

# SEARCHING FOR YOU

Feature Film  
Drama / Comedy /  
Family

Conceived, Written, and Produced  
By  
Marissa Lichwick

## THE WORLD

**LOGLINE:** When an adopted daughter receives an invitation to reunite with her Korean birth father, she grows hesitant due to a traumatizing past, but discovering the truth about a secret half sister sways her decision, and she finds the courage to face her painful childhood.

Huu Trong Nguyen



# THE ADVENTURE / THE “PROBLEM”

The adventure is the result of the problem. Dani’s biological father reaches out to invite Dani and her brother to South Korea to reunite with their family. Dani and her brother grapple with this decision but after learning about their half sister, Yoo Shin a fresh Harvard University graduate, both Dani and her biological brother want to reunite with her.

The problem is that Yoo Shin does not know she has siblings. This creates conflict for Dani because she spends majority of her free time searching for Yoo Shin while in South Korea. Dani’s ignorance keep her suffering and once they do run into one another, neither know.

Yoo Shin however learns quickly when she is assigned to be Dani’s “new” American-Korean translator. Yoo Shin discover Dani’s struggles as an adoptee in America. She learns how Dani and Alex were sold to an orphanage to be adopted and forced to assimilate once in America.

Yoo Shin does not reveal her emotions and is left to process her siblings painful journey on her own.



# THE WORLD

**SEARCHING FOR YOO** is a rite of passage family drama.

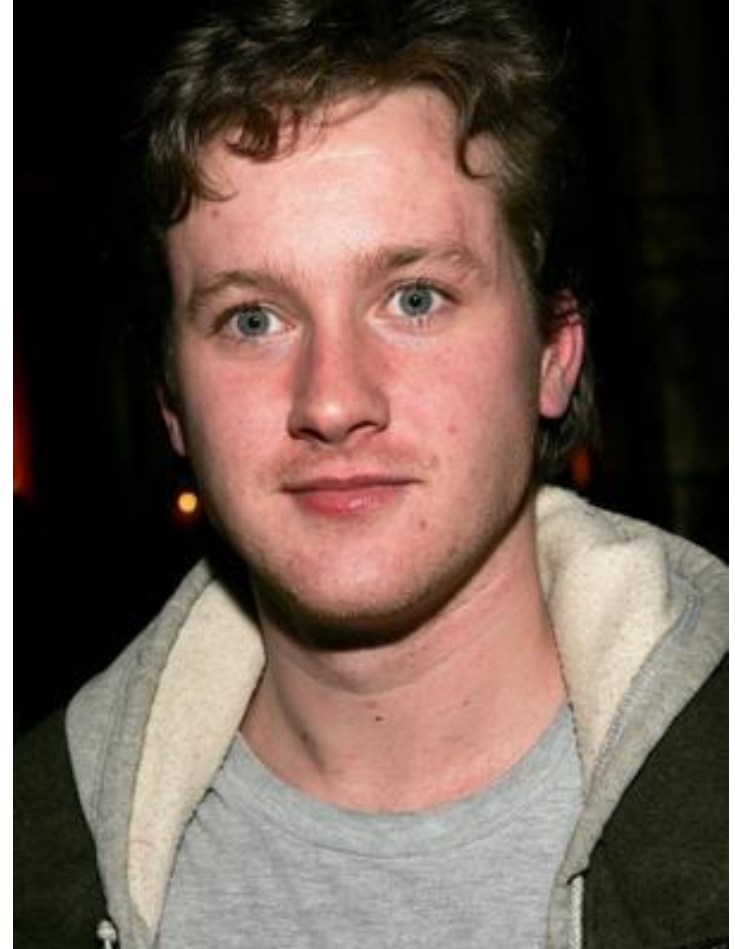
Dani doesn't feel like she belongs, or that she fully knows herself. Her identity isn't complete because she was adopted from Korea and brought to the United States when she was seven.

At the age of thirty, Dani still struggles to be an adult. She lives in New York City working as a bartender and a struggling actress. Dani behaves foolishly, hooking up with strangers and even gets kicked out of her apartment for not paying the rent.



# THE WORLD

One day, her biological American Korean adopted brother encourages them to fly back to Korea on plane tickets purchasaed by a Post Adoption Agency. Dani hopes to find answers about her lost sister, Yoo Shin, who did not come to the United States with them, as well as information about her birth mother. Hopefully this will complete her story, and help her understand herself. However, sparks fly with a new romantic love interest when Dani arrives in South Korea - her translator.





# THE WORLD



**This is a story about coming to terms with oneself, and your own past during an identity crisis. These events help Dani to move forward with her life and to find meaningful connection with her translator, Chase, her father and also her brother. It's a rite of passage, love, reconnection and learning about a community where you belong - and the adventure itself is an enlightening journey for Dani.**

# CHARACTERS

DANI (played by Marissa Lichwick) is a Korean American Adoptee and a struggling actor in New York City. She is the late shift bartender working till 4:00 AM and falls easily down the slippery slope for shots of Jameson. She gets drunk on the job and makes some terrible choices when approached by attractive men.

She lives with 2 to 6 NYU students, and depending on the day perpetually finds random college students sleeping on her couch.

Dani has a supportive biological brother and 7 other adopted brothers and sisters. Her adoptive family has a narrative of it's own and Dani keeps her distance.





# CHARACTERS

CHASE (played by Thomas Guiry) is the Korean to English translator and an immediate interest to Dani. He guides her through the reunification family process and slowly falls for her strength and commitment. He shares an unbreakable bond with Dani as an adoptee himself. The duo fall for one another but they both need to find themselves first, before they can move forward together.



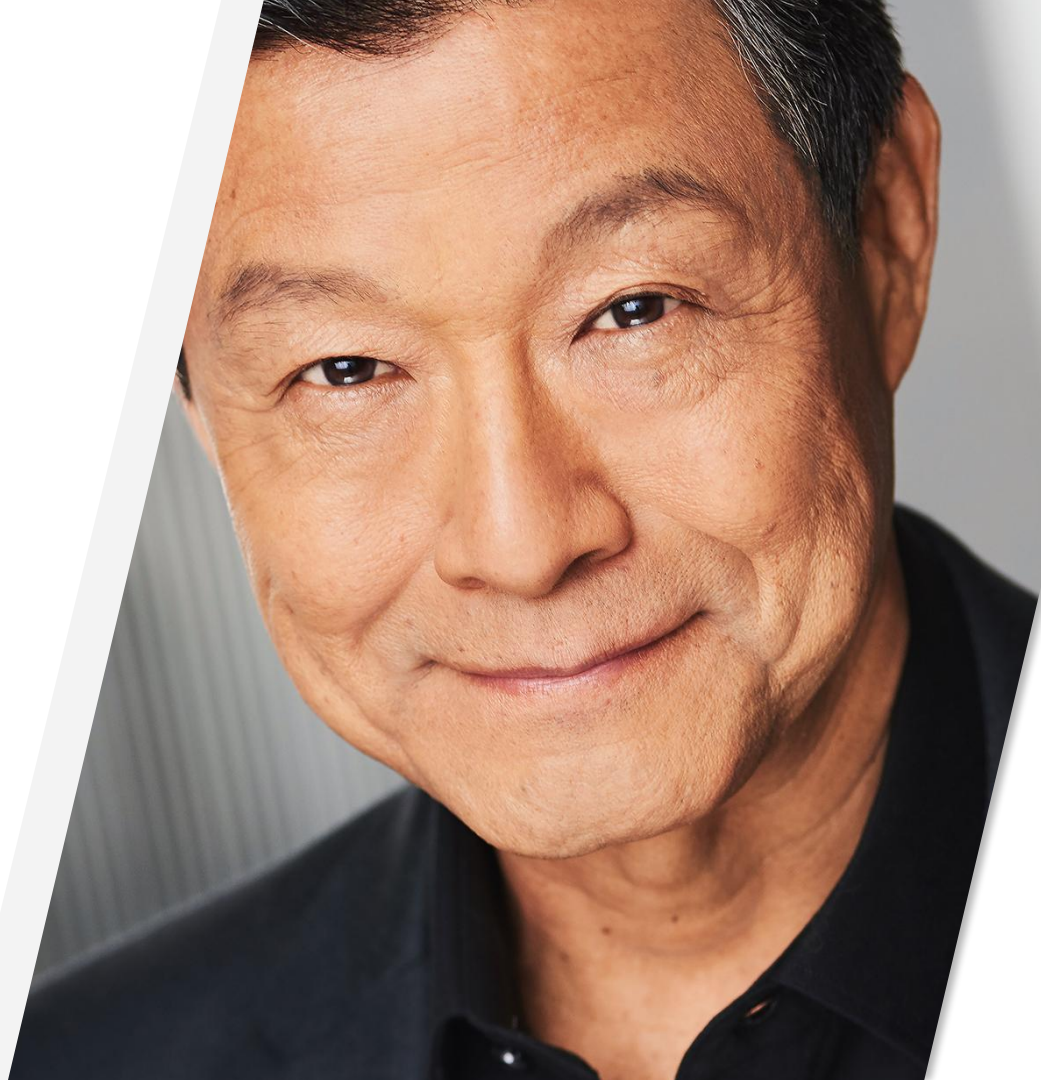
## CHARACTERS

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ALEX is Dani's older biological brother. He believes his mission is to save his unstable little sister. Alex is a pro-Korea. He supports reunifications, and finding identity through peeling through the past. He was adopted at the age of 10 yrs-old, and has his luggage/baggage to unpack.

## OTHER ROLES

CHOI KOO YOUNG (played by James Saito) is Dani's biological father. He is a fanatical pastor and missionary. Koo Young invites his sold children (Dani and Alex) to Korea for a family reunification. He wears a holy facade but deep inside, his heart is self righteous and misguided.



## OTHER ROLES

CHOI KI GUNG (played by Jodi Long) is Dani and Alex's birth mother. She left the children as an infant and a toddler. She is strong willed, self assured, and also a fanatic pastor and missionary. She however longs for her children and prays for their return. When she meets Dani, she grows to question if she misunderstood her purpose.



# WHY THIS FILM?

SEARCHING FOR YOO is an autobiographical artistic expression of my childhood and early adulthood - my life. Beyond my story, this film spotlights displaced children and how they lose their identity and sense of self without parental love.

Moreover the film explores identity, self love, need to be seen, and all the complexities of parental relationships. The film unpacks these personal growing pains or traumas and offers an antidotal solution.

Adoption stories are often experienced through documentaries. SEARCHING FOR YOO wants to challenge the documentary style of storytelling and share an adoption experience through a narrative lens.

With the division in this country, now is the time for stories of “otherness”. We are not alone in our experiences, pains, expectations, acceptance, and this film highlights what it takes to find the fortitude in order to unite with our fellow citizens.



# TONE

Tonally the film resembles an Asian adoptee perspective of FLEABAG. Dani is a feisty, promiscuous, single, broke New Yorker living day to day.

Her life changes when her birth family reaches out and Dani decides to reunite with them.

LION: Dani is in search for identity, the answers about the past, and embarks on a life changing journey to her homeland.



Mood



# PROJECT DETAILS



## PROJECT DETAILS:

Writer/Creator: Marissa Lichwick

Producers: Sacha Iskra, Shian Grace, We Make Movies.

Hannah Chang Language Coach: Korean.

Runtime: 90 min

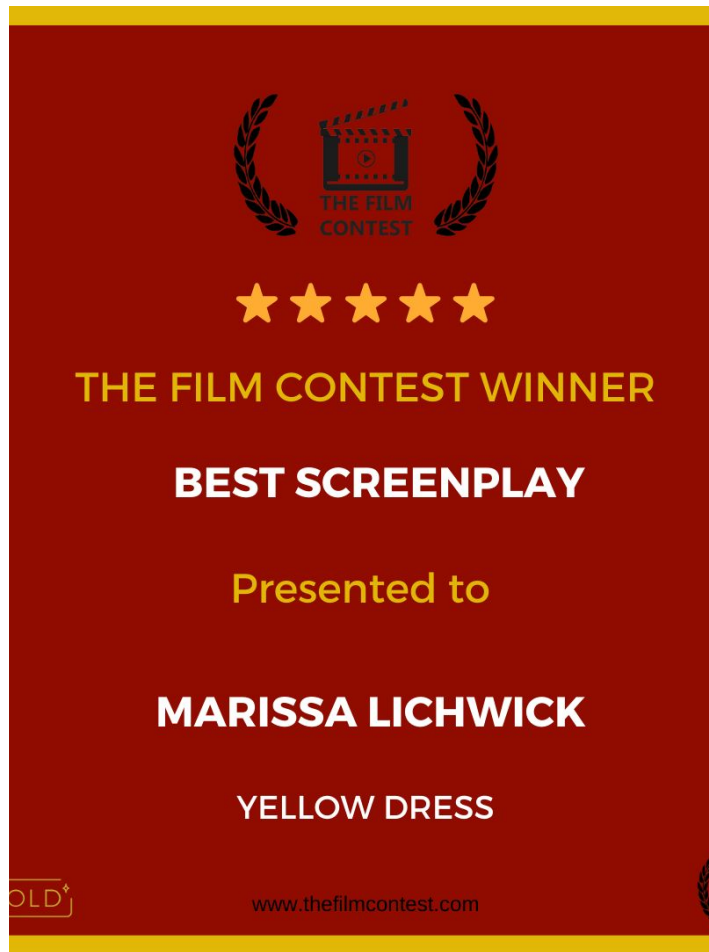
Contact: [searchingforyoo@gmail.com](mailto:searchingforyoo@gmail.com)

**\*\*RECENT WINNER: MANHATTAN FILM AWARDS. \*\***

SEARCHING FOR YOO is an independent feature film starring THOMAS GUIRY and MARISSA LICHWICK, set for principal photography in early 2022, to take place over 3 weeks in Los Angeles, California, and New York City with the goal of a major festival premiere (Sundance, Tribeca, SXSW, etc.), a limited theatrical run, and final distribution on a competitive platform (Netflix, Hulu, Amazon, etc.).

*To the left is the Short Film, YELLOW DRESS produced by YD Production LLC. The show greatly impacted it's audience.*

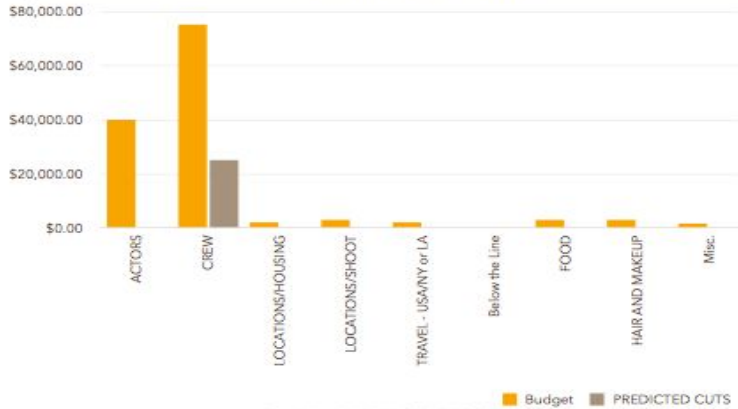




# BUDGET

HOW TO USE: Enter your budget for each category in the **Summary By Category** table below.  
Enter transactions on the **Transactions** sheet to see how your actual spending compares to your budget.

BUDGET VS. ACTUAL



SUMMARY BY CATEGORY

Category	Budget	PREDICTED CUTS	Difference
ACTORS	\$40,000.00	\$0.00	\$40,000.00
CREW	\$75,000.00	\$25,000.00	\$50,000.00
LOCATIONS/HOUSING	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00
LOCATIONS/SHOOT	\$3,000.00	\$0.00	\$3,000.00
TRAVEL - USA/NY or LA	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00
Below the Line			
FOOD	\$3,000.00	\$0.00	\$3,000.00
HAIR AND MAKEUP	\$3,000.00	\$0.00	\$3,000.00
Misc.	\$1,500.00	\$0.00	\$1,500.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$129,500.00</b>	<b>\$25,000.00</b>	<b>\$104,500.00</b>

# ESTIMATION

The cast and crew may be traveling to South Korea which is an increase the budget by \$13,000. We are instead looking into both Flushing Queens, and K-Town in Los Angeles.

Additionally based on the final budget, the crew will be significantly shaved. We do not anticipate the amount or hopefully, even the predicted amount.

# Searching For Yoo Timeline

DEVELOPMENT - Financing

PRE-PRODUCTION - Locations, SAG paperwork filed,  
below-the-line-hire.

PRINCIPAL PHOTOGRAPHY - 3-4 weeks shooting in New  
York.

POST PRODUCTION - edit, color, sound mixing, music.

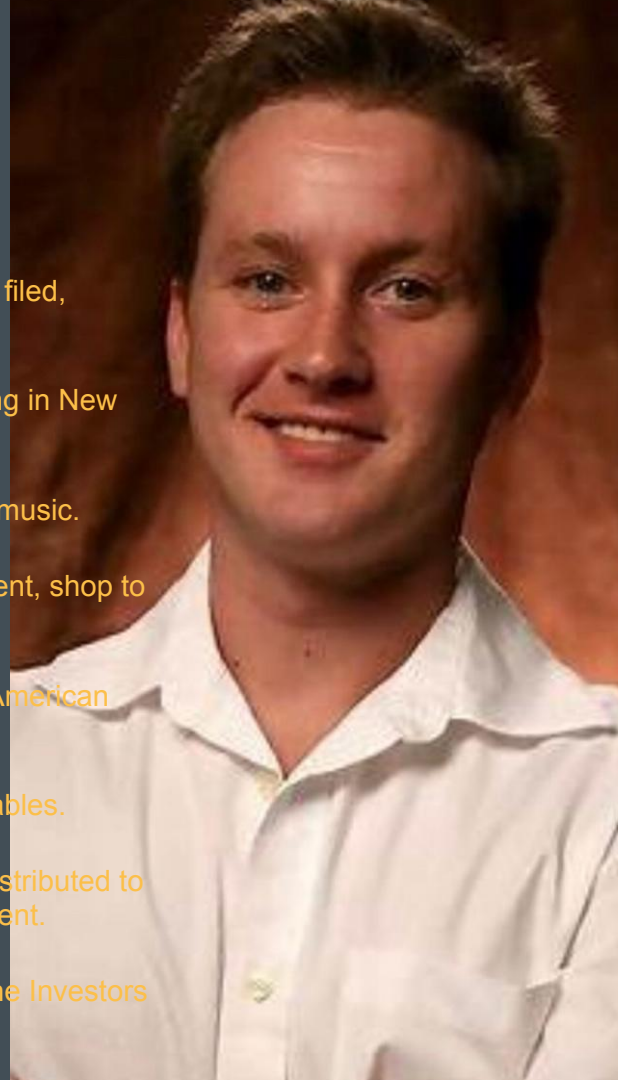
FESTIVAL PREP - Hire publicist, secure sales agent, shop to  
distributors,

FESTIVAL CIRCUIT - 12 Months. World & North American  
premieres, exposure, and secure distributor.

DISTRIBUTION - Sign contracts. Prepare deliverables.

INVESTOR GROUPS - After costs, first monies distributed to  
investors at TBD percentage above initial investment.

PRODUCERS - Net profits are divided between the Investors  
and Producers according to their pro-rata share.



# THE TEAM



Marissa Lichwick  
Actor, Writer,  
Creator,  
Producer



Shian Grace  
Co-Director  
Co-Producer  
Graphic Designer



Sacha Iskra  
Lead Producer



Victor Tan  
Director of Photography

CONTACT:

[searchingforyoo@gmail.com](mailto:searchingforyoo@gmail.com)

YD PRODUCTION LLC.



# SEARCHING FOR YOU

A blurred train platform with a person walking away in the distance. A sign for 'Cheongyangni Yongsan' is visible.

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