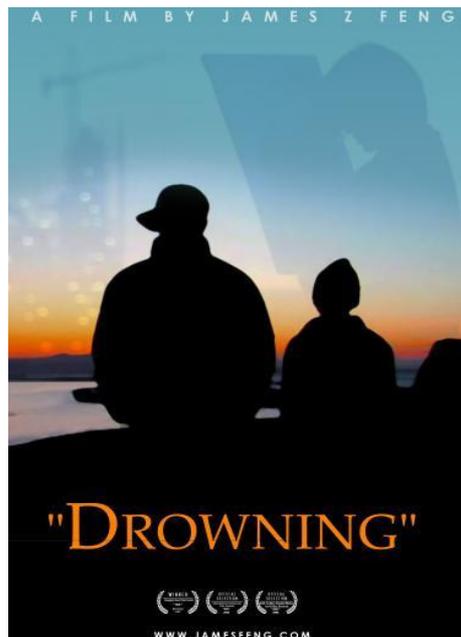


# Drowning

*a film by*

**James Z. Feng**



## **Film Press Kit**

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## **“THE FILMMAKERS”**

Writer, Director, Producer..... James Z. Feng  
Cinematographer & Producer.....Pete Von Tews  
Editor & Producer.....Barbara Grandvoinet  
Special Effects Supervisor.....Derek Hansen  
Color Grader.....Derek Hansen  
Composer.....Jesse Chui  
Original Artist.....Christopher Ocampo  
Set Photographer.....Adrian Sangalang  
Co-Producer.....Seher Basak  
Associate Producer.....Alex Yeung  
Associate Producer.....Jason Larsen  
Trailer Editor.....Fiona Pan  
Executive Producer.....James Z. Feng

## **“CAST”**

Katie Chan.....Mom  
Ronald Jou.....Calvin Tang  
David Sun.....Young Calvin Tang  
James Z. Feng.....Jimmy Tang  
Robert Jakobs.....Officer Tillgan  
Barry Au-Yeung.....Gangster  
Jason Larsen.....Hit man  
Michael Ocampo.....Jerk Driver

## **SYNOPSIS**

Our story is about Calvin, the son of a controlling single mother and a best friend to a loving big brother, Jimmy. When tragedy suddenly strikes and takes Jimmy, Calvin is left alone in the confining care of his mother. Without his brother’s encouragement, Calvin struggles to reclaim the purpose he previously set out for his life. Nine years after his brother's untimely death, Calvin must now make a conscious choice: Pursue his dream as an artist or become a shadow of his mother's expectations. With an ending sure to shock, this film is about anyone who has ever dared to dream, but was turned away.

## **“DIRECTOR’S STATEMENT”**

It doesn’t matter who we are or where we are from, cultural and generational boundaries play a crucial role in today’s ever-changing global society. Values, beliefs, dreams, or lack of, all play into this little game we call “life”. Ironic at times, the clashes that are often derived out of love turn misunderstandings and arguments into broken families. My goal with *Drowning* is to showcase one of these clashes between members of a family that eventually tear away at the bond that once was suppose to be most sacred. My goal with this film is to showcase a big problem that exists in American culture; a problem that needs addressing. This film is dedicated to every kid out there who once had a dream but was not allowed to pursue it.

## **“THE PROCESS”**

After coming back from Shanghai after two years, I started taking classes in film production and writing to continue my new film career. During this process, I started writing *Drowning*, a film about the conflict between controlling parents and kids with their own dreams. Once I finished writing this script after three months, I decided to use some savings I had to do this film on my own. I asked my friend Pete Von Tews if he would DP my project, he was touched by the script and agreed to endure the incoming storm that would later eat us both alive. We began our long and tough journey as the two-man ultra squad that would become our only production crew. I did casting and found the actors we needed and started our shooting. Through sweet talking vendor owners and getting small favors from friends, we managed to tough out ten days of shooting all over the East Bay. Now looking back, this tough journey has made me aware of the insane hardships that come with independent filmmaking; especially with a two man crew.

Getting much-needed help from industry professionals and friends in the post-production process has been a blessing to this production. I have no idea what the perception of the outcome of the project will be and frankly don’t care; I will always be proud of *Drowning* for the amount of soul that was put breathed into this piece. I thank everyone for their blood, sweat, and gas money that was put into this project. I’ve done all I could, now we’ll let God decide how it’ll be. No matter what happens, I’ll always make the best out of every situation; that’s my philosophy in life.

**James Z. Feng, Writer/Director/Producer**

**“ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS”**



**James Z. Feng, Writer/Director/Producer:**

Born in Wuxi, China and immigrated to USA at the age of 7, James started filmmaking at the age of 17 in high school making films with buddies. Taking a turn in interests by focusing on acting during his college years, James minored in theatre and acted in more than 20 films as a University of California San Diego student. Picked up to do a film in China right after graduation with a US-based production company, James eventually decided to pursue acting in Shanghai and stayed there for two years before coming back to USA.

Spending two years in Shanghai changed James's life as he saw and experienced a different life that saw endless possibilities with his future as a filmmaker. After shedding his naïveté and seeing the real world for the first time, James made a living through acting while focusing on writing his first film in *600*. The completion and success of *600* has led James to continue his career as a writer/direct/producer.

*Drowning* is James's 2<sup>nd</sup> film and will hit the US festival circuit in 2009. His debut film *600* recently garnered many Official Selections along with awards and nominations internationally from China, Malta, England, to the USA.

Recent Credits include: *600* (Writer/Director/Producer), *Zip-A-Gang* (1<sup>st</sup> AD), *The High Tower* (Lead Actor), *Kung Fu Killer* (Supporting Actor).



**Pete Von Tews, Director of Photography/Producer:**

Born in Poland and immigrated to the USA at a young age, Pete's obsession with photography began at a young age helping his father when his family opened a photography shop. Since those early years, Pete can be spotted all over Bay Area shooting stock footage or working on projects to hone his skills as a DP. Also a musician in his spare time, Pete makes electronic music for kicks.

Recent DP credits: *Concord Ghetto*, *Good Ol' Roy*, *The Organization*.

***Barbara Grandvoinet***, Editor/Producer:

A native from Paris, France, she moved to New York in 1999 where she worked for PBS/American Masters as a freelance assistant producer and archival researcher on various documentaries: "Juilliard", "F. Scott Fitzgerald: Winter Dreams", "Robert Capa: In love and War" & "Clint Eastwood". In 2005, she edited a short documentary, which was nominated at the Amsterdam Film Festival & International Documentary Festival of Rome. She taught at San Francisco State University video production, studio production and non-linear editing. She's currently directing and producing a documentary about kids and cops in Thailand and producing a documentary about a family who adopted six children from Haiti and brought them to be raised in the cowboy tradition.

***Seher Basak***, Co-Producer:

Seher became interested in making movies from working in the video game industry, where she first saw the potential for expanding narrative realms through the use of different media types through the Wachowskis's work on the Matrix universe. She has been most inspired by Robert Rodriguez and Kevin Smith in the world of film and in gaming by Ragnar Tornquist, Warren Spector and Clint Hocking.

Drowning is Seher's second film. She has also produced *The High Tower* and the game "Physitive" for the PC.

***Alexander Leung***, Associate Producer:

Born in Oakland, California, the San Francisco Bay Area has been his home since birth. He has been working on creating visual images ever since a friend said "Hey, we should make a film!" Ever since that simple shout was uttered close to 2 decades of learning and frustration has led him to experience all levels of production - pre to post. Most of his abilities were self taught by just getting out there and learning by doing. He seeks to expand his experience into what makes visual creation a business that results in commercial successes.

***Jesse Chui***, Composer:

Born and raised in California, Jesse began playing piano in first grade and drums and percussion in ninth grade. He also began dabbling in guitar around sixth grade. He began writing music for film only recently. Growing up, Jesse enjoyed and excelled in all his classes, and occasionally aspired to be a renaissance man. In college, he majored in computer science. He then spent a year teaching English at a university in Beijing and traveling extensively throughout China. Upon his return to the U.S., he started law school. He graduated three years later and passed the bar exam. Jesse is currently working on several music and business projects. His music website is [www.songsforcinema.com](http://www.songsforcinema.com).

***Adrian Sangalang***, Set Photographer:

Born in Manila, Philippines and raised in the Bay Area, Adrian began shooting while still in middle school. Interested in the aspects of photojournalism, landscape and fashion photography, Adrian is constantly exploring alternative techniques and honing his signature. His influences include Henri-Cartier Bresson, Frank Capa and, more recently, Anton Corbijn, with his work in *Control*. An ideal film, for Adrian, is one which every frame doubles as a striking photograph.

His recent credits include *Mr. Killer* (cinematographer, editor), a student film depicting the comedic life of a high school hit man.

***Christopher Ocampo***, Original Artwork Contributor

Chris is a conceptual designer and illustrator, and is highly focused on pre-production. Currently Chris creates designs for a videogame project being developed at Nihilistic Software. Previously, he has worked on the PS3 and Xbox 360 videogame "Conan," where the art inspiration was influenced by the great fantasy artist, Frank Frazetta. Chris designed characters, creatures, environments, and created storyboards for "Conan." He has worked on projects with many major companies including Disney, THQ, and Kanomi. He attended San Jose State University and was fortunate to participate in their partnership with the ACME Animation Program.

## “THE TALENT”



***Katie Chan***, Mom:

Born and raised in Hong Kong, Katie starts acting in high school. After graduating from college, she decided to retrieve her long time passion in acting. Currently she is obtaining her professional training at the Foothill College Conservatory Theater. Her dream is to create experiences for viewers to feel and think beyond their personal level.



***Ronald Jou***, Calvin Tang:

Born in Taiwan, immigrated to San Francisco due to a medical emergency at age 3, Ronald studies Civil Engineering while part-timing other jobs. Someday he hopes to become a respected city official, to help and serve the population. As well as eventually being the creator of a graphic novel. This is Ronald's first film.



***David Sun***, Young Calvin Tang

Recently moved to California and living in Moraga, David is a 10-year old boy who loves basketball. This is his first movie and he is very happy to have met so many cool guys on the set of Drowning, he thanks everyone for having him in the film.

***Barry Au-Yeung***, Gangster:

Born in Hong Kong, studied in UK to become a computer professional. He later moved to San Francisco to continue his career as a computer professional. He is best described as: Computer geek, world traveler, movie extra, and a wannabe poker player.

**“PRODUCTION PHOTOS”**

