

OUTSIDE

a short film
by jenn kao

“4 Stars” “utterly captivating... a great film”

- FilmThreat.com

“like one of those great high-concept sci-fi films from the 1970s”

- Tom McLean, Variety Weblogs

“Deft enlivening of a minimalist allegory about ‘insiders’ and ‘outsiders’”

- LA WEEKLY

“Haunting lesbian eroticism”

- Washington DC APA Film Festival

WINNER: **Best Student Film**
Directors Guild of America
Asian American Category

WINNER: **Best Sci-Fi Film**
Comic-Con International Film Festival

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OUTSIDE**ONE-LINER**

In a post-apocalyptic society a young woman risks everything to make contact with the outside world.

SYNOPSIS

The film takes place in the aftermath of a devastating World War. One group of survivors starts a new civilization underground, tunneling themselves into isolation. They fear the outside world and wear implants that keep them confined to their bunkers. They call themselves Insiders.

DEVI is an Insider girl who lives alone in a bunker with one precious window to the outside world. But she doesn't think of herself as alone. After all, she has her radio, and she uses it to chat with people like her best friend, **ARI**. During the day, Devi works as a censor, editing the video messages of her fellow citizens for obscene content. In Devi's world, unnecessary touching is illegal.

In their free time, Devi and Ari *drop* for fun. Dropping is their hallucinogenic experience of the outside world, of the forests and sandy beaches they will never see for themselves. Working and dropping: life for Devi is always the same, maybe too much the same.

One day, Devi hears a sound outside her window, and she sees a real live person for the first time. It's a woman named **M**, the leader of a group of Outsiders, vagabonds and outcasts. They're dirty and frightening, and they won't leave Devi alone. When Devi stands up to M and her bullying ways, they begin a relationship which will change both their lives forever.

OUTSIDE

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

No one told me that going to film school meant spending so much time in dark rooms. When screening a movie, you shut off the lights. When shooting in a sound stage, the last thing you want is daylight leaking in from a window. My school's response to this was to design a building without many windows at all. My third year at UCLA, the year I wrote *Outside*, was spent, literally, in the dark.

After an especially late night in a small editing room much like *Devi's*, the protagonist of *Outside*, I got up to take a break and turned towards the door. For some reason, I paused and wondered, *what if the door's locked?* It was the weekend, all the staff had gone home, all the edit rooms were padded with soundproof foam...

And that was the beginning of the script to *Outside*.

FORMAT

Film Title.....OUTSIDE
Genre.....science-fiction/drama
Running Time.....22:20
Date of Completion.....11/2004
Shooting Format.....35mm color
Country of Production.....USA
Screening Format.....DigiBeta, BetaSP, miniDV, DVD

OUTSIDE

KEY CREW

| | |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| Writer/Director | Jenn Kao |
| Producer | Jenn Kao |
| | Aleem Hossain |
| Cinematographer | Julie Kirkwood |
| Production Designer | Austin Formato |
| | Dominique Navarro |
| Original Music by | Karen Martin-Messner |
| Costume Designer | Swinda Reichelt |
| Makeup Artist | Christie Leister |
| Sound Design | Jeremy Grody |
| Title Artist | Rachel Flowers |
| Title Designer | Blaise Hossain |

CAST LIST

| | |
|--------|-----------------|
| "Devi" | Courtney Ford |
| "M" | Keaton Talmadge |
| "Ari" | Juliet |

FILMMAKER BIO

Jenn Kao graduated in 2005 with an MFA from UCLA in Film Directing. She lives in Los Angeles, but also spends time in Beijing, where her parents reside. Her thesis film, *Outside*, won Best Student Film from the Directors Guild of America in the Asian American Category as well as Best Sci-Fi Film at Comic-Con 2006. She recently finished writing a feature length zombie movie.

Website: www.outsidethemovie.com

AWARDS

DGA Student Award – Best Student Film, Asian American Category 2005
Best Science Fiction Film – Comic-Con International Film Festival 2006
The Panavision New Filmmakers Program
Women in Film/Verna Fields Memorial Fellowship
Charles and Lucille King Family Foundation Fellowship
The Lew and Edie Wasserman Film Production Fellowship
Fuji Film Grant
Showtime UCLA Initiative
The Jack Arnold Memorial Fellowship

SCREENINGS

Palms Springs International Festival of Short Films 2006
Comic-Con International Film Festival 2006 (Winner: Best Sci-Fi Film)
NewFest New York LGBT Film Festival 2006
Frameline San Francisco LGBT Film Festival 2006
Santa Fe Film Festival 2004
San Francisco International Asian-American Film Festival 2005
San Diego Asian-American Film Festival 2005
DC Asian Pacific American Film Festival 2005
NYU Next:Reel International Student Film Festival
DisOrient: Asian-American Film Festival of Oregon

REVIEWS

FilmThreat.com

4 Stars “utterly captivating... a great film”

Full review at <http://filmthreat.com/index.php?section=reviews&id=7876>

Variety Weblogs

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