



# Cupid's Paradise



**PRESS KIT**



# LOGLINE

In a world where everyone is rated based on superficial factors, Jenn is desperate to find a match before she becomes Cupid's slave.



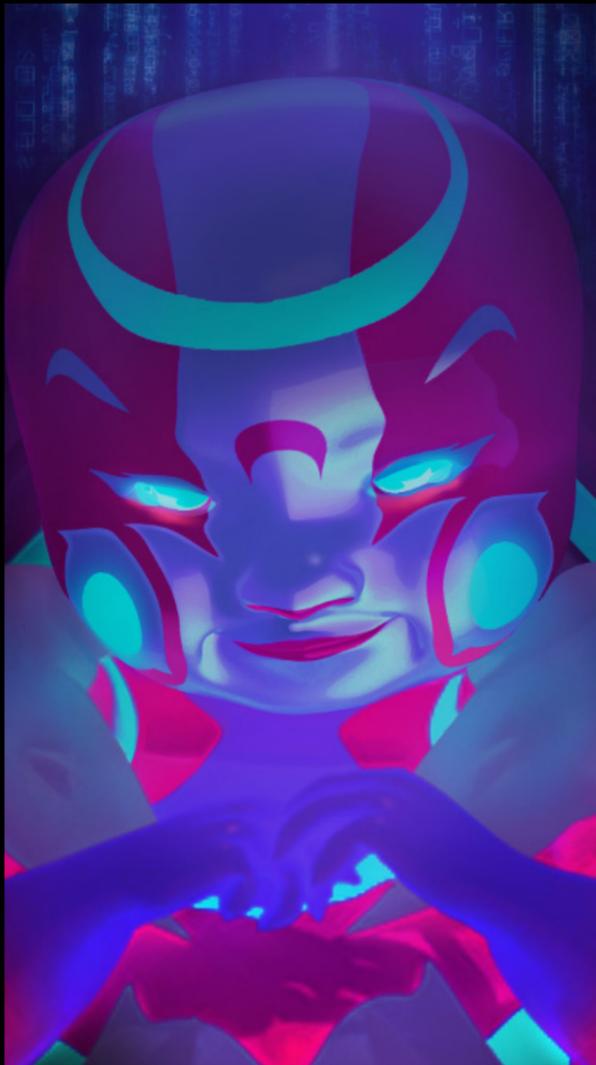
# SYNOPSIS



All Jenn Meyer ever hoped was to match with the hottest guy available in Cupid's Paradise. However, with a 7.6 score that won't be easy. Despite Jenn's attempts to date men above 8.0, she is assigned on a date with Kevin Kim, a 6.3. Those who fail to find their ideal match within 100 dates are kicked off the system and become Cupid's slave.

Jenn "upgrades" her appearance with the help of a mysterious Barista. Despite increasing her score and dating hotter candidates, everyone she meets is a jerk. The pattern continues until Jenn is allowed to enter a 9.0+ only club to meet with a 9.4 man. However, she's caught pretending to be a higher score and two Prism Bots escort her out of the club. After being humiliated, Jenn runs into Kevin, who comforts her with burgers. They watch the sunset and Jenn slowly feels better. She throws away her wig and apologizes to Kevin, finally becoming her true self.

# CHARACTERS / CAST



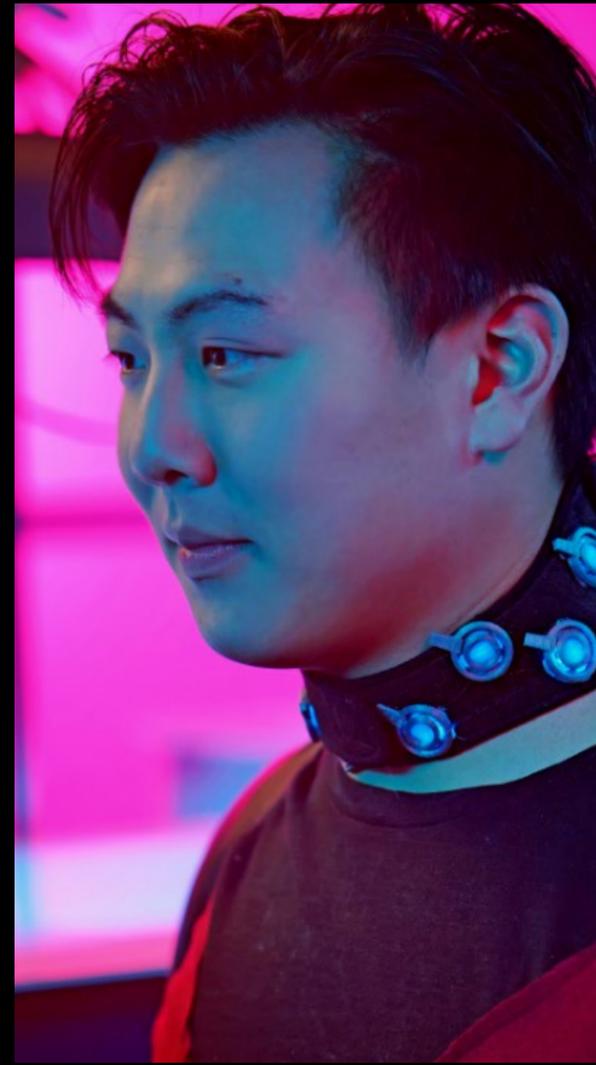
**KING CUPID**

*PAUL WAGER*



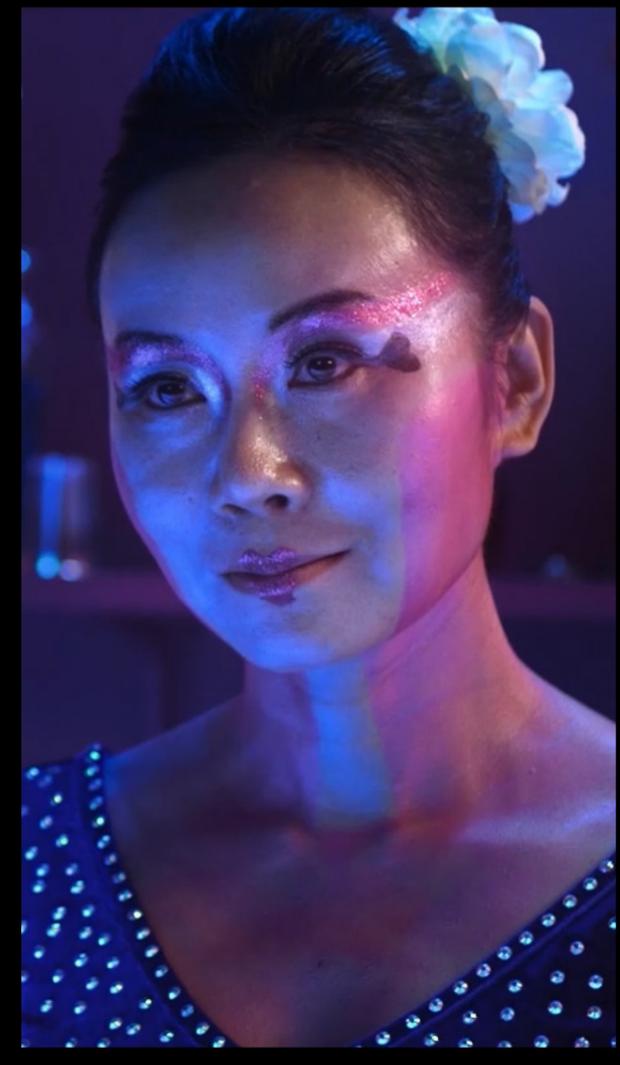
**JENNIFER MEYER**

*ANDREA MARTINA*



**KEVIN KIM**

*INTAE KIM*



**BARISTA**

*CRYSTAL HUANG*

# FUN FACTS

- ♥ More than 150 cast and crew members participated in the making of the film.
- ♥ The film has 131 VFX shots.
- ♥ Post-production started before principal photography and spanned a total of two years.
- ♥ The director, Ivy, also worked on the film as a full-time VFXv supervisor and artist.
- ♥ The Barista is played by Ivy's mother, Crystal Huang.



## DIRECTOR'S BIO



Ivy Liao is an Asian-American filmmaker from Chicago, Illinois. She graduated from the Film Production program at UCLA, where her thesis film, *Cupid's Paradise*, won several awards and screened at film festivals such as National Film Festival for the Talented Youth, Etheria Film Festival, Columbus International Film Festival, etc. She currently runs her own production company and post house, Ivy Images, which works with independent filmmakers and commercial clients such as Coca-Cola, Neutrogena, and Regal Cinemas. She hopes to continue to tell stories that elevate Asians, technology, and women.

# DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

When I first moved to Los Angeles to attend UCLA's film school, everyone in the city looked beautiful, fashionable, and outgoing. I was introduced to the year-round sunlight in LA, celebrities, Instagram influencers, and most importantly, Hollywood.

As a girl in a big city, I was naïve, eager to make new friends, and go on dates. I quickly picked up on all the "hip" fashion, make-up trends, and downloaded Instagram, Tinder, and Bumble on my phone. In no time, my feed was only filled with attractive models. There is a widespread desirable "type" with everyone having the same perfect, uniform body proportions. Desperate to fit into the box of perfection, I dyed my hair, started getting routine lash extensions, followed diet plans, and became a Photoshop expert. Soon, my social media photos looked like they could be Vogue covers. I had developed "goggles" and my eyes were conditioned to look for certain types of people- beautiful, successful, and fun. I went on numerous dates; however, each date felt ingenuine, superficial, and draining. I was exhausted of maintaining my "perfect" façade and became depressed. In the end, all my efforts made me lonelier, and even more single. This was the story seed for my UCLA thesis film.

When film school got busy, I picked myself out of the void and focused on my goals. This helped me set my priorities to finally focus on myself and my passions, rather than the pressures of society. I strengthened my relationships with my existing friends and lived a healthier lifestyle, which enhanced my self-esteem and confidence. I look back at my social media addiction days and appreciate the trauma that helped me grow into the person I am today. When the time came to create my film, I channeled that trauma into my dystopian science-fiction film, "Cupid's Paradise".

The film is a hyperbole of social apps. It reflects myself and my personal experiences getting lost in the current digital space filled with superficial criteria such as likes, beauty standards, and digital first-impressions. The story emphasizes the pressure to look, behave, and think a certain way. Cupid's Paradise is loud and absurd, poking fun at everything that's acceptable in society today and bringing out the ugly sides to finding love in a superficial, digital world.

# PRESS CONTACTS

## **IVY LIAO**

*Director / Writer / Producer*

*ivy@ivyimages.co*  
*+1 (925) 997 - 9489*

## **SAMUEL RUBIN**

*Producer / Press Liason*

*samuelrubin@ucla.edu*  
*+1 (626) 253 - 9265*