



# DÌ 弟弟 DÌ



Written and Directed by: **SEAN WANG**

Produced by: **CARLOS LÓPEZ ESTRADA, JOSH PETERS, VALERIE BUSH, SEAN WANG**

Cast: **IZAAC WANG, JOAN CHEN, SHIRLEY CHEN, CHANG LI HUA**

94 minutes | USA | 2024 | English, Mandarin | Color

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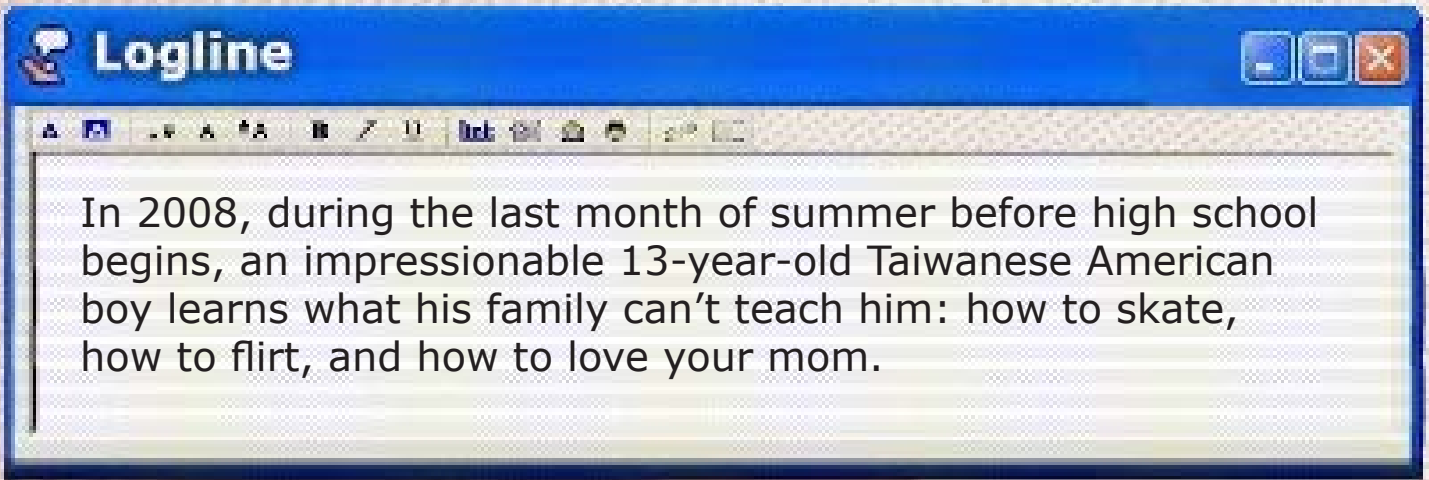
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## Director's Statement

by Sean Wang

**DIDI(弟弟)** means 'little brother' in Mandarin. However, it is also an endearing term many Chinese parents call their younger sons: the very same words my mother used to call me. Like our protagonist, I was also raised in Fremont, California, as the son of Taiwanese immigrants, a mischievous younger sibling, and grew up with a deep-seated shame that was directly linked to my cultural heritage. I was often called the "whitest" or "coolest" Asian and I wore that like a badge of honor. It is only in the last few years, as an adult, that I have started to understand how much that affected the way I looked at the world, and myself.








For many first-generation Asian American children of immigrants, I believe that shame is often shared and inextricably tied to our cultural identity. Whether it's microaggressions, racial stereotyping, or lack of notable representation, these pernicious forms of racism throughout our childhood are common occurrences that can manifest into various forms of shame: personal, cultural, or societal. However, during these adolescent years, we do not have the perspective necessary to diagnose the behaviors that contribute to these feelings of inadequacy until much later in life. With *DIDI* (弟弟), I want to look back at a formative time in my life and explore the conflict between reconciling the beauty and pain of who you are, while navigating the uncertainty of who you have yet to become.

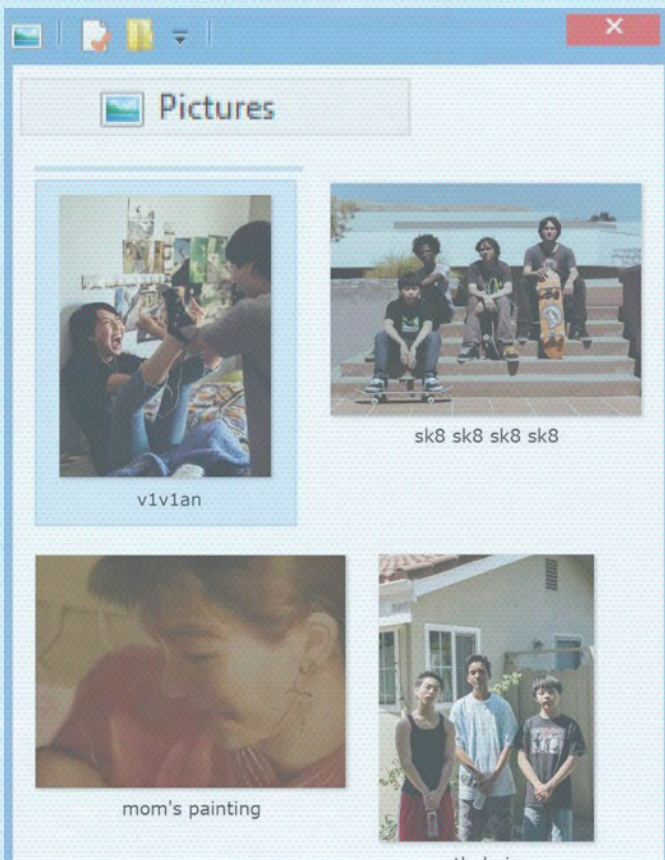
The last few years in American history have revealed many bitter truths, one being that the acceptance of Asians in this country remains conditional. We can be nationally celebrated one day and then instantly be dehumanized another. *DIDI* (弟弟) is not an Asian American story – it is simply about an Asian American. With this film, I aspired to realize complex, well-rounded characters that are inseparable from their cultural heritage – individuals whose cultural upbringings are integral to character and story, but simultaneously detached from plot. By writing to the specifics of setting, race, and culture, we naturally populated our film with vibrant characters that reflect the rich cultural tapestry of Fremont's population, and by extension, this country. By expanding the narrative of what it means to be Asian American, I hope that it can be both a testament and reminder that to be Asian in America is to be human.

*DIDI* (弟弟) is everything I want to say now about everything I experienced then. It is an ode to the joy and chaos of adolescence, it is a thank you, I'm sorry, and I love you to the immigrant mothers that raise us, and it is an examination of how it feels to learn to love yourself during a time when the world says you are unworthy of it. But more than anything, it is the movie I know my younger self would have loved to see: a coming-of-age movie set in a place I know, starring people who look like those I knew, during a moment when we are the worst versions of ourselves having the best time of our lives.

## About the Production

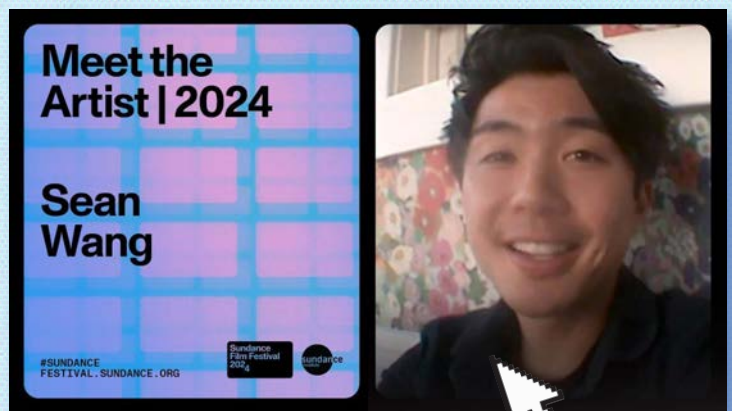
Below are some fast facts about the making of the movie.

-  The majority of the young actors are making their on-screen debut. Many of them are local to the Bay Area and we're discovered in street casting sessions or in school theater programs.
-  Sean Wang's real grandmother plays the role of Wang-Wang's grandma in the movie. She is also the star of his recently Academy Award-shortlisted short film *NĀI NAI AND WÀI PÓ*.
-  The paintings that Wang-Wang's mom paints in the movie were actually painted by Sean's mom, Cynthia Lee.
-  Wang-Wang's bedroom in the movie is Sean's actual childhood bedroom in Fremont. Wang-Wang's sister's bedroom was also filmed in Sean's childhood room.
-  The end credits of the movie feature the original track "Stop Talking" from the 2000's pop-punk band Motion City Soundtrack. They have not released music in over 10 years, until now.
-  All the kids in the movie had to learn how to text using T9 texting on older phones. They were not very good at it.
-  There are a few voice cameos in the movie: Academy Award-nominated actor Stephanie Hsu (*EVERYTHING EVERYWHERE ALL AT ONCE*) plays a YouTube Tutorial Host- teaching Wang-Wang how to kiss, and Taiwanese American stand up comedian Sheng Wang plays the voice of a loud-mouthed dead fish.



## WATCH NOW

Sundance: Meet the artist...  
Sean Wang



## Character Descriptions

**Chris Wang** [played by Izaac Wang]



 Online Now!

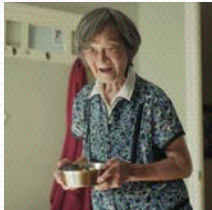
Aka WANG-WANG – impressionable, angsty, and charmingly bracefaced. Manga enthusiast, amateur cameraperson, and fledgling skate nerd. Wrestles with a complex inner sense of identity that he can't fully comprehend yet: too Asian for the white kids, too white for the Asian kids.

### CHRIS WANG'S CONTACTS



**Chungsing Wang** [played by Joan Chen]

Empathetic, artistic and resilient. Exudes a motherly warmth. A youthful spirit, her age shown only by the wrinkles in her skin and graying hair. Capable of anger but suppresses it well. A Taiwanese immigrant and stay-at-home mother – the nature of twitch left her to poorly assimilate to “American” ways of life.



**Nai Nai** [played by Chang Li Hua]

Skeletal face, with skin spotted with age. A round ball of Asian energy. Strong-headed and witty. Young enough to argue her point, old enough to not care if she's wrong. Loves her Chinese talk shows and Mahjong Tuesdays. Slippers in the house, always.



**Vivian Wang** [played by Shirley Chen]

Precocious. Booksmart. Attending UCSD in the fall. Bright and independent, but wrestles with low self-esteem due to her constant eczema flare-ups, especially in the summer heat. Constantly bickering with Wang-Wang, but loves him deep down.



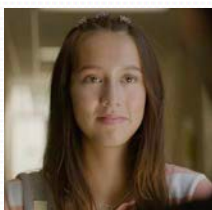
**Fahad Mahmood** [played by Raul Dial]

Charismatic, lovable, young brown casanova (or so-he-thinks). A natural storyteller. Comes from a religious family, but Dave Chapelle, Russell Peters, and Kevjumba are his Gods. Cares about two things and two things only: staying fresh & mackin' on girls.



**Jimmy Kim aka “SOUP”** [played by Aaron Chang]

Korean American loudmouth, no-filter goofball. Lives on a healthy diet of kimchi-jjigae, Monster energy, and underground hip-hop: Blue Scholars, Atmosphere, Nujabes are the soundtracks to his life. A loose cannon of untamed emotion. Gochujang on everything, DGAF about nothin'.



**Madi** [played by Mahaela Park]

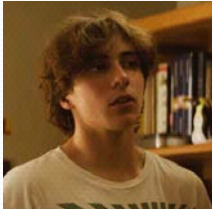
Hapa. Ambitious & driven. Band geek & secret Maplestory nerd. Wang-Wang's crush. A high school Freshman - not much older than Wang-Wang, but at that age, one grade is an eternity.

## Character Descriptions



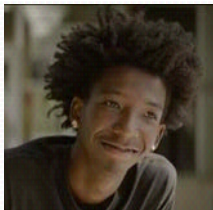
**Donovan** [played by Chiron Denk]

Hometown hero & hustler with a heart of gold. Looks for every chance to make some change: odd jobs, charging gas money, slanging shoes, etc. Would rather earn one dollar than steal ten. Wants to be sponsored.



**Cory** [played by Sunil Maurillo]

Seemingly standoffish, but just shy and awkward. The only one of the skater group still in school. The worst skater of the 3, but skates less now anyways because he's studying for the SATs - wants to go to Berkeley.



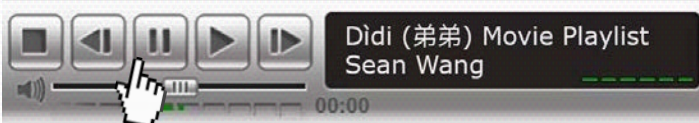
**Nugget** [played by Montay Boseman]

Happy-go-lucky skate rat. Showers once a week. Radiates positivity - never not smiling.

### CHRIS WANG'S BLURB



Click player or scan the Spotify code with your app to access the DIDI (弟弟) playlist





## Main Cast Bios

### IZAAC WANG - "CHRIS WANG"

Izaac Wang, a versatile actor known for his diverse roles, gained recognition for his talent and dedication in the entertainment industry. Wang's career took off with his feature film debut in "**THINK LIKE A DOG**," where he showcased his acting prowess alongside an ensemble cast. Following this success, he captured hearts as part of the cast in the family-friendly film "**CLIFFORD THE BIG RED DOG**" and displayed his comedic flair in the coming-of-age hit "**GOOD BOYS**."

In the realm of animation, Wang lent his voice to the Disney animated feature "**RAYA AND THE LAST DRAGON**," contributing to the film's immersive storytelling with his vocal skills. His journey continued as he took on the lead role in the highly anticipated series "**GREMLINS: THE SECRET OF MOGWAI**," proving his ability to anchor a show with his captivating performance.

Television audiences may recognize Wang from his guest-starring roles in popular series such as "**TEACHER**" and "**THE SANTA CLAUS**," where he left a lasting impression with his acting versatility. Further demonstrating his range, Wang led the cast in the short film "**WHITE NOW PLEASE**," showcasing his ability to command the screen in a shorter format.

Building on his successes, Wang is now making waves as the lead in the Sundance movie titled "**DIDI (弟弟)**," signaling his continued ascent in the film industry. With a diverse range of projects under his belt, Izaac Wang's career is marked by his dedication to storytelling and his ability to bring characters to life in a memorable and impactful way.



## JOAN CHEN - "CHUNGSING WANG"

Joan Chen, and is one of the most widely recognized and respected Asian stars in the international film industry. She began her movie career at the age of 14 in Shanghai. Her performance in the films *YOUTH, 1977* and *LITTLE FLOWER*, catapulted her to fame in China. Chen garnered the Best Actress Award in China in 1980 when she was 19 for *LITTLE FLOWER*. In 1981, Chen left China for the United States to study film at California State University, Northridge, where she graduated with honors. Chen has appeared in more than 50 US and international film and television roles.

The most notable were Bernardo Bertolucci's Oscar-winning *THE LAST EMPEROR*, David Lynch's *TWIN PEAKS* series, and Oliver Stone's *HEAVEN AND EARTH*. At the same time, Chen continued to make films for Asian audiences. Her memorable performance in the Chinese language film *RED ROSE AND WHITE ROSE* won her Best Actress in the Taiwan Golden Horse Awards and the Hong Kong Critics Awards in 1994.

In 1997, Chen made her directorial debut with the critically acclaimed *XIU XIU, THE SENT-DOWN GIRL* (1999). The film has received numerous awards internationally, including 7 Golden Horse Awards. In 2000, Chen was honored by the National Board of Review with the International Freedom of Expression Award for the making of *XIU XIU*. Chen's second effort behind the camera was MGM's *AUTUMN IN NEW YORK* starring Richard Gere and Winona Ryder in 2000. Between 2003 and 2006, Chen returned to China to star in Chinese films, *JASMINE, SUNFLOWER*, and *THE SUN ALSO RISES*. Chen also played a crucial supporting role in Ang Lee's *LUST, CAUTION*, which won the Golden Lion award in the 2007 Venice Film Festival. *THE HOME SONG STORIES* from Australia premiered in the Berlin Film Festival in 2007. Chen won the Best Actress award in the Australian Film

Institute Awards, the Inside Film Awards and the Australian Critics Awards in 2007. She also won the Best Actress award for the same role in Taiwan's Golden Horse Awards and in the Torino Film Festival. In the Asian Film Awards 2008, she was honored with a dual nomination, Best Actress for *THE HOME SONG STORIES* and Best Supporting Actress for *THE SUN ALSO RISES*, the latter of which she won. Chen has played various roles in many films, including Oscar nominee Bruce Beresford's film Mao's *LAST DANCER*; Chinese films *LOVE IN DISGUISE, COLOR ME LOVE, PASSION ISLAND, 1911 REVOLUTION, DOUBLE XPOSURE*, and HBO Asia/ ABC Australia co-production series *SERANGOON ROAD*, for which Joan was nominated for Best Actress in Australia.

Recent credits include two feature films for Netflix. Joan starred opposite Jessica Chastain and John Malkovich in *AVA* written and directed by Tate Taylor. She also starred in *TIGERTAIL* written and directed by Alan Yang. Chen's recent television series credits include the Netflix original series *MARCO POLO* opposite Benedict Wong. Currently, Chen is starring opposite Clive Owen, Emma Corrin, and Brit Marling in the FX Limited Series, *MURDER AT THE END OF THE WORLD* written, produced and directed by Brit Marling and Zal Batmanglij (*THE OA*). Joan Chen lives in San Francisco with her husband, Dr. Peter Hui and their daughters, Angela and Audrey. Joan serves on the board of directors of the 1990 Institute, a U.S.-China not-for-profit focused on improving the trust and understanding between the people of the United States and China. For the Institute, she is a co-founder and head of the jury for the \$30K "Youth Voices on China" national online video contest, where American students from middle school through college are invited to submit videos on what China means to them and why understanding China is important to their future.

## About the Filmmakers

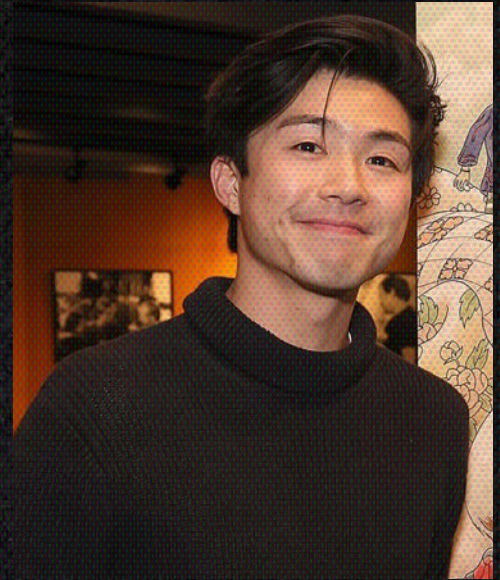
### SEAN WANG

#### Director/Writer/Producer

Sean is a filmmaker from Fremont, CA. He is a Google Creative Lab 5 alum, former Sundance Ignite fellow, and 2023 Sundance Screenwriters and Directors Lab fellow.

His work has screened at world-class festivals including Sundance, SXSW, and SFFILM, and has been featured online by The New York Times, Vimeo's Best of the Year Staff Picks, and TheWrap's ShortList. His latest short film, *NÁI NAI & WÀI PÓ (GRANDMA & GRANDMA)*, premiered at SXSW 2023 where it won the Grand Jury Prize & Audience Award. Since then, it has gone on to receive Grand Jury Awards at AFI Fest and SIFF 2023, was acquired by Disney+ to release in early 2024, and was shortlisted for Best Documentary Short Film for the 96th Academy Awards.

His debut feature film, *DÌDI (弟弟)*, will have its world premiere at the 2024 Sundance Film Festival in the U.S. Dramatic Competition.



### CARLOS LÓPEZ ESTRADA

#### Producer

Carlos López Estrada is an Academy Award-nominated filmmaker from Mexico City. Carlos's debut film, *BLINDSPOTTING*, premiered opening night at the Sundance Film Festival 2018 and was subsequently released by Lionsgate Entertainment. Carlos was nominated by the DGA for Outstanding Directorial Achievement of a First-Time Feature Film. His second film, *SUMMERTIME*, premiered opening night of Sundance Film Festival 2020 and was released theatrically the following year. Peter Debruge from Variety called it "The most inspirational movie of the year." Carlos's third film, *RAYA AND THE LAST DRAGON* was released by Disney in March of 2021 and was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Animated Feature. His documentary film *LIL NAS X: LONG LIVE MONTERO* premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival in September '23.

On the TV side, Carlos directed an episode of FX and Marvel's *LEGION* and is currently developing an original comedy show at FX with Joanna Calo (*THE BEAR, HACKS*) in association with This American Life. He began his career directing music videos and has worked with musicians such as Billie Eilish, Lil Nas X, Blink 182, Thundercat and Flying Lotus, Katy Perry, Father John Misty, Carly Rae Jepsen, and Clipping. In 2012, he won a Latin Grammy for an animated music video he directed for Mexican artists Jesse & Joy. He is currently writing/set to direct the reimagining of the beloved Japanese anime *YOUR NAME* for Paramount and Bad Robot.

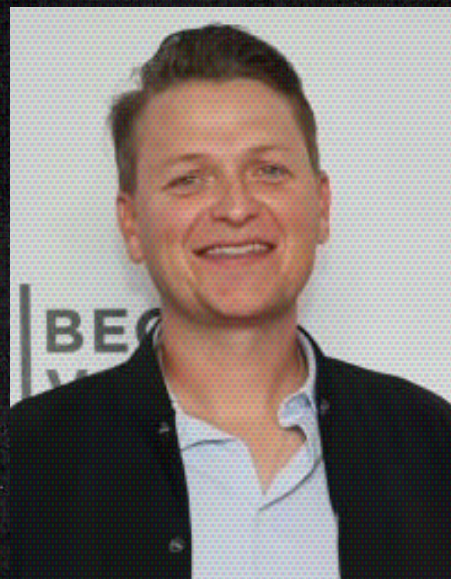




## JOSH PETERS

### Producer

Josh Peters is a producer and founding partner at Spark Features, a financing and production company with mission to support emerging voices in film. Founded alongside Robina Riccitiello, Spark is proud to be part of *DIDI* (弟弟) premiering at Sundance '24. Other Spark Features include *THE QUEEN OF MY DREAMS* (TIFF '23), *MUTT* (Sundance '23), and *A STILL SMALL VOICE* (Sundance '23). This upcoming year, Spark will debut Max Walker Silverman's second feature, *UNTITLED REBUILDING PROJECT*, currently in post. Josh's previous credits include *SOFT & QUIET*, *THE GRADUATES*, *A LOVE SONG*, *THE LIGHTHOUSE* and *UNCLE FRANK*. Prior to producing, Josh held executive positions at Focus Features and FILMDISTRICT where he worked on film such as *A MONSTER CALLS*, *RACE*, *KICKS*, *LOOPER*, *DRIVE*, *EVIL DEAD* and the *INSIDIOUS* franchise. Josh holds a B.A. in English from UCLA. He resides in Los Angeles with his wife and three sons. When not producing, he and his wife are dedicated to raising awareness around early screening for colorectal cancer with the hopes of eventually eradicating it through their campaign at BeSeen.care.



## VALERIE BUSH

### Producer

Valerie Bush, a seasoned producer from San Diego, brings a wealth of expertise in budgeting and guiding production teams seamlessly from initial conception to the final touches in post-production. Over the last year, Valerie has been producing *DIDI* (弟弟), a feature set to premiere at Sundance Film Festival 2024. Valerie's portfolio includes not just the forthcoming *DIDI* (弟弟) but also her role as a line producer for *FREMONT*, a standout feature that premiered at the Sundance Film Festival 2023. She also contributed her talent to the acclaimed A24 and PASTEL collaboration, *ALL DIRT ROADS TASTE OF SALT*. Valerie has had a rapid ascent within the narrative landscape, but her journey began in the vibrant world of short-form commercials and music videos. Her work includes renowned clients such as YSL, NBA2k, WWE, Levis, Lexus, Kelly Clarkson, twenty one pilots, Olivia Rodrigo, and Michael Bublé, to name a few. Her works have collectively gained over 300 million views across social media platforms and garnered global exposure through broadcast and print. Valerie embodies a rare blend of creative vision and logistical prowess, propelling her productions to success. Her dedication to storytelling, coupled with her ability to orchestrate a seamless production, marks her as a rising producer in the industry.



## About the Crew

### **SAM DAVIS**

#### **Cinematographer**

Sam Davis is an Emmy-nominated filmmaker and director of photography based in LA. His photography has screened at world-class film festivals including Sundance, SXSW, Tribeca, and Camerimage. Sam produced and shot the Academy Award-winning short documentary *PERIOD. END OF SENTENCE.* He is a member of IATSE Local 600.

### **HANRUI WANG**

#### **Production Designer**

Hanrui Wang is a Los Angeles-based Production Designer originally from China. She began her career as a Set Decorator on esteemed projects such as *THE FAREWELL* (Golden Globe Nominee, BAFTA Nominee, Film Independent Spirit Award Winner) and *MINARI* (Academy Award Nominee, BAFTA Nominee, Golden Globe Winner). She soon rose up as a production designer. Her recent work includes designing *THE WANDERING EARTH 2* with director Frant Gwo and *THE ACCIDENTAL GETAWAY DRIVER*, winner of the 2023 Sundance Grand Jury Prize, directed by Sing Lee. Other design credits include *BENEATH THE BANYAN TREE* starring Ah-Lei Gua, the BBC documentary *SEXPLANET* starring Cara Delevingne, and *THINK LIKE A DOG* directed by Gil Junger.

### **ARIELLE ZAKOWSKI**

#### **Editor**

Arielle Zakowski is a film, TV, and commercial editor who avoids the harsh LA weather by spending her days holed up in edit bays. She spent a decade editing commercials in the advertising world and was named a Rising Star in the field by Shots Creative. Her short-form work has been recognized by the Cannes Lions and the Emmys, and has premiered at film festivals around the world. Arielle cut two feature documentaries – Dan Chen's *ACCEPTED* and David Gelb's *WOLFGANG* – which both premiered at the Tribeca Film Festival in 2021 to critical acclaim. She has also edited episodes of the Netflix shows *CHEF'S TABLE*, *MAKING A MURDERER*, and *TRIAL BY MEDIA*. Arielle's first narrative feature film, Sony Pictures' *MISSING*, was released in theaters globally in 2023, earning \$50 million worldwide as well as a Certified Fresh rating on Rotten Tomatoes. She is currently in the midst of editing Sean Wang's feature film *DÌDI* (弟弟), due out in 2024.

#### **Credits**

<http://tinyurl.com/DIDICredits>



Izac Wang

Shirley Chen



Chang Li Hua

And Joan Chen

# Dí 弟弟 DÍ

A film by Sean Wang



ANTIGRAVITY ACADEMY AND SPARK FEATURES PRESENT AN UNAPOLOGETIC PROJECTS AND MAIDEN VOYAGE PRODUCTION "DÍ 弟弟"  
 CASTING BY NATALIE LIN NAFISA KAPTOWNWALA EXECUTIVE PRODUCER BRIANNA MURPHY DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY TOKO NAGATA EDITOR ANDY HAY EXECUTIVE PRODUCER JACKIE ZHOU EXECUTIVE PRODUCER GIOSUE GRECO EXECUTIVE PRODUCER ARIELLE ZAKOWSKI  
 PRODUCED BY HANRUI WANG DIRECTED BY SAM DAVIS EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS LISA CHANOFF SAKURAKO FISHER EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS VERTEL SCOTT TOMÁS WHITMORE PRODUCED BY CHRIS QUINTOS CATHICART TYLER BOEHM ROBINA RICCIETIELLO  
 PRODUCED BY JOAN CHEN CHRIS COLUMBUS ELEANOR COLUMBUS DAVE A. LIU JENNIFER J. PRITZKER PRODUCED BY CARLOS LÓPEZ ESTRADA JOSH PETERS VALERIE BUSH SEAN WANG DIRECTED BY SEAN WANG