



# *touch*

*when words are not enough...*



*CAST John Ruby Melinda Bennett*

*Long Nguyen Hiep Thi Le and introducing Porter Lynn*

*CINEMATOGRAPHER Morgan Schmidt PRODUCTION DESIGNER Azra Bano Ali*

*ORIGINAL MUSIC Marcello De Francisci PRODUCER Mellissa Tong*

*WRITER / DIRECTOR Minh Duc Nguyen*

[www.touchthemovie.com](http://www.touchthemovie.com)



## An *unexpected friendship*

*between a Vietnamese-American manicurist and a mechanic  
deepens in modern Los Angeles.*

### SYNOPSIS

At V.I.P. Nails, a Vietnamese-American manicurist named Tam has a new customer: Brendan, a shy mechanic who literally has a problem on his hands. He can never get rid of the oil stains around his nails, and when he tries to be intimate with his aloof wife, she always rejects him with the same excuse: "Your hands are filthy!" Desperately seeking to save his marriage, Brendan goes to the nail salon every day, where Tam does more than scrub his hands clean. She also offers him advice on how to get his wife to love him again. But soon, Tam and Brendan find themselves drawn to each other, an attraction which becomes harder and harder to resist.

This sensual film explores the sense of touch and its emotional impact — how with just a simple touch, we can reveal our deepest longings, give the utmost pleasure to others and even heal a wounded soul.

## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

In America, 75% of the nail salons are owned and operated by Vietnamese. The nail salon industry provides countless job opportunities for Vietnamese immigrants, but their stories have never been told on-screen. For the first time, we have a film about the hidden life of women working in a typical nail salon, told from their point-of-views. This is the inspiration that led me to write and direct *Touch*. I see the nail salon as the perfect setting to tell a multicultural story, a place where the Vietnamese workers interact daily with their American customers that come from all walks of life. But the movie also touches on universal themes such as love, loss and the importance of human contact.

## DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY



Minh Duc Nguyen attended UC Berkeley, where he discovered his love for creative writing. Several of his short stories were published in prestigious literary journals and anthologies. *Tale of Apricot* was nominated for the O. Henry Award. In graduate film school at USC, Minh received the Jeffrey Jones Scholarship for excellence in screenwriting. His thesis film, *Sunshine*, inspired a favorable review in LA Weekly and was accepted at many film festivals. *Touch* marks his feature-length directorial debut.



## MELLISSA TONG, producer



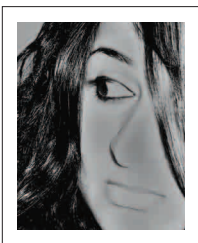
Mellissa Tong founded DuckPunk Productions in 2000 and has been a prolific producer ever since. The projects she produces range from independent feature films, TV and radio commercials, to documentaries, online and viral campaigns, and TV programming. As a feature film producer, *Touch* is her latest project. Her other credits include *Talk To Taka*, *My American Vacation*, *The Water Ghost* and *Click Three Times*. All have won awards from major film festivals around the country.

## MORGAN SCHMIDT, cinematographer



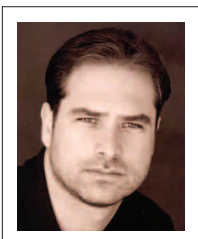
Morgan Schmidt has shot seven feature films, twenty short films, as well as a number of documentaries and commercials. Morgan specializes in creating the film-look in digital cinematography, and in uniquely beautiful lighting, which is a key to evoking emotional response in audiences. Notable feature credits include *Clear Lake, WI* (winner of Audience Choice Award 2008 Boston Film Festival), and the intense 2009 drama *April Showers*.

## AZRA BANO ALI, production designer



Azra Bano Ali is a freelance Production Designer based out of Los Angeles, CA. She was born in Hyderabad, India and moved to the United States at an early age. She studied film at Pennsylvania State University. Whether it's floral arrangements, paper mache, or moving furniture back and forth a thousand times; there is no better job in the world than being able to create something new everyday.

## MARCELLO DE FRANCISCI, composer



Marcello De Francisci is a composer who provides music to the feature film, movie trailer, commercial and interactive game industry. His music has been used in movie trailers such as *Avatar*, *Prince Of Persia*, *Monsters vs Aliens*, *Seven Pounds*, *Night At the Museum*, *Mission Impossible III*, *National Treasure*, *The Guardian*, *Hellboy* and *Jet Li's Hero*. Recently he collaborated with singer/composer Lisa Gerrard on the soundtrack scores for *Balibo*, *Tears of Gaza* and *Oranges & Sunshine*.



## **PORTER LYNN (Tam)**

Porter Lynn is from the Silicon Valley in Northern California. She moved to Los Angeles after studying Biology/Psychology at UC Davis, in order to pursue her love of acting. Her theater credits include *Bye Bye Birdie* and *Under the Sea*. She has also appeared in many short films, such as *McConnell Blvd.* and *All at Once*, but *Touch* is her first feature film and lead role.



## **JOHN RUBY (Brendan)**

A native of Wisconsin and a graduate of Northwestern University, John Ruby is proud to be making his living as an actor in Los Angeles ([johnruby.com](http://johnruby.com)). His film credits include *You, Me and Dupree*, *Ricky*, and *Touch*. He recently made appearances on the television shows *Cougar Town*, *Perfect Couples*, and *The Event*. His theater credits include *The Sting* and *Heaven Can Wait*. John recently completed writing and directing his first short film, *Endgame* ([endgamemov.com](http://endgamemov.com)), which was accepted into the prestigious Beloit International Film Festival.



## **MELINDA BENNETT (Sandie)**

Melinda was born in a very small town in southern Virginia. At the age of 8, she fell in love with dancing and acting. After receiving her BFA in Dance/Theatre from ECU in NC, she saved her pennies and moved to LA. Her TV credits include *Lucky*, *Will and Grace*, *Spin City*, *Terminator*, *Pushing Daisies*, and the new TNT show *Franklin and Bash*. She has appeared in 7 independent films, including *Touch* and *The Price of Happiness*. Melinda is very excited to be living out her childhood dream and feels especially grateful for being a part of this film.

## LONG NGUYEN (Father)

Long caught the acting bug in 1992 when he followed a friend to an open audition for Oliver Stone's *Heaven and Earth* and has been acting since. His film credits include: *Heaven and Earth*, *Operation Dumbo Drop*, *Into Thin Air/Death On Everest*, *Coyote Waits*, *Green Dragon*, *Living in Seduced Circumstances*, and *Touch*. His TV credits: *CSI: NY*, *American Dreams*, *JAG* and *John Doe*. He won "Best Actor" for *Journey From the Fall* at the 2006 Newport Beach Film Festival and also for *Aspara* at the 2003 California Independent Film Festival.



## HIEP THI LE (Mother)

Living in the Oakland projects in 1992, Hiep Thi Le took the fateful decision of following her sister to an audition in the trade off that she could hitch a ride to her favorite flea market. That audition landed her the lead role in Oliver Stone's *Heaven and Earth* alongside Tommy Lee Jones. Her natural talent quickly landed her many diverse roles in movies such as LGBT cult classic *Bugis Street*, Tracy Ulman's *Tracy Takes On*, Singapore's first horror revival *Return to Pontianak* and the award winning Timothy Linh Bui's *Green Dragon*.



## TONY LATHANH (Ky)

Tony LaThanh was the last actor that came in to audition for the role of Ky and left a lasting impression. His film and TV credits include *Night Boys*, *Drake and Joss*, *Underpass* and *Touch*. He also has appeared in numerous plays: *FOB*, *Shape of Things* and *Soldiers Don't Cry*.





# CAST

Tam	PORTER LYNN
Brendan	JOHN RUBY
Sandie	MELINDA BENNETT
Father	LONG NGUYEN
Mother	HIEP THI LE
Little Tam	TRISHA NGUYEN
Ky	TONY LATHANH
Bich	MY LAN
Quyen	TUY THANH
Linh	ELIZA NGO
Hong	BETY LE
Customer #1	CHARMAIN L. CROOK
Customer #2	MARLENE SHARP
Customer #3	CHRIS FARAH
Customer #4	KAREN-EILEEN GORDON
Secretary	ASHLEY POPICHAK
Dr. Vu	DUC VUONG
Vietnamese singer	DIEM LIEN

# CREW

Writer/Director	MINH DUC NGUYEN
Producer	MELLISSA TONG
Cinematographer	MORGAN SCHMIDT
Production Designer	AZRA BANO ALI
Art Director	LAURA MAZZA
Costume Designers	INKA SHERMAN MELISSA JOY WILSON
Nail Designer	NORIKO KOSAKA CHEN
Composer	MARCELLO DE FRANCISCI

## **TECHNICAL SPECS**

Title: **Touch**  
Film type: **Narrative Feature**  
Genre: **Drama**  
Running Time: **109 minutes**  
Presentation Format: **HD Color**  
Digital Aspect Ratio: **16 x 9**  
Sound Format: **Surround**  
Country of Origin: **United States**  
Language: **English and Vietnamese with English subtitles**

## **PRODUCTION COMPANY**

**A Gray Picture, LLC**

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