Final Review Book

Mysterious Dates

MFA Candidate in the School of Motion Pictures, Television and Acting
Area of Emphasis/ Directing
July 23rd 2009/ 11am-1pm
Location: 466 Townsend, 2nd Floor Conference Room

Pei-Hsi Lee
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COVER LETTER</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SELF CRITIQUE</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RESUME</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PUBLICITY PHOTO</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AUTOBIOGRAPHY</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CONCEPT SUMMARY</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THESIS FILM DETAILS</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAST NOTES</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCRIPT</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PROJECT BUDGET</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAST</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CREW LIST</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EQUIPMENT LIST</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TECHNICAL RESEARCH</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PRODUCTION SCHEDULES</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section</td>
<td>Page</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------------------</td>
<td>------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ONE LINE SCHEDULES</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CALL SHEET</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SHOT LIST</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FLOOR PLANS</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAMERA REPORT</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOUND REPORT</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PRODUCTION DESIGN</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACADEMIC TIMELINE</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MARKETING PLAN</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PRODUCTION INSURANCE</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PRODUCTION PERMIT</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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PUBLICITY PHOTO
CONCEPT SUMMARY

At the age 32, most of my friends are getting married. It makes me think about what is the meaning of marriage. From the culture where I grow up, I think it is interesting to discuss the family and marriage.

My project intentions are to make the blind dates look funny and ridiculous. Each date seems like some plots from fiction novel. Only my main character looks like a real person who just wants do what he loves.

High Fidelity

Punch Drunk Love
THESIS FILM DETAILS

Title: Mysterious Date

Genre: Comedy

Director: Pei-Hsi Lee

Writer: Pei-Hsi Lee

TRT: 12 min

Media: Super 16

Logline:

A young writer is trying to break out his career. But at the urging of his parents, he has to face the marriage issue and attend the blind dates that arranged by his dear mother.

Synopsis:

To satisfy his nagging parents, a young writer agrees to attend blind dates arranged by his mother. But since the first date, the things get out of hand. First one becomes a one-night stand. Second one is a Chinese-style interrogation. The third one is maybe the last date he ever wants.

Theme:

The story is about

Job Description: Director

Date: July, 2009
CAST NOTES

Character

Steven/

25-30 male, Asian American, speaks both Mandarin and English. Mid size, smart, looks shy and sensitive.

Mother/

50-55 female, Asian, speaks Mandarin. A woman likes to control everything

Amy/

25-30 female, Asian American, speaks English, smart looking, Beautiful smile.

Jessica/

25-30 female, Asian American, speaks English, Sexy.

Shin/

25-30 female, Asian, speaks Mandarin. Innocent looking
FADE IN

INT. SECOND-HAND BOOKSTORE. NIGHT

Books are scattered everywhere nearby covering the floor entirely. The shelves are bent under the weight of books.

STEVEN (27) Asian, sitting on a stool behind the counter in the bookstore. The store is almost empty. Steven looks at the his watch, with a book, THE COMEDIANS by Graham Greene in his hands.

STEVEN

Shit!

Steven suddenly starts changing his clothes but his eyes remain focus on the page he’s reading. He buttons up his shirt and puts on a tie. His eyes never leave the page. He puts on a jacket and closes the book.

INT. CHINA TOWN - RESTAURANT. NIGHT

Steven walks into the lobby and hands a red envelope to a woman sitting behind a table. She unfolds the envelope and take out the cash. She counts the cash with her fingers and makes a note on a sheet of paper. Then she looks up and smiles to Steven. She points out a sign-in sheet. Steven signs his name on it.

STEVEN (VOICE OVER)

I still can’t believe they count the cash right in your face. Like they do in casino. But, this is a wedding. The Chinese wedding. It is the most miserable thing I’ve ever seen. I don’t know why every childhood friend is suddenly getting married. But, not me. I’m not ready for this. The marriage, the family, the kids. Maybe a house with a backyard in suburbs. It is not right for me. But, My mother would have a different opinion.

Steven’s MOTHER, a woman in her late fifties with FATHER, a man in his early-sixties. They are sitting side by side next to Steven at a huge round table. The table is almost full. Mother and father are having conversation with friends and relatives. Mother looks excited, she turns her head to Steven.
MOTHER

Look! How wonderful?

Steven says nothing but looks at the food. Mother frowns.
Someone grabs mother’s attention. She leans away from
Steven. Steven still concentrates on his food without
looking up.

Mother smiles while the crowd celebrate. She looks at
Steven. He is still working on the food.

Mother speaks in Mandarin, Steven answer her in English.

MOTHER

I have an idea.

STEVEN

What?

MOTHER

There are several friends of mine
have been asking about you. Their
daughters are nice and I think
maybe you should meet them. Maybe,
it’s a chance for you to find a
wife.

STEVEN

What? Are you kidding me?

MOTHER

Lower your volume! Are you shouting
at me? It is not good manners.

STEVEN

Calm down! Mom. I am saying that
the idea is ridiculous. I will not
going out with a woman I haven’t
even seen before.

MOTHER

Just three of them.

STEVEN

Three? No, not even one.

MOTHER

Don’t you think it’s about the time
you consider getting married? Look,
every one is getting married.
STEVEN
I don’t think it is the right time.
We argued about this hundreds of
times.

MOTHER
A man is not grown up until he gets
married. You don’t know what you
are doing. Working in a book
shop is what you want for the rest
of your life?

STEVEN
I don’t want get into this again. I
am fine.

MOTHER
Listen to me, don’t shout at me. I
will tell your father.

STEVEN
OK, I won’t yell at you, but forget
the date. It’s impossible.

MOTHER
Meet three women and I won’t tell
your father you quit your job.

Steven’s mother smiles as she lean forward to Steven’s
father.

INT. RESTAURANT. NIGHT

Very fancy. The lighting is dim. Steven sits on one of the
stool in front of the bar. There is a bottle of beer in
front of him. He looks impatient and his finger drums at
bar.

JESSICA(27), Asian, sashays toward the bar. Her dress is
shining. She sits next to Steven. Steven looks surprised.
She smiles a fake smile at him.

STEVEN(VOICE OVER)
Damn, She is hot.

They shake hands in a polite manner. Steven calls the waiter
and they follow him into the dining area. They are heading
to a table in a private corner. They sit down and Steven is
staring at her while she is reading the wine list.
STEVEN (VOICE OVER)
Maybe, it is not a bad idea. Meet a hot girl, like this. If she is a book, it must be a best seller. The book review would be "Sexy and entertaining!!"

Jessica rarely looks at Steven. She waves to a waiter and orders her meal. Now, Steven starts to read the menu. He is shocked by the price. She smiles looks at him.

INT. HOTEL ROOM. NIGHT

Clothes lay on the ground besides the bed. Steven is naked on the bed with Jessica beside him. Jessica lights a cigarette and leaves the bed to get dressed. Steven is staring straight at the ceiling.

STEVEN (VOICE OVER)
That was fast.

Jessica puts clothes on and takes her purse.

STEVEN
Yeah, Do what you have to do. We just had sex. It’s no big deal.

JESSICA
What’s that suppose to mean?

She walks out from the room without looking back. Steven is expressless.

STEVEN (VOICE OVER)
I should have known it. Reading a dreadfully awful best-selling book is just like cheap sex. That’s the reason why I never trust the book with a fancy cover.

INT. RESTAURANT. DAY

Typical Chinese restaurant, dirty with smokes coming from the kitchen. There are no other customer in the restaurant except Steven.

Two women approach the table. Steven looks up. A young woman and a much older woman meet Steven’s eyes. Both take a seat opposite Steven.
Steven smiles at them but they show nothing interesting on their face.

STEVEN (VOICE OVER)
This is bad. What can be worse than a woman bringing her mother to a date. Or is it a woman bringing her daughter?

Steven looks at the SHIN. She is on her early-thirty and she looks pale and unhealthy. She sits still at her seat and says nothing. The older woman starts talking to Steven.

The older woman talks in Mandarin.

STEVEN (VOICE OVER)
I feel like I’m sitting in an interrogation room. The situation you always read from a hardboiled crime fiction. The cops will ask you questions and if you don’t have the answer they want. They will beat you hard. They will torture you like a hell. I always want know what it feels like. But now I know. I think those scenes in the books are bullshit. I don’t believe anyone can handle this without crying out loud. Even the tough guy Philip Marlowe in Chandler’s book. This is as bad as it gets.

Steven sweats. He tries to hold the cup of the tea steady but his hand is shaking.

INT. SAN FRANCISCO – STREET. DAY

Steven’s mother is shopping and Steven is with her. Steven is carrying bags for his mother. They are walking on the street.

STEVEN
Mom, I’m not working in a big company anymore. Why don’t you tell the truth?

MOTHER
Because no one would like to date you if they find out you work in an old shabby book shop.
STEVEN
But it is what I do. You don’t think they will find out later?

MOTHER
I just want make you look better.

STEVEN
You want yourself to look better. You are just saving face.

Mother says nothing.

STEVEN
I believe I can handle my life. Mom

MOTHER
You know what your grandmother told me when I married to your father?

STEVEN
What?

MOTHER
She said a man is not grown up until he has a family. Then she asked me to take care of your father.

STEVEN
I don’t think I can do it anymore. Maybe I should tell dad the truth. This what I really want.

Mother looks at Steven with a little surprise.

MOTHER
I think you should go to the final date. Then I will let it go.

Steven gives his mother a laugh.

STEVEN
You will always find a way to make me feel guilty. This is why I need a mother.
INT. BOOKSTORE. DAY

Steven sits on a stool behind the counter. He concentrates on a book. He gazes at his watch then looks up at the shelves. There is only one customer in the store. He walks outside and starts to move the bargain books tables into the store. AMY (mid 20s), Asian, she is beautiful in a calm way with a long pure black hair. She walks toward Steven and smiles at him.

WOMAN

Hi

STEVEN

Hi, Sorry, we are about to close.

WOMAN

It's ok, I'm just looking around.

STEVEN

Take your time, I can wait a couple more minutes.

The woman looks straight at Steven.

WOMAN

What you're reading?

STEVEN

THE BURGLAR IN THE LIBRARY.

WOMAN

Sounds interesting, what's this about?

STEVEN

It's about a burglar who owns a second-hand bookstore.

WOMAN

A bookstore, just like this one, hum? But you are not a burglar, are you?

Steven has an embarrassed looking on his face.

STEVEN

No!

AMY

So working in a book store like this, it must be dream come true.
Now, Steven looks at the woman with interest. He reads her face. The woman just keeps smiling.

STEVEN
Hi, I am Steven.

AMY
Nice to meet you, I’m Amy.

STEVEN
It is a pleasure to talk to you, But, I have a date and I’m already late.

AMY
What kind of the date?

STEVEN
A blind one.

AMY
A blind date? Fun Huh?

STEVEN
I wouldn’t use the word “fun” It’s a long story.

AMY
You want tell me about it?

STEVEN
No, not really. It’s a blind date setup by my mother.

Amy laughs pleasantly. She raises her eyebrows. Steven’s face turns red.

AMY
You mean SHEN-Chin? The Chinese blind date?

STEVEN
Yes, it’s stupid. I really have to go. Maybe I can see you the next time you come to the store.

AMY
Yeah, maybe we should. Or.....

STEVEN
What?
AMY
We can start date right now. I can
save you some time wondering who
your date is.

STEVEN
What do you mean? I told you I have
a blind date. Wait! You are Amy?
That Amy?

AMY
You don’t remember me, Do you?

STEVEN
Should I?

AMY
Your parents took you to my
parents’ place every weekend when
we were children.

STEVEN
There are so many kids in there.
How could you recognize me?

AMY
You were the quietest kid. You
always had a book with you. Rarely
talked to other kids.

STEVEN
This is not a random date, I guess

Amy laughs really loud.

AMY
No, it is not. Ask your mother, but
do it after the date.

Steven stares at Amy for a long time. Amy smiles. Steven
shakes his head then smiles back at her.

FADE OUT
TECHNICAL RESEARCH

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS/

Camera:
ARRIFLEX 16 SR2

Film Negative Format (MM/Video Inches):
SUPER 16 MM

Format :
DVD

Aspect Ratio: 
1.85 : 1

Laboratory:
FOTOKEM LABORATORY, BURBANK (CA), USA

Telecine:
ACADEMY OF ART TELECINE STUDIO
# PRODUCTION SCHEDULES

## 2008 September-December
- Screenplay writing

## 2009 February

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
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**Notes:**
- 11: Posting audition info
- 25: Audition 7-10pm

## 2009 March

<table>
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**Notes:**
- 11: Location scouting
- 25: Location scouting

### Color Legend
- **Pre-Production**
- **Production**
- **Post-Production**
### 2009 April

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<tr>
<th>Sunday</th>
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<tr>
<td>Scene Breakdown</td>
<td>Crew meeting</td>
<td>Location Scouting with key crew</td>
<td>Meeting with cast</td>
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**Legend:**
- **Yellow** = Pre-Production
- **Orange** = Production
- **Blue** = Post-Production
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SHOT LIST

Bookstore scene 1

WS- Small second-hand bookstore.

WS- Steven get ready to wedding

MS- Steven is dressing up for the wedding

CU- Watch

CU- Steven buttons his shirt

CU- Steven wears his tie

Wedding scene 2

WS- Wedding guests

Steady Cam- Steven walks into the wedding

2S’- Steven talks with his mom

OTS- Steven talks with his mom

Reverse OTS- Steven talks with his mom

Dolly Out- Steven's mother smiles as she lean forward to Steven's father

Restaurant scene 3

WS- Steven is waiting then a woman walks in then sit.
MS- Steven sees woman walks in

MS- Woman walks in

CU- Steven’s face

CU- Woman’s face

Hotel room scene 4

WS- Steven is naked on the bed. Jessica lights a cigarette. She is beside Steven. She looks at her watch and leaves the bed to get dress.

MS- She looks at her watch and leaves the bed to get dress.

MS- She walks out from the room without looking back

MS- Steven is looking straight at the ceiling

Chinese Restaurant Scene 5

WS- Two women approach the table

MS- Steven looks up

2S’- Mom and daughter sit then mom starts talking

WS- Girl’s Mom is talking to Steven

CU- Steven’s face

Extreme CU- Steven is sweating
Street Scene 6

WS- Mom and Steven is walking and talking
MS- Mom and Steven is walking and talking

Bookstore Scene 7

WS- Steven is reading
FU- Steven is reading then a girl walks in
2S- Steven is talking with Amy
OTS- Steven is talking with Amy
Reverse OTS- Steven is talking with Amy
MS- Steven is talking with Amy
CU- Steven is talking
CU- Amy is talking
CU- Book
Dolly out- Steven and Amy are laughing
Book Store
Chinese Wedding
Chinese Restaurant

1200 HMI

1K

650 w

350 W
PRODUCTION DESIGN

Paint

- **Blue**
  - C:100% M:90%

- **Darker Warm Brown**
  - C:40% M:69% Y:100% K:50%

- **Yellow Orange**
  - C:70% M:90%
Reference
Location #01/ Book Store
Location #02/ Chinese Wedding

Location #03/ Restaurant
Location #04/ Hotel Room

Location #05/ Chinese Restaurant
ACADEMIC TIMELINE

2008 Fall- Pre-production

Screenwriting/ Julie Oxendal
Cine 4/ Kenneth Ferro
Producing/ Curran Engel

2009 Spring- Production

Directing/ Tim Boxell,
Adv Production Planning/Curran Engel

2008 Summer- Post-production

Editing/ Jay Boekelheide
MARKETING PLAN

The story of the project is a romance comedy. The potential audiences of the project are the distributions who interests in romance comedy. The audiences are the distributions that have presented romance comedy films in the 5 years.

**First Look Studio**
Dedication (2007)
Priceless (2006)
10 Items or Less (2006)

**Focus Features**
Imagine Me & You (2005)
Prime (2005)
Scoop (2006)

**Miramax International**
Smart People (2008)

**Myriad Pictures**
Jack and Jill vs. the World (2008)
Comeback Season (2006)

**New Line Cinema**
Sex and the City (2008)
Just Friends (2005)

**Peace Arch Entertainment**
Numb (2007)
**Summit Entertainment, LLC**
Penelope (2006)
Lies & Alibis (2006)
A Lot Like Love (2005)

**The Weinstein Company**
The Nanny Diaries (2007)
Dedication (2007)
The Ex (2006)

**Yari Film Group**
The Accidental Husband (2008)
The Good Night (2007)
Base on the potential audiences of my project. Those distributions attend to several festivals. Those are the people who will see my movie screened in those festivals.

**Sundance Film Festival**
Submission Deadline: Sep 3rd

**Berlin International Film Festival**
Submission Deadline: Nov 15th

**Cannes Film Festival**
Submission Deadline: May 15th

**Toronto Film Festival**
Submission Deadline: Jun 9th

**Venice Film Festival**
Submission Deadline: Sep 15th

**Tribeca Film Festival**
Submission Deadline: Dec 15th
Fundraising Plan

To advocate the filmmaking in the country, the Motion Picture Development Foundation of R. O. C (Taiwan) founded the 1st annual of Subsidy for Excellent Short Film in 1991. In 1998, the Government Information Office, Executive Yuan continues the subsidy project aims to encourage new generation of filmmakers to create 16mm, 35mm short films and documentaries.

Since 1998, the winners of the subsidy had completed many brilliant works and had won the major film awards in the country, such as the Golden Horse Award, the Taipei Film Award (independent filmmaking competition and Citizen film awards), the Golden Harvest Award, and Awards granted by Taiwan International Documentary Festival. Several works of the subsided directors also won awards and invited by international film festivals. This displays the multiplicity and creative energy of Taiwan Cinema.