

Strand Releasing presents

FRONT COVER

A FILM BY RAY YEUNG

Starring Jake Choi, James Chen and Jennifer Neala Page

Official Selection:

Chicago International Film festival

Inside Out Toronto LGBT Film Festival

San Francisco International LGBT Film Festival

MiFo LGBT Film Festival (Ft. Lauderdale & Miami)

Opening Film: Hong Kong International Film Festival

Country of Origin: USA

Format: HD 1020 x 1080 Apple Pro Resolution 444

Sound Format: Dolby 5.1

Running Time: 87 minutes

Genre: Drama/Comedy

Rating: Not Rated

In English and Chinese with English Subtitles

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Please download photos from our website:

<http://strandreleasing.com/films/front-cover/>

SYNOPSIS

FRONT COVER is about handsome, openly gay New York City fashion stylist Ryan (Jake Choi), who rejects his traditional Asian upbringing. Ryan is given an assignment to style Ning (James Chen), a famous Chinese actor, for an important photo shoot. After a rocky start, an unlikely friendship develops between them, leading Ryan to re-examine his roots and consider an enticing new path for his life and career. A tender, funny look at clashing cultures and love, FRONT COVER is a delight for the urban fashionista in us all.

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR:

Ray Yeung's first feature film, *CUT SLEEVE BOYS* premiered at the Rotterdam International Film Festival and won Best Feature at the Outfest Fusion Festival in Los Angeles.

CUT SLEEVE BOYS also had cinematic releases in Thailand, Taiwan and in various cities across the United States including Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Chicago.

Time Out, New York reviewed *CUT SLEEVE BOYS* as a "fun, rare look at Gay Asian life with refreshing insights into various queer subtleties, from the difference between cross-dressing and trans to the details of being a circuit queen."

Ray Yeung, a Columbia University MFA graduate, is also the chairman of the Hong Kong Lesbian and Gay Film Festival since 2000.

FRONT COVER is Ray's second feature.

Director's Selected Filmography:

2014 PAPER WRAP FIRE (SHORT)
2012 ENTWINE (SHORT)
2011 DEREK AND LUCAS (SHORT)
2008 DOGGY... DOGGY (SHORT)
2006 CUT SLEEVE BOYS (FEATURE)
1998 YELLOW FEVER (SHORT)

Director's Statement:

Front Cover is a bittersweet dramatic comedy, which looks at the Asian American experience with humor, irony and insight. Thematically the film is about desire for acceptance, and how the lack of it can risk developing into denial and self-loathing. The two main characters are the driving force of the story. Their dynamic relationship rests on the contrast between their differing attitudes and experiences. However, FRONT COVER is predominantly a love story about two men, who despite their differences and prejudices, fall in love in New York.

CAST BIOGRAPHIES:

JAKE CHOI (Ryan)

Jake Choi is an American actor born and raised in Queens, NY. He studied at the Lee Strasberg Institute and has been performing throughout NYC on stage, film, TV and national commercials. His first leading role in a feature film is that of Ryan from "Front Cover". Jake is very proud of his work as Mark in Off-Broadway's "Carnival Kids" which was a NY Times Critic's Choice. You may also recognize Jake in a Best Buy commercial where he worked with TV star, Amy Poehler. Television work has led him to roles in various TV series such as Law & Order: SVU on NBC, Gotham on FOX, Golden Boy and Unforgettable on CBS. Jake loves basketball and plays a few games in his free time. Keep up with Jake at www.jakechoi.com.

JAMES CHEN (Ning)

James grew up in New York state, and attended UPENN and Yale before living and working as an actor in NYC, where he quickly began working in Off Broadway theater, TV, film, commercials, and audiobooks. For 2 seasons he played CSU Detective Adrian Sung on *Law & Order: SVU*, and has worked opposite artists such as Kate Winslet, Jim Carey, and Tilda Swinton in international studio films including *The Amazing Spiderman*, *Mr. Popper's Penguins*, *Labor Day*, and *We Need To Talk About Kevin*. Regionally some of the wonderful theaters he has worked at are the Chautauqua Theater Company, The Guthrie Theater, and the Philadelphia Theater Company. Of his dozen plus narrated audiobooks, some of his favorite titles include "Prayer of the Dragon" and "Death and Resurrection" which can be found at audible.com. As an upcoming writer and filmmaker his latest short, *The Swap*, has already been accepted into festivals and continues to be submitted to the circuit. He has received an MFA Acting Yale School of Drama, Dexter Wood Luke Memorial Prize. Follow @JamesCchen. www.JamesCchen.com.

ELIZABETH SUNG (Yen)

Raised in Hong Kong, Elizabeth holds a BFA in dance from The Juilliard School and was a member of the Alvin Ailey Repertory Dance Company. She moved to Los Angeles where she studied acting with renowned teachers Sanford Meisner and Milton Katselas. She received her MFA in directing from the American Film Institute and was one of three women selected for the prestigious ABC/DGA Television Directing Fellowship. Her memorable film appearances include "The Joy Luck Club", "Memoirs of a Geisha", "Ping Pong Playa" and "Go For Sisters" among many others. On television, Elizabeth starred as Luan Platter Abbott on the popular daytime soap, "The Young and The Restless". She has also guest starred on "Shameless", "It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia", "Hawaii Five-0", "Bones", "NCIS - LA", "FlashForward", "The Forgotten", "Desperate Housewives", "House", "The Sopranos", "NYPD Blue", "Mike and Molly", "Curb Your Enthusiasm" and "Suite Life on Deck", to list a few. Elizabeth received the Best Supporting Actress Award at both the 2013 Asians on Films Festival and the 9th Annual Chinese American Film festival.

JENNIFER NEALA- PAGE (Janet)

Jennifer was trained at Rose Bruford Conservatory of Speech and Drama (voted best UK drama school of 2014.). Her Theatre credits include; "Dancing At Lughnasa," "The Miss Firecracker Contest," and Neil Labute's "Bash" (Won a Golden Production Award). In 2010 she was cast in the West End revival of the Really Useful Company and Andrew Lloyd Webber's "Daisy Pulls It Off" at The Arts Theatre, to critical praise. Her previous TV and film credits include: "The World Of Holly Woodlands," the Web Series "TVK", short film "White Trash Swan", "Love Is" (which reached the final of the Hollywood Film Festival), and Mary Shelley in the series "Living With Frankenstein." Most recently she was seen in the role of "Winn Manchester" in PT Anderson's film "The Master" opposite Joaquin Phoenix and Claudia in "Chimeras" with Kevin J O'Conner and Michael Ironside. She is also in a European project with Kevin Bacon, which is currently airing in the UK.

SONIA VILLANI (Francesca)

Sonia is an Italian actress and tango dancer. She studied acting in Rome and worked there until 2012 when she happily relocated in NYC. As an actor her favorite NYC credits include: *Lying* and *Eurydice's Dream* (for this show she's been honored with 2013 IT Award for Choreography), *Blessed Unrest* (Interart Theater), *The Event Of A Thread* with Ann Hamilton and SITI Company (Park Avenue Armory).

In Italy as a tango dancer her original work with her company Tango di Pietra has been produced and toured all over the country, credits include: *Alizé En Danse* (Teatro Eliseo, Rome) and *Bel Vedere*, (Santarcangelo dei Teatri Festival, Italy). <http://www.soniavillani.com>

MING LEE (Ba)

MING LEE is an actor of stage and screen, a jazz singer and songwriter. He was born in Malaysia of Chinese descent. His film and TV work includes: *Return to Paradise*, *Kundun*, *Foreign Ghosts*, *Canvas*, *February*, *Closing Time* and *Law and Order-SVU*. He has done work in the UK, Canada, Taiwan, Singapore and Malaysia, and was on Broadway: *Miss Saigon*, *Pacific Overtures*. His songs, an eclectic mix of jazz and pop, are featured in his debut CD, *Slow Time, No Time*. He lives in NY.

CAST

Ryan Fu	Jake Choi
Qi Xiao Ning	James Chen
Janet	Jennifer Neala Page
Yen	Elizabeth Sung
Francesca	Elizabeth Sung
Miao	Li Jun Li
Ba	Ming Lee

CREW

Writer/Director	Ray Yeung
Producer	Kaer Vanice,
Original Soundtrack	Paul Turner & Darren Morze
Cinematography	Eun-ah Lee
Editing	Joseph Gutowski
Production Design	Kate Rance
Casting	Donna DeSeta