

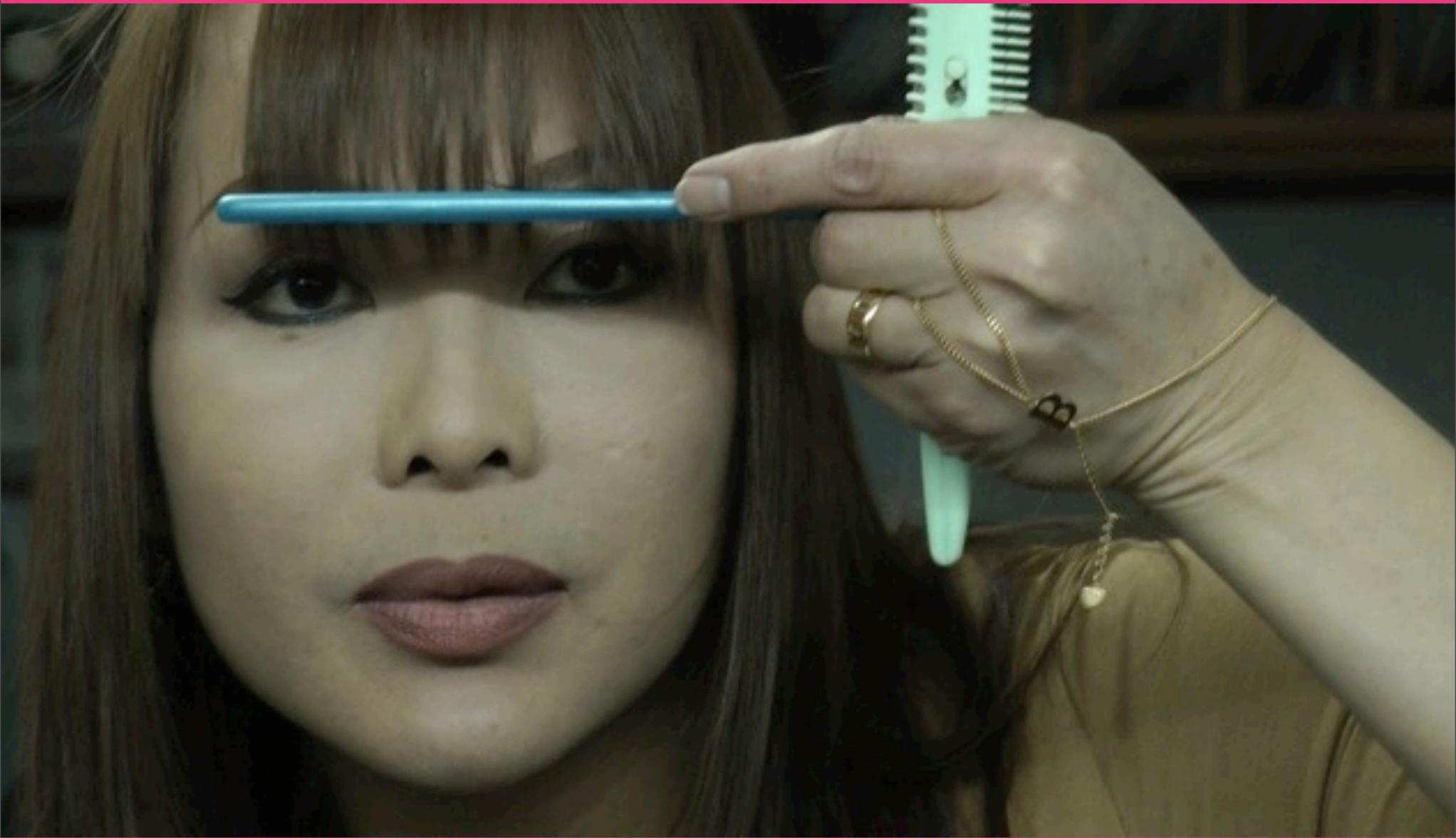
# ROUGH CUT

A FILM BY  
ELIANA ABRAVANEL

# ROUGH CUT

GREECE/ 2013/ HD/ 60' / ENGLISH-TAGALOG-GREEK/ COLOR/ DOCUMENTARY

## SYNOPSIS



*Bambie is an O.F.W. (Overseas Filipino Worker). Now in her 40s, she is working as a hairdresser in Greece. 'Roughcut' tells Bambie's story, while also zeroing in on immigration issues and the family she left behind, playing mother, daughter and wife from afar.*

*But there's one thing that sets her apart: she is a male-to-female transgender!*

*'Roughcut' is a story about identity and choice, manipulative families, underlying racism and the sacrifices we make to feel like we belong. But it is also a celebration of life and the joyful struggles to make ends meet, even if nothing seems to be going our way!*

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## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT



*It's been three years since I moved to the Philippines. It's only a 10-minute drive from my house in Athens. All I need to do is step through the door of Bambie's enclosed universe and I'm instantly transported to another continent. In all the time I've known her, by transforming herself from the person she once was to a hard-working mother, faithful partner and respectful daughter, she has transformed me as well.*

*Never again will I associate hardship with misery. Bambie's struggle to make ends meet and support her remote family of five, has been a joyful journey with plenty of life lessons along the way. Her daily suit of armor, consisting of perfectly done make-up, impeccably coiffed long tresses and color-coordinated outfits, is not there to conceal who she really is. Getting to know Bambie has totally redefined my views on liberalism. Her openness about her camouflaged manhood and her firm grasp of identity and sexuality has been one of the most refreshing things I've ever experienced.*

*The fact that I arrived at filmmaking at a mature age has definitely helped me relate to her story. My personal transformation into aspiring filmmaker, helped me understand the pains of redefining your identity and abandoning aspects of your old life, only to emerge as a different person. My first full-length film has been a learning experience for everyone involved. As a huge believer in DIY and a true advocate of the homemade aesthetic, I tried to keep Roughcut "in the family", by working with friends and old college mates, even if some of them were still feeling their way around this new medium. I think the raw aesthetic of the film reflects my philosophy, allowing the warmth and camaraderie to shine through in every frame, as Bambie and my small crew have now become members of my extended family.*

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## CREDITS

**PRODUCED AND DIRECTED BY ELIANA ABRAVANEL EDITED BY IOANNA POJANTZI CINEMATOGRAPHY BY HARIS GIOULATOS AND ELIANA ABRAVANEL SOUND BY IRAKLIS VLACHAKIS AND NIKOS TRIANTAFYLLOU COLOR CORRECTION BY MICHALIS RIZOS "HOME VIDEOS" COURTESY OF BAMBIE.**



## DIRECTOR'S BIO

*I'm a visual artist and recent filmmaker, living and working in Greece. I have completed two fiction shorts, "Cake" and "The Switch", as part of my thesis and a series of videos for the Cycladic Museum's "Barren Routes" exhibition in 2011. For the past three years I have been working on my first feature-length documentary "Roughcut".*

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