



PRO-FUN MEDIA FILMVERLEIH

präsentiert

The CONRAD BOYS

A Film By
JUSTIN LO

In this moving drama, two brothers must depend on each other for support after a sudden loss...

A Heartfelt Story about the bond between brothers and the unpredictable nature of love.

USA, 2006 Englisch, deutsche UT Feature Length: 94 minutes Color 16:9 anamorph (1,851)
--

SYNOPSIS

In this moving drama, two brothers must depend on each other for support after a sudden loss...

Captivating newcomer JUSTIN LO stars as Charlie Conrad, a 19-year-old history buff with the world on his shoulders. Following the death of his mother, Charlie sets aside his college plans to raise his highly imaginative younger brother Ben (BOO BOO STEWART) on his own. Isolated from his peers, Charlie accepts his responsibility yet secretly yearns for the freedom and carefree times associated with youth.

Charlie suddenly gets his chance when he meets Jordan Rivers (NICK BARTZEN), a charismatic drifter and fellow lost soul. The two of them hit it off immediately, and they soon embark on a tumultuous romance that gives Charlie a taste of the freedom he's been craving. Just as their relationship intensifies, however, so do the pressures bearing down on Charlie's life.

Charlie's long-absent father, Doug (BARRY SHAY), returns to town with his own plans to take care of Ben. Wary of Doug from past painful experiences, Charlie is adamant about keeping Ben away from his father. But when Jordan's on-the-edge behavior starts throwing Charlie's own loyalties into question, Charlie must finally search his soul and make momentous decisions regarding the future of his family.

Written and directed by first-time filmmaker Justin Lo, THE CONRAD BOYS is a deeply affecting and heartfelt tale about the bond between brothers and the power of first love.

The CONRAD BOYS

CAST

Charlie Conrad	JUSTIN LO
Ben Conrad	BOO BOO STEWART
Jordan Rivers	NICK BARTZEN
Doug Conrad	BARRY SHAY
Tori Marshall	NANCY HANCOCK
Louise Denver	KATELYN ANN CLARK
Evelyn Bridge	DORIAN FRANKEL
Suzie Conrad	LAUREN XERXES
Vince Miller	BRUCE BLAUER
Andy Calhoun	SHANE ARENAL
Mark Poland	BART SHATTUCK
Principal Brower	CONNIE SCHIRO
Paula	KARI McDERMOTT
PJ	KEEGAN BELL
PJ's Boyfriend	WESLEY STILLER
Doctor	MICHAEL FALLS

The CONRAD BOYS

CREW

Directed, Written and Edited by	JUSTIN LO
Produced by	JUSTIN LO JOSE RAMIREZ
Director of Photography	OKTAY ORTABASI
First Assistant Director	EDUARDO RICKETTS, JR.
Original Music by	CHELSEA A. LO
First Assistant Camera	AD SANTELL
Gaffer	BEN VAN CLEAVE
Best Boy Electric	SHAUN DREES
Key Grip	KEVIN MUCHA OSCAR GARCIA
Grip	ROB REYES
Script Consultant	ETHAN SOLLI
Script Supervisor	VALESCA CNOSSEN
Sound Recordist	IRIS LOHNINGER
Boom Operator	MIKE BAIRD
Stunt Coordinator	NILS STEWART

The CONRAD BOYS

INTERVIEW WITH THE DIRECTOR// JUSTIN LO

How did you come up with the idea for THE CONRAD BOYS?

I came up with the idea as a student at UCLA. I knew I wanted to make a movie about a young man, in this case Charlie, raising his younger brother, Ben. I wanted to explore the kind of selflessness that would take, the strength of a brother's devotion. But I also wanted to show the darker side of Charlie's emotions as well, the feelings of frustration he might feel for having to sacrifice so much.

The bond between Charlie and Ben is a huge part of the movie. But there's another relationship going on for Charlie as well – with Jordan.

Yes, I wanted there to be a strong love story element in the movie as well, something pulling Charlie in another direction. So I bring in Jordan, this troubled guy who really wakes Charlie up and opens his eyes to new possibilities for his life. He's handsome and charming and intelligent in an unformed sort of way, so naturally Charlie falls for him. And even though Charlie's still very dedicated to Ben, he finds himself drawing closer and closer to Jordan, which is where a lot of the conflict comes from.

What are some themes that you think resonate most strongly in the film?

First, I would say, the bond between brothers and how deep that runs. It's also about the power of first love and how blinding and all-consuming that can be.

The CONRAD BOYS

INTERVIEW (CONT'D)

What were some of your concerns as a producer on this film?

I was bound and determined to produce the film on my own, and I knew I wouldn't have a lot of money, so I started thinking of stories I could produce independently with a relatively low budget. Luckily for me, my favorite types of movies have always been small intimate dramas that pack a lot of emotion, so I was more than happy to come up with a story that would fit into that company.

Could you speak a bit about the sexuality of the characters in the movie and how you decided to make Charlie a gay character?

The thing is, while I was writing the script, I felt there were so few films being made with a gay main character, especially intelligent dramas like the ones I was just talking about. So I decided that's what I wanted to make: a serious-minded drama with at least one main gay character.

I also wanted to make a movie where the main character happened to be gay and it's not made into a big deal. If we had made the central romantic relationship of the movie straight rather than gay, very little of the story would have changed, which is exactly what I wanted.

Is this a so-called "coming out" film?

Not at all. When we meet Charlie, he already knows he's gay. He's told his best friend, he's okay with it. Charlie's big thing is he's never been in love before, and he desperately wants to know what that's like. He's extremely lonely, to the point that he doesn't think it will ever happen for him. So when it finally does happen for him, it's fun to see how he handles it.

The CONRAD BOYS

INTERVIEW (CONT'D)

In one scene Jordan quizzes Charlie about his racial background. Why did you feel it was important to make Charlie and Ben biracial?

Because it's so true to my life. I'm a biracial person – my Dad is Chinese, my Mom is Caucasian and Jewish to boot – and since I was playing Charlie, I thought, Why not? I can't tell you how many times I've had conversations like the one I put in the movie about Charlie's background. Also, it's not like there's a lot of films out there with a Jewish Hapa lead character, so here's one.

What was it like being the Producer, Writer, Director, Lead Actor, and Editor of your first feature film?

Busy! To be honest, writing and editing were the most manageable because I could focus on one job at a time. Of course, the busiest time was during production when I would be directing and acting and managing all at once. Luckily, I had the best crew I could have asked for, and everyone was just really supportive and pulled their weight so I didn't get overwhelmed.

Any last words?

Thank you to everyone who helped make the movie possible. It's been an incredibly rewarding experience, and I'm so proud of the work that everyone did. I really hope people love this movie. I can't wait for them to see it. ♦

The CONRAD BOYS

PROJECT FACT SHEET

Movie Title: **The Conrad Boys**

Year: 2005

Production Company: Newport Films

Director: Justin Lo

Producers: Justin Lo, Jose Ramirez

Screenwriter: Justin Lo

Starring Actors: Justin Lo, Boo Boo Stewart, Nick Bartzen, Barry Shay

Genre: Drama

Keywords: Family Drama, Gay Interest, Asian Interest, Jewish Interest, First Love

Logline: Everything is about to change for Ben and Charlie Conrad...

USA, 2005

In English, 5.1 Surround

Feature Length: 94 minutes

Color/ Aspect Ratio: 1:85:1 (16:9 anamorph)

FSK: ab 12 beantragt

Target Audience Segments:

Art Filmgoers and fans of **Gay Films** make up the primary audience segments for this film. Plus, with a Jewish-Asian-American director and lead actor, the film will be of interest to those in the **Asian-American** and **Jewish** communities as well. Like the best independent cinema, **The Conrad Boys** tells a deeply moving story with universal emotions that will connect with a wide range of audiences.

Brief Description:

In this heartfelt drama, college-bound Charlie Conrad must put his dreams on hold to raise his 9-year-old brother on his own. The delicate balance of their home life is threatened, however, when Charlie embarks upon a tumultuous relationship with Jordan Rivers, a charismatic but troubled young man. Cut from the same cloth as the critically lauded American dramas, **You Can Count on Me** and **What's Eating Gilbert Grape**, THE CONRAD BOYS is a profoundly affecting tale about the bond between brothers and the power of first love.

The CONRAD BOYS



Kinodisposition & Pressebetreuung:

PRO-FUN MEDIA GmbH - Filmverleih
Hr. Michael Höfner
Postfach 64 01 34
D - 10047 Berlin
Tel.: 030 - 850 786 38 Fax: 030 - 859 34 23
E-Mail: filmverleih@pro-fun.de

Werbeunterlagen in digitaler Form:

PRO-FUN MEDIA GmbH - Zentrale
Design - George Dare
Rödelheimer Landstr. 13 A
D - 60487 Frankfurt am Main
Tel.: 069 - 70 76 77 - 40 Fax: 069 - 70 76 77 - 11
E-Mail: g.dare@pro-fun.de