



# *THE LOVERS*

by Myra Sito Velasquez

A Chinese American woman and Japanese man's passion for each other forces them to confront the legacies of their families in Nanking at the time of the Japanese invasion in 1937.

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# THE LOVERS



30:59 min. • Super 16mm & DV  
English, Mandarin, Japanese, English Subtitles

## CAST

*The Man*  
*The Woman*  
*Mother*

Yasu Ikeda  
Connie Teng  
Peilin Kuo

*Project Consultants*  
*Continuity & Stills*  
*First Unit PM*  
*Production Assistants*

Meiri Marimo, Yoko Akashi  
Peilin Kuo  
Brian David Cange  
Susanna Kim,

## CREW

*Writer and Director*  
*Produced by*  
  
*Director of Photography*  
*Editor*  
*Composer*  
*Assistant Director*  
*Assistant Camera*  
*Second AC*  
*Gaffer*  
*Key Grip*  
*Sound*

Myra Sito Velasquez  
Myra Sito Velasquez and  
John Eung Soo Kim  
Todd Liebler  
Keiko Deguchi  
Michael Montes  
Joe Aspromonti  
Dana Turken  
Aaron Kovalchik  
Richard Jin  
Hiram Soto  
Jeremy Berger

*Iron Chef*  
*First Unit Makeup*  
*Second Unit AC:*  
*Second Unit AC:*  
*Second Unit Sound*  
*Special FX projection*  
*Mandarin coach*  
*PR Assistant*  
*Location Angel*  
*Sound Design & Mix*  
*Online Editor*  
*Poster Photography*

Alice Tan, Simone Pero  
Heland Lee  
Constance Boardman  
Nicola Benizzi  
Laura Hudcock  
Konrad Aderer  
John Eung Soo Kim  
David Liu  
Jesse James Chen  
Dana Egan  
Quentin Chiappetta  
Andrew Sterling  
Corky Lee



## CAST BIOGRAPHIES

### ***YASU IKEDA*** (THE MAN)

A native of Japan, Yasu has performed in numerous off-broadway shows, including the cult hit MONO for two years and NYC independent films. His television credits include SEX AND THE CITY. He has spent his last few months in Thailand, working in film production, in front of, and behind, the camera. Yasu is a graduate of the Lee Strasberg Institute in New York City.



### ***CONNIE TENG*** (THE WOMAN)

Connie started out studying classical dance, moving from ballet into jazz, modern, theater dance and hip hop. This led to performances in musicals, both in school and professionally. Since performing in “Miss Saigon” at the Northshore Music Theatre, she has devoted herself to straight theater as well as television, film and commercials. Connie starred in the TV series “Undressed” and has shot over two dozen regional and national commercials. She is a proud member of the First Look Theater Company NYU’s Tisch School of the Arts and can be seen in the feature film “Brooklyn Lobster” starring Danny Aiello and Jane Curtin set to be released this fall.

## CREW BIOGRAPHIES



### ***MYRA SITO VELASQUEZ*** Director, writer, producer

Of Chinese, German and Mexican descent, Myra Sito Velasquez was born and raised in Tokyo. A graduate of Sarah Lawrence College, Myra worked in off-broadway theater and Japanese TV production before making her debut short film MOTHER’S BLOOD which screened at numerous festivals and venues throughout the country and abroad and is the winner of the Lawrence Kasdan Best Narrative Film Award, Grand Prize Best Film Chicks with Flicks and Best Actress Award (Nina Zoie Lam). THE LOVERS is Myra’s most recent short, now being developed as a feature film THE NANKING TRIPTYCH with a Manhattan based production company. Myra is also the author of the award winning feature screenplay DIANA and the action comedy KUNG FU GRANNY and is one of the founding members of 3D, an artists group committed to truthful, innovative work in film, video and other media.



**JOHN EUNG SOO KIM**, Co-Producer

Actor turned filmmaker, John has directed, produced, shot and edited over 30 films and video shorts as well as numerous television commercials, industrials and cable programs for such clients as The Korea Society, The Arthritis Institute, Planned Parenthood and A&E. A graduate of NYU's film program, John started his own production company, JESK, in July 2001.

**TODD LIEBLER**, Director of Photography

Todd Liebler is an award winning cinematographer who is inspired by the collaborative spirit and a compelling story. *THE LOVERS* is Todd's second project with Myra and he is excited to continue as part of her team to help realize her vision in her powerful and arresting stories. Todd studied fine arts/art history before transferring to NYU's film program in 1982. During those two and a half years, he shot over 20 short films. After graduation, Todd trained as a lens and camera technician at a NYC rental house. In 1986, Todd began freelancing, shooting music videos, commercials, documentaries, shorts and features. He is also a successful still photographer and works extensively with digital and analog video and print.

**KEIKO DEGUCHI**, Editor

Keiko Deguchi came to the U.S. from Japan for her M.A. in cinema studies at NYU Graduate School. She then started working as an assistant editor on feature films such as Brian de Palma's *CARLITO'S WAY*, Robert Altman's *KANSAS CITY*, Nora Ephron's *MICHAEL*, among many others. Some of the films she has edited are Tom DiCillo's *THE REAL BLONDE*, Patrick Stettner's *THE BUSINESS OF STRANGERS* and Susan Seidelman's *THE BOYNTON BEACH BEREAVEMENT CLUB*. She has just completed editing Steven Shainberg's *FUR* starring Nicole Kidman..

**MICHAEL MONTES**, Composer

A graduate of Bard College, Michael Montes opened his own commercial music company, Sacred Noise, and is considered to be one of the top composers in the field. Several of his pieces are included in the permanent collection of New York's Museum of Modern Art. Since that time, he has been able to compose scores for numerous films including Joan Stein's *One Day Crossing* which was nominated for an Academy Award in 2001. In the 21st century, Michael has begun a series of "new music" works. Recently performed by *ETHEL*, New York's premiere string quarter, his *String Quarter No. 2* was called "An experiment in intensity..a forceful wave of sound" by Allan Kozin of *The New York Times*. He lives in New York City with his wife Jane Wulf and their son Mario.





## **DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT**

**THE LOVERS** was borne out of two main forces: my abhorrence of any form of violence against another human being and my deep connection to Japan, where I was born and raised.

Although I am not of Japanese descent, my psyche and consciousness are deeply enmeshed with the country: it is my home. Unfortunately, the country that I love so well has yet to truly address and take responsibility for the massive suffering and destruction it caused during the war. Moreover, many young Japanese remain disturbingly ignorant of the facts of their people's aggressions. The Japanese themselves were as much the victims of their own war machine as the nations they strove to conquer: 3 million Japanese dead at war's end and hundreds of thousands left starving and stranded by their own war leaders. To this day, the government continues to censor the truth of the nation's war past.

**THE LOVERS** is a story of transformation. My hope is that the film will offer an opportunity to address the unspeakable and create a safe space to begin the discussion so necessary for healing.

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