



# — QUEERPANORAMA

*Ravennale*  
 **75** Internationale  
Filmfestspiele  
Berlin  
**Panorama**

A Film by Jun Li

**PRESSKIT**



87 MIN

USA, HONG KONG

2025

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ENGLISH, MANDARIN

## SCREENINGS IN BERLINALE

SAT. FEB 15th, 9:00 AM @ GROPIUS BAU CINEMA (Market Screening)

SAT. FEB 15th, 9:30 PM @ URANIA (WORLD PREMIERE)

SUN. FEB 16th, 4:00 PM @ CUBIX 7

MON. FEB 17th, 3:45 PM @ CUBIX 5

WED. FEB 19th, 11:10 AM @ CINEMAXX 10 (Market Screening)

THU. FEB 20th, 7:00 PM @ CUBIX 7

SAT. FEB 22nd, 10:00 PM @ CUBIX 9

SUN. FEB 23rd, 10:15PM @ ZOO PALAST 2

# — QUEERPANORAMA

## INTERNATIONAL SALES

Best Friend Forever  
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# — SYNOPSIS

A gay man impersonates men he has had sex with and brings this new persona with him to his next hook-up. Only by pretending to be someone else can he be truly himself.



# A CONVERSATION WITH JUN LI



## What is the starting point for this film?

There was a time when my partner Zenni introduced me to their friends and the reaction was “oh the boyfriend is real”. In the course of our decade-long relationship, we have been separated by physical distance a lot, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. We met on a hook-up app and have kept meeting new people since then. We are very certain about our open relationship, but to others it just didn’t seem that real. I found that very interesting and wanted to write about us, and also the people whom I met and created a queer friendship that really only exists between gay men.

## We feel that the character is very free in his sexual life, and homosexuality seems to pass through applications, but very free in Hong Kong, is this the case?

It depends on the individual. One can live freely in the most oppressive society, as long as their mind is free; one can also live a miserable life in a gay marriage, just like in any kind of marriage.

## It's also a story about multi-culturalism and expatriates. Was it a deliberate choice?

It just came naturally. Gay men meet each other on hook-up apps because of physical distance and sexual desire. That’s why the chance of us meeting someone with a different cultural background is much higher than our straight friends.

## Your protagonist uses an online hook-up app, do you think such app brings its users closer together or on the opposite deepen a feeling of solitude?

Sometimes people on the app just treat their sex partner like a piece of meat. But sometimes, if we treat each other with kindness and respect, casual sex can also be spiritual. I show both sides of the reality in this film.

## Shot in black and white, the film echoes with French new waves directors, was it a reference? Why do you prefer the black and white?

I wanted to present the male bodies in the most aesthetic way. Black and white just felt right. Also I am partial colour-blinded; I feel most expressive in black and white.

## How did you meet Jayden, your protagonist?

I cast him in one of my short films in the past. He was 15, still a high school student. He replied to an open call on Facebook. I knew it was him the moment he walked into the room. After that short film, he went to the same school in college that I graduated from. And then after more years, he has matured into a professional actor, on stage, on TV. He is the actor whom I could put all my trust in, and he gives his all to his work. This is his first feature film and I am really proud of him. He is magical.

## Your protagonist is performing sort of a carbon copy of his previous sexual partner to engage with his next hook-up, why did you make him have such a behaviour?

Because I do that a lot in my real life, especially when I am in Hong Kong. As one of the few openly gay directors there, I can be very easily identified. Sometimes when I want to remain anonymous, I would just make up an identity for myself, and the easiest way is to pick up elements from someone I have just met recently. It is also my nature as a writer. I listen to people’s story and recreate characters and plots.

## All your cast is non-professional, how did you handle the casting process?

I told my sex partners that I am making a film recreating the scene of how we met, what we talked about and, of course, with a wind of fiction. I asked their permission to use some

of their identities and then I would ask them if they want to play themselves in the film. Half of them said yes. For the ones who did not want to act in front of the camera, we did open casting in Hong Kong, New York, Zurich, and Berlin. It was a very long process.

There are also some of them whom I talked on the app, but never met in person, but I felt like their look and vibe very suitable for the film. I told them about my film, if they are interested, we would do zoom casting and I fly them in right before going on set. It was a gamble and it paid off.

**The sex scenes are so hot and steamy, and your actors are non-professional for most, how did you do to make everyone comfortable while shooting such intimate scenes?**

I explained to them why the nudity was necessary and described in detail how I was going to shoot the scenes. This is a film built on trust and friendship. I believe the key is to communicate well, respect everyone's boundary, and only make promises when you are committed and absolutely sure you can fulfil them.



# BIOGRAPHY JUN LI

Jun Li, born in 1991, studied journalism at the Chinese University of Hong Kong and then took a master's degree in gender studies at the University of Cambridge. His first directorial feature *Tracey* (2018) premiered at the Tokyo International Film Festival and second feature *Drifting* (2021) premiered at the International Film Festival of Rotterdam. As a producer, his feature *Fly Me to the Moon* (2023) was also selected for the Tokyo IFF. His films focus on the reality of sexual minorities and people suffering from substance abuse. *Queerpanorama* is his third feature film.

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# — FILMOGRAPHY JUN LI

2021

*Drifting* – Winner Best Adapted Screenplay Golden Horse Awards,  
Nominated for Best Picture and Best New Director at Hong Kong  
Film Award & IFFR Big Screen Competition

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# CAST & CREW

<b>I</b>	Jayden Cheung
<b>Erfan</b>	Erfan Shekarriz
<b>Phil</b>	Phillip Smith
<b>Dan</b>	Arm Anatphikorn
<b>Stefan</b>	Sebastian Mahito Soukup
<b>Charlie</b>	Wang Ko Yuan
<b>Matthew</b>	Zenni Corbin

<b>Director</b>	Jun Li
<b>Director of Photography</b>	Yuk Fai Ho
<b>Editor</b>	Horse Stone
<b>Sound</b>	Cyrus Tang
<b>Production Design</b>	Prudie Leung
<b>Production Manager</b>	Christine Wong
<b>Color Grading</b>	Pete Ma
<b>Post-production</b>	Ken Hui
<b>Producers</b>	Jun Li, Yue Huang, Zenni Corbin
<b>Countries</b>	USA, Hong Kong
<b>International Sales</b>	Best Friend Forever

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