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INTERNATIONAL

IN BETWEEN DAYS

Written & Directed by So Yong Kim

Produced & Co-written by Bradley Rust Gray

Starring Jiseon Kim & Taegu Andy Kang



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I N T E R N A T I O N A L

IN BETWEEN DAYS

CAST

Aimie – Jiseon Kim
Tran – Taegu Andy Kang
Mom – Bokja Kim
Michelle – Gina Kim
Michelle's Friend – Virginia Wu
Steve – Mike Park

CREW

Writer/ Director/ Editor So Yong Kim
Producer/ Co-writer Bradley Rust Gray
Co-producer Jennifer Weiss
Cinematographer Sarah Levy
Production Manager Andrew Choi
Associate Producer Stephanie Markowitz
16mm Cinematography Bradley Rust Gray
Gaffer Sarah Levy
Camera Assistant Bradley Rust Gray
Production Sound Andrew Choi
Props and Costumes Virginia Wu
Location Scout Andrew Choi
Camera Package Joel Virtel and Mora Stephenson
Editing Supervisor Bradley Rust Gray
Sound Design So Yong Kim
DV to HD Transfer Technicolor Canada
16mm Transfer to DV Fotokem

IN BETWEEN DAYS

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS :

Running Time – 82 Minutes
Format – 24pDV & 16mm transferred to HDCam in color
Aspect Ratio – 1:1.85
Sound – 5.1 Stereo
Language – Korean and English with English subtitles
Release – 2006



IN BETWEEN DAYS

SYNOPSIS

Aimie, a newly arrived Korean immigrant teenager, has fallen in love with her best and only friend, Tran. She tries to express her feelings for him, but is scared of losing their friendship. Their misunderstood affection for each other creates a delicate relationship that is challenged by the demands of living in a new country. To spend more time with Tran, Aimie drops out of her English class, which she is failing. She fights against her mother who wants to remarry and then realizes she's losing Tran to an Americanized Korean girl. Aimie's world becomes more isolated, until she is forced to look inside herself for answers.

STATEMENT FROM WRITER/ DIRECTOR SO YONG KIM

The inspiration for IN BETWEEN DAYS came from my teenage years of growing up in a suburb of Los Angeles. While being raised by a single Korean mother, there was never a discussion of 'love' or 'sex' in our household. In my circle of Korean immigrant teenage friends there was a persistent tension when it came to the topics of sex and love.

Although sex and love were often on our minds, we were too afraid to talk openly or even jokingly about them. When I began writing IN BETWEEN DAYS, I used that experience as the basis to build a backdrop for the characters. The feelings behind Aimie and the choices she makes stem from the frustration of not being able to express her feelings because she is afraid. My intention in making IN BETWEEN DAYS is to share an immigrant story that is personal and honest.

With that in mind, I tried to create an intimate character study of a young girl who is coming of age while adapting to life in a new country. Although Aimie's experience is unique to her situation, her desire to fall in love and to be loved is universal.



IN BETWEEN DAYS
BIOGRAPHIES

WRITER/ DIRECTOR/EDITOR – SO YONG KIM

So Yong Kim is a filmmaker, musician, and artist who works in partnership with her husband Bradley Rust Gray. So Yong Kim was born and raised in Pusan, Korea, then immigrated to the United States when she was twelve. She studied painting, performance, and video art and earned her MFA from The School of the Art Institute of Chicago. So Yong Kim is a recipient of the New York Foundation's Video Artist Grant, Puffin Artist Grant, the MacDowell Colony Fellow for the National Endowment for the Arts, the Sleipnir Artist Travel Grant, and others. She has exhibited her installations and films/videos throughout the United States, Europe, and Japan. Her short film, "a bunny rabbit" featured cinematography by Christopher Doyle. Kim produced Bradley Rust Gray's first narrative feature, *SALT*, in 2003, which won four international awards and was released on the Sundance Channel. She is set to produce his second feature, *JACK & DIANE*, scheduled to shoot in the summer 2006. Most recently, So Yong has completed her first feature, *IN BETWEEN DAYS*, which she wrote and directed. The film has been selected for Dramatic Competition at the 2006 Sundance Film Festival and has been invited to the 2006 Berlin Film Festival's International Forum for New Cinema. She is in development with her second feature, *TREELESS MOUNTAIN*, which was featured at the 2005 Pusan Promotion Plan and was selected for the 2006 Sundance Writer's Lab.

PRODUCER / CO-WRITER – BRADLEY RUST GRAY

Bradley Rust Gray is an award-winning writer director who works in partnership with his wife, So Yong Kim. Gray is a Fulbright scholar who has received a Masters in Film Production from USC and a Masters in Film Theory from the British Film Institute in London. His undergraduate work focused on architecture, sculpture, and experimental filmmaking with a degree from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Brad's short film *HITCH* premiered at the prestigious New York Film Festival in 1999 and later won an award at Sundance in 2000. *HITCH* was also selected as one of the 'Best Films of the Year' in *Film Comment Magazine* and Bradley Rust Gray was featured as one of the '25 Filmmakers to Watch' that year in *Filmmaker Magazine*. The short was purchased by Strand Releasing and released theatrically across the United States as part of *BOY'S LIFE 3*.

Gray's first feature, *SALT*, was filmed in Iceland and premiered at the Berlin Film Festival 2003 where it garnered the Caligari Film Prize for Innovative Filmmaking. It was selected for over 20 International festivals and won three more awards including Best First Time Director at the Sony Film Festival in Japan and the Audience Award at the Nashville Film Festival. It is currently showing on the Sundance Channel. Brad is currently working on his second feature, *JACK & DIANE*, which will be produced by So Yong Kim. The film will star Ellen Page and feature animation by the Brother's Quay. It is scheduled to shoot in the summer of 2006. Most recently, Gray produced *IN BETWEEN DAYS*, the first feature film by So Yong Kim. The film has been selected for Dramatic Competition at the 2006 Sundance Film Festival and has been invited to the 2006 Berlin Film Festival's International Forum for New Cinema. He is also set to produce her second feature, *TREELESS MOUNTAIN*.

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INFORMATION ON **SOANDBRAD** PRODUCTION COMPANY

SOANDBRAD is the creative team of Bradley Rust Gray and So Yong Kim. *SALT*, written and directed by Gray and produced by Kim, was shot in Iceland, in the Icelandic language and won the Caligari Prize for Innovative Filmmaking at the 2003 Berlin Film Festival. It was selected for over 20 International festivals and won three more awards including Best First Time Director at the Sony Film Festival in Japan, Best Film/ Young Jury Award in Rouen France, and the Audience Award at the Nashville Film Festival. It is currently showing on the Sundance Channel as part of their "Formula Free Films" series. *IN BETWEEN DAYS*, written and directed by So Yong Kim and produced by Gray is their second production and will premiere in dramatic competition at the Sundance Film Festival in 2006. The European premiere will be at the Berlin International Film Festival Forum in 2006.

JACK & DIANE, written and to be directed by Brad Gray and to be produced by Kim is scheduled to shoot in New York City in the summer of 2006. The film will star actress, Ellen Page, and will feature animation by the Brothers Quay. *TREELESS MOUNTAIN*, written by So Yong Kim and to be produced by Gray, set in South Korea in the mid-seventies, is currently in development. It was showcased as part of the Pusan Promotion Plan at the 2005 Pusan International Film Festival. The script was also invited to the 2006 Sundance Writer's Lab.

CO-PRODUCER – **JENNIFER WEISS**

Jennifer Weiss is a Toronto-based film producer and founding partner of The Film Farm. Selected critically acclaimed short films include *HEART OF THE WORLD* by Guy Maddin, *I SHOUT LOVE* by Sarah Polley and, most recently, *SSHTOOORTY* by Michael Snow. Jennifer produced the feature *LUCK* by Peter Wellington, which garnered rave reviews and won the award for Best Narrative Feature at the prestigious South by Southwest Film Festival in Austin. She is currently producing Sarah Polley's debut feature, *AWAY FROM HER*, slated for production in early spring 2006.

CINEMATOGRAPHER – **SARAH LEVY**

Sarah Levy is an award-winning cinematographer of narrative and documentary films. Sarah received her MFA from USC where she was awarded a scholarship for Excellence in Cinematography and received the American Society of Cinematographers Student Award. In 2001, she was invited by Kodak to screen a compilation reel of her work in the American Pavilion at the Cannes International Film Festival. Sarah shot Gray's award-winning short, *HITCH*, part of Strand Releasing's *BOY'S LIFE 3*. She has been the Director of Photography on two independent features: *THE GRAFFITI ARTIST*, which premiered at the 2004 Berlin Film Festival, and *IN BETWEEN DAYS*, premiering at the 2006 Sundance Film Festival. Sarah's recent documentary work includes Mark Wexler's *TELL THEM WHO YOU ARE*, selected by the Associated Press as one of the Top Ten Films of 2005, and *30 DAYS*, produced by Academy Award nominee Morgan Spurlock.

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IN BETWEEN DAYS **ACTORS BIOGRAPHIES**

JISEON KIM

Jiseon Kim, age 21, was born and raised in South Korea, then immigrated to the US in 1999. She currently attends the Parsons School of Design in New York, majoring in Communication Design. When she was a girl, Jiseon dreamed of becoming an actress, but her strict parents encouraged her to study something practical. After she was approached by So Yong to be in the film, Jiseon could not believe her luck. It was a chance for her to pursue her dream of becoming an actress. Her parents were not so easily convinced. So and Brad had to get a letter of recommendation from Sundance programmer Trevor Groth to convince them that they were legitimate filmmakers. After finally agreeing to let Jiseon do the film, her parents then asked if Jiseon should get cosmetic surgery on her teeth and nose to be in the movie. Jiseon currently has one dimple, which is a result of a childhood accident. When she was five she fell down some stairs and landed with side of her face on a nail. It bruised badly then turned in to a dimple. Her parents still can't believe their good fortune that Jiseon got such a cute dimple for free. They want her to do the other side.

TAEQU ANDY KANG

Taequ, age 21, was born and raised in South Korea, then immigrated to Canada in 1999. He is currently studying Jewelry Design at the George Brown College in Toronto. His ambition is to specialize in engagement and wedding rings.

His inspiration to be a jewelry designer came from his mother who encouraged him to do something creative with his life. When So and Brad first approached him at a dance club in Toronto after one in the morning, Taequ thought that they were making a pornographic film. He said 'yes' anyway because he still wanted to be in a movie even if it might have turned out to be a porn.



IN BETWEEN DAYS

PROJECT INFORMATION

Pre-Production – Locations

IN BETWEEN DAYS was inspired by the writer/ director's childhood experience of moving from South Korea to Los Angeles in the 1980's. The film's location was changed to Toronto to search for a Korean-American world that would be fresh yet familiar to the director's eyes. Toronto, having the third-largest Korean-American population in North America, was found to have an interesting combination of urban sprawl with a congested industrial city center. In the film, Toronto was made to look like a generic American city during the wintertime: gray, cold, and bleak. This feeling comes in contrast to the neon lit world of the Korean-American locations: bright signs, karaoke rooms, and game parlours. A strong Korean-Canadian youth community helped organize the production. So Yong Kim contacted various Korean student clubs of University of Toronto and the Asian film community before our first visit to Toronto in July of 2004. Since the initial contact, the Korean community of Toronto helped us find locations, lodging and additional cast members.

Pre-Production – Casting

All of the characters in the film are played by non-actors. Working with non-actors invited welcomed surprises for a character who was born on paper. This was the most important process of the film, since the script was later altered to fit the person we found. Through this collaboration with a non-actor, the character became more rounded and realistic. We found this to be especially true in the two leads: Jiseon Kim and Taegu Andy Kang as Aimie and Tran. Jiseon Kim was discovered by So Yong Kim while working in a Korean cafe in New Jersey. Due to her traditional and protective upbringing, Jiseon holds a naïve and innocent view of the world, one that is filled with optimism. The original "Aimie" character was a post-Goth aggressive and troubled teen. So Yong Kim decided to work with Jiseon and adjust Aimie's character to fit Jiseon's personality. Taegu Andy Kang was discovered at a dance club in downtown Toronto. We found that Taegu's aloof exterior was in strong contrast to his sensitive and shy interior. This added deeper dynamics to Tran's character, and to his relationship with Aimie.

Pre-Production – Equipment

Our co-producer in Canada, Jennifer Weiss of The Film Farm, came on board in the fall of 2004. On our behalf she secured locations, requested city permits, and provided the equipment including a full lighting and sound packages. So Yong Kim was selected to participate in the Independent Producers Lab at IFP, Los Angeles in 2004 with IN BETWEEN DAYS. Through contacts made from the Lab, we secured a complete 24P Panasonic digital camera package.



IN BETWEEN DAYS

PROJECT INFORMATION

Production

The script was re-edited two weeks before the shoot to fit the character changes and confirmed locations. The film was simplified into one-sentence descriptions creating a three-page version of the script containing ninety-one scenes. Most dialogue was developed on the day of shooting between the director and the actors. This approach added a fresh and authentic feel to each moment in the film. The scheduled shoot was for 25 days. The crew and cast lived on location in an apartment in a low-income/government housing neighborhood of Toronto. All of the locations were donated, while the City of Toronto gave us permission to shoot on public buses and other public spaces. Shooting was completed two days early allowing time to experiment with 16mm film for the "postcard" sections of the story. Utilizing a small crew of four people meant we could go on location and move quickly. Also shooting digital video allowed us to shoot very long takes, holding on moments and letting them play out. This created an intimate and secure shooting environment, which allowed the actors relax into the characters and situations.

Structure, Format, Style, and Theme

The format of the project is a narrative feature film, although non-traditional in its structure and style. It is an intimate character study of a young girl who is coming of age while adapting to life in a new country. The theme of isolation is consistently referenced throughout the film. The story was shot hand-held, and almost entirely in close-up. Moments of Aimie's life were created with long takes in quiet and intimate locations. The director created this claustrophobic atmosphere to keep the viewer trapped within Aimie's world. Also, Korean language is primarily spoken throughout the film, which reinforces the separation of Aimie from the rest of the American world around her. Life is brought into this isolation through Jiseon Kim's heart-warming portrayal of Aimie's struggle. Our intention in making *IN BETWEEN DAYS* is to share an immigrant story that is personal and honest. We believe Aimie's universal story will resonate with anyone who has struggled to fit into a new environment.