

“BOOKIE”

Category: Short Narrative (USA)
Total Running time: 18 minutes
Production Company: Persistence of Vision Films
Date of completion: September 2007
Language: English (English, French, Simplified and Traditional Chinese subtitles available)
Print details: Black & White, Stereo, 5.1 Dolby Digital Mix where available
Aspect ratio: 1.85:1
Genre: Action, Romance, Noir, Drama, Period, Music
Exhibition formats available: HDCam, DigiBeta, BetaSP, MiniDV, DVD NTSC Region 0

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Website: <http://bookiethemovie.com>

Press kit and hi-res stills (TIFF, 300dpi): <http://bookiethemovie.com/media.html>

SCHEDULED FESTIVAL SCREENINGS AND AWARDS

2008 DisOrient Asian American Film Festival – Eugene, OR
2008 Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival – Los Angeles, CA
 -- *Nominated for Golden Reel Best Short Award*
2008 Seattle International Film Festival – Seattle, WA
2008 New York Asian American International Film Festival – New York City, NY
2008 Stony Brook Film Festival – Stony Brook, NY
2008 Comic-Con International Independent Film Festival – San Diego, CA
2008 Sacramento Film and Music Festival – Sacramento, CA
2008 Asian Film Festival of Dallas – Dallas, TX
 -- *Winner Best Narrative Short*
2008 Downtown Film Festival Los Angeles – Los Angeles, CA
2008 American Cinematic Experience Film Festival – New York City, NY
2008 DC Asian Pacific American Film Festival – Washington DC
2008 Northwest Film Forum Local Sightings Film Festival – Seattle, WA
2008 Ellensburg Film Festival – Ellensburg, WA
2008 BendFilm Festival – Bend, OR
2008 San Diego Asian Film Festival – San Diego, CA
2008 Hawaii International Film Festival – Oahu, HI
2008 Olympia Film Festival – Olympia, WA
2009 Beloit International Film Festival – Beloit, WI
 -- *Winner Best Short*
2009 Vietnamese International Film Festival – Irvine, CA
2009 San Joaquin International Film Festival – Stockton, CA
2009 Okanagan International Film Festival – Kelowna, BC Canada
 -- *Nominated for Best International Short*
2009 Detroit Shorts Film Festival – Detroit, MI

BASIC CREDITS

Writer/Director TRAN QUOC BAO
Producer NICK RISINGER
Co-Producer MICHAEL VELASQUEZ
Director of Photography SHAUN MAYOR
Music Supervisor JOHNNY HORN

Cast

Bookie KEN QUITUGUA
Billie ANGELA ADTO
Jackson LESTER PURRY
Rogers JT JACKSON
Clerk BRIAN MCDONALD
Roughneck AARON TONEY
Shorty SAM LOOC
Busboy MICHAEL VELASQUEZ
Bombshell BRITTANY QUIST
Male Singer GEOFFERY SIMMONS
Female Singer BERNADETTE BASCOM

SYNOPSIS

150-Word Synopsis

BOOKIE takes place in 1963 Seattle, long before gambling was accepted social behavior for Saturday nights. It tells the story of a man who learns he can't live his life on the sidelines forever.

On the night of a wildly anticipated boxing fight, crowds pack into a raucous soul R&B nightclub for a chance at alcohol, wild music, and easy money. Word is out that the champ's got the fight in the bag and Bookie takes down bets from all corners.

Amidst it all, he can't help but notice the beautiful waitress Billie have a violent falling out with Jackson, her lover and Bookie's all-controlling boss. Bookie attempts to help matters, but the odds prove far more difficult -- they will have to trust each other completely to totally break free of Jackson and the nightclub.

Three-Line Synopsis

At a raucous soul R&B nightclub in 1963, crowds from all over Seattle gather for a chance at alcohol, wild music, and easy money. Amidst it all, a gambling bookie risks everything he has for a waitress down on her luck.

One-Line Synopsis

Set in 1963 Seattle, a gambling bookie risks everything for a waitress down on her luck.

CREW BIOS

Tran Quoc Bao (Writer/Director)

Bao started making movies on Hi8 video at an early age and developed his visual sense from Kung Fu movies, silents, musicals and Hitchcock. His short films have screened in numerous film festivals. In addition to his native English, he also speaks Vietnamese, Cantonese, Mandarin, and Fortran. In 2006 he was named Time Magazine's Person of the Year. He is currently developing several feature-length screenplays.

Nick Risinger (Producer)

Nick is an entrepreneur at heart with a meticulous nature. His love of moviemaking was cultivated at a younger age on 8mm video but only recently did it resurface as his calling. His work has screened in various festivals and won the \$10,000 grand prize in the 2004 Project Pioneer 2880 Short Film Competition. He strongly believes in story as the most valuable asset to a picture and is currently working toward developing a feature.

Michael Velasquez (Co-Producer)

Michael Velasquez has been the producer on over 25 independent short films which have screened at dozens of festivals and venues in the United States and internationally. He is also an accomplished director, video editor, motion graphics artist and event organizer with over ten years of experience in digital production and post production. Michael graduated with honors from UC Santa Barbara.

Shaun Mayor (Director of Photography)

Shaun graduated from the Academy of Art University, San Francisco in the winter of 2004. With his time at the Academy, he gained experience in all aspects of filmmaking. Shaun enrolled with plans of being an editor but quickly developed a love for cinematography as soon as he stepped on a set. His time at the school brought him experience with both film and video. He has DP'd a long list of short films and commercials on DV, Super 8, Super 16mm, and 35mm. Shaun also has a considerable amount of experience as a 1st AC with a wide variety of motion picture cameras. With every film, Shaun continues to refine his unique style of composition and lighting.

Johnny Horn (Music Supervisor)

Johnny Horn, son of legendary session musician Jim Horn, has been a fixture in the Seattle music scene since joining The Defenders in the 80's. Since that time, Horn has established himself as a reputable session bassist/guitarist working with labels such as SubPop (Evil Tamborines), Conception (The Notables) and Loose Groove (Hi Fi Killers) and currently resides as a soul/blues DJ at KEXP 90.3 FM. For the past 25 years, Horn has traveled and built a collection of concepts, demos and experiences that have translated into the Junior Jackson project. Horn has also placed music for films and TV shows such as The Sopranos and Unbreakable.

CAST BIOS

Ken Quitugua (BOOKIE)

Ken has starred in various independent short films and has quickly gained attention for his work. Kungfucinema.com applauded his "natural confidence and charisma" in POV Films' *Carmen's Virtue* (2003). As a co-founder of Infinite Quest Productions and a prominent member of ZeroGravity Stunts, he is an able and versatile performer with diverse training in acting, directing, martial arts, fight choreography, and graphic design.

Angela Adto (BILLIE)

Born in Angeles City, Philippines, Angela Adto's love for performing can be traced back to her early years. Angela has been trained for film by highly acclaimed acting coaches including Jean-Louis Rodrigue and Allan Miller and schooled for stage at the Larry Moss Studio in Santa Monica, California. She has been featured in numerous television commercials and has performed leading roles on stage. For four years, Angela danced as a NFL cheerleader, and she has danced professionally in Europe and Asia.

Lester Purry (JACKSON)

With an excess of twenty-three years of acting experience that includes an enviably broad range of lead theatrical performances, film, commercial and print credits, Lester Purry most recently gained national attention while storming stages as Othello. Be it dark fury or comic wit, he is the kind of actor who unyieldingly embodies the energy of each role and cleverly delivers its fullest potential. Lester creates a true slice of life by pulling on every element involved; the director, the writer, fellow actors and even the designers to provide fuel for his characters. He breathes heart and soul into the essence of a project's intended vision and possesses a narrative voice of the most blessed kind!

JT Jackson (ROGERS)

J.T. earned the nickname "The Story Teller" for his unique stand-up comedy routines and has appeared on BET's *Comic View*. He is also known to be the reality TV dating show king, having appeared on every dating show known to man. Jackson has since starred in *Malibooty*, *7-10 Split* and can be seen playing the suave "Cola" in the popular TV ad campaign, *The Adventures of Bacardi & Cola*.

Brian McDonald (CLERK)

An accomplished filmmaker, Brian's short film *White Face* took the top prize at the Saguaro Screenplay Competition and went on to win the 2001 Slamdance Audience Award for Best Short Film. It can be seen on both HBO and Cinemax. He co-wrote and co-produced *Inheritance* (2004), a semi-finalist in the Austin Heart of Film Festival and Best Picture nominee at the HDFEST High-Def Film Festival. He also teaches story structure in Seattle and is preparing to direct his first feature film *Graverobbers*, which won Best Sci-Fi script at the 2006 Austin Film Festival.

CAST BIOS (CONT'D)

Aaron Toney (ROUGHNECK)

Aaron Toney's experiences in the martial arts and gymnastics have been the tools he's used to move up in the world of the entertainment industry. He has landed a myriad of roles in media such as the game *Resident Evil: Outbreak*, commercials for Xenagrine and Pepsi, and the television shows *Strong Medicine*, *The District* and *She Spies*. A member of ZeroGravity, Aaron has worked with the acclaimed Tony Jaa in *Tom Yung Goong*, and also performed stunts in *Pirates of the Caribbean*, *Norbit*, and *Rush Hour 3*.

Sam Looc (SHORTY)

Sam Looc has worked in various independent films as an actor, stuntman, and fight choreographer. His martial arts experience includes Jeet Kune Do, O-Mei kung fu, and a tournament career in San Shou (Chinese Kickboxing). As a member of the action stunt team ZeroGravity, he has honed his stuntwork alongside Tadahiro Nakamura (*Power Rangers*), Luke Lafontaine (*Serenity*) and Reuben Langdon (*Medallion*), as well as under famed Hong Kong action directors Tony Leung Siu Hung and Sammo Hung. He can be seen alongside Jackie Chan in *Rush Hour 3* and stars in the upcoming IQ Production *An Act of Revenge*.

Brittany Quist (BOMBSHELL)

Brittany Quist fondly recalls her career taking off at the tender age of five. She wrote, directed, produced, and starred in her own video plays; always casting herself as the princess. She would cast her two best and younger friends as dogs, snails, birds, and babies. Her latest feature film, *The Evading*, is due out later this year.

Geoffery Simmons (MALE LEAD SINGER)

Geoffery Simmons grew up performing in school plays and singing with the Northwest Boychoir and his Baptist Church choir. He lived overseas in Tokyo, Japan for nine years where he modeled with an agency, acted in commercials and television shows and performed in the rock band *Multiculture* at some of Tokyo's club hotspots. Geoffery sang background for Mariah Carey at the Tokyo Dome for three sold-out concerts. Since returning to the States, he has since been performing in various theater and film projects and impressing audiences with his unique presence.

BERNADETTE BASCOM (FEMALE LEAD SINGER)

Bernadette Bascom is a staple of the Seattle music scene and was the first solo artist signed by Stevie Wonder to his independent label *Black Bull*. She recently produced and performed in the live gospel show *PRAISE!*, which has played to sellout crowds at Seattle's Triple Door. She is currently producing the show into an album, showcasing the full arc of her tremendous talents. She has also taken on management for American Idol star Sanjaya Malakar.

REVIEWS

“*Bookie* exists within a flawlessly realized world, a world populated by entirely fleshed out and believable characters, driven by a compelling narrative and brought to sumptuous life by Bao and cinematographer Shaun Mayor. It is a film that manages the difficult trick of feeling much larger than it actually is, effortlessly conveying the sense that although you are seeing only one corner of a larger world that world is indeed just outside of your field of vision. *Bookie* is a little gem of a film, twenty minutes that shows that Bao and his talented cast and crew are capable of far, far more. Now someone give them the chance.”

-- Todd Brown, Twitch Film

“It's not an easy feat for a low-budget short film to succeed in transporting you to another time and place. Most often, the end result smacks of community theatre because that's probably also where they borrowed their costumes from. That's why Tran Quoc Bao's *Bookie* stands out from minute one. Along with the slick cinematography and impressive fight choreography, the sultry night club acts in *Bookie* suck you in and fool you into believing that it really is 1963 Seattle.”

-- Jessica Baxter, Film Threat

“I'd really love to see what director Tran Quoc Bao can do with a feature length movie, because at the rate he goes in with *Bookie*, I'd say he's on the cusp of a big career ahead of him. *Bookie* from front to back is a tight small production that successfully manages to be a tense neo-noir with some rather fantastic set pieces, and an interesting soundtrack, while also giving us a great romance picture in the process. Clever writing paired with tight performances...I really hope we see more from Bao in the future.”

-- Felix Vasquez Jr., Cinema Crazed

“Truthfully, this reminded me of Scorsese's *Who's That Knocking On My Door?*, in other words, this is a damn fine watch. It is a very well directed flick shot in black and white and it feels pretty fresh. I'm hoping a few of you decide to check this out because it's a beautiful thing to see something like this.”

-- JimmyO, critic for JoBlo.com and ArrowInTheHead.com

“There is so much good in *Bookie*, so much commendable camerawork and tonal consistency that is a tribute to both the direction and the production of the piece...Something that looks so much sharper than what comes out of Seattle and many American indies.”

-- Warren Etheredge, The Warren Report

REVIEWS (CONT'D)

“There's not a wasted moment in the film with every scene communicating a piece of information that is essential to telling the story. What [Bao] is able to accomplish in eighteen minutes is remarkable. Its pacing is perfect, and its timing elegant; you couldn't ask for more from a short movie.”

-- Richard Marcus, Blogcritics

“Impressive technical work...The smoky jazz tunes coupled with black and white filming and wonderful scene transitions make it at the very least a beautiful thing to judge simply on aesthetics.”

-- Scott Brooks, Entertainmentopia

“*Bookie* gets a rating of four out of four cigars, because it's a fun movie that will actually leave you wanting more...which most movies today don't really do!”

-- Brian Morton, Rogue Cinema

“An independent short with style to spare, *Bookie* was written and directed by Tran Quoc Bao in what evidently was a calling card to Hollywood, demonstrating his talent with an economical story and evocative atmosphere. There is a variety of situations designed to show off the director's abilities, even a scene of violence for the finale, and to that extent *Bookie* is very fine, obviously a work of promise.”

-- Graeme Clark, The Spinning Image