

STELLA

Some things you just don't do for love

Director: Kunlin Wang Producer: Xia Huang

Film Category: Short, Drama

Screening :

Logline:

A woman's love is tested when she must escape from her abusive lover in order to protect her young daughter from being sold into prostitution by him so he can alleviate a debt.

Synopsis:

STELLA's dastardly boyfriend DAMON owes a debt to a shady, violent JOSH. In order to satisfy the debt, Damon allows him to sleep with Stella. But Josh wants more and eyes Stella's young innocent daughter ANN. Ruthless Damon beats Stella for not pleasing Josh. Trying to fix the family, Ann draws a happy family picture and shows it to Stella and Damon. Stella forces a smile to comfort Ann and hopes Ann touches Damon too. However, Damon just stares at Ann.

After having sex at that night, Stella carefully asks Damon about his plan about Ann. Damon's silence leads a fearful Stella to run away with Ann in the middle of the night. Stella gets a shelter at her friend's massage parlor. But soon Damon finds her. Stella begs Damon not to give Ann to Josh. Then, Damon receives a threatening call from Josh. But Stella stops him to give Ann away...

Director's statement

Wang is a female director from a small industrial city in China. She was raised in a family where violence constantly happened, which develops her objection to patriarchal society. The inspiration of this movie comes from her life experience. Wang's father likes to sacrifice other's interests to achieve whatever he thinks is right for the family, which is what Damon does in the movie. Wang's mother obeys to her husband, but she also has her bottom line, who is the prototype of the character Stella.

Many women have always had to fight against abusive relationships and this situation is underrepresented in film. It's important to see women fight back as our heroine decides to do. Wang wants to represent female who live at the edge of the society and do not give up fighting for what they deserve .



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About Us

Director & Writer



Kunlin Wang is a Chinese independent film director. Receiving her BA in International Communications Studies in the University of Nottingham, Wang is pursuing a MFA in film production, with an emphasis on directing at Chapman University. She not only directs, but also writes her own films. Her short film, "Split Expectations," was an official selection at the 31st Boston LGBT Film Festival, the 2015 Berlin Underground Film Festival, the 2015 Fort Worth Indie Film Showcase, and the 2015 Voiceless International Film Festival California. Her short film, "Who am I?," was the Extreme Short winner at the 2014 NSP Student Microfilm Competition. As a female underground artist, Wang loves tragedy drama and likes to represent marginal people and subculture.

Co-Writer



Stella Zhou has an extensive background in dramatic writing and film studies. After receiving her two BAs in Creative Writing and Film Studies from Agnes Scott College, she continued her journey in one of the best film schools in the US, the American Film Institute, to pursue a MFA in Screenwriting, where she has written many short scripts, feature-length scripts, treatments, and TV spec scripts. Her one-act play, a melodramatic dark comedy, "Matilda," won first prize at the 43rd Annual Agnes Scott's Writers' Festival Contest, a statewide writing competition in Georgia. Her preferred genres include but are not limited to dark comedy, thriller, horror, and drama.

Producer



Xia Huang is an independent film producer who has produced several shorts. After graduating from Zhejiang University of Media and Communication as a TV production major, she continues to explore her film career as a producer at Chapman University. Xia's studies have helped her gain a profound understanding of the TV and film industry in both China and America. Xia is interested in various genres. Her film, "Passe," won four awards from Zotfest.

Director of Photography



Youchen Miao, born and raised in Beijing, China, has been dedicated to improving his craft of filmmaking since undergraduate school. His graduation thesis, the documentary short, "Hard-won Happiness," won the silver award at the 2014 Chinese Western International Festival, which inspired him to explore his potential as a storyteller in the industry. After earning dual degrees in Journalism and Digital Entertainment Design from Tsinghua University, Miao has worked on several television programs, commercials and documentary films, which were broadcast on Chinese channels including CCTV. Since he enjoys turning stories into visual arts so much, Miao eventually decided to pursue his Masters in film production at Chapman University.

Editor



Jing Han received a B.A. in Digital Media Art at Communication University of China. By virtue of her great efforts in the undergraduate period, she gained a solid background in film and television production covering all the aspects, especially in editing. She won the Best Thesis Award of School of Animation and Digital Arts in 2015 for her undergrad thesis, "Seek," which she worked on as an editor. As a graduate student in film production, with an emphasis in film editing at Chapman University, she has worked on short films, TV pilots, etc. Her preferred genres include but not limited to mystery, thriller and drama.

Behind the Scene with Us



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About Cast

Stella



Katrina Nelson lives in Los Angeles where she works as an actor and a model. She has worked on television shows such as *Castle*, *Two and a Half Men*, and *The New Adventures of Old Christine*. She has appeared in numerous national commercials for television and the Internet for products like Lexus, McDonald's, and Budweiser. She has also kept busy working on independent film projects. Some titles include *Crush the Skull*, *Things You Don't Joke About* and *The Bride*. Katrina has also done several stage productions in LA, most notably, *John Patrick Shanley's, Women of Manhattan* and *Italian American Reconciliation* as well as, *Neil LaBute's Filthy Talk For Troubled Times* and *Break of Noon*.

Damon



David Veach hails from Seattle, Washington where he received his M.F.A in Acting in the Professional Actor's Training Program under the direction of Jack Clay. Since moving to Los Angeles David has appeared in such film and television shows as *Reno 911 Miami*, *Passions*, and *Conan*. David recently toured with Grammy nominee Sophie B. Hawkins in the musical *Room 105* where he portrayed television icon Dick Cavett.

Ann



Sofia Checchi is a SAG/AFTRA Los Angeles-based actress. She grew up speaking English, Spanish and Italian and can speak all three languages natively. Although her acting career began relatively recently, she has had roles in many short films, two features, and various national commercials in English, Spanish and Italian. Sofia is also a competitive gymnast and loves to travel and learn about new languages and cultures. Sofia's short films have been selected by more than 15 film festivals including Los Angeles Independent Film Festival Awards, California International Shorts Festival and Mexico International Film Festival.

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CAST

Stella	Katrina Nelson
Damon	David Veach
Ann	Sofia Checchi
Josh	MorgOn Delamarre
Crystal	Maria Lingbananl

CREW

Director/Writer	Kunlin Wang
Co-Writer	Stella Zhou
Producer	Xia Huang
Cinematographer	Youchen Miao
Editor	Jin Han
Sound Design	William Hsieh
Production Design	Tayler Nicholson

Contact Us

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