Press Kit

Wattleseed

A FILM BY WILLIAM CHAI

FILMED WITH ASSISTANCE OF MCMASTER UNIVERSITY

Wattleseed

What if we just smash the servers?

A WILLCHAI Production
TITUS TAN & DANIEL GUO "WATTLESEED" WRITTEN BY WILLIAM CHAI & CAIN CHAI
DIRECTED BY WILLIAM CHAI ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR EDWARD GAO PRODUCED BY WILLIAM CHAI & EDWARD GAO
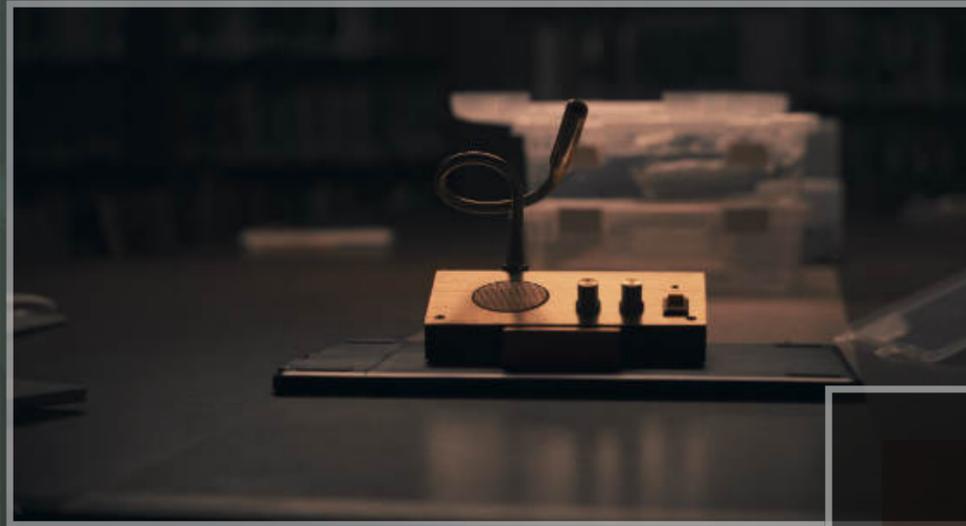
About the Film

FEB 21, 2026 │ THRILLER, MYSTERY
4K │ RUNTIME 12 MIN

Two researchers realize that destroying "Wattleseed" won't stop the coming singularity. To halt the arms race, they devise a plan to stage a lethal incident.

Film with the assistance of McMaster University in The Mueller History of Health and Medicine Room, Health Sciences Library.

STARRING	Daniel Guo *(McMaster Health Sciences)*, Titus Tan *(McMaster Health Sciences)*, Voice of Mitch Hynes *(McMaster Engineering)*
DIRECTED BY	William Chai *(McMaster Health Sciences)* & Assistant Dir. Edward Gao *(McMaster IbioMed)*
WRITTEN BY	Cain Chai & William Chai
PRODUCED BY	William Chai, Edward Gao, Titus Tan, Daniel Guo
LOCATIONS	McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario. Various locations, Hamilton, Ontario.

A Truly McMaster Production

Wattleseed brought together students from across faculties, combining the perspectives of Health Sciences, Computer Science, and iBioMed.

The specialized, analog technology seen on screen (raw aluminum prisms, fishing equipment, control board), was sourced from the niche hobbies of the entire production team. Overall, this production was only made possible due to McMaster University's culture of interdisciplinary cooperation.

About The Director

William Chai is a third-year Honours Health Sciences student at McMaster University, filmmaker, and Co-President of the McMaster Film Production Club based in Hamilton, Ontario. His debut film Murder of Minus, a 35-minute thriller exploring the ethics of AI and medicine, screened internationally and earned multiple awards including Best Student Film and Best Actor. Wattleseed is his second directorial work, continuing his interest in AI as a lens for human and institutional conflict. Alongside filmmaking, William hosts Ticket Stub Talks, a weekly radio program on 93.3 CFMU dedicated to film and film production.

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Director's Statement

'Wattleseed' at the center of the film exists as a force the characters project their anxieties onto, and whether the AI ever truly does anything is left ambiguous for the audience to sit with. At its simplest, it's about a man who convinces himself that engineering a tragedy is the same thing as preventing one.

The warnings Adrian and Leo raise about AI misregulation are real and worth taking seriously, but the film is more interested in questioning what happens when conviction quietly becomes its own justification.

– William Chai

Alternative Poster

Press Assets

The full press kit, including stills, poster, and production materials, is available for download via the link below. A public trailer and private screener are available upon request.

Assets Folder: drive.google.com/drive/folders/1P83pN3KQvM2vofSiZWhhyIdgprvDx7eI
Trailer: youtu.be/o-5DN5ygX80
PRIVATE Full Screener: Please email me.

For all inquiries: me@willchai.com

Technical Specifications

Shot on Sony a7iv
Resolution: 4K (3995 × 2262 px)
Edited and Sound Mixed with Final Cut Pro 11