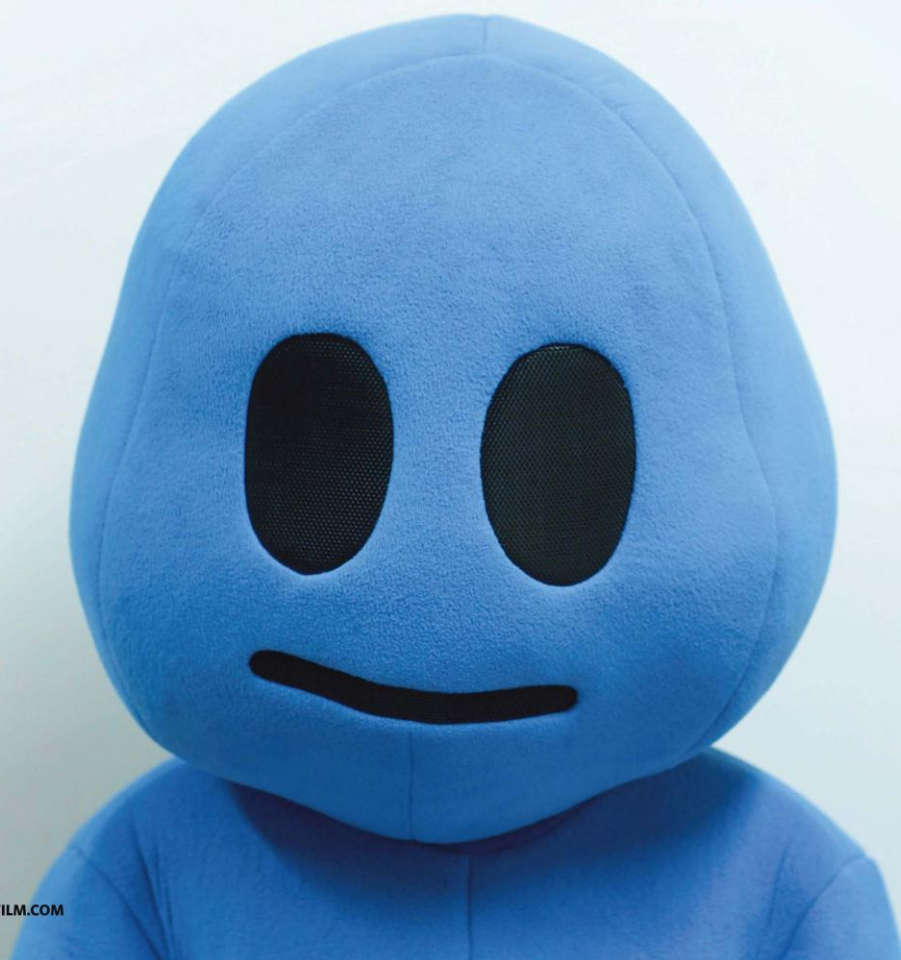


Winner of the Canal+ Award For Best Short Film 2011

BLUE

AKA & CURIOUS FILM PRESENT
IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE NEW ZEALAND FILM COMMISSION
A FILM WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY STEPHEN KANG
PRODUCED BY TARA RIDDELL | CO-PRODUCERS: LEANNE SAUNDERS & MATT NOONAN
CINEMATOGRAPHY: VIRGINIA LOANE | EDITING: LUKE HAIGH
SOUND: ANDY MORTON, CHRIS BURT | PRODUCTION DESIGN: ROSS MCGARVA
MUSIC: JOOST LANGEVELD, CHRIS VAN DER GEER, MIKE NEWPORT
WITH HANNA LEE AS BLUE



aka FILMS

curious

WWW.BLUE-SHORTFILM.COM



SEMAINE
DE LA CRITIQUE
CANNES 2011

Writer / Director	Stephen Kang
Producer	Tara Riddell
Co-Producers	Matt Noonan & Leanne Saunders
Production Company	AKA Films & Curious Film
Running Time	14 minutes
Format	HD
Country of Production	New Zealand
Sales and Distribution	Lisa Chatfield, NZ Film Commission Lisa@nzfilm.co.nz PH+64 4 382 7686

Made with the support of the Screen Innovation Fund, Creative New Zealand and The New Zealand Film Commission

ONE LINER

BLUE follows the anguished life of a washed up television character.

SYNOPSIS

Blue is a hard working waiter in an Asian restaurant trying his best to keep his job. He always keeps a smiley face on as he serves the food. Blue is different than other people. He used to have a life working as a fluffy TV mascot from a children's program. Some people recognise him from the old days but most people have forgotten him and won't give him a second glance. One day bad news arrives for him.

FESTIVALS

2011 Semaine de la Critique, Cannes - Winner of The Canal + Award for Best Short Film

2011 New Zealand International Film Festival, NZ

2011 Melbourne International Film Festival , In Competition Australia

2011 Show Me Shorts Film Festival, NZ

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

The idea of this story was triggered by the news of a famous Korean folk songwriter who died in an accident in Canada. He immigrated to Canada few years earlier and worked as a worker in the warehouse until his death. His fans might have noticed him while he was in Canada but the rest of the world did not know who he was or what he was capable of. He was just a worker at the warehouse.

A large number of immigrants here in New Zealand, make a living out of something that they have not done before. They start doing business in laundry, cleaning and restaurant in which they never had experienced before. This is because either they do not qualify in New Zealand to continue their original profession or simply due to the language barrier.

I didn't want the film to be pigeonholed as a serious asian immigrant story (there are subtle references which asian audiences may recognize through the film), but wanted to have an ironic take on a seemingly simple fairy tale in a modern context. For this film I think the flashback should happen in a personal moment, where he still lives out the good old days, and I find the dislocation and blending of time and location an interesting way of telling this. However, what is important is showing whether Blue is in the character version of himself or in the real world, and I want the audience to go through the emotional process of separation with him, Blue is the character that viewers can project themselves onto or someone they know.

PRODUCTION NOTES

The production cast Hanna Lee as the performer of Blue, and Hanna also designed the character herself. It was natural process since director Stephen Kang worked with her on his first digital feature, DREAM PRESERVED. Throughout the story Blue does not speak a single word or make any facial expressions. It is important to convey subtle and normal body language like everyone does. Hanna Lee understands the core of the Blue's performance and brings something new to the character.

BLUE is shot in Auckland central. However the film is not set in a particular city or country, it's important to find locations that show their own characteristics. The production found existing locations that suited the story, and also required minimal art direction.

The cinematographer Ginny Loane, came on board and realised the style of static but very observational view of BLUE. Loane has previously shot many internationally recognised short films including, FOG which screened at Cannes Critic's Week 2006.

CAST

BLUE Hanna Lee

Hanna is an artist in her own right. She studied Fine Arts at the University of Auckland and directed short animation WISE OLD LADY which screened at the New Zealand Film Festival. She also directed music videos utilizing her animation skills.

She had the leading female role in the Stephen Kang's first digital feature DREAM PRESERVED 2006. Not only did Hanna design the character for this short film BLUE, she happily puts on the costume for it.

CREDITS

WRITER / DIRECTOR **Stephen Kang**

Born in Seoul, Korea, Stephen moved to New Zealand in early 1990's. Kang studied video art, performance and time based art and gained a Bachelor In Fine Arts at the Elam School of Art, Auckland University. He produced and directed number of experimental videos and short films while studying.

Armed with Fine Art background and design experience Kang completed his first no-budget digital feature DREAM PRESERVED (2005), which follows Mark, a Korean man, illegally working with an expired visa, seeking to find a way to travel outside of the city where he has never set foot outside of. His trip keeps being held back by a fridge and a strange girl who sells coffee in front of the immigration office.

Awards for DREAM PRESERVED include Winner, Best Digital Feature Air New Zealand Screen Awards 2007; Winner, Overseas Koreans Independent Contest 2007 and Runner up at DigiSPAA, Australia 2007. Stephen was selected and attended the Berlinale Talent Campus 2007.

Most recently he completed feature film, DESERT (2010) about a newly pregnant young Asian woman who is left searching for answers when her boyfriend disappears. DESERT had a World Premiere at the Pusan International Film Festival 2010. He has a laconic comedy SUMMER RHAPSODY in development with The New Zealand Film Commission.

www.stephenkang.net

PRODUCER Tara Riddell

Tara has been producing commercials and short films for 8 years. Based in Auckland and Sydney, she work throughout New Zealand as well as Australia, and produced various projects.

Most recently she produced stage play, THE LOVER (2010) by Harold Pinter which enjoyed a sold-out season at the Silo in Auckland, and also co-produced the short film USO directed by Miki Magasiva.

CO-PRODUCER Matt Noonan

Matt has been working in Film and Television since he was 16. Matt's experience as a producer extends from film and TV commercials to television, video clips, documentaries, short films and digital film. In 1999 Matt started Curious Film, in partnership with director and cinematographer Darryl Ward, Aged 30, Matt found himself running one of Australasia's most promising production shops, producing music promos for some of New Zealand's best-known musicians and TV commercials for the region's top advertising agencies.

More recently, Matt has produced award-winning documentaries and short films such as the beautifully atmospheric MINGANUI, by director Summer Agnew, RITES OF COURAGE and USO, by director Miki Magasiva. He was associate producer on digital feature BIKINI BANDITS: CURSE OF THE PIRATE'S BOOTIE and on the feature documentary TROUBLE IS MY BUSINESS, directed by Juliette Veber. He is co-producer on Stephen Kang's feature DESERT 2010.

CO-PRODUCER Leanne Saunders

Leanne started her career in the UK as a runner and production assistant at Working Title Films working on films MAP OF THE HUMAN HEART and LONDON KILLS ME, and as a junior assistant at Manifesto Film Sales. On return to New Zealand she established herself as a commercial producer for Black Stump Films and Sydney Film Company. She has produced/exec produced many award-winning short films including the Palm D'Or nominated NATURES WAY, Festival de Cannes 06.

Saunders set up Headstrong with partners Ant Timpson and Paul Swadel in 2004, funded by The New Zealand Film Commission to identify and develop emerging talent through low budget digital feature films. Feature film credits include CHRISTMAS (Edinburgh, Toronto, Melbourne, Karlovy Vary), DICK: THE DEVIL DARED ME TO (SXSW, Frightfest, Dead Channels, Fantasia), A SONG OF GOOD (Rotterdam, Philadelphia, Warsaw, Durban) and DESERT (Pusan). Other projects on her current slate include WWII horror THE DEVIL'S ROCK, and Zentropa/ Severe Features co-production of Daniel Borgman's debut feature THE WEIGHT OF ELEPHANTS (selected for Cinefoundation 2010).

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY **Virginia Loane**

Virginia Loane (Ginny) is a director of photography who is fast gaining a reputation for mastering a diverse range of visual styles - working on exquisite high-end commercials, films, music clips and social documentaries. Ginny's interest lie in project that offer creative challenges and the opportunity to explore new creative avenues and subject matter. Recognized for her lateral, creative approach Ginny enjoys working closely with directors, supporting them in their professional and personal projects.

Ginny's credits include feature film CHRISTMAS (2003) and short film FOG which was selected for Critics Week, Cannes 2007. She won Best Technical Contribution for A SONG OF GOOD (2008) and Best Cinematography for THIS IS HER (2008) at the New Zealand Film and Television Awards. Most recently a short she was credited as cinematographer, MANUREWA (2010) won Crystal Bear at Berlin International Film Festival.

EDITOR Luke Haigh

Born in England, Luke moved to New Zealand in late 1990's, and since 2003 he has been working as the in-house editor for Curious Film. He has edited hundreds of TV commercials as well as various projects from music videos and short films through to documentary.

His credits include short film USO (2006) which screened at Polyfest, Hawaii and Raindance Film Festivals and his work with long time collaborator Summer Agnew on the documentary THE KAPITI ART PROJECT culminated in it being a finalist for Best Documentary at the 2009 Qantas Film & Television Awards. He also credited as an editor for TV commercial for Orcon 'Together Incredible' featuring Iggy Pop and Canon 'Photochains' both of which were Cannes Lion Grand Pix 2010 winners.

COMPOSERS Joost Langeveld/ Chris van der Geer/ Mike J Newport

Joost and Chris are partners in Auckland based music and post-production house BigPop Music. Both are active participants and widely-respected participants of the New Zealand music scene; Langeveld through his Unitone Hifi and Subware electronic projects and van der Geer as an engineer/producer (twice Winner of NZ Music Engineer of the Year Award), and as a composer/musician (co-founder of Second Child and guitarist with multi-platinum band stellar*).

Langeveld's feature film credits include TOYLOVE, Nominated Best Original Music 2001 and SNAKESKIN Winner Best Original Music 2002, NZ Film and Television Awards. Other film credits for composing include Glenn Standring's debut feature TRUTH ABOUT DEMONS, and Cannes nominated short film, INFECTION (2000). Chris and Joost together composed for feature documentary TROUBLE IS NOT MY BUSINESS. They have recently brought into the fold young composer Mike Newport who has written scores for features and shorts from England, Ireland and New Zealand and is kept busy working on Bigpop's various documentary, television commercial and album projects.

