

# SOFTLY

A NEW FILM BY BRYAN JACKSON



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## SYNOPSIS & WAR STORY

A romance, fragile and ephemeral, in a doll-sized world.

With his latest film, *Softly* (2007), director Bryan Jackson employs dolls as actors. By staging them in miniature, handcrafted sets, he blurs the line between doll house and reality—creating a world as fragile and ephemeral as the romance that takes place within the frame. The narrative gently unfolds to music created by his collaborator, the Tokyo-based composer Eiji Yoshizawa.

### War Story:

The casting session for *Softly* was conducted over several agonizing hours at Toys-R-Us. Unfortunately, we later had to let an actor go when I found a prettier face on Ebay. Then five months of construction left us in a ruin of glitter and glue gun burns.



# CREDITS

Bryan Jackson                      Writer & Director  
Eiji Yoshizawa                    Original Music  
Quyen Tran                         Director of Photography

Cast:  
Cameron                            JACK  
Eitan                                 RYU

Brian Crano                        Associate Producer  
Michael Hofeldt                    Casting  
Angie Pop                          Key Grip  
Andy Kang                         Grip  
Margret Fenske                    Flight Crew Uniform  
Wii Lin                              Original Artwork for T-Shirt  
Peter Chao                         Wardrobe Assistant  
Benjamin Page                     Scenic Assistant

Production Assistants:  
Leila Buenviaje  
Lori Chan  
Andrea Cisnero  
Brian Kim  
Randy Kiyam  
Akasuka Murata  
Toon Twanna

'Softly, You Go'  
Music Composed by Eiji Yoshizawa, Lyrics by Bryan Jackson  
Recorded by Scudelia Electro, Warner Records, Japan

Shot on a soundstage at Broadcast Production Services, Burbank, California

Special Thank You to:  
I-Li Chen  
Thomas Fujioka  
Andrew Ford  
Michaela Goldhaber  
Rodney Hom  
Tim Wiley  
Bruce Yonemoto  
Mathieu Young  
Mimi Zeiger



## BIO : DIRECTOR

### Short Bio:

BRYAN JACKSON is a Los Angeles-based director. His award-winning film, *Haircut* (2004) features James Kyson Lee (Heros) and has screened at over 40 festivals. His earlier films include *My Last White Boy Crush*, *Showers*, and *Smoke*. Jackson received his MFA from UCLA School of Theater, Film and Television.

### Bio:

BRYAN JACKSON is an award winning director and writer based in Los Angeles. His new video *Softly* (2007) employs dolls as actors staged on miniature, handcrafted sets and features music created by his collaborator, the Tokyo-based composer Eiji Yoshizawa.

*Haircut* (2004), written and directed by Jackson and features James Kyson Lee (Heros) won the Jury Prize for Best Experimental Film at New Orleans' Reel Identity Film Festival, and was named Best Experimental Short at Cinekink New York. The film was shot entirely in first-person with a surveillance camera mounted to the forehead of its protagonist. *Haircut* has screened as an official selection at 41 international film festivals.

Jackson earned his MFA studying Theater Directing and Experimental Film at the University of California Los Angeles. As a theater director he has staged works by Jean Genet, E.E. Cummings, and Naomi Wallace. Jackson produced video installations for the premiere of Long Beach Opera's Downtown Opera Project. In 2006, he co-produced video installations for LACMA Lab's 'Consider This...' with artist Bruce Yonemoto. As a member of ASCAP, his writing credits include lyrics on albums for the Japanese band Scudelia Electro, and are featured on the Sony/NHK-1 anime *King of Thieves: Jing*.

Jackson studied Art and Theater at Emporia State University, in Kansas. He exhibited photography, designed stage productions, and engaged in activism, establishing the Gay Lesbian Alliance for Resource and Education. After a summer at the innovative Glimmerglass Opera he returned with a focus on directing. After earning his BFA, Jackson worked in professional theater and opera, including the Long Wharf Theater and Opera Theater of St. Louis.

Jackson has taught acting and directing at UCLA, and video-making at the Southern California Institute of Architecture (SCI-Arc), and the San Francisco Art Institute. Currently a Lecturer at UC Irvine, he teaches digital media and video-making.



BO : DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

Quyen Tran is an award winning director of photography based in Los Angeles. She has recently completed principal photography on a feature film shot in Iowa, a film in South Africa and a documentary feature in Thailand. Currently she is shooting a documentary in Vietnam. 'Softly' is her first collaboration with Bryan Jackson.

Tran recently earned her MFA in the Cinematography Masters Program at University of California Los Angeles. She won the award for Best Cinematography at UCLA's Festival in 2006 & 2007, the Motion Picture Association of America Award, the Joseph C. Drown Foundation production grant, the Frederico de Laurentiis Memorial Award, and the National Theatregoers Alliance Award.

Tran studied fine art and photography at the University of Virginia and the Smithsonian Institute in Washington D.C. Before attending film school, she worked as a photographer for Whitney Museum of American Art and as a photojournalist for the Associated Press in New York City.



## P R E S S

### **TIME OUT NEW YORK** - CRITICS PICK!

“Bryan Jackson casts two Bratz dolls in *Softly*, a shorthand gay love story in the form of a music video. Accompanied by an electronica soundtrack, the video features a meet-cute via instant-messaging and a shower scene. Jackson films his vapid, big-eyed actors in pitch-perfect sets, including the doll-sized bedroom, outfitted with a miniature Eames chair, an orange messenger bag on the carpeted floor, and a bookshelf with tiny volumes on Derek Jarman. At the end of the video, the camera pulls back to reveal a klieg light and one of the dolls in a director’s chair, suggesting a metafiction that is both preposterously campy and strangely affecting.” -Joseph R. Wolin

### **NEWYORKTIMES**

“Mr. Jackson’s work has a wonderful noirish feeling...” -Roberta Smith

### **ANOTHER QUEER JEWISH BUDDHIST**

“Bryan Jackson sends up every cliché of romance, queer and otherwise, in a way that was simply brilliant. Every detail and shot was perfect.” - Mark Horn



# SCREENINGS

## 2007

WORLD PREMIERE

Newfest: New York Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgendered Film Festival, 'On the Move,' June 2

Reeling: Chicago Lesbian & Gay International Film Festival, 'Lost In Love,' November 14

## 2008

Slamdance Film Festival, Park City, Utah January 19, 24

Zinegoak International Gay, Lesbian & Transexual Film Festival, Bilbao, Spain, January 21-27



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# LYRICS

'Softly, You Go'

Music by Eiji Yoshizawa  
Lyrics by Bryan Jackson

Sunlight in your eyes just before you go  
You smile and say that you'll call soon, I never see you again

Softly, you go, slowly, you go  
In sunlight -you know, as you go -you know

So suddenly, you go, quickly, you go  
Why say you'll call? Why love at all?

The night we met I fell for you, your knock on my door  
I was down you turned me 'round, your spell unbroken  
Looking up into your face, you murmured so sweetly--  
"Your eyes, are beautiful," then you flowed into me

Darkly, sweetly, you come, completely  
Then softly, neatly -you go, defeats me  
Silent -you go, so happy -you go  
With smiles and bright kisses, dreams and dark wish...

My long walk home, your "many nights alone, wishing you were with me"  
Bright sunlight shines in your eyes, just before, you go



## DISCLAIMER

This film is intended as parody, offering both criticism and comment on the Bratz Boyz Dollz featured. Such use by the filmmaker is considered fully protected under Section 107 of the US Copyright Law governing "Fair Use." The filmmaker has repurposed these dolls for parody, and asserts the use to be transformative, significantly altering the dolls with new expression, meaning and message, and such use is intended to comment directly upon the dolls themselves, and the principles they represent. This use serves a very different purpose from that of the original works, and thus in no way replaces the originals in the market place.



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PUBLICITY PHOTOS

STILLS AVAILABLE ON THE SOFTLY PRESS KIT CD, AND BY DOWNLOAD AT [alloutattack.com/films/softly/presskit.htm](http://alloutattack.com/films/softly/presskit.htm)



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shower01.tif



airplane01.tif

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lanterns01.tif



showerkiss01.tif