



THE BOOK OF GHOSTS

THE BA JIAO GUI

八角柜

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绞死



THE MYTH OF THE BA JIAO GUI

In Chinese folklore, the Ba Jiao Gui is a female spirit, summoned by gamblers hoping to win their fortune. To summon her, a gambler would tie a red string around the trunk of a banana tree, stick needles into the bark, and tie the other end to their wrist. At night, the Ba Jiao Gui would appear and beg the gambler to set her free. In return she would give them the winning numbers to the lottery. If the gambler summoned the spirit too many times, they would surely meet a horrible death.

This is the myth that we will explore, in a modern-day setting, in our film, THE BA JIAO GUI.

STORY

Present day. Chinatown. Los Angeles. Mary Jane Chee is trying to win big money, but she just can't catch a break as her debts accumulate. By chance, she finds an ancient tome - the Book of Ghosts - instructing her on how to call upon the Ba Jiao Gui -- a malevolent gambling ghost -- who will provide Mary Jane with the winning lottery numbers. Desperate to pay off her debts, Mary Jane summons the ghost and wakes up with the numbers carved into her skin. She wins the local lottery, and is able to pay her debts. But in summoning the Ba Jiao Gui and winning, she may end up losing everything -- the Ba Jiao Gui will allow Mary Jane a certain number of wins, but eventually she will kill her. Having learned the awful truth of the devil's bargain she made, Mary Jane and her daughter Piper now must find a way to defeat the ghost before it is too late.



CHARATER

BREAKDOWNS

困扰



MARY JANE CHEE

In her late 30's, Mary Jane Chee is an underachiever and a hopeless gambling addict. Mary Jane is a loudmouth, but is much better at talking a big game than she is at actually winning one. A single mom, when not gambling, she spends time with her daughter Piper, whom she adores and spoils every chance she gets.

Prospective Talent for Mary Jane:

Awkwafina

Constance Wu

Gemma Chan



PIPER CHEE

15 year old Piper is MJ's only daughter and is cute as a button. Obsessed with ballet, she is determined to be the lead in her school's dance recital. But when her mother summons the vengeful Ba Jiao Gui, it is up to Piper to find a way to save her mother.

Prospective Talent for Piper:
Lana Condor
Stephanie Hsu



HANNAH CHEE

In her early 40s, Hannah is Mary Jane's responsible older sister. She is a successful realtor. She thinks of herself as the rock of the family and heavily disapproves of Mary Jane's gambling habits, having seen the toll it's taken on her niece Piper. Hannah's top priority is shielding her from Mary Jane's bad influence.

Prospective Talent for Hannah:

Ming-Na Wen

Lucy Liu

Margaret Cho



SONNY ROBERTS

A ruthless gangster and loan shark, Sonny crosses the country in his pursuit of Maryjane. He is absolutely without mercy and will stop at nothing to get back the money owed him, even if that means hurting Maryjane....or Piper.

Prospective Talent for Sonny:

Danny Trejo

John Leguizamo

Michael Mando

Michael Rooker

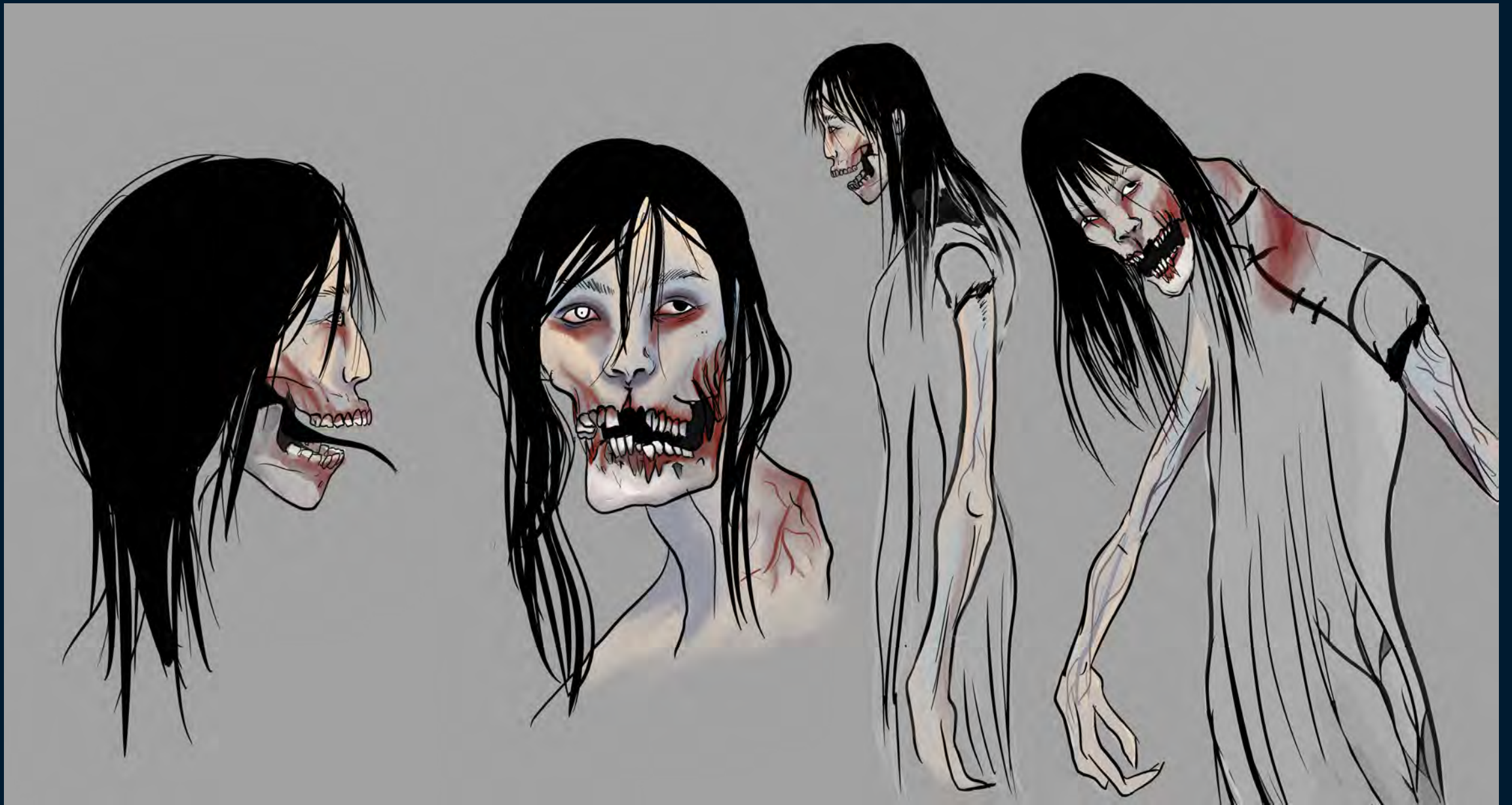
Peter Stormare



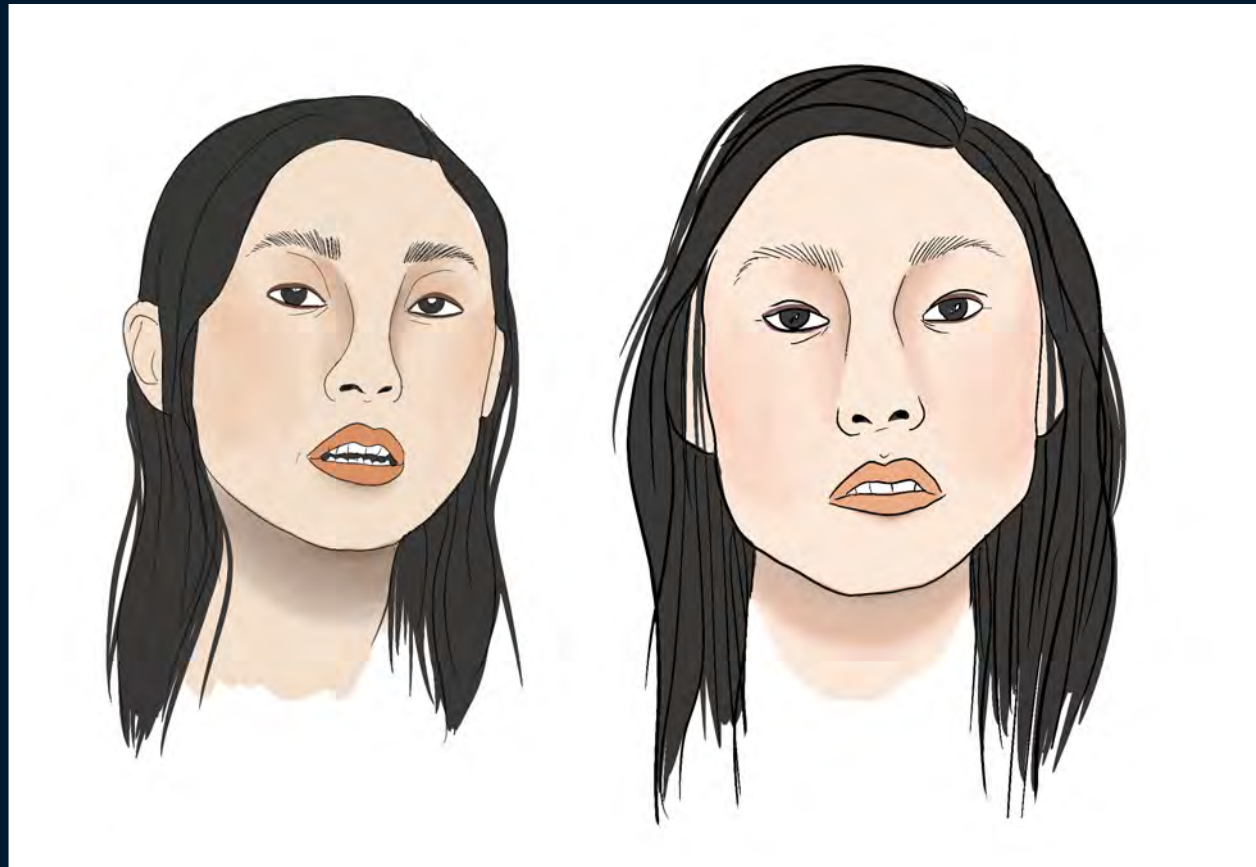
CONCEPT ART

设计

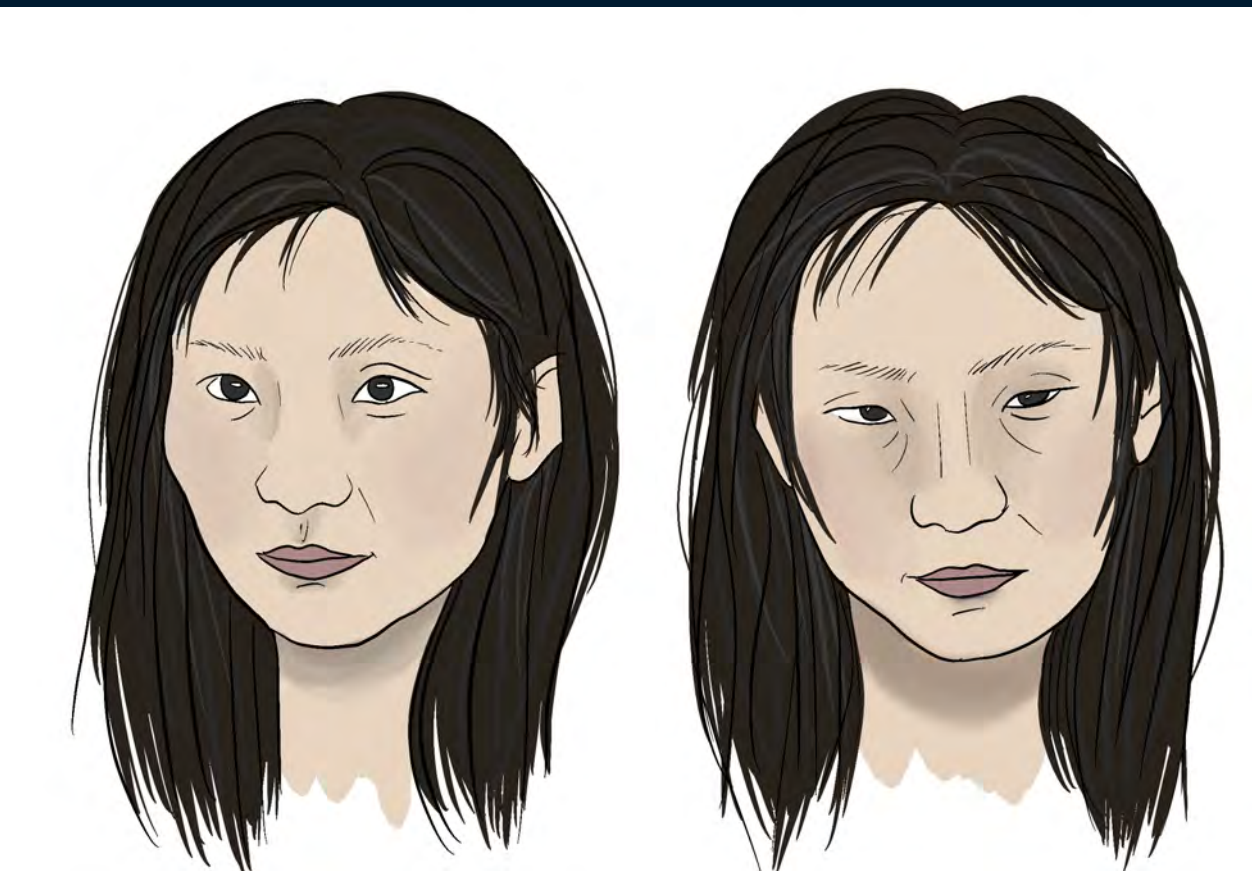




Our feature film's primary ghost. A tattered, traditional qipao dress, elongated arms, and an insidious tongue. The primary form of the Ba Jiao Gui.



Character concept art for Mary Jane Chee.



Character concept art for Hannah Chee (left) and Piper Chee (Right).



Concept art of the Bao Jiao Gi attacking Mary Jane Chee.



A depiction of the scene when Piper Chee summons the Ba Jiao Gui.

THE MARKET

Within the past five years, the marketplace for Chinese-American films has exploded. These movies have run the gamut from rom-coms such as *Crazy Rich Asians* and Netflix's popular *To All the Boys I've Loved Before* films, to critically acclaimed, award-winning indies such as *The Farewell*. Even Disney has introduced its first Chinese superhero film with Marvel's *Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings*. The box office success and critical acclaim that these films have garnered, proves that audiences are now coming out in droves to support Chinese-American films. Combine this with the fact that statistically, horror films are very profitable, it makes sense to tailor a horror film to this growing, emerging demographic.

SEQUELS / FRANCHISE POTENTIAL

Even though The Ba Jiao Gui is a stand-alone story, the 'Book Of Ghosts' element allows for unlimited subsequent installments and sequels. In the film, The Book Of Ghosts is an ancient tome that Mary Jane and Piper find and within its pages are multiple spells and incantations for summoning various ghosts from around the world. Hypothetical sequels include the Hanako-San, a Japanese ghost who emerges from school bathrooms and pulls unsuspecting victims to Hell via the toilet; Bloody Mary, an American ghost who appears in the mirrors of dark rooms, after you spin around and say her name over and over again; Stingy Jack, an Irish ghost who tricked Satan himself and is also known as Jack o' the Lantern; and Kuchisake Onna, the Slit-Mouthed Woman, another Japanese ghost who never feels beautiful enough and disfigures her victims with scissors. With so many ghostly urban myths from around the world to choose from, the Book Of Ghosts franchise potential is limitless.

SEQUELS / FRANCHISE POTENTIAL





THE WRITERS

作家



JOHN LIANG

Born and raised in Chicago, John is an honors graduate of NYU's Tisch School of the Arts. After graduating, he relocated to Los Angeles where he formed the production company, Lonely Devil Films. He then went on to co-write and direct the psychological thriller RECOVERY, which was released on DVD and streaming in 2019. He is currently preparing his second feature film.



ALDOUS CHEE DAVIDSON

Aldous Davidson is a professional independent film producer, writer and assistant director that has been working in the industry for over 15 years. He is a proud graduate of NYU's Tisch School of the Arts with a degree in Film and Television Production. He just finished producing the Snapchat original series, Yo! Merman Raps and the indie film Double Belgian, and recently assistant directed the indie films, Psychotic: A Brooklyn Slasher and Laura Gets A Cat. He wrote, directed and produced the short film How to Greet the Dead, which won YOMYOMF and Toyota's Interpretations contest.

COMBINED WORK

John Liang and Aldous Chee Davidson have known each other for over a decade, having met at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts film program. They have collaborated in the past on short-form and digital projects, and have developed a strong working relationship. Both are of Chinese-American heritage, and therefore bring a unique perspective to this story.

WRITER'S STATEMENT

As Chinese-American writers and filmmakers, we grew up not seeing people who looked like us represented on film. In the past decade, this has changed for the better, as more and more content on film and television has featured Chinese-American characters. No longer relegated to the wacky neighbor or the exotic femme fatale, Chinese-Americans' stories are not being filtered through a monolithic lens of "the Chinese-American Experience" but are finally being told in all their complexity and diversity. That diversity includes diversity of genre, and while there is no shortage of Asian horror films, Asian-American horror films, specifically Chinese-American horror films are in short supply. Our goal is to change all that with this film. By drawing on the myths and legends we heard and read growing up, the aim of THE BA JIAO GUI is to create a modern horror film that fully blends the authentic Chinese culture that bore this legend with the modern-day American experience.

-- Aldous Chee Davidson and John Liang

MOOD REEL



<https://vimeo.com/473632430>

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恐怖

HORROR | TERROR