

Breakaway Heart

By Gary A. Piazza

Pitch Deck



Logline:

"A Vietnamese refugee barely escapes war torn Vietnam after the fall of Saigon and embarks on a lifelong journey to find her only living relative, her father, and start her life anew. Based on true events, her harrowing story is one of hope and survival."



Executive Summary

Title: Breakaway Heart

Length: Feature Film

Genre: Historical Drama

Locations: Asia, America



The Team



Writer/Director: Gary A. Piazza
GAP Media, LLC

Gary Piazza is an award winning screenwriter, filmmaker, published author and photographer, and resides in the Pacific Northwest. He began writing and shooting videos in high school back in the 80's and never looked back. After serving in the Navy, Gary enrolled in the Hollywood Scriptwriting Institute by Donna Lee and graduated with honors. It wasn't long before he wrote a sequel to John Carpenter's, "The Thing" and sent it off to ICM where they responded with interest in the script. It was that interest that landed him an agent, Gaily Vollmer with Trans International Productions. It was only a matter of time before Gary found his second agent in Venice Beach, CA. Suzanne Moore, with Miller-Moore Talent. The relationship was golden and they began collaboration on a story entitled, "Sunny." The story of a teen boy who kills his abusive father and escapes across country, pursued by a sympathetic cop. Sunny made it to Barbara Fisher at Universal and she gave it six pages of coverage and stamped it "recommended." Gary continued to write and began work on, "Breakaway Heart." A Vietnamese refugee story that his friends and colleagues contributed to with their own life experiences.

Gary would continue to shoot and write and was able to direct a documentary film with limited production support. With an interest in off-road dirt bike racing, Gary decided to make a "filmumentary" based on a 24 hour off-road race entitled, "Pinning The Ridge." The film was a success with the locals and many abroad. The straight to DVD path was perfect for this tidy little film shot with two cameras and edited and shot by Gary himself. With a passion for film and writing still keeping him motivated, Gary continued to shoot short films, product placement, and promotional content. He finished a script about a girl ghost who returns home to adopt living parents so she can have the family she always dreamed of. Right out of the gate it received recognition from Stage 32 as a finalist in their script competition and it has received positive coverage from various festivals. "Breakaway Heart" continues to thrive and has won the Hollywood Blvd film festival and LA Underground film festival. It has received 8's on the Blacklist for its professional writing and poignant story. Recent development notes from Brad Wilson with Higher Purpose Entertainment, called Breakaway Heart, "An important story that needs to be told. Very professional and the characters jump off the pages." A double recommend. Breakaway Heart is a published piece now and all proceeds go to the UNHCR.

Recently Gary optioned his horror/thriller, "Dig Me No Grave" to Rocket Sky High Motion Pictures and Silent D Pictures. Shooting is to begin late 2021. His most recent project, "Red Scarlett" is being cast and a proof of concept video was recently completed and a producer is currently attached.



The Team



ROCKET SKY HIGH MOTION PICTURES



Producer/Writer/Director: Ranjeet S. Marwa
Rocket Sky High Motion Pictures, LTD



Ranjeet S. Marwa is a British born film director from Birmingham, England. In 2012, Ranjeet wrote and directed a short film titled 'The Man Who Loved Flowers' based on the works of horror author, Stephen King. The film would go on to premiere at the Dollar Baby Stephen King Film Festival.

He directed his first TV movie in 2014 titled 'The Last Goodbye'. Ranjeet would subsequently turn the success of this action thriller into an eventual trilogy with 'Destiny' which premiered in 2015 and 'Remember Me: The Tale of an Old Ghost' in 2017. The trilogy has been seen around the world when it aired on SKY TV's Sikh Channel with a viewership reach in the millions, worldwide. Ranjeet would then follow up in 2018 with his first theatrical movie 'Citizen Erased'. Which played at the Old Piccadilly Cinema in Birmingham receiving critical acclaim and sell out audiences.

In August 2018, Ranjeet, then directed a short documentary about the illegal blackmarket trading of organs in India. The documentary, titled 'The Boy Who Never Came Home: A True Story' was also produced by Hollywood veteran actor Bruce Payne and the film had its premiere & theatrical run at the Downtown Independent Theatre in Los Angeles. The documentary would later make its UK Debut at the Raindance Film Festival where it would be in consideration for a BAFTA & Academy Award. Ranjeet also wrote & directed a World War 2 drama 'Memoirs of a Sikh Soldier' which played at the Frida Cinema in Los Angeles.

Ranjeet's recent work includes a black & white horror feature film titled 'The Missing' which was distributed on Amazon Prime in 2019. He is also in post-production on an action-thriller titled 'Exiled: The Chosen Ones' starring Sunny Pang, Hannah Al Rashid & Oka Antara, which will hit theatres worldwide in 2021.

The Team



Producer/Director: Djonny Chen
Silent D Pictures

Djonny is an Indonesian-British producer based in the North-West & London, working throughout the UK and overseas. His film production work includes various international territories such as London, Oxford, Switzerland, Milan, Barcelona, Budapest, Copenhagen, Morocco, Canada and Indonesia.

He has been making feature films, documentaries, music videos, commercials and experimental films in the UK and Indonesia. His works have won several awards. Djonny established SILENT D PICTURES, an international Film and Television production company based in the UK. For the last few years, via partnership with several top film companies in Indonesia, Djonny has produced, co-produced, lined-produced and shot many Indonesian feature films, TV, TVC, and Web-series. All of these feature films have been released nationwide in Indonesian cinemas, with a combined global box office of around \$30m, some reaching the top of the Box Office.

He has also produced, co-produced and distributed many other English-language feature films. Djonny and two business partners recently set up "Virtue Media Capital", which works on film investment, production and distribution; Silent D Pictures, is one of the shareholders of this company. Our first few projects include co-funding films with high-profile IP by bringing investors to the projects. We have just closed and signed the co-funding and service agreement for a new movie by a top Hollywood director with top Hollywood names attached.

We are also currently working on another film from a popular franchise. Djonny is currently producing several feature films to be released in the United Kingdom, Indonesia, and other world territories.



Story

From 1975 to 1996 more than one million people fled Vietnam in search of a better life—to escape persecution, torture, and death from a corrupt government. Approximately thirty percent of those who fled in this mass diaspora lost their lives at sea or in camps.

This is the story of one person's struggle of survival, redemption, and retribution. “Breakaway Heart” follows young My Le Nguyen as she makes multiple attempts to escape Vietnam (barely) and embark on a lifelong journey to find her father after the fall of Saigon. Like many others, she is faced with being caught, forced into work camps, and making multiple attempts to board a directionless junk—a vessel that is boarded multiple times by Thai pirates in the South China Sea for the sole purpose of rape, theft, and torture...and that's only the beginning.

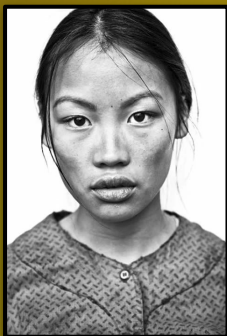
My Le utilizes her survival instincts to push on and help others along the way. Having made it to a small island (Kuku) in the Anambus Island chain in Indonesia, she must step up and become a woman, a savior, and a survivalist at the same time. The refugee camps are no picnic, but her determination to find her father fuels her ambition during seemingly impossible times.

Having a connection in her second camp (Galang) turns out to be her ticket to America and a possible reunion with her father who supposedly resides in Arkansas. She learns that he had suffered a stroke and is bound to a wheelchair. Her arrival to the host family homestead in America turns out to be a sad disappointment as the person in the wheelchair is not her father. Her search continues.

It is years later after she has relocated and reunited with an old friend that she is able to settle down and move on with her life. When she is finally reunited with her father, we learn that it is not her doing; but the loving gesture of a child she had rescued along the way and raised as her own.

Cast

My Le Nguyen - Main Character
Played by Nhi Do - Tentatively



Nhi Do is an actress, producer and director. Nhi grew up in Victoria, British Columbia, the second of three daughters to Vietnamese immigrants. Nhi's love of performance and singing brought years of musical theatre while her insatiable need to make others laugh brought her to the competitive stages of the Canadian Improv Games.

As a triple threat performer, Nhi swiftly crossed over from the stage to film and television upon her arrival to Vancouver, and has since worked on a variety of projects such as: Zack Snyder's Watchmen (2009); the Canadian Screen Award-nominated web series, NarcoLeap (2018); and as the title lead in Shaftesbury's Upstairs Amy (2017). On stage, Nhi performed as one of the leads in the Jessie Richardson award-nominated Canadian premiere of "Heathers: The Musical." Recent projects include: CBC's Unspeakable (2019); Facebook Watch's Limetown (2019); and the new comedy web series, Hospital Show (2019).

Nhi has a BA in English Literature with a minor in Film Studies from the University of Victoria and is a graduate of the Summer Training Congress at the American Conservatory Theater in San Francisco.

Minh Vu - Principal Character
TBA

Xuan - Principal
TBA

Liem - Principal
TBA

Gaylord Barr - Minor
TBA

Theme / Look / Period

80's - 90's America - Orange
County, CA



70's Vietnam



80's Refugee Camps



Comparables

Heaven And Earth - Oliver Stone



Journey From The Fall - Ham Tran



The Boat People - Ann Hui



Marketing Strategy/Audience

Asian population in America alone is 18.64 million. Another 2.6 million in Australia and 4 million in Europe

Crazy Rich Asians Grossed \$238 Million Worldwide

Joy Luck Club Grossed \$32.9 Million

The Killing Fields Grossed \$34.7 Million

Social Media Marketing Platforms:
Facebook, Instagram, Twitter

Additional Support and Promotion with CAPE



Additional Support and Promotion With UNHCR
(United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees)



Distribution



Netflix



Limited Cinema
Release

Director's Statement

Gary A. Piazza --

"I promised my friends in the Vietnamese community that I would spend the rest of my life telling their story. My goal; to get it on the big screen so this lost and undeniably important piece of history can be shared with the world.

The great refugee movement was largely ignored, swept under the rug and many great successes ultimately sprung from this tragic period of time. The Vietnamese rebuilt communities, strengthened their family bond, but most importantly, they endured. The war after the war is a story that needs to be told, and given the current world situation, its relevance can be felt today. I will ensure that each and every frame is dedicated to their struggles, their successes, and loved ones lost but not forgotten."

My Le --

"There was death, but no toll. We were unclaimed and invisible...unwanted. A people without a country."



My Le --

"If you can find it in your plan to reunite us someday, that would be a true blessing. Thank you, Lord..."



Awards and Endorsements



*Finalist, Stage 32 Feature Drama
Screenwriting Contest 2021*

Semi-Finalist – Scriptapalooza 2019

*Semi-Finalist – LA International
Screenplay Comp 2018*

*Quarter-finalist-Stage 32 Screenplay
Competition 2017*

*Winner – Moondance International Film
Festival, 2017*

*Brad Wilson - Owner/Executive - Higher Purpose
Entertainment -
"Wow! What can be said? The plot is amazing and the structure the writer
has laid out is terrific. A piece of history that needs to be told..."*

*Dev notes from The Blacklist -
"This script puts some very polished and professional screenwriting abilities on
display. My Le's journey is dark, but suspenseful and triumphant in the end. Her
character would be something that could work as a vehicle for awards season..."*

*Script Pipeline -
"This is a very nicely written script with a wonderfully
rewarding, gratifying ending. My Le is a likable, engaging
protagonist whom it's very easy to root for, and her journey of
finding her family is both heartbreaking and heartwarming."*

Contact Info

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