. I've long felt that this story has at its core such a simple and yet essential truth about childhood as to make it both universal in appeal and malleable in form.

I loved the idea of taking this Israeli story, setting it in New York City, and casting it with Chinese immigrants. The values we long to teach our children are, by their very nature, influenced (if not dictated) by the cultures from which we come, and I wanted to explore the immense pressure Chinese immigrants so often feel to arm their children with the qualities they believe they will need to both integrate and excel. Of course, as we all know, the most profound and meaningful lessons are not necessarily those that parents teach, but those that are learned through children's personal experiences.

In making *Someone Good Will Find You*, it was my goal to learn about filmmaking (this project was, in many ways, my own personal film school) and to tell a story with meaning and emotional truth. It is my hope that viewers will be moved by this bittersweet story of a young boy who experiences the transcendent power of compassion and connection.

CREDITS

CAST

ALTARIUS SHU

WILLIAM YUEKUN WU

JEANETTE ENG

DIRECTOR **LEELILA STROGOV**

PRODUCER **JESSICA KINGDON**

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY **AHARON ROTHSCHILD**

EDITORS **MARK TICKELL**

RAÚL SANTOS

ART DIRECTOR **DANIEL TENENBAUM**

SET DESIGNER **AK JANSEN**

SCRIPT SUPERVISOR **YUN XIAO**

GAFFER **AMY OBARSKI**

B CAMERA OPERATOR **NATHANIEL CZARNECKI**

1ST ASSISTANT CAMERA **RACHEL BATASHIVILI**

CHRISTOPHER MONTGOMERY

2ND ASSISTANT CAMERA **DIVINA HASSELMANN**

CREDITS

PRODUCTION SOUND MIXER	GABE QUIROGA
SOUND EDITOR	KEN WILKINSON
MUSIC EDITOR	MICHAEL KUNC
COLORIST	AHARON ROTHSCHILD
ONLINE-EDITOR	MICHAEL MACALINCAG
GRAPHIC DESIGNER	MICHAEL APPUHN
PRODUCTION ASSISTANT	ALEXANDRA RIZK
STILLS PHOTOGRAPHERS	CHRISTIAN NORIEGA CARALENA KOPP
SCREENPLAY	LEELILA STROGOV JESSICA KINGDON
BASED ON THE SHORT STORY	“BREAKING THE PIG” BY ETGAR KERET



BIOS

SOMEONE GOOD WILL FIND YOU

LEELILA STROGOV, DIRECTOR

Leelila Strogov is an investigative journalist, writer, editor and entrepreneur. She received her Bachelor of Science degree from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. *Someone Good Will Find You* is her debut film.



JESSICA KINGDON, PRODUCER

Jessica Kingdon is a producer/director with a background in narrative, documentary, and experimental work. Her short films have been screened in NYC and internationally. Jessica is currently working on her documentary "Commodity City" which went through the UnionDocs intensive labs. She is an active member of the Brooklyn Filmmakers Collective.



MARK TICKELL, EDITOR

Mark Tickell is an Emmy award winning editor/producer. Originally hailing from the UK, he settled in the USA. As an avid meditator and meditation coach, he brings a connected inspiration to all his work. Mark currently works for Fox and CBS in Los Angeles.



BIOS

SOMEONE GOOD WILL FIND YOU

AHARON ROTHSCHILD, DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

Aharon Rothschild began shooting news in Israel and continued as a photojournalist and photo editor in New York City. After moving to India, he had several exhibitions of his fine art photography there before working as director of photography on his first feature, *Khwaabb* (2014 Dir. Zaid Khan). *Khwaabb* received a wide release in theaters in India,



and garnered attention for its realistic lighting and kinetic camera movement. Whether shooting commercial or narrative work, Aharon's approach is to put story first. He collaborates closely with the director to build movement into the image, and his lighting style has been described as beautiful and spare.

RAÚL SANTOS, EDITOR

Raúl Santos is an award-winning screenwriter and film director, obsessed with water, love and whales. His first feature film, 'The Rock,' about the love and hate relationship between Spain and Gibraltar, won the Golden Award for Best European Documentary at SEFF'11. Raúl Santos currently lives in Brooklyn, where he is an active



member of the Brooklyn Filmmakers Collective and the National Writers Union. The New York Times mentioned him as "one of Spain's rising directors".