



...and 20 more film festivals

# TAKE OUT

A FILM BY SEAN BAKER & SHIH-CHING TSOU

## P R E S S   K I T

**Running Time: 87 minutes**

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## SYNOPSIS

**Take Out** is a day-in-the-life of Ming Ding, an illegal Chinese immigrant working as a deliveryman for a Chinese take-out shop in New York City. Ming is behind with his payments on his huge debt to the smugglers who brought him to the US. The collectors have given him until the end of the day to deliver the money that is due. After borrowing most from friends and relatives, Ming realizes that the remainder must come from the day's delivery tips. In order to do so, he must make more than double his average daily income.

In a social-realist style, the camera follows Ming on his deliveries throughout the upper Manhattan neighborhood where social and economic extremes exist side by side. Intercutting between Ming's deliveries and the daily routine of the restaurant, **Take Out** presents a harsh and realistic look at the daily lives of illegal Chinese immigrants in present day New York City.

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

**Take Out** is a feature film shot on digital video due to both the cinema vérité style and the non-existent budget. Employing an ensemble cast of both professional and nonprofessional actors, and shooting in an actual take-out restaurant during operating hours without a crew provided filmmakers Tsou and Baker with a liberating experience in which acting and story became the only concern. The “run and gun” method of filmmaking created a raw energy that the filmmakers feel they have captured on film.

Taking cues from the filmmaking of Ken Loach and the Dardenne brothers, **Take Out** puts a distinctly human face on the lives of people largely hidden from and ignored by the mainstream.

## THE CAST

### **Charles Jang - Ming Ding**

Raised in New York, Charles is a first generation Korean-American. He began dabbling with the performing arts in high school improvisation workshops, staged skit performances, and nunchaku (martial arts) demonstrations. Although he initially chose a financial economics major in college, Charles continued attending acting classes and workshops. At the age of 20 he spent a year in Taiwan studying Mandarin (one of the requirements for the Ming Ding role). In 2001, Charles started working on film sets, which led to looking at acting as more than a serious hobby. As of Summer 2003, he was admitted into the Screen Actors Guild. This is his first leading role.



### **Jeng-Hua Yu - Young**

Born and raised in Taipei, Taiwan, Jeng-Hua received his BA in Drama and Cinema at the Chinese Cultural University in Taipei. He came to the states in 2001 to study Performing Arts at New York University. He has starred in numerous stage productions, commercials, and short films. "Take Out" is Jeng-Hua's first feature film.



### **Wang-Thye Lee - Big Sister**

Born and raised in Malaysia, Ms. Lee is the film's only nonprofessional in a major role. She has worked in a take-out for close to ten years. Fresh and incredibly appealing, Ms. Lee caught the eyes of Shih-Ching and Sean during the film's location scouting. She was immediately cast for the role of Big Sister.



### **Justin Wan - Wei**

Justin was born and raised in Singapore. He graduated with a Master of Fine Arts at the University of New Orleans in May 2002, and was awarded the Marcus B. Christian scholarship by the dean of the Graduate School. Before coming to the United States for his graduate work, Justin worked as an assistant producer with Television Corporation of Singapore. Besides writing and directing his own projects, he also dabbles in acting whenever opportunities arise.



## THE FILMMAKERS

### Sean Baker - writer/director/producer/camera/editor

Sean Baker, born and raised in New Jersey and a graduate of NYU film school, is best known for co-creating the cult television show "**Greg the Bunny**." He co-wrote and co-directed for the IFC series. Although working with Greg the Bunny and Warren the Ape is a blast, Sean's long term goals lie in social-realist filmmaking. His first feature, "**Four Letter Words**," a study of adolescent males in Suburbia USA, premiered at South by Southwest 2001. It is currently being released on DVD by Vanguard Cinema. Sean recently co-wrote and directed "**Prince of Broadway**" which is premiering at the upcoming Los Angeles Film Festival 2008 in competition. The film is about a West African immigrant that sells counterfeit goods in NYC's wholesale district.



### Shih-Ching Tsou - writer/director/producer/editor

Shih-Ching was born and raised in Taipei, Taiwan. After receiving a bachelor's degree in religious studies in Taiwan, Shih-Ching came to the states for her Masters in Media Studies at The New School. Her credits include production design on three nationally aired commercials and post-production work on three short films. Shih-Ching supports her indie film career as a graphic artist.



**CAST**  
**In Order of Appearance**

Collector # 1	SHIH-YUN TSOU
Collector # 2	JOE CHIEN
Door opener	KENNY PANG
Ming's roommate	WALEY LIU
Ming's roommate 2	ED JANSEN
Ming's roommate 3	DAVID LIU
Ming Ding	CHARLES JANG
Ming's cousin	EVA HUANG
Young	JENG-HUA YU
Wei	JUSTIN WAN
Ma	JEFF HUANG
Big Sister	WANG-THYE LEE
First delivery	ETHEL BROOKS
Fried hard	VICTOR SALLY
Second delivery	TANYA PEREZ
Portuguese-speaking delivery	MARIA GREENSPAN
Mother with two children	SANDRA MCCULLOGH
Running toddler	SHARINEE MCCULLOGH
Older sister	RENEE MCCULLOGH
Nice tipper	JAVIER CORTES
Horn delivery	J.P. PARTLAND
No speakee English	THEODORE BOULOUKOS II
English bull dog	OLIVER
Smoking phone woman	YESSICA AMADIS
Nice woman delivery	PATRICE A. DUFFY
Hardware store #1	JAMES PRICE
Hardware store #2	CARLOS ELEUTICE
Hardware store #3	JUAN CARLOS PERDOMO
Dark hallway delivery	EUNICE WONG
Young prep delivery	YARON PRYWES
Chicken or beef	KEVIN KARAGULIAN
Mother with crying baby	ALIA CARPENTER
Crying baby	KAMALI SMITH
Fighting couple guy	TIM HUMMEL
Fighting couple woman	ALTHIA A. CLINE
Dog hallway delivery	RORY KELLY
Mail order faster	MICHAEL FUEHRER
Thank-you delivery	MONICA KESTER

Bad hair day	B.J. ANTHONY PASS II
Barber shop kid	CAILIN PITT
Barber	RONALD GARRET
Barber shop mom	MARIE PITT
Not a word delivery	JOE FRANZA
Fork couple guy	HAROLD EDMONDSON
Fork couple woman	THERESA LEAK
Discount customer	JOHN SLOAN
Long hallway delivery	BARBARA LEVENSON
Spanish-speaking teen	CLAUDIA GANZALES
Clean the shrimp	BAQI ABDUSH-SHAHEED
Only euros	GIL SELINGER
Only euros wife	PREET PANNU
845 Westend	AMY DANIELS
Change man	TONY ROACH
Elephants and tigers	DEVIN HAQQ
Elephants and tigers friend	JOSH WICK
Quiet teen delivery	LUCA BIGNI
Other half of the chicken	PETER CAMACHO
Ketchup on the fries guy #1	ANGEL FELICIANO
Ketchup on the fries guy #2	JULIO LUGO
Ketchup on the fries guy #3	EDWIN BANYAR
Hip-hop apartment	OMAR A. FRANCO
	OMAR JENNETT
	AMIN JOSEPH
	JERON MOSS
	JAKE WALKER
	CHRIS ESPINAL
Six girls, six numbers	SANDRA CARTAGENA
Spanish-speaking mother	SYLVAN WALLACH
Side-door delivery	ANETRA V. HUMPHRIES
Last delivery	ANDREW KO
Mugger # 1	LEIGHTON WHEZLER
Mugger # 2	VICKEYA MILLER
Take-out customers	PETER CORRIGAN
	HELEN CORRIGAN
	KATRINA STURDIVANT
	ANNETTE STURDIVANT
	GARY GARCIA
	WILSON RODRIGUEZ
	FAUSTO PERALTA
	ALEXANDER JOHNSON

## FILMMAKERS

Directors	SHIH-CHING TSOU, SEAN BAKER
Executive Producer	ISIL BAGDADI
Producers	SHIH-CHING TSOU, SEAN BAKER
Writers	SHIH-CHING TSOU, SEAN BAKER
Editor and Sound Design	SEAN BAKER
Camera and Sound	SEAN BAKER
Make-up	EVA HUANG
Still Photographer	KENNY PANG
Production Coordinator	BADAN WONG
Production Assistants	JONATHAN LU ED JANSEN