

A FILM BY Johnny Le

RUNNING TIME: 6:20 Minutes, HD Color, Aspect Ratio 1:85:1, Stereo Mix

OFFICIAL SELECTION » 2009 PALM SPRINGS INTERNATIONAL SHORTFEST

## SYNOPSIS

### Logline

Bobby, an enthusiastic third grader, has to touch everything -- old gum under his desk, dirt, twigs, even brain matter.

### Short

'Lick' follows an enthusiastic third grader named Bobby (ALEX THEDE). Throughout the day, Bobby compulsively touches objects, such as chewing gum underneath his desk, markers and twigs. Bobby's biggest weakness is his adorable classmate Nancy (SABRINA HUNTER). When he finds the perfect opportunity to show his feelings for her, what he considers to be the best way to show his affection ends up being a complete disaster.

### Long

Cheery Mrs. Wilkens (MARGARET SANTORO) watches her 3<sup>rd</sup> graders as they sketch and draw on a typical school day. While the children are busy drawing away, Bobby (ALEX THEDE) gazes off in the distance. His hands are hidden from view and are exploring the rainbow of recently stuck pieces of chewing gum that lie below his desk.

The classroom door opens as an African American man in a fitted 1950's brown tweed suit walks in. His horn rimmed glasses shimmer as he walks over to the front of the classroom with his cooler. Dr. Paul (MICHAEL D. MINOR) sets the cooler on a table that is front and center in the classroom. Bobby quickly stops playing with the gum and puts his hands in his pockets. All the attention from the class is on Dr. Paul. Dr. Paul takes a seat and glances over the kids while adjusting his glasses. He makes a faint smile, gets up and pulls out a pair of latex gloves. He carefully puts it on as the kids watch. Two snaps from the gloves secure each hand. He promptly prepares himself and opens the cooler to pull out a human brain. He sets it on a plate.

The chatter from the kids getting out of their seats carry over towards the front of the classroom where Dr. Paul is standing. The kids are in awe. Bobby manages to sneak in to stand by the side of the table. "...the human brain is divided into three parts,..." says Dr. Paul as he shows the surrounding kids each section of the brain. Nancy (SABRINA HUNTER) is standing opposite and across from Dr. Paul. As the lecture continues, we see kids curiously tune in to Dr. Paul and the brain. Bobby notices Nancy and looks at her. She briefly smiles at Bobby, but he looks away as if he didn't see it. As Dr. Paul is nearing the end of the lecture Bobby takes his right hand and

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gently rubs his palm on the brain. Amongst the classmates and Dr. Paul is an awkward moment of silence.

“Barrrrringg” as the recess bell rings.

Bobby is standing at the end of the slide with his hands in his pockets. Victor (CASEY MURPHY) slides down. His brown tinted aviators, wolf print t-shirt (10.DEEP), and shorts overpower Bobby’s look with style. The two walk. Bobby pulls out some bark dust from his pockets and throws it aside. Victor asks, “Did you smell the brain? That was disgusting.” Bobby replies, “I touched it and licked my fingers.” Victor’s face crinkles and responds “Ewwww.” Bobby notices something in the distances and runs off. Victor yells, “Hey, wait up!”

Bobby runs over to a tree where it stands tall just against the fencing of the school. He gathers some various sized twigs from the ground and picks it up. This is adding to his dirty hands already filled with marker, brain, and dirt. From a distance over at the blacktop, we hear some jump ropes, balls bouncing on the nicely paved black top, and the echoing of kids enjoying their time outside. Bobby focuses in on Nancy and her two friends Yulia and Tricia. They are playing 4-Square. Bobby quickly drops his twigs and runs over to them. Victor finally catches up to Bobby and is short of breath. Victor pants “Hey, where are you going?” He takes a seat to rest by the tall tree and takes a couple deep breaths.

Bobby’s fingers clam together as he approaches the black top. Nancy and her friends see Bobby and the girls stop playing. Bobby asks to Nancy “Can I play?” Nancy shrugs and replies “Yes.” Bobby steps in his square and the game immediately starts. The yellow ball is slowly getting tossed around the squares. We hear kids running around, tetherball action and the sound of the Jungle Jim’s metal clinking together. Bobby looks at Nancy’s lips. At the perfect moment he walks over and sticks his fingers in her mouth. She screams and Bobby steps back with amusement in his eyes. The clouds roam the sky as her scream echoes across the whole school.

## DIRECTOR’S STATEMENT

Having kids on set can be a huge task at hand, but everyone had a memorable time. They were a talented group of kids and am very thankful to the parents for their time and commitment on Lick. For the story, I wanted to create this character Bobby and involve all these other kids in his world so we could remember those times in our youth when we encountered the nerdy, fat, skinny, cool, smart, eclectic, and the list goes one kids. This feeling of nostalgia is apparent and allowing the story to fall in linear fashion makes everything work together so well.

I really am very proud of this film and the work everyone contributed to it. It was a great collaboration amongst my peers. I thank all my family, friends, and peers for making this short

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film come to life.

## BIOGRAPHY

Johnny Le is a Vietnamese American filmmaker currently residing in Portland, Oregon. He recognized his passion for filmmaking at an early age and graduated with a film degree from The Art Institute of Portland. Johnny runs Johnny Le Films, LLC making music videos, short films, and new media.

Johnny has produced numerous music videos and short films before pursuing directing. Some notable videos are "Indescribable" by Olivia Broadfield, which won a national contest through filmaka.com for Lincoln Mercury's 2009 MKS and aired nationally as a spot during the 2009 broadcast of the Grammy's, and "O' Valencia (Contest Version)" by The Decemberists, which won 2007 MTVu contest and featured on mtv.com).

## FILMOGRAPHY

Keep Pushin' by Kero One (2009) | Director | Music Video  
Who, How, Now with Bryce Kanights | Collaborator | Short Documentary  
Lick (2009) | Director | Short Film  
Half The World Away by The Anix (2009) | Producer | Music Video  
Indescribable by Olivia Broadfield (2009) | Producer | Music Video  
Chrysanthemum (2008) | Producer | Short Film  
Optimist, Pessimist by Caves (2008) | Director | Music Video  
Big Papes (2008) | Director | Short Documentary  
Jetty (2008) | Producer | Short Documentary  
It's About Time by Barcelona (2008) | Producer | Music Video  
Eyes and Ears by Ohmega Watts ft Jniero Jarel (2007) | Producer | Music Video  
Ben Age Five (2007) | Producer | Short Film

## CAST

Alex Thede	Bobby
Michael D. Minor	Dr. Paul
Margaret Santoro	Mrs. Wilkens
Casey Murphy	Victor
Sabrina Hunter	Nancy

## The Class

Olivia Warren, Dymon Scott, Danny Fisher, Kyle Brabec, Jessica Lee Roundy, Emily Grahn,

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Nguyen, Viet Tran, Kelly Le Doan, Ngon Bui, Elissa Keverkian, Greg Schmitt, Wes Anderson, Nate Goodman, Matt Semchee, Jackie Blain, Lance Bangs, Kyle Reynolds, Kate Ridley, Aubree Bernier-Clark, Cal's Pharmacy, Art Institute of Portland, Tom Czahor, Lizzie Karr, Wade Barth, Mandy Litton, Bullseye Disc, Kellan Craddock, Julie Verdini, Michelle Pahl, Jessi Tsuji, Tyler Brown, Courtney Hermann, Efrem Peter, Emeka Obi, Alteration Station, Ben Pagio, Kyja King, The Chester Family, Michael Koerner, Complex Gallery, Sandymontana, adidas America, Maurice Menares, Peter Haefner and to all my family and friends for their contributions to make this film possible.

Filmed on location in the	State of Oregon
Cameras and Accessories by	Field Recordings, 235 Studios, 500 Cuts and Neal A. Corl Studio
Lighting Equipment Supplied by	Gearhead Grip and Electric
Lick Logotype/ Promotional Design	Colorcubic
Dvd Duplication	Bullseye Disc
Printing Services	Mollet Printing

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