

# TEDDY BEAR

## Discussion Guide

1. The opening scenes of TEDDY BEAR quickly introduce a number of the film's underlying questions about social acceptance and expectations – from Dennis's awkward blind date to the portrayal of his relationship with his overbearing mother. Describe how Dennis does or doesn't conform to social expectations and norms.
2. Dennis, despite his appearance, is "feminized" throughout the film. He does not fit the stereotypically masculine role of emotional strength or sexual confidence. Indeed, his body is objectified in a typically "female" manner, not totally unlike those of the Thai girls he meets. Discuss how the film deals with gender roles, and questions of inward vs. outward strength.
3. Dennis is put off by the sex trade. Does the film offer a perspective on this issue outside of his take? How do you feel about the depiction of sex tourism in TEDDY BEAR?
4. By the end of the film, it is necessary to Dennis to gain independence from his mother – which he does by severing his connection with her completely. Could this have been done differently? Would that have been preferable?