

Papercookie Presents

Neutral

2008 / 99 Minutes / Color / Stereo / 1:85

CONTACT

Joe Chang
papercloud39@yahoo.com
828.713.3000

WEBSITE

www.papercookie.net
www.myspace.com/aworldofforeignwishes

FILMMAKERS

Joe Chang.....Writer/Director/Producer
Aubrey Curtis.....Producer
John Ferrer.....Producer
Jack Schram.....AD/Co-Producer
Greg Hudgins.....Cinematographer
Nathan Whiteside.....Editor

SYNOPSIS

Told in a series of loosely-knit vignettes that range from quiet naturalism to absurdist extremes, *Neutral* is an absorbing cross-section of human connections lost and found through a shared artistic curiosity.

The story's ambition is matched by the scope of its production, casting over 70 Asheville-area residents, mostly non-actors, to take part in a constantly shifting focus, all inventively shot on a slim budget raised through a year of double full-time jobs, truckbed living, and peanut butter and banana sandwiches.

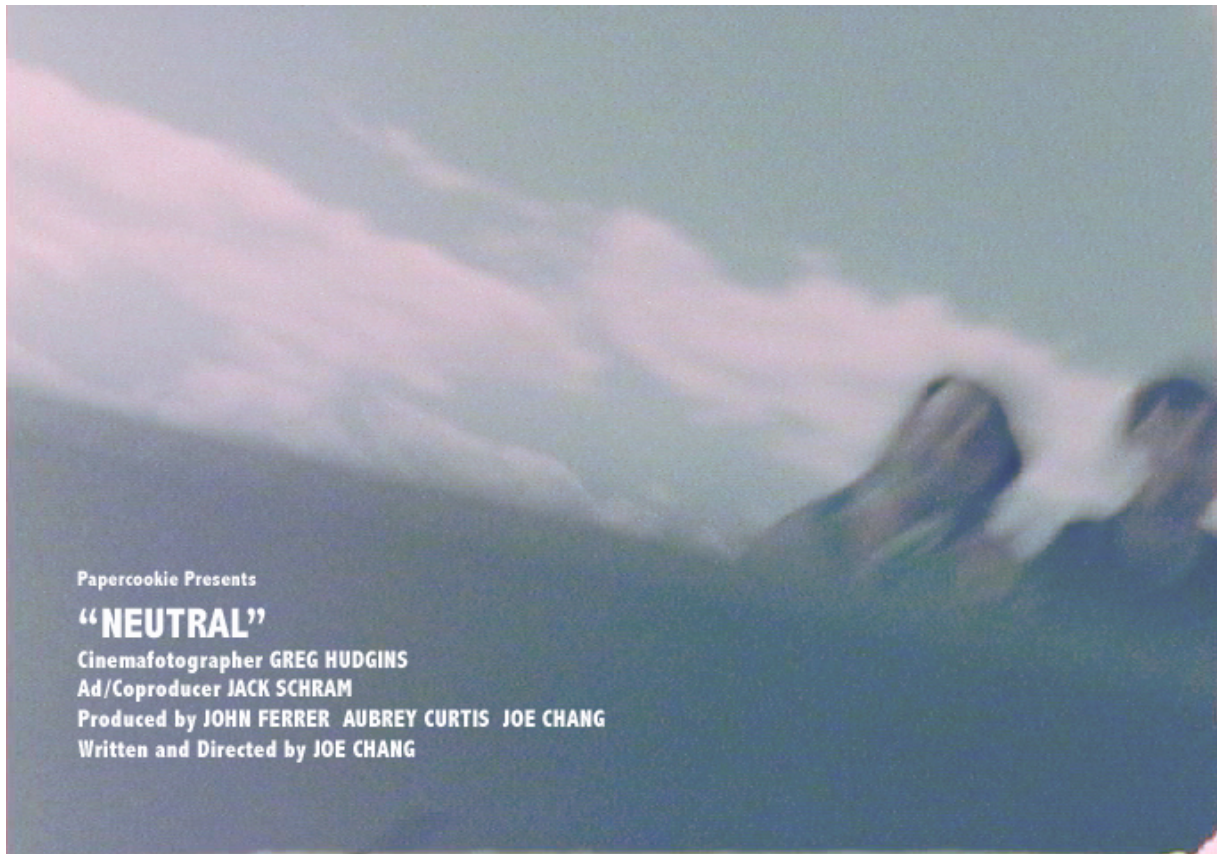
Examples of scenes include the shadows of a boy and girl discussing the favorite shapes they become, a chance encounter between a young woman and the author of her life, and a father taking his family trip far out of the way to return a friend's five pack of diet soda.

"Beautifully written and bursting with sweet sympathy for its whimsical characters... "
--John Cameron Mitchell (*HEDWIG and the ANGRY INCH, SHORTBUS*)

"Chang mingles the mundane with the casually surreal and occasional flights of pure fantasy in such a deadpan and offhand manner that you get the feeling you're in a place where anything might happen--and probably will..."
--Ken Hanke (Author: *KEN RUSSELL'S Films, TIM BURTON Biography*)

AWARDS

"TOP GRIT" Best Film - 2008 Indie Grits Film Festival



BACKGROUND

Filmmaking friends John Ferrer, Aubrey Curtis and Joe Chang dropped out of the North Carolina School of the Arts in 2004 to make films on their own in Asheville, NC. They formed a production company called *Papercookie* and rotate making each other's films.

They have since made *Leaving Here*, a short comedy about a bet on New Year's Eve, and *Grownups*, a feature length comedy about kids who never grow up. They recruited alumni, current students, and other drop outs from NCSA to help crew on each of these productions. *Neutral* is their second feature film.

Joe lived in the back of his truck and ate peanut butter and banana sandwiches for a year while working 2 full time jobs some 80+ hours a week to raise and save money so they could make *Neutral* on film. They shot it during the month of August in 2006. The crew of 7 lived and worked out of a warehouse/compound building in downtown Asheville, sleeping on the floor and taking showers in a converted utility sink.

The following summer, Joe and Coproducer Jack Schram, drove cross country to Los Angeles where they stayed, sleeping on floors and in the back of the truck, while old college roommate/editor Nathan Whiteside helped finish cut the film. They then drove back cross country, and *Neutral* premiered in October of 2007 at the Fine Arts Theatre in Asheville, NC.