

# CHILDREN OF INVENTION



Two young children living outside Boston are left to fend for themselves when their mother gets embroiled in a pyramid scheme and disappears.

One of *Filmmaker Magazine's* "25 New Faces of Independent Film," writer-director Tze Chun makes "a fine feature debut" (Manohla Dargis, *New York Times*) with one of the most-awarded and best-reviewed films of the year. CHILDREN OF INVENTION is by turns humorous and heartbreaking, an "urgent, artful...austerely poetic" (*Variety*) "edge-of-your-seat family drama" (*Spout*) that's both "powerfully moving and rigorously intelligent" (*Boston Phoenix*).

After being evicted, hardworking single mom Elaine Cheng tries to maintain a normal life for her children, Raymond and Tina. Elaine juggles a number of jobs, including working for a questionable pyramid scheme. When Elaine doesn't return home one night, nobody knows the kids are home alone, and they are left to fend for themselves. As the days pass, Raymond, a budding inventor, realizes he needs to come up with a plan to take care of his little sister.

## CAST:

CINDY CHEUNG | Elaine Cheng  
MICHAEL CHEN | Raymond Cheng  
CRYSTAL CHIU | Tina Cheng

## CREW:

TZE CHUN | Writer-Director  
MYNETTE LOUIE | Producer  
TREVOR SAGAN | Producer  
DAN COGAN | Executive Producer  
CHRIS TEAGUE | Dir of Photography  
ANNA BODEN | Editor  
T. GRIFFIN | Composer

Referencing both the mortgage meltdown and suburban Ponzi schemes, "the film finds delicate moments of beauty and grace as its child heroes are forced to make their way" (*Filmmaker Magazine*). Featuring "gifted child actors--off-the-charts cute, refreshingly free of Hollywood precociousness" (*LA Weekly*), CHILDREN OF INVENTION is "as close to cinematic purity as one is likely to see this year" (*Film Society of Lincoln Center*), "a rueful homage to American dreams both wonderful and warped" (*Village Voice*).



Runtime: 86 minutes | Country: USA | Language: English | Contact: [info@childrenofinvention.com](mailto:info@childrenofinvention.com)  
[www.childrenofinvention.com](http://www.childrenofinvention.com)

# CHILDREN OF INVENTION

## \*\*REVIEWS\*\*

"A fine feature debut...while the politics are there, you might be too busy choking back tears to notice."

—Manohla Dargis, *New York Times*

"I loved this movie. I can't remember when I have loved a movie quite as much as this one."—Claudia Puig, *USA Today*

"Urgent, artful...austerely poetic."—*Variety*

"Wonderful...absorbing and deftly played."  
—Gary Goldstein, *Los Angeles Times*

"A rueful homage to American dreams both wonderful and warped."—*Village Voice*

"An absolute gem....This is one that people really should see."—Jean Oppenheimer, *KPCC*

"Impressive...observant movie by a director-writer with a promising future."  
—V.A. Musetto, *New York Post*

"As close to cinematic purity as one is likely to see this year."  
—*Film Society of Lincoln Center*

"A breathtaking achievement...resonates with the force and poetry of a fable."  
—David Henry Hwang (*M.Butterfly, FOB*)

"Powerfully moving and rigorously intelligent."—Peter Keogh, *Boston Phoenix*

"The gifted child actors...solidly anchor the film, but it's Chun's insights into the ways that poverty...erodes spirit that give *Children* its political and emotional heft."—*LA Weekly*

"One of those rare instances where all the elements fall in place magically to make a flawless independent film."—*Ningin*

"A nuanced, deeply engaging exploration."  
—Jeff Yang, *San Francisco Chronicle*

"The real deal: a lively, nuanced, wonderfully-acted and emotionally-rich evocation of family life tested by economic misfortune. A simply terrific movie."  
—*Times Herald-Record*

"One of the Top 13 Films of 2009."  
—*Hammer to Nail*

"One of the Best Undistributed Films of 2009."  
—Jeff Deutchman (*Acquisitions, IFC Films*)  
—Tom Hall (*Artistic Director, Sarasota & Newport Int'l Film Festivals*)  
—Alison Willmore (*Editor, IFC.com*)

"Finds delicate moments of beauty and grace as its child heroes are forced to make their own way."  
—Scott Macaulay, *Filmmaker Magazine*

"Handsomely filmed...refreshing."  
—Wesley Morris, *The Boston Globe*

"Non-formulaic, insightful, and at times heartbreaking, true 'indie' films like this are what make Sundance what it is."  
—*Film-Forward*

"An edge-of-your-seat family drama, pushed beyond the constraints of its micro-budget by two heartbreaking child actor performances."—Karina Longworth, *Spout*

"Note perfect in its depiction of a family slowly edging toward disaster...balances precariously between horror story and children's fantasy."—Peter Martin, *Twitch*

"Successfully walks a very fine line between pathos and bathos...a very good film."  
—*Cinematical*

"Brings to mind the best of the Italian Neo-Realists' work....a worthy artistic accomplishment."—*Asianweek*

"Both kitchen sink real and lyrically beautiful, Chun's freshman effort is a remarkably graceful meditation on family, disappointment, and hope. Here is a skillfully told story with heart, and one that we haven't heard before."—*Notcoming.com*

"A mature and restrained effort, building to a quietly poignant climax...marks the emergence of a refreshing new voice in the cluttered indie landscape."  
—Michael Tully, *Hammer to Nail*