



PRIME MEDIA
P I C T U R E S

presents

Close Call

A Film by

Jimmy Lee

LENGTH: 93 Minutes

THIS FILM IS NOT YET RATED

PRESS CONTACT INFORMATION:

TC:DM & ASSOCIATES

Rebecca Fisher

rfisher@tcdm-associates.com

Winston Emano

wemano@tcdm-associates.com

David Magdael

dmagdael@tcdm-associates.com

(213) 624-7827

Close Call

Close Call is a heartfelt coming of age awakening story about a teenage girl trapped in a downward spiral of promiscuous sex, drugs, alcohol and crime. Brutally honest in its depiction of the damage wrought by the breakdown of the family in contemporary America, the film adds another theme to the story: The ever-widening gap between first generation parents and their Generation-Y children.

Close Call focuses on 16-year-old Jenny Kim, born and raised in Los Angeles. Family problems lead to a divorce causing Jenny to suffer from intense feelings of alienation and abandonment. Ignorant of her native culture and unsure of her place in American society, Jenny finds herself vulnerable to the evil influences and temptations surrounding her from friends, raves, boys and other mishaps. While her mother loses control of her, it is her father, David, who reunites with Jenny and leads the teenager to redemption. Never losing his all-consuming love for Jenny, David proves willing to make any sacrifice to save her. It is the intense psychological interplay between father and daughter caught up in two different worlds that form the heart and soul of *Close Call*.

JENNY KIM (Annie Lee), a reckless teenage girl caught in an underground world of raves, sex, crime, drugs, and rock n' roll struggles through growing up in urban America while, after years of neglect and abandonment, her father attempts to save her from self-destruction.

DAVID KIM (Philip Moon) never imagined he could lose his daughter Jenny, but it was quickly becoming a reality. After migrating from Korea, David made a successful life for himself and his family in America. Nine years later, his marriage is ruined and he loses custody of his daughter upon divorce and is devastated to hear the judge order custody of his daughter to his irresponsible ex-wife, JOANNE (Christina Ma).

Extremely confused and enraged at the unexpected turn of events in his life, David is unable to handle the separation from his beloved daughter and decides to move back to his native country by accepting a job as a television journalist in Seoul, Korea.

During David's absence of six years, Joanne's flighty lifestyle declines into dissipation, and she becomes indifferent to her daughter. Jenny, now 16, gravitates toward a similarly careless existence. A disagreeable relationship develops between Joanne and Jenny.

ELLIOT KRASNER (Jeff Fahey), David's closest friend discovers that Jenny is headed downhill through his daughter-like friend TANYA (Angie Lee) who is a social worker assigned to Jenny's police case. Realizing the seriousness of the situation, Elliot immediately warns David.

David drops everything and returns to America to save his daughter only to find out that the situation is worse than what he had imagined. He desperately seeks answers to what could have possibly happened from Joanne. Wandering about the house he used to share with his family, David falls upon Jenny's diary. David is disheartened to learn

of his daughter's wild life and is in complete shock and agony. He then begins the tormenting ordeal of finding and saving Jenny from wrecking her life. For Jenny and her father David, their story is not unusual.

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DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Why Did I Make This Film?

A very close friend and neighbor of mine confided in me about their problems with their incorrigible 14 year old daughter. They had to come to grips with their child's rebellion, identity issues, sex, drug & alcohol abuse with which they didn't know how to face. Throughout the years I tried to help them & witnessed many horrifying events within this family. Their story touched my heart & their pain made me believe that this is an issue shared by many that has to be given attention to. It inspired my next script, which eight years later would become CLOSE CALL.

Perspective

In CLOSE CALL, the parents' as well as the child's perspective is portrayed. By seeing an outside perspective, both the parent & child will be able to delve into each others' worlds and hopefully better understand what "the other side" is experiencing. I hope to unleash the underlying force within a family fueled by the need, desperation, mystification, and drive of the characters. At the same time, connecting to their essential feelings of vulnerability, angst, fear, and desire. I hope to raise questions about the value of family, priority, identity, alienation, and the never-ending quest of life and all its phases.

The End

Everyone deals with each situation differently. I wanted to explore the various & heart-wrenching efforts of people that could virtually be endless. There is no meaning that you're supposed to take away with the film. The viewer's experience is unique to themselves & is all open to interpretation. To one it can be right, to another it can be wrong. We can never know the true ending of what happens because the characters live on beyond the 93 minutes, so who's to tell if it's a happy ending or not? It's up to the viewer.

VISION

The viewer should be thinking & reacting at all times. I wanted the viewer to be engulfed in the story, but at the same time be distant from it as an outsider. Thus I created fast cuts, flash backs & jump cuts to show the distortion of the character & her life. The cuts show the fast paced & vulnerability of the characters, and how quickly time moves.

My focus was on the characters, so I used a lot of close-up shots, and during chaotic moments I opted for hand held. The look and feel of the film was important to me. All the way from the wardrobe to the set design. The colors transform from vibrant & colorful to bluish, darker tones showing the descending of the characters.

As an Asian-American filmmaker, I wanted to take a risk and tell a story that goes against the typical Asian stereotypes and deals with an issue that is typically shameful or hidden in our culture. I wanted to go into the life of a true Asian-American growing up in America. A teen that deals with everything that any other normal American teenager would go through, including identity issues, but also touch on the unique generation gap that immigrants from all over can relate to & cannot hide from. Something real, hard hitting, and not ashamed to show the true colors. A movie that can universally be understood, no matter what race, creed or color.

On Self-Distribution

We knew we were taking a risk by making this film from the beginning. But we also knew that this was a story that people wanted to see because it happens to so many of us. We also know that no one could market this film like we could. Thus we are doing it and are launching our own distribution company simultaneously. To taking risks!

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CAST BIOGRAPHIES

ANNIE LEE

Annie Lee was born and raised in Los Angeles. She holds a B.A. from UCLA in the Social Sciences with a Communications minor equivalent. She interned at First Look Pictures, a distribution company, and also worked side by side on production and development with the producer of “*The Fast and the Furious*,” Doug Claybourne.

In a short film, “*Mindbenders*,” directed by Atif A. Mirza, she conducted her own martial arts stunts where she underwent extensive training and even pulled a ligament! She also loves children, which led her to be an acting coach at the LA Performing Arts Center for children ages 6-11.

Lee also produced a short film titled “*Tomato & Eggs*” directed by Shawn Chou starring Lisa Lu (*The Joy Luck Club*), Michelle Krusiec (*HBO's Mind of a Married Man*), Keiko Agena (*WB's Gilmore Girls*), and Sab Shimono (*The Big Hit*), which is currently on the festival circuit and won the Audience Award for Best Asian-American Short Film at the Big Bear Film Festival.

Lee also volunteers at the Korean Youth Community Center in Los Angeles with the Teen Theatre department while keeping busy with involvement in many other producing and acting projects. As a member of the Lodestone Theatre Ensemble, she continues to study acting and filmmaking.

Ms. Lee makes her feature film acting debut in *Close Call*.

JEFF FAHEY

Jeff Fahey produced and stars in *Close Call*. When he read the script he immediately fell in love with the story and wanted to be a part of the project. Since then he has produced several other feature films.

Fahey has starred in over 90 films and has over 30 years of experience as a film actor. Some notable film credits are *Outlaw* (2001), *Hijack* (1999), *Apocalypse II: Revelation* (1999), *Wyatt Earp* (1994), Stephen King's *The Lawnmower Man* (1992), *Body Parts* (1991), *Psycho III* (1986), and *Silverado* (1985).

In addition to film, Fahey has an innumerable amount of television credits. He starred in the acclaimed live television play *The Execution Of Raymond Graham* and the TNT mini-series *444 Days*. He has also starred in *Miami Vice*, and over 2 years in the daytime dramatic series *One Life To Live*. Theatrically, Fahey appeared in the Broadway revival of *Brigadoon*, toured with *Oklaholma*, performed in Paris in *West Side Story*, and in London in *Orphans* with Albert Finney. In addition to acting, Fahey is also a producer and has established his own production company, Leadsville Pictures and Nearlife Films.

PHILIP MOON

Philip Moon has been on stage, screen and television. He has appeared On and Off Broadway in over 30 productions. Most notable are *Measure For Measure*, *Rashomon*, *Three Sisters*, *Winkdah*, *Hamlet*, and *Richard III*, where he was handpicked by the late Joseph Papp to play opposite Denzel Washington. He recently played the title role in Shakespeare's *Othello*.

Moon's film credits include *The Big Lebowski*, directed by Joel and Ethan Coen, *Shock To The System*, opposite Michael Caine, and *Playing God*, *Batman Forever*, and *Lethal Weapon*.

His television credits include *NYPD Blue*, *Tales Of The City* and is best known for being a regular on the CBS daytime serial *The Young And Restless*. Moon made history on Y&R as the first Asian-American to have a recurring role on daytime television.

Moon hails from New York where he received his B.A. at Hunter College as a member of the Special Honors Curriculum, which is less than 1% of the enrollment. He received his M.F.A. from the prestigious Yale School Of Drama, as the first Asian-American actor in the school's then 60 year history. He has also studied with the late Herbert Berghof and at the London Academy Of Music And Dramatic Art.

CHRISTINA MA

Christina can most recently be seen in the feature film "***Long Life, Happiness, and Prosperity***", by acclaimed Writer/Director Mina Shum, which made it's Premiere at the Toronto Film Festival and was the first sold out Feature at the Sundance Film Festival. The film is also expected to have a limited release in the US sometime in February or March of 2004.

Starting out in the Industry as a Hair and Make-up Designer, Christina eventually moved to the front of the screen. She began studying at Milton Katselas' Beverly Hills Playhouse and then moved on to Stephen Book's Acting Workshops. Her film and Television Credits include, *KISS THE GIRLS*, *MARSHALL LAW*, *ER*, *TOUCHED BY AN ANGEL*, *POLTERGEIST THE LEGACY*, and *PROFILER* to name a few.

She is honored to have had the opportunity to work with Writer/Director Jimmy Lee on this production of "***Close Call***". Christina Ma was raised in Canada, and now resides in Los Angeles, California.

DREW FULLER

Drew is now starring as mysterious Whitelighter "Chris Perry" on the WB's hit TV show *CHARMED* after a brief stint portraying "Nick Reed" on the WB's short-lived show, *BLACK SASH*. Drew Fuller has also starred in a variety of films such as *VOODOO ACADEMY*, *ANGELS DON'T SLEEP HERE*, and *VAMPIRE CLAN*, along with a variety of independent films.

Born and raised in Los Angeles, California on May 19, 1980, Fuller was discovered by an agent when he was 12 years old after a family friend put him on the cover of UCLA magazine. After deciding to wait a few years, Fuller entered the modeling world at age 16 and quickly became a top model for such prestigious companies as Tommy Hilfiger, Prada and Club Med. His good looks helped him make the transition to commercials easily and he booked numerous commercials including J. Crew, Subway, Toyota and Pepsi opposite Britney Spears.

Fuller can be seen later this year playing real-life criminal Rod Farrell in *VAMPIRE CLAN*. He plays the drug-crazed killer who claimed he was a vampire and brutally murdered an innocent family in Florida in 1996. His next film, *THE ONE*, just won the audience award at The Sundance Film Festival. Other film credits include *ANGELS DON'T SLEEP HERE* and *CLOSE CALL*.

In his spare time, Fuller enjoys playing basketball, surfing, rock climbing, snowboarding and tennis. With two ultra-athletic parents (his dad surfs every morning), Drew practically grew up pushing the envelope on speed, whether he was on a pair of skis, slamming tennis balls, or racing down the basketball court. He currently resides in Los Angeles with his cat "The Chad." He also has a site devoted to him by his numerous fans on www.drewfullerfan.com.

FALEENA HOPKINS

Faleena Hopkins studied acting at A.C.T. in San Francisco and at Playhouse West in Los Angeles under the tutelage of Jeff Goldblum and Robert Carnegie. Immediately after arriving in Los Angeles she landed a part in the Blockbuster hit, "BLOWN AWAY," and in the years to follow has performed in numerous national commercials and independent films.

She is currently a stand-up comedian, having performed at THE IMPROV and THE COMEDY STORE in L.A., as well as many other clubs across the country. She has one question: Who is John Galt?

ALEXIA ALEMAN

Born in Paris, France but raised in the Los Angeles area, Alexia never felt like she fit in. She found that her place was on the stage, from an early age, starring in dozens of musicals.

Always looking to expand her horizons she began doing professional theatre at the mere age of 15. Shortly after she was singled out by the famous French Director Alain Corneau as well as Adrian Lyne for starring roles in their new projects, but a little too young with little to no film experience Alexia did not catch her break.

In 2000, Alexia was flown to New York to take part in the final round of a national model search directed by Iam.com. Alexia and seven other models were put up to the test with judges including Spike Lee, MTV VJ's, and National Modeling Experts.

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Winning this model search lead to a national radio spot, national exposure, and several commercial campaigns, including the Iam.com Academy Award commercial directed by Spike Lee.

Alexia has since made the cover of *HEALTH AND FITNESS JOURNAL* and has appeared in dozens of magazines from *SEVENTEEN*, *TEEN*, to *VOGUE*. She has even appeared in national anti-smoking campaigns, a Playtex commercial, Coca Cola campaigns, and many more. She has worked with hit pop artists such as *the Backstreet Boys*, *Hanson*, *D12*, and many others including the most recent starring role in the new *Lost Prophets* video.

Today Alexia continues to thrive off the high of artistic expression. A true artist at heart, she continues to act, as well as write songs, sing, dance, and model. Her spirit is at ease and she comes alive when cinematic opportunities arise.

We are sure to see much more of this young artist in the near future from commercials, print, television, and film. Determined and motivated, I don't think this young girl would have it any other way.

KAYE LU

Born in California, This adorable little twin was the perfect match to play Young Jenny. Despite her young age, Kaye comes from a large background in Film & TV. Some of her credits include, "E.R.," "RED CORNER" with Richard Gere, "ARMAGEDDON," "THE DEEP END OF THE OCEAN," & "FOUR LETTER WORD."

Talented in many aspects, Kaye has appeared in over dozens of commercials (McDonald's, Disneyland, Toyota, Coca Cola, Citibank, Canon USA, Wrigley's Jr. Doublemint), and has even done voice-overs! As a model, she has worked for Neiman Marcus & Robinsons-May, and has appeared in Fashion Shows for companies such as Sketchers.

Although Kaye is quiet & shy, she speaks 4 different languages, can sing, dance, ballet, & play the piano among her many skills. She has trained at the Pasadena City College & many other schools throughout her 10 years of life.

Ms. Lu is a rising young star that we should definitely look out for in the near future, and in CLOSE CALL.

ADONI MAROPIS

At 18 months old, Adoni Maropis went into a coma, and it was discovered he had Type 1 Diabetes. Without the help of modern day diabetic care in those days, but with, as Adoni puts it, "a lot of love, laughter, and staying in great shape," he went on to become an exceptional athlete garnering many awards in such sports as: basketball, tennis, and arm wrestling (although he claims his best sport has always been ping-pong).

Born and raised near Pittsburgh, PA in a small town (Burgettstown), he is the son of Dr. Petro S. Maropis (retired periodontist) and Despina Maropis and has two amazing brothers named Sam and Chris. Adoni graduated magna cum laude from West Virginia University with a BSBA. That summer changed his life forever when his father recommended he try acting. Yep! So, after schooling at Point Park College, and performing at the Pittsburgh Playhouse, and with help from brother Chris, he made the trek to Hollywood, California. He can be seen in movies such as *THE SCORPION KING* and *BAD COMPANY* among others. And the rest is not history, yet.

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ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS

JIMMY LEE

WRITER / DIRECTOR / PRODUCER

Born and raised in Seoul, Korea, Jimmy Lee studied directing and earned his degree in theater arts. He continued his education in California at UCLA, and received a degree in cinema from Columbia College.

Lee wrote and directed his first feature film, *Hanging Heart*, which got picked up immediately and was distributed internationally. The psychological murder mystery entangled in an obscure love triangle caught the attention of many and Lee began his production company, Mod Sync Films. During the years that followed, Lee produced a number of independent feature projects but soon realized that it was only by directing that he could carry out the distinctive vision of his imagination, as well as maintain control over his work and creativity.

Close Call took him seven years to write and is very close to his heart. It was ready to be published as a novel, but he instead chose to pursue his passion and created a visually stunning picture. With its depiction of solid family values, it is aimed for critical acclaim.

Lee is the epitome of the “American Dream.” He has received the Golden Star Halo Award and a Jeannie Star Emerald Award from the Southern California Motion Picture Council for his outstanding contribution to the entertainment industry and for “Close Call.” He is also a member of the Korean Motion Picture Arts Association and has been listed as an Honored Professional in the nationwide registered Who's Who in executives and businesses.

He is also an honorary board member of the Mid-City West Community Council and aggressively represents the Korean Community. He is also an active member of the Miracle Mile Residence Association for several years. Currently, Lee is developing a comedy screenplay.

Luc G. Nicknair

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

Luc G. Nicknair is a cinematographer who grew up in the foliaged land of New England. He is best known for his work on commercials and music videos ranging from Ducati Motorcycles, Domino's Pizza, McDonald's, Nike and musicians Snoop Dogg, Tupac Shakur, Master P, The Temptations, Aaron Carter, New Edition, Jesse Powell, and over 70 other music videos.

Close Call is Nicknair's first feature film as a DP. Since then he has shot a romantic comedy called “Keeping It Real” and is in pre-production for a film noir feature in the jungles of Costa Rica called “Tropix.”

Nicknair's training was in visual effects and camera on such movies as Daylight, Executive Decision, Batman Forever, Black Scorpion, The Addams Family, The Nutty Professor, LA Story, The Babe and other films.

As a Videographer he has shot for CBS NEWS, the American and Latin Grammy Awards, a jazz theatrical performance called "Dreamscapes" for Steve Reid and the Bamboo Forest, and promotional material for Salon Selectives.

Nicknair's talents also merged into the world of fashion and hair still photography for Michael Starr Shirts, XOXO & Linear Hairstyles and has included album covers for jazz artists Steve Oliver, Steve Reid and Jennifer York.

Fred Cobar **LINE PRODUCER**

Fred Cobar with 10-plus years in commercial, music video, advertising and feature production has established himself as a versatile producer excelling in translating production costs into high-quality production values. This has earned him a reputation for nurturing long-term relationships between directors, production companies and their clients.

Based in Los Angeles, Fred Cobar is the President of L.A. Digital Studios and Akropolis Films a web developing and a Film Production company respectively. High caliber stars that he's worked with include Tobey Maguire, Benecio del Toro, Adam West and Jeff Fahey among others.

Fred states, "I guess we are following the steps of the masters; Lucas, Spielberg, & Scorsese. I've been involved in marketing, advertising, music, and film production since I was a teenager. I also had the responsibility of running a family business... the combination developed into an artistic/cost effective way of making films."

Brian J. Cavanaugh **EDITOR**

A freelance film editor, Brian specializes in non-linear editing for Motion Pictures. As a former Florida resident, he received his B.A. in film studies from the University of West Florida, and a specialized degree in film production from Full Sail Center for the Recording Arts. Since his move to Los Angeles in 1996 he has acquired credit on over 30 motion pictures, including the Sci-Fi Channel television series "Black Scorpion." He's currently working on three independent films in various stages of production.

Angie Lee **CO-PRODUCER**

Angie Lee's feature film producing and acting debut is in "Close Call." She co-produced the film with Jimmy Lee and Jeff Fahey while also acting in it simultaneously. She is a graduate from UCLA and is currently pursuing a Juris Doctorate to work in Entertainment Law as well as acting when time avails.

Her work at Mutual Film Company led her to producing as well as her passion & love for films. As a member of the Lodestone Theatre Ensemble she was stage manager for their production of "Texas" and numerous other projects. Ms. Lee holds an impressive

resume & has appeared in several theatre productions, commercials, modeling, music videos, print work, and runway. Angie Lee will also soon be appearing as the lead role in a feature film directed by Jong Rim Won entitled, "Thick Blood," the AFI Film Festival Trailer, and many other independent projects. Currently, she remains busy as the Senior Vice President of Prime Media Pictures, Inc.

Steven Helgoth CASTING DIRECTOR

Steven Helgoth began his career as an actor, studying with the legendary actress/teachers Uta Hagen and Geraldine Page. Moving into producing and directing, Helgoth directed over 150 Off-Off Broadway plays, as well as serving as the artistic director for several theatre companies, including the Sanford Meisner Theatre and the Vortex Theatre Company. His own production company, Steppin' Out Productions, produced the long-running show "Dressing Room Divas" in New York, Los Angeles, and Chicago. Since coming to Los Angeles, he has continued working in theatre as well as film, casting the successful productions "Driving While Black in Beverly Hills" and "Marmalade Skies" at the Matrix Theatre, and the acclaimed production "True West" at the Deaf West Theatre. In addition to "Close Call," his recent film casting credits include the independent films "Peak Experience" (presented at the Sundance and Palm Beach Film Festivals) and "To Protect and Serve" (selected by the Melbourne International Film Festival), and the miniseries "All In" for the Korean network SBS. Helgoth continues to direct and teach in Los Angeles, serving as artistic director of "The Actors Showcase Collective" at the Tamarind Theatre.

Steven Chesne COMPOSER

Mr. Chesne has composed the scores for over 300 episodes of prime-time, network shows including "Batman: the Animated Series," "Family Man," "Family Matters," "Getting By," "Girls Across the Lake," "Hangin' with Mr. Cooper," "The Hogan Family," "Kirk," "Life Happens," "Perfect Strangers," "Step by Step," "Two of a Kind," and "Valerie," as well as for nine independent features including the award winning "Dinner and a Movie" (Slamdunk Festival 2001 Best Director, and Worldfest 2001 Best Comedy Feature) and "No Turning Back," (Winner, Best Feature Film Award, 2001 Malaga Festival de Cine, and Grand Jury Prize Winner, Rhode Island International Film Festival).

In addition to Chesne's dramatic scoring, pop and world-music catalogues, his orchestral concert works include 2 concertos, 4 symphonies, 2 orchestral suites, and 2 tone-poems, as well as works for string quartet, woodwind ensemble, and music for theater and ballet. His works have been performed by the Ventura Symphony, the L.A. Modern String Orchestra, The Los Angeles Arts Symphonia Orchestra, the La Mirada Symphony, Mehli Mehta's American Youth Symphony, as well as by members of the Los Angeles Philharmonic, the L.A. Chamber Orchestra, the Hollywood Bowl Orchestra, and the Pacific Symphony.

Chesne has received numerous awards for outstanding achievement for his compositions from several organizations including ASCAP, Billboard, and USC School of Music.

Angela Hadnagy
COSTUME DESIGNER / STYLIST

Born in Slovakia, Angela is a 3rd Generation European Designer. She earned a Degree from the Academy of Fine Arts in Europe, and her talent eventually brought her to Hollywood. Since then she has worked on several major motion pictures, including the beautifully designed DRAGONHEART from Universal Studios Pictures.

As a stylist, she is popular with many A-list celebrities for commercials, music videos and events such as the Grammy's. Celebrities that she's worked with include Cate Blanchet, Julianne Moore, Benicio del Toro, Mina Suvari, Leonardo DiCaprio, Meg Ryan, Sharon Stone and Jude Law. Some of her main projects include the 2002-2003 Burger King commercial campaign, a Ford commercial including Period costumes, and styling Beck for the Grammy's.

Most recently Ms. Hadnagy finished a music video with "311," directed by Mark Kohr, for the movie "*Fifty First Dates*" starring Drew Barrymore and Adam Sandler.

Karen Ipock
PRODUCTION DESIGNER

Originally from North Carolina, Karen resided in New York City where she attended the Brooklyn College graduate program for set design. After a successful run at window design, Karen launched a career in set decorating in the mid 90's. After many theatre and film productions, the Holly Hills called and in 1999 the move was made west. Since arriving on this coast, Karen has worked with many notable production designers through AFI as well as many other independent features. *Close Call* has been the biggest and most challenging project, but also the most rewarding.

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