



# Flat echo

*Love is where the  
music lives*

**Short Film Press Kit**



A woman with dark hair tied in a bun is seen in profile, looking out a window at night. The scene is dimly lit, with a blueish tint from the window light. A faint, out-of-focus reflection of a smiling man is visible on the glass pane behind her.

# Tagline

The wife of a former concert pianist struggles to reconnect with her husband before his late-stage Alzheimer's Disease takes him away forever.

# Logline

When the late-stage Alzheimer's disease threatens to take away her husband, the wife of a former concert pianist must master the piano piece he responds to in order to connect with him one more time.



# Synopsis

Ruby cares for her husband, Richard, a once celebrated pianist now crippled by the late-stages of Alzheimer's Disease. When Richard reacts to a piece of music, Ruby decides to master the piece on the piano. Richard's condition worsens but Ruby refuses to let go, holding onto the hope that the music will re-establish the connection that she once had with her husband.





A still from a film showing a doctor and a patient. The doctor, on the left, is a woman with short brown hair, wearing a white lab coat over a blue shirt. She has a stethoscope around her neck and a name tag that reads "Dale Washington, OB/GYN, 628-4738". The patient, on the right, is an older woman with dark hair, wearing a pink knitted cardigan over a grey top. She is looking down with a concerned expression. The background is a blurred hospital hallway.

# Background of the Film

On average, from onset of symptoms, people with Alzheimer's disease can live from 8 years (the average) up to 20 years. During this period, patient's family members have a great burden taking care of the patients.



In US,

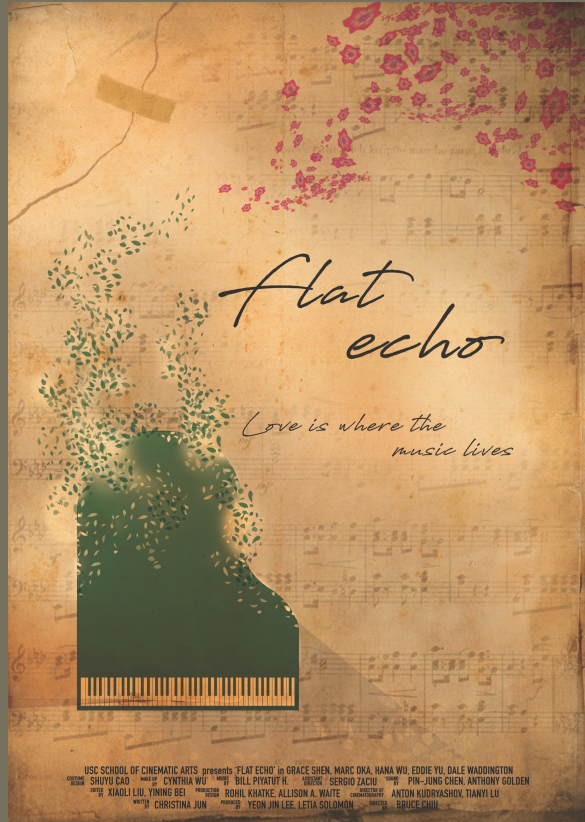
**5.8 million** people have Alzheimer's disease.

**10%** Of people age 65 and older have Alzheimer's disease.

**32%** Of people age 85 and older have Alzheimer's disease.



# Specification



Official Poster

Title	Flat Echo
Running time	14 min 36 secs
Shooting format	SONY HD
Screening format	DCP/ High Res QuickTime
Aspect ratio	1.95:1
Sound	stereo/ 5.1 surround sound
Country of production	USA
Year	2019
Language	English
Production company	USC School of Cinematic Arts
Director	Bruce Chiu
Writer	Christina YR Jun
Producers	Yeon Jin Lee, Letia Solomon
Cinematographers	Anton Kudryashov, Tianyi Lu
Editors	Xiaoli Liu, Yining Bei
Production designers	Allison Waite, Rohil Khatke
Sound designers/recordists	Anthony Golden, Pin-jung Chen
Assistant director	Sergio Zaciú
Composer	Bill Piyatut H



A man with a bandage on his forehead is seated in a wheelchair in a dimly lit room. He is looking towards the right. In the background, there is a piano and a desk with various items on it.

# Director Statement

My friend Alan tried his best to sustain his father's life from cancer but could not keep him. He blamed himself for not being able to say a proper goodbye to his father. Like Alan, many people can't free themselves from the guilt of not having done enough, even when they have done all they can for their loved ones. Letting go is required part of life, and it provides closure and allows the healing process to begin. Letting go is one of the themes of Flat Echo and I hope that our film can heal those who experienced heartbreak, and give them courage to live.

As a Taiwanese national, I directed this film with an Asian perspective. My father, a traditional Asian patriarch, feels embarrassed to hug, not to mention saying the word "love", even to his family members. However, he works seven days a week to provide a better life for our family. As Richard writes a piece of music and dedicates it to Ruby in Flat Echo, people express love through implied actions in the Asian culture. My mother dedicated her entire life to support our family because my father's career was not successful. She is a symbol of strong Asian matriarchs - persevering and kind, she mirrors our protagonist Ruby. I hope that through these two characters, I will be able to shed light on the complexity of Asian culture and its family dynamic.



# Director's Biography

Bruce Chiu is a director originally from Taiwan. He graduated from National Taiwan University College of Medicine with MS degree in 2009 and is now currently at USC's School of Cinematic Arts in the MFA Film Production program with a focus on Directing. Bruce had co-founded a production studio "Amazing Image" in Taipei for five years. He led his team accomplishing works including short films, commercials, and documentaries. His short films were screened in Los Angeles, Seattle, China, and Toronto, and won Jury Award on 2019 USC Asian Pacific Film Festival. He is interested in the story of social issues and believes the power of films can make the world a better place.





A woman with dark hair tied back, wearing a grey cardigan over a purple top, is shown in profile looking out a window. The scene is dimly lit with a blueish tint. The background shows vertical window blinds.

# Statistics on Our Crew

Key department and creative heads  
who are **people of color**

86%

Key department and creative  
heads who are **female**

36%





# Contact

Director

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