

GOLDEN DELICIOUS



GOLDEN DELICIOUS

DIRECTED BY JASON KARMAN
WRITTEN BY GORRMAN LEE
PRODUCED BY KRISTYN STILLING

RUNNING TIME: **2 HOURS**. ASPECT RATIO **2.39:1**
YEAR COMPLETED **2022**

RESOLUTION

UHD MASTER 3840x1608

2K DCP is 2048x858

CONTACT: Jason Karman, Director
Kristyn Stilling, Producer
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LOGLINE

When basketball-obsessed Aleks moves in across the street, Asian-Canadian teen Jake finds himself trying out for the basketball team to get his attention in this classic coming-of-age drama set in the digital age.

SYNOPSIS

Everyone wants something from high school senior Jake: his father is pushing him to try out for the basketball team – an abandoned dream of his own – and his girlfriend wants to take their relationship to the next level.

But it's not until Aleks, an openly gay teen with a love for basketball, moves in across the street that Jake begins to struggle with his own desires. To get closer to Aleks, Jake devotes himself to making the basketball team – only to realize it's not basketball he really wants. Meanwhile, Jake finds out that his father is having an affair, which leaves him questioning his entire family foundation.

Distraught and confused, Jake pulls away - until he's finally outed as gay. With the truth in the open, Jake and his father come to terms with the reality of their relationship and expectations for each other. At last able to find the courage to be himself, Jake is ready to face the future with his family and friends by his side.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Working with the youth, I have seen how social media puts enormous pressure on young minds. Many students look like me, and we are exposed to a confusing world that often defends toxic behaviour and celebrates questionable role models. Additionally, one has cultural elements like "saving face" that one must deal with.

"Saving face" is a strategy to avoid humiliation or embarrassment as a method of survival and a core social value in Asian culture; sexuality is often hidden to "save face." This film continues my exploration of how social media perspectives can connect us but also amplify emotions and alienate us. Many youths face a modern challenge to find themselves amidst a sea of likes, endless chats, YouTube-like videos, and Instagram-like stories. Golden Delicious shows that kids of immigrant families can manage this and, in the end, become stronger.

BIOGRAPHIES

DIRECTOR, EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

A Master of Fine Arts in Film Production and Creative Writing from the University of British Columbia, [Jason Karman's](#) films have travelled internationally, focusing on Asian diaspora and LGBT stories. His short film, *Lions in Waiting*, was selected by Telefilm Canada's Not Short on Talent at Clermont- Ferrand in 2018 and screened at BFI Flare 2018. His debut feature *Golden Delicious* is supported by Telefilm Canada's Talent to Watch program and was filmed in March 2021 at the height of the pandemic. Jason is currently working on a second feature film with Norman Y. Li.





BIOGRAPHIES

WRITER

Gorman Lee is a Chinese-Canadian screenwriter and producer based in Vancouver. His credits include writing for: Amazon Prime's *The Lake*; Netflix's *The Imperfects*, and *The Order*; Syfy's *Van Helsing*. His first feature film, *Golden Delicious*, was awarded a Telefilm Talent to Watch grant and will be released in 2022. He is a fellow of the 2022 Warner Bros Discovery X Canadian Academy Writer's Program, the 2021 BIPOC TV & Film Showrunner Training Bootcamp, and the 2014 Writers Guild of Canada & Bell Media's Diverse Screenwriters Program. He received an MFA in Creative Writing from the University of British Columbia, and a BFA in Filmmaking from Simon Fraser University. [IMDB](#).

BIOGRAPHIES

PRODUCER

Born and raised in the Semiahmoo Nation (White Rock, BC, Canada) Kristyn Stilling has immersed herself into the Canadian film community as an independent Producer who has produced over 17 short films including the 2021 Leo Award Winner for Best Short Film, *FREYA*. She just completed her first feature, *Golden Delicious*, which will be on the festival circuit Fall of 2022. *Golden Delicious* was one of the 2020 Telefilm Talent to Watch projects and also received funding from the Canada Council of the Art and the BC Arts Council. Kristyn is also the Chair of the Vancouver Short Film Festival and has previously worked for such prestigious organizations as the National Film Board of Canada, eOne, Whistler Film Festival, Crazy8s Film Society, and Kickstart Entertainment. [IMDB](#).





BIOGRAPHIES

LEAD ACTOR

Cardi Wong is a proud Asian Canadian actor born and raised in Vancouver. *Golden Delicious* was his first ever lead in an independent feature. Cardi can be seen in many Hallmark movies, and occasionally pops up in various CW, NBC, and Netflix shows. His most recent work includes a series regular voice-over role in “*Supernatural Academy*” on Peacock Tv. His latest booking saw him fly to Winnipeg to shoot a role in an upcoming series coming to ParamountPlus. In his downtime Cardi likes to stay active by going to the gym and playing ice hockey. [IMDB.](#)

BIOGRAPHIES

LEAD ACTOR

Performing across film, television, and theatre, [Chris Carson](#) has played roles in hit CW shows including *Riverdale*, *The Chilling Adventures of Sabrina*, and *DC's Legends of Tomorrow* as well as Melchior Gabor in *Spring Awakening*, and Joseph in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. Chris has previously trained at several acting studios, and most prominently, with Deb Podowski. His performance as Aleks in *Golden Delicious* is his first leading role in a feature film.



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FESTIVALS AND AWARDS

2022

Oct 5, 9 **Vancouver International Film Festival**, Vancouver, Canada - *WORLD PREMIERE*

- Nominated for the Emerging Canadian Director Award
- Nominated for the Best BC Film Award

Oct 12 **Reelworld Film Festival**, Toronto, Canada

- Opening Night Film
- Winner of Outstanding Feature Film, \$25,000 Prize
- Winner of Outstanding Feature Film Director, \$1,000 Prize
- Winner of Outstanding Feature Film Actor, \$1,000 Prize
- Winner of Outstanding Feature Film Writer, \$1,000 Prize

Oct 22 **Seattle Queer Film Festival**, Seattle, USA - *USA PREMIERE*

- Closing Night Film
- Winner Audience Choice for Best Feature Film

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FESTIVALS AND AWARDS

2022 (CONTINUED)

Oct 23 **Boston Asian American Film Festival**, Boston, USA

Oct 28, Nov 1 **Austin Film Festival**, Austin, USA

Nov 05 **Rainbow Visions Film Festival**, Edmonton, Canada

Nov 6 **Vancouver Asian Film Festival**, Vancouver, Canada

- Winner Best Canadian Feature Film
- Winner People's Choice Best Overall Performance in a Feature
- Winner People's Choice Best Feature Film

Nov 13 **Ottawa LGBT Film Festival - Inside Out**, Ottawa, Canada

Nov 26 **Image+Nation LGBTQ Film Festival**, Montreal, Canada

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FESTIVALS AND AWARDS

2023

Feb 4 **Reelout Queer Film Festival** Kingston, Canada

- Closing Night Film
- Winner of the Kim Renders Memorial Award for Best Ensemble Performance
- Winner of Best Feature Film

Feb 11 **Out at the Movies** Winston-Salem, North Carolina

Feb 12 **Victoria Film Festival** Victoria, Canada

Feb 26, Mar 1 **Mardi Gras Film Festival** Sydney, Australia- *AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE*
2nd Runner Up - Audience Award, Best Narrative Feature

Feb 26 **Seattle Asian American Film Festival** Seattle, USA

Mar 5 **Kamloops Film Festival** Kamloops, Canada

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FESTIVALS AND AWARDS

2023 (CONTINUED)

Mar 11 **DisOrient Asian American Film Festival of Oregon** Eugene, USA
Special Mention - “Excellence in Storytelling”

Mar 21,22 **BFI Flare** London, England- *EUROPEAN PREMIERE*

Mar 26 **Roze Filmdagen** Amsterdam, Netherlands

Mar 31 **Canadian Film Festival** Toronto, Canada

Apr 13 **Kulttuurikaappi Festival** Helsinki, Finland

Apr 20 **Queergestreift Festival**, Konstanz, Germany

April 20 – 30 **Outshine Film Festival**, Miami, Florida

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NEWS ARTICLES

Last Updated March 27, 2023

[Audience votes reveal top films at this year's Kamloops Film Festival](#)

[New Current: 37th BFI Flare 2023, Interview with Jason Karman](#)

[DisOrient Asian American Film Festival returns to Eugene, celebrating Asian Filmmakers](#)

[FilmInk: Apples for Apples](#)

[FilmInk Review: Golden Delicious](#)

[Stephen Fry-led doc 'Willem & Frieda' to world premiere at BFI Flare; full festival line-up unveiled](#)

[Reelout Queer Film Festival returns in person](#)



NEWS ARTICLES

Last Updated March 27, 2023

[Image+Nation LGBT2SQ+ film festival celebrates 35 years Nov. 17-27](#)

[iheart Radio: VIFF Film Review - Golden Delicious](#)

[Queerty: This gay teen basketball story takes a familiar genre to unexpected new places](#)

[Boston Hassle: BAAFF Interview “Golden Delicious” Director Jason Karman](#)

[Northwest Asian Weekly: Jason Karman’s “Golden Delicious” look at growing up](#)

[Playback: Golden Delicious wins four Reelworld Film Festival prizes](#)

[Playback: Golden Delicious offers positive queer Asian-Canadian representation at VIFF](#)

[Academy.ca : We’re back this festival season with some top picks from upcoming film festivals across the country.](#)

[What to know about Austin Film Festival 2022, from films to celebrities](#)

NEWS ARTICLES

Last Updated March 27, 2023

[SAD Magazine: An Interview with Jason Karman, Director of Golden Delicious](#)

[Austin Film Festival reveals second wave of screenings set for 29th lineup.](#)

[Three Dollar Bill Cinema Announces Opening & Closing Screenings for The 27th Seattle Queer Film Festival](#)

[CTV News Toronto at 11:30 for Sunday, October 16, 2022 \(at 7:58 in clip\)](#)

[The 22nd Reelworld Film Festival announces GOLDEN DELICIOUS directed by fast-rising filmmaker Jason Karman as its Opening Night Film](#)

[The Vancouver International Film Festival lineup just dropped, here are 10 films that caught our eye.](#)

[CBC's on The Coast with Gloria Macarenko](#)

[VIFF Announces 41st Edition Festival Lineup, Including Gala Presentations and New International Film Competition](#)

MEDIA QUOTES FOR GOLDEN DELICIOUS

Last Updated March 27, 2023

"Films like GOLDEN DELICIOUS only come around once in a blue moon; something so sweet, pure, and insightful in the ways queer people use social media for both identity and dating."

Billy Ray Brewton, managing director of Three Dollar Bill Cinema

"tender and genuine"
Stir Vancouver

"shines a bright light on the power of authenticity"
Stir Vancouver

"Golden Delicious highlights so many important themes; coming out in an Asian family and in a time when social media can do more harm than good, the pressure Asian Canadian teens still feel from their parents to follow a path they didn't necessarily choose, and most importantly this film gives Asian Canadian stories the spotlight they deserve... I loved this film so much!"

LEANNE MCLAREN, iheart Radio

