

# A WOMAN ABROAD



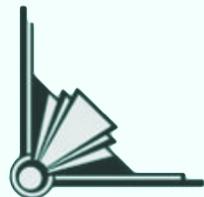
A FILM BY AMY KERSTEN





Upon discovering her uncanny resemblance to a 1930's writer who shares her name, a down-on-her-luck New Yorker travels to Shanghai, following in her icon's adventurous footsteps to chase her destiny.

\*Inspired by actual writings and events

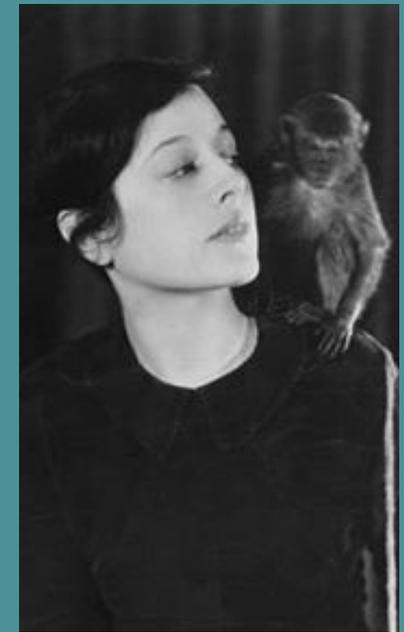


# SYNOPSIS



Annabelle (Anna), a 30-something romantic and professional failure, stumbles across a memoir in Chinatown, New York. The author shares her first name and describes a troubled life very similar to Anna's in the opening pages of the 80-year-old book. (*Inspired by New Yorker author Emily Hahn, infamous for her free-spirited lifestyle in 1930's Shanghai.*) Desperate to improve her luck and seeing this as a sign, Anna abandons her life in New York for Shanghai to follow in the writer's adventurous footsteps.

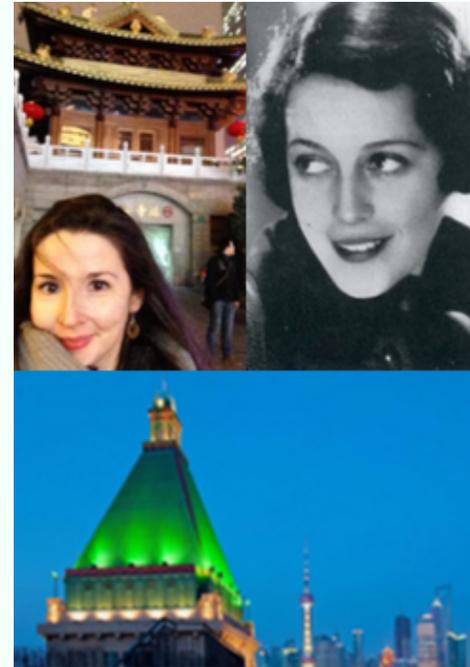
Struggling with old narratives, Anna hates the city upon arrival, but with the help of a quirky Chinese housekeeper, a colorful cast of expats, and the memoir – she explores the strange city with new abandon. She enjoys unprecedented attention from accented men, creative inspiration, and – like her newfound namesake – adopts a pet monkey; all somehow narrated by 1936 memoir. By seeing her life anew through the writer's lens, Anna is able to value the unique freedom her many failures have made possible. Just as she is convinced that Shanghai is her destined "wanderland," an Asian-American love interest offers the romantic future she wanted all along. Will she give up the chance to live an untold story abroad to finally get her "happily ever after?"



# THE TRUE STORY

Many events and romances in the script are drawn directly from screenwriter Amy Kersten's time in Shanghai in 2015 & 2016.

*"Having never been to Asia, I arrived personally lost and left with a transformed sense of identity and purpose. This is due in great part to my introduction to Emily Hahn as depicted in the script. I remember reading about her life and being astounded by our common experiences in Shanghai and beyond. We're both from modest Missouri roots, and resisted the narratives available to us as girls in the midwest, and as cash-strapped single young women in New York. Then we each stumbled into our future selves while exploring and romancing in Shanghai.*



*Coincidentally, I even found myself dancing at the top of the same emerald-roofed hotel where she first made her splash in Shanghai. I am forever changed for having discovered Emily Hahn. May all young women find such a friend buried in our lesser-known history."*

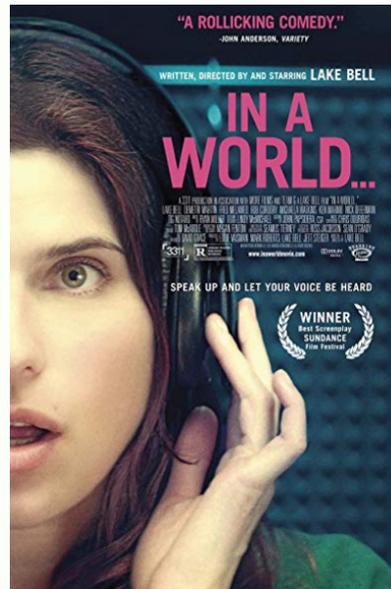
A WOMAN ABROAD



# BOX OFFICE POTENTIAL



Box Office		as of 12/14/18
Budget		\$ 30,000,000
Opening Wknd		\$ 26,510,140
Gross (USA)		\$ 173,994,561
Gross (World)		\$ 237,994,561
<a href="#">See all box office data</a>		

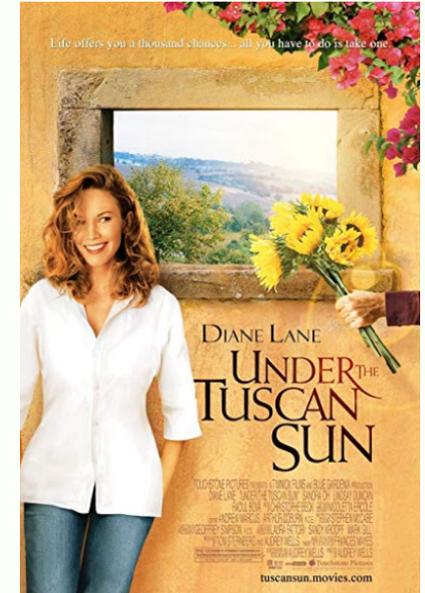


Box Office		
Opening Wknd		\$ 70,541
Gross (USA)		\$ 2,962,542
<a href="#">See all box office data</a>		
Release date		Jan 20, 2013 (United States)

\*Budget: Under 1 million



Box Office		
Budget		\$ 40,000,000
Opening Wknd		\$ 20,027,956
Gross (USA)		\$ 94,125,426
Gross (World)		\$ 129,540,499



Box Office		
Budget		\$ 18,000,000
Opening Wknd		\$ 9,751,425
Gross (USA)		\$ 43,610,723
Gross (World)		\$ 58,878,723



## ANNA (ANNABELLE)

Anna, a failed news producer in her mid-thirties, is as unlucky in love as her career. A “girl most likely to” with nothing to show for it, her scrappy lifestyle is not as cute as it used to be, and it feels like her youth is running out. If it's too late for happily ever after, what else is there?



## ANNABELLE MANN



Annabelle Mann's 80-year-old memoir serves as an uncanny narrator to our modern story (loosely based on Emily Hahn's *China To Me*). Hahn was an American journalist and prolific author in the 1930s, considered an early feminist for her free-spirited and sexually liberated lifestyle.





## LEA

Lea, Anna's saucy Australian-Indian roommate, is a "regal" citizen of the world at the age of 21. She serves as a dry witted foil to Anna's quirky naïveté. Lea is a seasoned expat; fluent in French, Mandarin, and handsome Chinese men.





## SONG

Song, a 50 year old Chinese Ayiee “Auntie” or maid, serves as a Greek chorus as Anna follows in Mann’s footsteps. Whether cleaning the apartment, or sprucing up the roommates’ act, she is blunt, hilarious and speaks zero English.



## CHRIS

Chris, a handsome Chinese American with marriage potential, meets Anna while she's distracted by other exploits. Initially, she dismisses him to favor European expats, but as they get to know each other, their romance blossoms. Chris offers the kind of romance and stability that Anna always thought she wanted.



## LIL CHARLIE

Lil Charlie, a shy Chinese boy, is Anna's English pupil and serves as a hilarious translator between Anna and Song. At first he's too shy to converse with her, but when Anna realizes his love of Charlie Chaplin, his own namesake, she starts making silent films with him. Their high jinks result in Anna's renewed love of filmmaking, a pet monkey, and a viral video; giving her a reinvigorating creative boost.





## DANIEL

Daniel, a handsome British tour guide, introduces Anna to Annabelle Mann. His knowledge of Mann's life, though limited to her promiscuous night life and not her early feminist work, proves integral to Anna's journey.

# SECONDARY CASTING POTENTIAL



CHARLIE SR.



JACK



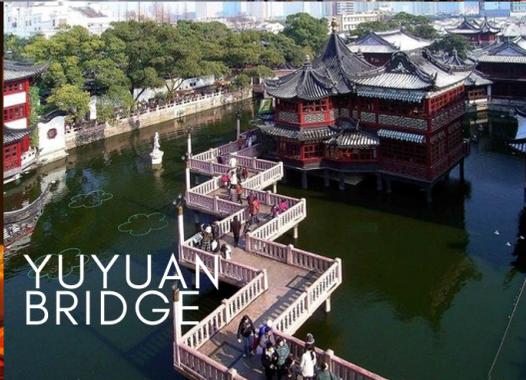
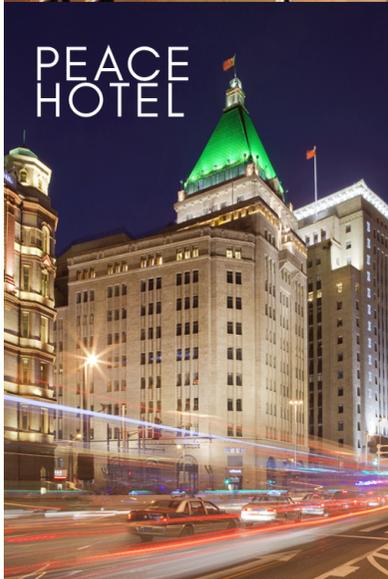
TIM



CHENGUANG



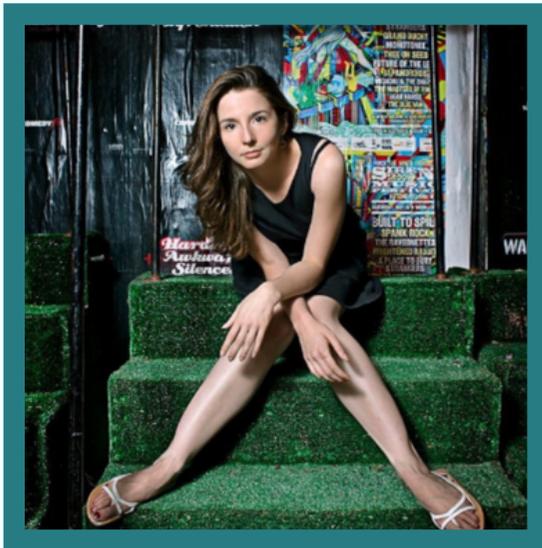
# LOCATIONS



# OUR TEAM

## AMY KERSTEN

SCREENWRITER



Amy spent the last decade developing multiple digital series including *Lady Parts Justice*, run by *Daily Show* creator Lizz Winstead, and three seasons of the award-winning digital series *HOT MESS*. Her pilot *In Case of Emergency* was a top-rated short in the Amazon All Voices Film Festival. She is also the in-house producer for the Geena Davis Institute and has worked on various feature films including *Sandy Wexler* starring Adam Sandler, *The Spy Who Dumped Me* starring Kate McKinnon, and *The Week Of* directed by Robert Smigel. She was selected to join the Entertainment/Media #50Women Cohort, with women across the industry working together towards parity in Hollywood by 2025. In 2015 and 2016, She worked as an actor in Shanghai and discovered the work of Emily Hahn while there. In 2018, Amy joined Exec. Producer Margaret Bramwell Doyle to form MUCH ADO, an entertainment development company.

## KATIE ROSIN

PRODUCER/ KAMPFIRE FIMS



Katie has been working in production and marketing for film, television and theater for over 20 years, founding Kampf Fire Films in 2001. After working in production on films such as *American Psycho* and *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*, Kampf Fire Marketing was instrumental in the launch of the Broadway musical, *Brooklyn*, and the National Tour of *Mother Load*. In 2014, she helped launch Stage17.tv, a digital entertainment destination for the world's largest stage—the Internet. Kampf Fire Films works in association with MyCarl productions and with them produced the Web Series *Gemma & The Bear* and the upcoming *Beckys Through History*. Katie also produced the award-winning feature film, *Closure*, the talk show *Chic Chat*, the Reality Series *We Are The Jones*, and the award-winning short film *Speed Grieving*. She is currently developing multiple projects including television series and feature films. [www.kampf firefilms.com](http://www.kampf firefilms.com)



# MARGARET BRAMWELL DOYLE

PRODUCER / MUCH ADO



Inspired by the strong women in her family, Margaret is passionate about women's stories and the power of media and the performing arts. She began in casting early on her career and recently pivoted to producing in 2013 when she began co-producing *Shakespeare At The Manner*, an annual summer theater and gala fundraising event in partnership with alumni Juilliard, NYU Grad and Trinity Rep. Recent film projects include *RUOK* starring Peter Mark Kendall (*The Americans*, *Strange Angel*) and *After The March*, recognized for its diversity by the Geena Davis Institute. In 2018 she formed MUCH ADO, a film development company with Amy Kersten.



# OUR PARTNERS



Emma Nikki  
Shanghai-based  
Production Consultant



Newman Film Consultants  
(Chinese Cultural Consultant)



Xuemeng Li  
Translation Consultant

# CROSS MARKET POTENTIAL POTENTIAL

While mostly in English, the film features Chinese and European Actors speaking Mandarin, appealing to young Chinese audiences focused on China's representation in global entertainment. This sets up the A WOMAN ABROAD to be sold on the Chinese VOD Market (Alibaba, Baidu) and additionally on the US VOD Market (Amazon or Netflix) following a cinema release.



"Strict protectionism by Beijing regulators has prevented Netflix and Amazon from entering the massive mainland market, but the country's three rival internet giants – Baidu, Alibaba and Tencent, collectively known as "BAT" – are engaged in an ongoing battle for market share...they rely heavily on exclusive and original content to boost their user numbers."

*Hollywood Reporter*

A nighttime photograph of the Shanghai skyline. The Oriental Pearl Tower is the central focus, illuminated with purple and white lights. To its right, the Shanghai Tower and other skyscrapers are lit up. In the foreground, the Bund is visible, with a large building on the left illuminated in green. The water of the Bund reflects the city lights.

"I have deliberately  
chosen the uncertain  
path whenever I  
had the choice."

- Emily Hahn





# LET'S KEEP IN TOUCH

c/o Kampfire Films  
1776 Broadway, Ste 1410  
New York, NY 10019  
917-512-2626  
[katie@kampfirefilmspr.com](mailto:katie@kampfirefilmspr.com)  
[kampfirefilms.com](http://kampfirefilms.com)



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