

I find myself in need of perspective recently. Sometimes when I feel stuck in a rut or doubting myself, I think about (roll your eyes all you want, but it really works) what the kid version of myself would think of me now.

I always loved art. Arts and crafts projects would constantly explode out of the closet in my family's living room, much to my mother's chagrin. Bookmaking, painting, collages, knitting, I tried it all. But I was never confident enough in myself to imagine that I would have a creative career. Of all my artistic endeavors, writing has always been simultaneously safe and threatening. And as an adult, on days spent staring at a blank word document, I have to remind myself that I get paid to type out diet tribes like this one.

Not only do I get to write, but I also have the immense honor of working with artists. Uncovering what makes them tick is the most rewarding aspect of what I do. This magazine was created with the mission to give filmmakers a platform to do just that.

In this issue, along with my fellow writers Alli Albion and Camille Wilson, you'll find no shortage of perspective. Whether for indies or blockbusters, advertising or entertainment, the creatives included within share a look into how some of the industry's most exciting projects were finished. Read on to learn more about Theda Hammel's *Stress Positions*, Lance Oppenheim's *SPERMWORLD*, Netflix's *Eric*, and Sasha Kasiuha's use of Al for Madonna's World Celebration Tour.

To bookend my conclusion, I'll leave you with this bit of perspective. No matter where you are in your career, you're living someone's dream. And I know if young me could see me now, she would be proud. Special thanks to Gabriela Elder for letting me do this and for putting up with the whiplash of sincerity (like this note) and jokes (almost everything else I write).

Send me any questions, comments, or dad jokes at <u>ellie.powers@</u> <u>harborpicturecompany.com</u>. Enjoy.

**ELLIE POWERS** // EDITOR-IN-CHIEF ellie.powers@harborpicturecompany.com

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MEET THE NEWEST MEMBERS
OF OUR TEAM





Harbor Appoints Thom Berryman as Managing Director, Feature & Episodic, UK

Harbor, leading production studio, has appointed Thom Berryman as UK Managing Director for Feature and Episodic, announced CEO Zak Tucker.

In this new role, Berryman will oversee all feature and episodic operations in the UK, including business development, staffing management and financial performance. His focus will be on ensuring Harbor's premium artistic



and production execution whilst delivering business success. He will engage directly with clients, talent, and creatives to drive premium production and expand the global network of partners.

Upon joining Harbor in 2019, Berryman played a key role in the establishment of the company's UK post-production studios that now includes dailies, offline editorial, online editing, colour grading, sound editorial, mixing, and ADR, spanning two locations in London and Windsor. Furthermore, he has led development and implementation of Harbor's proprietary set to screen media review system, ANCHOR™, while continuously enhancing the technology platform to provide a holistic post-production workflow tool driven by Al.

During his time at Harbor, he has overseen postproduction and delivery of notable credits including HBO's *True Detective: Night Country*, Netflix's *Heart* of *Stone*, LucasFilm's *The Acolyte*, FX + BBC's *Great Expectations*, and the 2023 Palm d'Or nominated film, *Firebrand*.

Prior to Harbor, Berryman held a tenure at Pinewood

Studios. While at Pinewood, Berryman oversaw the implementation of automated VFX pulls, DI and deliverables. Most notably, he built the largest dailies offering in the UK based out of Pinewood and Shepperton Studios. Moreover, Berryman was instrumental in setting up Pinewood's worldwide onlocation dailies setups including USA, Korea, Japan, South Africa, and New Zealand.

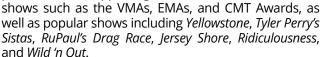
Harbor's 3-story studios located in the Farringdon Turnmills building boasts theatrical Atmos stages, theatrical grading rooms, Atmos Home Entertainment suites, 4K HDR suites, and ADR recording studios, cutting rooms, and online suites.



### Melissa Canosa Joins Harbor as Vice President of Finance

Harbor, leading postproduction studio, has appointed Melissa Canosa as the Vice President of Finance announced CEO Zak Tucker today.

With an extensive background in financial leadership roles, Melissa joins Harbor from Paramount Global, where she served as Finance Lead. During her tenure at Paramount, Melissa played a pivotal role in supporting various award



As Vice President of Finance, Melissa will oversee all financial and operational matters at Harbor, including managing client and vendor relationships. She will work closely with key stakeholders to optimize dayto-day business performance and forecast upcoming opportunities.





### Harbor Adds Award-Winning Supervising Sound Editor and Re-Recording Mixer Ruy García

Harbor, premiere entertainment post-production studio, welcomes acclaimed supervising sound editor, re-recording mixer, and sound designer,

Ruy García to its sound roster. With an illustrious career marked by numerous awards and accolades, Ruy brings a wealth of talent and experience to the team.

García's notable credits span acclaimed films Y Tu Mama También, First Reformed, Midsommar, Marcel the Shell with Shoes On (A24), After Yang (A24), and Roma (Netflix). His television and episodic series include Boardwalk Empire (HBO), The Night Of (HBO), The Get Down (Netflix), and The Staircase (HBO).

García has received six Prime Time Emmy Award nominations, winning twice for his outstanding work on Boardwalk Empire and The Night Of. His contributions have also been recognized with four nominations and one win at the Golden Reel Awards by Motion Picture Sound Editors, three Ariel Award nominations from the Mexican Film Academy, and a nomination at the HPA (Hollywood Professional Association Awards).

García's journey to success began with academic excellence, as he was named Valedictorian of his class at Full Sail University and graduated from the Independent Center for Musical Studies in Mexico City. Prior to joining Harbor's roster, García worked at Postworks, C5, and Soundtrack.





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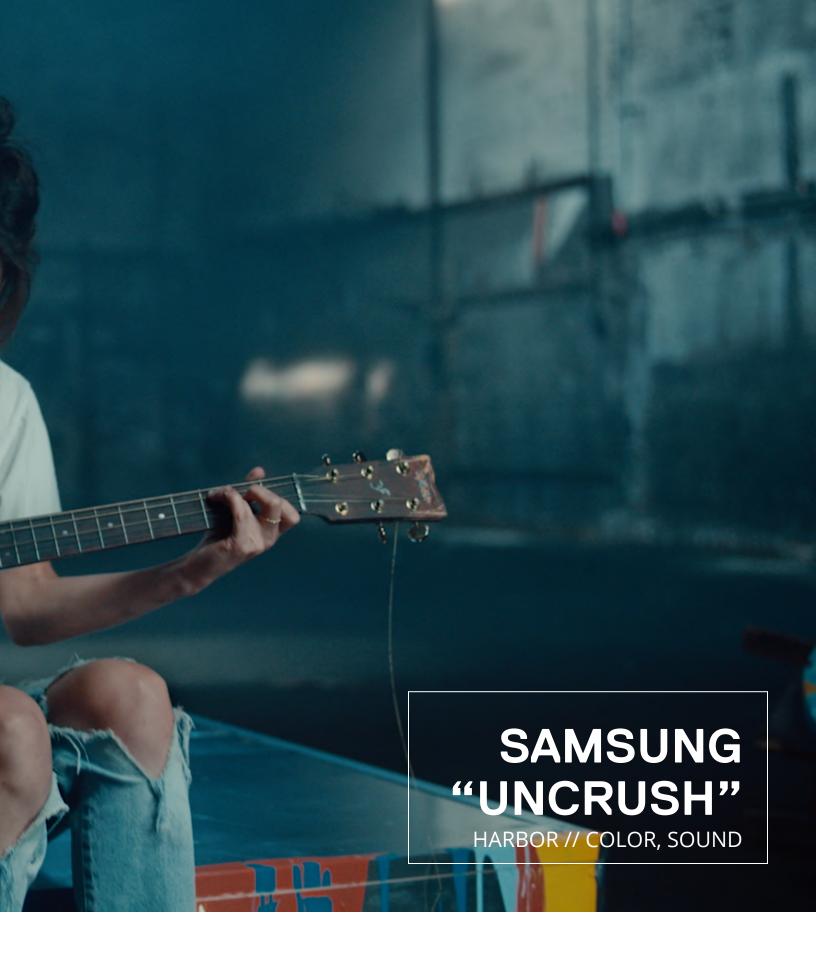
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FROM PROMPT TO STAGE: CRAFTING AI VISUALS FOR MADONNA'S WORLD TOUR WITH DIRECTOR SASHA KASIUHA









































# FROM PROMPT

STAGE



# Crafting AI Visuals for Madonna's Worldwide Tour with Director Sasha Kasiuha

By: Ellie Powers Photos Courtesy of: Sasha Kasiuha

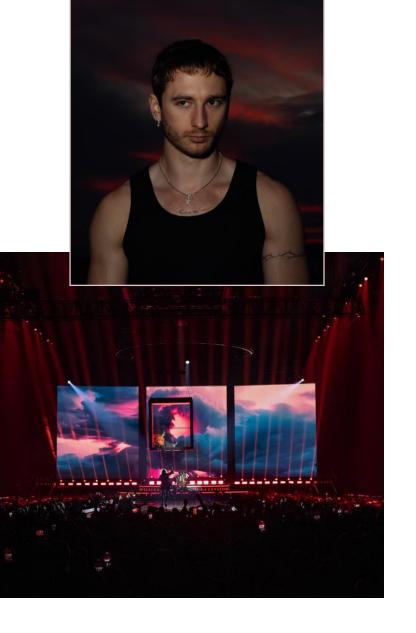


hen most people hear Al, they run the other way. When multi-hyphenate Sasha Kasiuha hears Al, he runs straight into the melee. Kasiuha's main advice to those who fear the implications and complexities of the technology boils down to this: "Just play." The Ukrainian former-chemical-engineer-turned-filmmaker argues that while the Al process requires good taste, editing and communication skills, at the end of the day, "The more you play," Kasiuha urges, "the more you know the pros and cons of certain tools and features and whether it works or not. It's like a good car, the more you run it, the better it feels."

For Madonna's World Celebration Tour, Kasiuha pitched Al-models as a creative solution for quickly crafting engaging concert visuals. He faced two challenges that could not be addressed by a traditional CG approach – time and style. He said, "CG is amazing; it's a complicated tool, so the work requires artists that are highly skillful, and it takes a lot of time. Because we were dealing with a live tour, we wanted edits the next day or the day after." He went on to describe how, "CG looked a little too flat, one-dimensional, so we tried to use Al to create something in the realm of the show and the surreal style Madonna was after."







Kasiuha integrated several Al-generation models to craft visuals for two of Madonna's songs, "La Isla Bonita" and "Take a Bow." Specifically, for the two tracks, he leaned on Runway's Gen 1 (image to image) & Gen 2 (text to image), respectively. For "La Isla Bonita," Gen 1 was used primarily for style transfers. Kasiuha inputted a base image for the algorithm to copy the style and some videos as inputs. He then used the model to morph the base images to clouds.

For "Take A Bow," Kasiuha used both image to image and text to image models to create a three-minute film that takes the viewer through a surreal world based on Japanese art. He engaged Midjourney first to create the base image then adjusted the image in Photoshop AI to the proper scale for the pixel map. Then he inputted the image into Runway, supplemented the image prompt with the text to video function, and played with camera motion, motion graphics, and other tools to create the animations. From over seven-hundred video outputs, Kasiuha selected what worked and edited them together for the final product.

He describes the intention to "lean more into an animated world in a watercolor style where everything feels surreal - the trees turn into clouds. It's all organic." This section of the concert is meant to transport, in a spiritual sense, and the Al-generated



visuals mirrored that style seamlessly. Kasiuha's work for this tour proves the versatility of such models and shows the spectacle of what can be done with AI for a big environment, not just the small screen.

While Kasiuha developed the visuals for the World Celebration tour on his own, he is also one half of director-duo SKNX (with director Nuno Xico). Together they have directed and edited several projects for Madonna including the Harbor-produced VMAs opening film celebrating Madonna's 40th Anniversary which leant heavily on practical effects: a vintage taxi, an epic crane shot in Times Square in the middle of a hot summer night as the billboards lit up with her famous music videos.

Harbor Executive Producer of Live Action, Kelly Broad, said of working with the duo, "I'm always fascinated by their imagination and how they create visuals in a truly unique way. When working with our clients, they have a talent for demystifying their approach from the start, so we can marvel at what they've created while appreciating what it took to get there."

Even when experimenting with AI technologies, the creative legwork of filmmaking is still required. Kasiuha sees himself integrating AI into his process more and more as it is always improving. He has figured out his own formula, but acknowledges that "it works for certain projects, certain ideas, concepts." This sentiment is perhaps best expressed in Kasiuha's own words, "AI is a tool. Get over it."

To book Directors Sasha Kasiuha and Nuno Xico (aka SKNX) contact Kelly Broad, Kelly.broad@harborpicturecompany.com





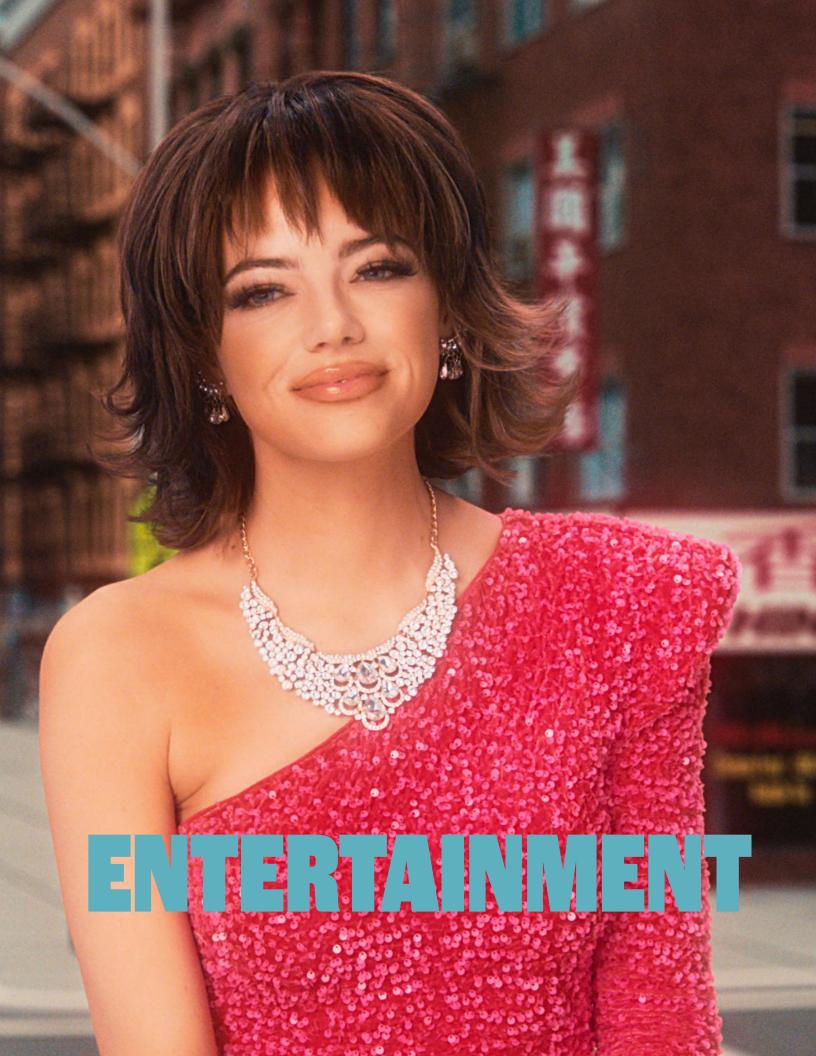


## IF YOU HAVEN'T READ THIS, WHAT ARE YOU EVEN READING?



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#### **ERIC**

#### HARBOR // COLOR, VFX, ANCHOR

Vincent, a grief-stricken father whose son goes missing, finds solace through his friendship with Eric, the monster that lives under Edgar's bed.



Director: Lucy Forbes Cinematographer: Benedict Spence Editor: Peter Oliver Senior Colorist: Toby Tomkins Online Editors: Daniel Tomlinson, Edward Corrigan

Production Company: SISTER

Creator: Abi Morgan

#### JIM HENSON: IDEA MAN

HARBOR // VFX, COLOR, SOUND

A look at interviews of fans of Jim Henson, interspersed with footage from his works, including Wilkins and Wontkins Commercials that were previously lost.



Production Company: Disney Original Documentary, Imagine Documentaries Director: Ron Howard Editor: Paul Crowder

Supervising Sound Editor/Re-Recording Mixer: Tony Volante Supervising Sound Editor: Daniel Timmons Senior Colorist: Roman Hankewycz VFX Artist: Chris Mackenzie

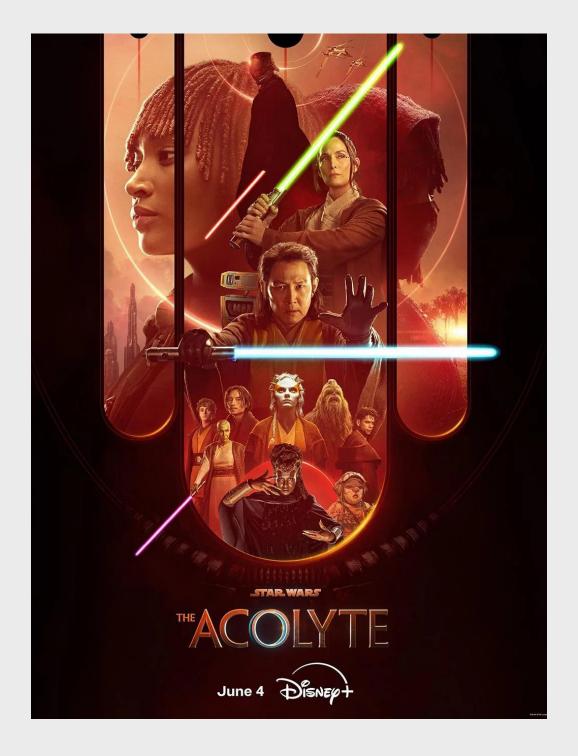
Sound Effects Editor: Jeremy Bloom

Dialogue Editor: lan Cymore

#### THE ACOLYTE

#### HARBOR // DAILIES, COLOR, ANCHOR

An investigation into a shocking crime spree pits a respected Jedi Master against a dangerous warrior from his past.



Production Company: Lucasfilm Creator: Leslye Headland

Cinematographers: James Friend, Chris Teague Editor: Miikka Leskinen Supervising Finishing Colorist: Nat Jencks Finishing Associate Colorist: David Franzo Finishing Editor: Alec Perez

#### **FIREBRAND**

#### HARBOR // VFX, COLOR

In the final months of King Henry VIII's (Jude Law) reign, his sixth wife, Katherine Parr (Alicia Vikander), navigates the treacherous waters of the Tudor court.



Production Company: Brouhaha Entertainment Director: Karim Aïnouz

Cinematographer: Hélène Louvart Editor: Heike Parplies Senior Colorist: Jateen Patel Senior DI Online Editor: Daniel Tomlinson

#### **QUEENIE**

#### HARBOR // VFX, COLOR

Queenie Jenkins is a 25-year-old Jamaican British woman living in south London, living in between two cultures and entering neatly into neither.



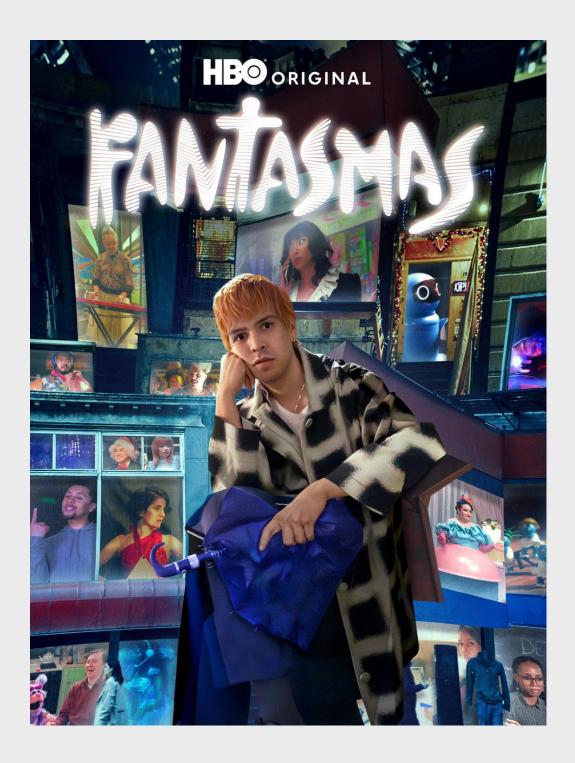
Creator: Candice Carty-Williams Directors: Joelle Mae David, Makalla McPherson Cinematographers: Rachel Clark, Nathalie Pitters

Senior Colorist: Jateen Patel Online Editor: Edward Corrigan

#### **FANTASMAS**

#### HARBOR // COLOR

It follows the tale of when Julio Torres lost a golden oyster.



Production Company: Fruit Tree, 3 Arts Entertainment, Irony Point

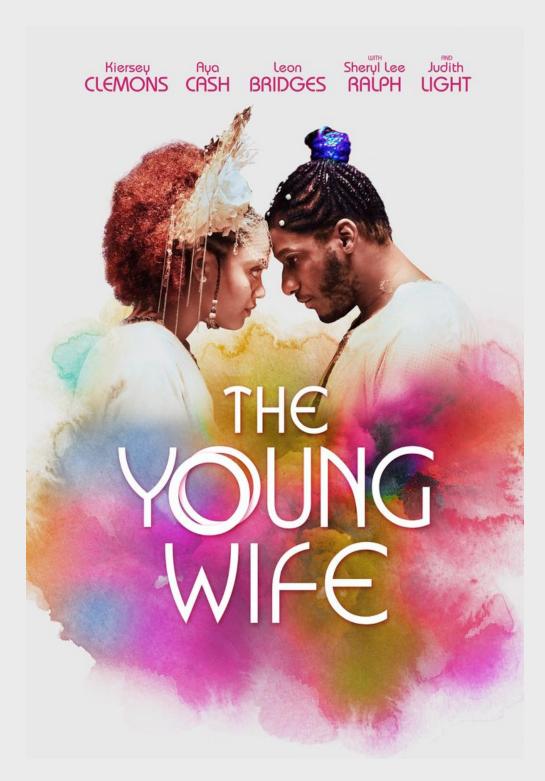
Creator/Director: Julio Torres Cinematographer: Sam Levy Editors: Nolan Jennings, Jacob Secher Schulsinger

Senior Colorist: Damien Vandercruyssen

#### THE YOUNG WIFE

#### HARBOR // DAILIES, COLOR, SOUND, ANCHOR

It follows a young woman grappling with the meaning of love and commitment, follow her over her non wedding day.



Production Company: Archer Gray Director: Tayarisha Poe Cinematographer: Jomo Fray Editor: Kate Abernathy

Colorist: Damien Vandercruyssen VFX Artist: Chris Mackenzie Supervising Sound Editor/Re-Recording Mixer: Ian Cymore Re-Recording Mixer/ Sound Effects Editor: Ryan Billia Dialogue Editor: Bob Hein

#### WE ARE LADY PARTS, SEASON 2

HARBOR // COLOR, ADR

A look at the highs and lows of the band members that make up a Muslim female punk band, Lady Parts, as seen through the eyes of Amina Hussein, a geeky PhD student who is recruited to be their unlikely lead guitarist.



Production Company: Working Title Television Director: Nida Manzoor

#### **REN FAIRE**

#### HARBOR // VFX, COLOR

When the ailing king of America's largest renaissance festival declares his retirement, an epic power struggle ensues between an actor, a former elephant trainer, and a kettle-corn kingpin to claim his throne.



Production Company: Elara Pictures
Director: Lance Oppenheim
Cinematographer: Nate Hurtsellers

#### MOTHER, COUCH

#### HARBOR // SOUND

Three children are brought together when their mother refuses to move from a couch in a furniture store.



Production Company: Lyrical Pictures, Fat City Director: Niclas Larsson Cinematographer: Chayse Irvin Editor: Carla Luffe Supervising Sound Editor & Re-Recording Mixer: Grant Elder





Caption: John Early in Stress Positions

#### REUNITING THE TWO OF THEM FOR THIS CONVERSATION FELT LIKE SITTING IN ON A (ALBEIT ENTHRALLING) LECTURE TAUGHT BY TENURED PROFESSORS.

**ELLIE:** Let's start from the beginning. How were your initial conversations with Ryan?

**THEDA:** I would start from the end rather than beginning, because the conclusions that I reached at the end of the process were very different from those I came in with. At the start, I wanted too much sound, and too much noise. The mix taught me a lot about the hierarchy or the schematization of sound in a movie like this one, a dialogue comedy with an additional important sound design component. The juggling of dialogue and ambience took a great deal of care. It's not the kind of movie where you're just listening to the crickets in the forest.

RYAN: We also had, which I hadn't really done before, taken groups of sounds which Theda felt were important to the film's world sirens, cars, helicopter, etc. - and had them all available in the mix session. So anytime Theda wanted a sound added, I could jump down the timeline, grab it, and drop it in where she wanted it. But for Stress Positions, a lot of these sounds became thematic. If we've heard the same siren three or four times. it was okay. It was meant to be this weird world where we were hearing things repeat.

**T:** That approach was compatible with the overall schematization of the movie, where you have the same delivery guy, the same Lyft driver, the same spot in the kitchen where the character keeps slipping; it's not realistic, it's schematic. One of the problems with all of the technology being so high resolution now is that it forces you into a kind of realism that's incompatible with this schematization. We needed to figure out how to juggle all these high-resolution components to get back to something that is more like a fable, or a sketch.

R: There were a few scenes that we were working on where every element - music, dialogue, sound effects and foley - was loud. We had to decide, what's our focus supposed to be? What's driving the scene? Sometimes, music should be driving. And then we can pop things out and duck the music. Mixing is really finding those spaces for something to pop through and shine. I would watch Theda in real time figure out those things which was fun.

- through that the sound was adding so much to the tension. You felt like you were there and just so anxious.
- **T:** The characters in this movie are people trapped indoors, with a fear and anxiety about the outside world. Sound is the only way to bring that outside world into the image, because we're never cutting to the outside world. In fact, there are actually two offscreen worlds! There's the simultaneously occurring offscreen world, which is the soundscape coming through

**T (Cont):** the windows and walls of this house, and then there is the very offscreen, non-simultaneous world which presented in the voice over and suggested in scoring and sound design.

- E: There are also a lot of comedic elements in the film. How did you balance the anxiety and tension with the comedy that exists alongside?
- **T:** I think that there is a general disregard for how much work goes into making dialogue sound good. The sound that makes everybody go wow is the wooshing crashing stuff. But in this film, there was so much good work done just to make the dialogue clear and intelligible. People will forgive almost anything, but you have to be able to hear what people are saying clearly to find a movie like this funny. That's not just the result of actors speaking

well and being recorded, it requires a lot of technical work. And then that dialogue track still needs to be balanced with the environmental sounds. The ambience can't go dead. The world can't suddenly stop. But it can only overtake the dialogue in a selective way.

**R:** I agree. Thank you for saying that. It's true because we do a lot of clean up in the dialogue editing process. It's very tedious, but it's necessary because once you're able to clean up the dead mics and phase align mics and do some denoising, then we can hear everything. So that's first. I've always said, dialogue is at the top; dialogue is king. Everything else wraps around the dialogue. And we played a little with timing for comedic effort as well when things didn't need to be in sync to accentuate the joke. It's the old adage - what's funny? Timing. What



Faheem Ali as Ronald



(L) Amy Zimmer as Abagail (R) Theda Hammel as Karla



makes a joke funny? Timing. You realize if you can nudge something a few frames this way or a few frames that way, it just lands better.

**E:** Theda, you were also the composer on this film. As a composer, how did you bring that knowledge to the sound finishing process?

**T:** We had temp music until the very last minute, but I had some musical themes in my mind from the beginning. I did find composing relaxing, because it was the one area where I had any experience. It was a relief to have music come at the very last stage, as it helped a lot to unify a very chaotic movie full of all these disjunct elements. Actually, the fact that this movie is even watchable at all is at a real triumph. It could have easily been





From Top to Bottom: John Early as Terry Goon, Theda Hammel and Amy Zimmer, Qaher Harhash, Rebecca F. Wright & John Roberts



the most unwatchable movie imaginable. And so, for example, Ryan was extremely helpful in making it a watchable, coherent, and credible sounding movie. And I think that the music also helps with that.

**R:** As Theda is a composer herself and very sonically driven, she understands sound and can speak in sound terms, for example, she was talking to me a lot about EQ. Theda could really dial-in on what she was hearing and using sound terminology, I knew exactly what she meant which was helpful.

E: Theda, you brought up the voiceover as an important element how did you come to the decision to use voiceover and then how did you decide to have Karla and Bahlul's point of view and not anybody else's?

**T:** The big issue at the heart of this movie is a crisis in the representation of otherness. We don't see Bahlul speak very much in the film. We see him watching and listening. He doesn't speak because

the characters around him, and the scenario itself, don't give him room to speak. His interiority is represented through voiceover. But the temporal origin of any voiceover is extremely ambiguous. That mode gives the viewer a sense of the inner life of this character, but it's not an authoritative or objective characterization, since there's a strong implication that the text that Bahlul is reciting has maybe been passed from person to person in the form of these journals. You should actually get the sense that maybe the final language has been tampered with by a character who is not unlike me as the writer-director. And the reason there are two voiceovers instead of one is the same. It's in order that that neither one of them has total authority. But Terry, our lead, gets no voiceover, and really that's because he doesn't have any subvocalized internal life. Terry's inner monologue would just be him screaming and cursing.

**R**: From a sound perspective too, especially in a theatrical environment, there's so many ways you can play voiceover. We didn't mix this in Atmos, but you could, theoretically, have the voice coming from the ceiling. You could have it coming from all speakers, or from behind. We decided to spread it across the screen. It was kind of coming from all speakers towards us. We also needed to differentiate the dialogue from the voiceover and figure out how to do that as cleanly as possible so that there wasn't confusion. That also came down to how the ADR was performed. I think it's very clear to the viewer that when Karla's talking and Terry is running around, she's not there. We wanted Bahlul's voiceover to be sort of chesty and sound like traditional VO, where Karla's was a bit more like she is in the room talking. We pulled Theda off the mic a little bit to differentiate the two.

T: Like with so many things, it boils down to a technical approach.

It should hopefully hit on a subconscious level. It shouldn't be something that the viewer is aware of.

: Filmmaking is just obsessing over every frame and every sound. It's so fascinating to me to hear your creative process and how a musician approaches sound finishing. So thank you, because I loved it.

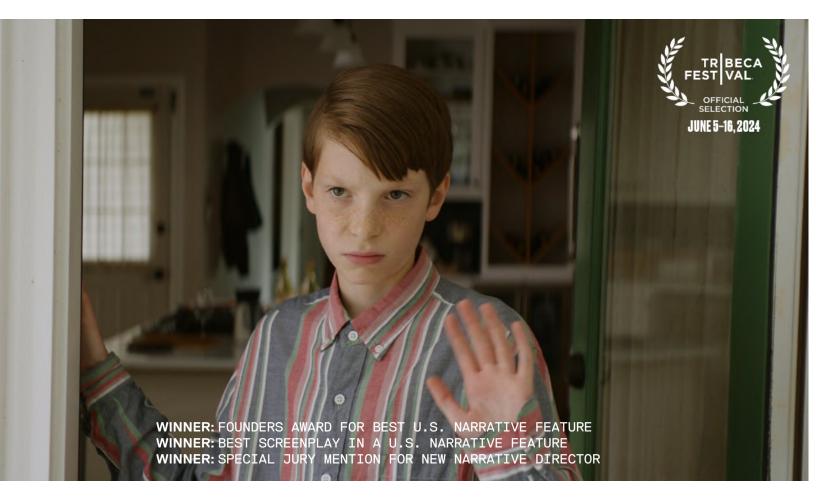
**T**: It was a pleasure. And as always in interviews, I feel like I've spoken too much and said too little. Please forgive me!



Theda Hammel, Shot by Edward Nouel

#### **GRIFFIN IN SUMMER**

Fourteen-year-old Griffin Nafly is the most ambitious playwright of his generation. But once he meets handsome twenty-five-year-old handyman Brad, his life (and play) will never be the same.



arbor // Colo

Production Company: Coveside Films

Director: Nicholas Colia

Cinematographer: Felipe Vara de Rey

Editor: Jon Higgins, Sam Levy

Senior Colorist: Anthony Raffaele



#### **FIREBRAND**

Katherine Parr, the sixth wife of King Henry VIII, is named regent while the tyrant battles abroad. When the king returns, increasingly ill and paranoid, Katherine finds herself fighting for her own survival.



Production Company: Brouhaha Entertainment Director: Karim Aïnouz Cinematographer: Hélène Louvart

Editor: Heike Parplies Post Supervisor: Meg Clark

Senior Colorist: Jateen Patel

#### **RESTLESS**

A middle-aged empty nester's mundane life is upended when raucous new neighbors move in next door, unleashing potential danger and disruption.



oor // Color. Anchor

**Production Company: Haus Pictures** 

Director: Jed Hart

Cinematographer: David Bird

Editor: Anna Meller

Post Producer: Benedict Turnbull

Senior Colorist: Toby Tomkins

#### THE THINKING GAME

Chronicles visionary scientist Demis Hassabis' relentless pursuit to crack artificial general intelligence, a journey of extraordinary perseverance.



Production Company: Cityspeak Films Director: Greg Kohs

Cinematographer: Greg Kohs

Editor: Steven Sander

Executive Producers: Tom Dore, Jonathan Fildes

Supervising Sound Editor/Re-Recording Mixer: Glenfield Payne Re-Recording Mixer: Roberto Fernandez

Dialogue Editor: Ian Cymore Sound Effects Editor: Ryan Billia

# Creating Impressions of 480s New York

If you haven't met Benedict Spence before, you're in for a treat. And if you have, well, you already know what a treat it is. Full of energy, even after a "terrible day," he arrives at the suite Toby's been grading in all day. "Oof that's looking nice Toby", Benedict says looking at Toby's monitor, which is displaying a still from his latest project for Sky. "I used the LUT from Eric" Toby jokes as they sit down.

The latest fruit of their established relationship is *Eric* for Netflix – a six-episode limited series starring Benedict Cumberbatch, written by Abi Morgan (*The Hour, The Iron Lady, The Split*), and directed by long term collaborator and good friend, Lucy Forbes.

"I've worked with Lucy for 20 years, which makes me feel a bit sick," Benedict laughs, "throughout all the iterations of our careers. We both started in factual entertainment, I moved into commercials, and now we're in drama. So, working with her is always a joy. And then obviously, I was like, what about Toby? Let's get him on board."

The trio has some previous successes. Most recently on the BAFTA-winning mini-series *This Is Going To Hurt* (also by *Eric* producers SISTER Pictures), and before that, on *The End of the F\*\*\*ing World*, which received a Cinematography nomination at the Emmys.

By: Alli Albion

Photos Courtesy of: Netflix

#### **SETTING THE SCENE**

Being set in 1980s New York meant a creative approach to locations was needed, because "New York is obviously incredibly expensive to shoot in, and it doesn't really look like the eighties anymore," starts Benedict, "so we shot three quarters of the schedule in Budapest for the interiors, which were either set builds or existing locations changed to look like 1980s New York," before finally heading to New York to shoot for around five weeks. "As a Londoner who wishes they were really a New Yorker, it was a dream come true to live and shoot in Manhattan," Benedict smiles, "we were staying in Wall Street so I could walk 3 and a half minutes to work where we had three cameras, a supertechno crane and 200 extras, right in the middle of downtown New York. It was brilliant!"

"I've always wanted to do period New York, especially sort of seventies/eighties, so this was a dream come true brief," says Toby, who is well known for his timeless looks. Lucy provided key images as





reference that "felt of-the-time" and encapsulated the gritty reality of New York. "It was about finding a balance of something that felt of the time but that didn't necessarily feel like it was captured at the time" Toby adds, "and obviously that's a very subjective thing to everyone involved" - whether that comes from memories of visits, living through it in the era, or experiencing it through cinema. Grain was an important consideration when it came to locating it in the past. "For me, if something is in '80s New York, the grain sells that," says Toby, "I've only been exposed to '80s New York through cinema with something acquired through film." "Everything is an impression," adds Benedict, "I wanted the lighting and the camera work of a modern TV show but the feel of something out of time, not specifically mimicking what those '80s cameras would do."

Having spent time before shooting finding the look for the dailies, when it got to finishing, there wasn't

a huge deviation from the show LUT, which meant the pair were left to push the look a little further in the DI with little resistance. "It was an easy journey once we'd done episode one" says Toby. "We were left to it, and it was nice to feel that trust." "We're not far from the references on these pages," Benedict says, pointing to a tone document in front of him, "which is a really good feeling. Most of these images were shot on film, but you don't need film anymore



REFERENCE SHOT BY FRANK HORVAT

NETFLIX'S ERIC

#### "We're not far from the references on these pages," Benedict says, pointing to a tone document in front of him.

because you've got Toby Tomkins!" Benedict smiles. The series was actually shot on a pair of ARRI Alexa 35s, which "gave us the best possible starting point for a film emulation" adds Toby, "shout out to Arri!"

Benedict has done screen tests for his previous few jobs, and now swears by them. "You get to meet everybody, you get to do a perfect lighting setup which you'll never get to do on a TV schedule, you get to shoot all your key cast on a set. They look good. You get to take footage back to Toby Tomkins, who makes it look amazing. And then you show everybody this amazing footage. And suddenly everyone's confident and excited instead of shitting their pants scared, which is what they normally are at that stage, including me!" From a grading perspective too, it means Toby can experiment with the look on actual footage, which makes it easier for execs and crew to envision and get on board with, "which gets us closer to the look, sooner" Toby confirms. "You can create something bold and strong because you know it'll work."

"Look dev is probably my favourite part," says Toby. "You're kind of feeling it out, and when you find it, you know it's right. It's different for every job because it depends on the material, depends on the cast, depends on the production design, the lighting, the costume, the makeup. The perfect look for one thing will never be the perfect look for something else. They might look similar from afar, but when you look at them closely, they're all slightly different... like snowflakes!"







#### **STORYTELLING**

The story plays out across multiple locations in New York: Domestic environments, Upper West Side townhouses, subway-based homeless villages, police stations, and clubs all serve as a backdrop to a story that centres class, racism, homelessness and collective anxieties. "It's quite rare to play with the extreme ends of society like this. It's a big, big world," says Benedict.

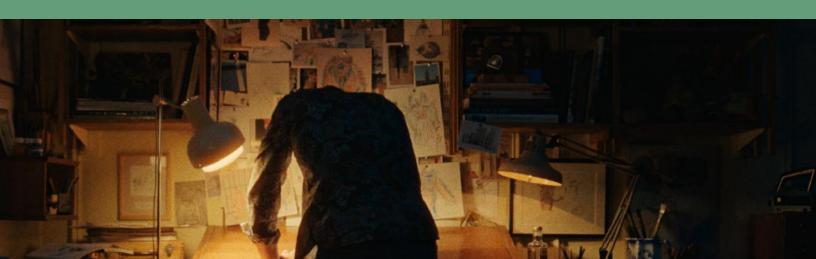
When it comes to using colour for storytelling, Benedict says "I try my best to make choices based on character and arcs, but more than anything else I think it has to be believable for that space." Robert Anderson, the father of Benedict Cumberbatch's character, is a multimillionaire property developer who lives in a giant apartment with great high ceilings. "I did a little bit of research and energy saving light bulbs had just been invented. So, we put in our version of energy saving light bulbs with a horrible daylight green spike. If you were rich (and had no taste!), you'd have this latest technology" says Benedict.

Eric is without a doubt the most mainstream show Benedict and Toby have worked on thus far, and Benedict has been working on it since Autumn 2022. "I'm quite excited to see what people think about it," says Benedict, "because I wouldn't describe it as a look for everyone." Being somewhat new to the world of drama, the pair feel they have added something slightly more unusual or "indie" to the series when it comes to the cinematography. "I was expecting us to sort of water it down a bit more than we had to, look wise, grade wise, but we didn't," explains Toby.

In its first week of release, figures show Eric was watched for approximately 1.1 billion minutes, topped the streaming charts, and reached #1 on Netflix worldwide, according to Variety. Undoubtedly this is down to the topnotch writing, acting, direction, production design, and every department bringing their A-game - but certainly, as far as the cinematography goes, there is much to be said for the careful custodianship of the vision, the high level of craft and attention to detail, and the nurturing of the creative relationship Toby, Benedict, and Lucy have built over time. It's one not to miss.

Eric is out now on Netflix.

"Ve





with Lance Oppenheim

## LANCE OPPENHEIM'S DOCUMENTARY FILMMAKING LEXICON INCORPORATES ELEMENTS OF NARRATIVE FILMMAKING TO SHOW A REALITY THAT FEELS BOTH WITHIN AND WITHOUT OUR WORLD.

a n c e
Oppenheim's
documentary
filmmaking glexicon incorporates
elements of narrative
filmmaking to show a
reality that feels both
within and without our
world. His approach

factors in the grade from the beginning, and he uses the color process to craft images that live on the edge of fiction and verité. His most recent film, FX's *SPERMWORLD*, delves deep into the lives of women seeking sperm donors via unregistered domains (e.g. Facebook groups) and the men who travel the country to provide their seed free of charge (minus travel reimbursements) to help these women get pregnant.

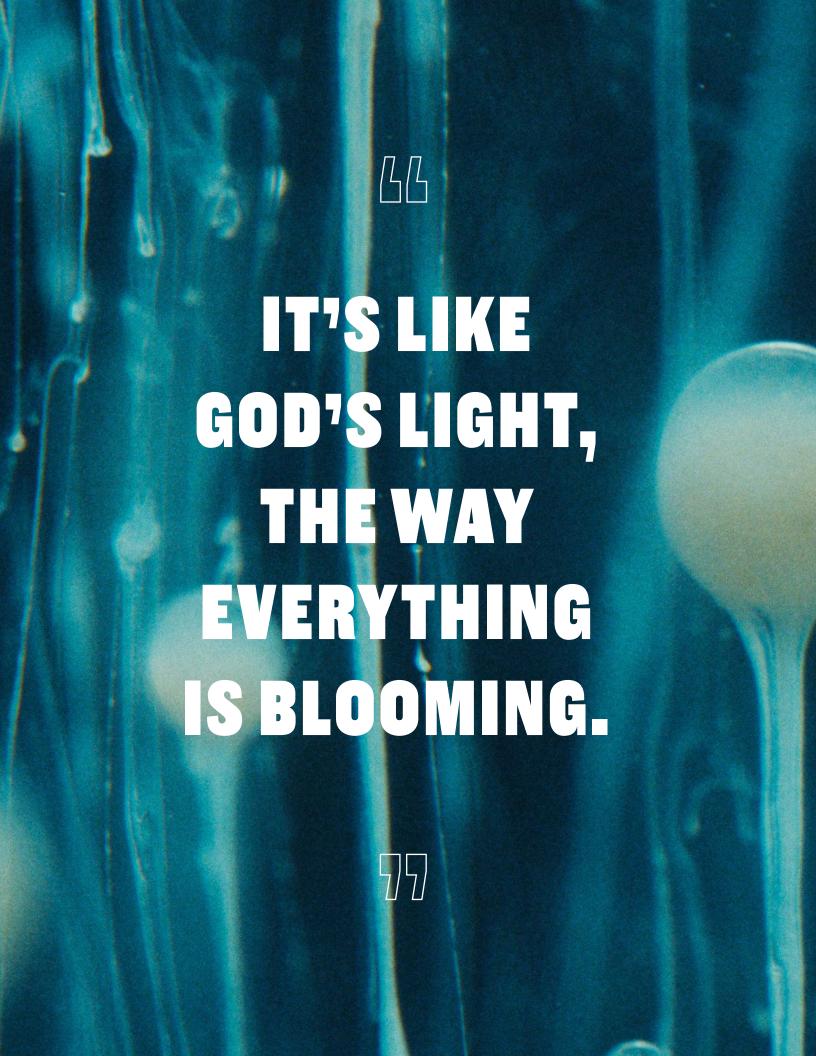
Oppenheim and Cinematographer David Bolen began working Colorist Damien with Vandercruyssen Oppenheim's breakout, Some Kind of Heaven, which follows the lives of Floridian retirees at the Villages, the largest retirement community in

America. Oppenheim was struck by Vandercruyssen's versatility from film to film, and knew he wanted to engage Vandercruyssen early in the process to help perfect the look for FX's SPERMWORLD. Vandercruyssen recalls, "during editing, Lance would invite me to screenings to discuss creative direction for the DI. The look itself was then pushed to the extreme in the DI. I think what we did started from a film look but clearly evolved into its own unique universe."



The final look sits somewhere between film and digital but feels wholly unique. It's dark and moody with deep blues and greens, thanks to Vandercruyssen's LUT which Oppenheim described as "nuclear," and broken up with splashes of warm oranges. The mix of cool tones and high contrast, for Oppenheim, mirrored "the loneliness and the feeling of disconnection, despite connecting with each other via the Internet." Oppenheim referenced the first sequence of the film, where two people meet in a motel room followed by "a sort of reverie of dreamy images of babies and more abstract imagery," as the key to accessing "another dimension to the emotion of the movie and inhabiting the dream."





### SPERMORL

Oppenheim intended for the color to reflect his desire to transport the viewer "inside that experience, into someone's headspace, or fantasy, using all the cinematic tools in our arsenal. Hopefully, we leave you with the feeling that you're living inside of a world that's our world, but not." He recalls as well how many asked him if they had put Vaseline on the lens when they shot due to the halo-like effect to the light in certain shots.

Cinematographer David Bolen added that the team wished for the color "to feel subjective to the characters and the surreal worlds they inhabit. We leaned heavily into cold and dark tones to portray their loneliness, isolation and desperation. To counter this, we added halation and glow to always provide a glimmer of hope in each frame - a visual representation of each person's dream of one day creating a baby"

When it came time for the grade, Oppenheim says that Vandercruyssen "dialed up the halation and created a filmic look that didn't feel like a filter or pasted on but intrinsic to the footage. Damien always says, 'it's like God's light, the way everything is blooming.' And even in these dark, mundane places where people are meeting up to exchange genetic fluids, how does the light look?"

Vandercruyssen described his efforts to add "extra diffusion and glow to enhance the sacredness of the semen, resulting in a magical dimension to the precious product. The softness of the resulting image was then balanced by a heavy grain to tighten the image back together."

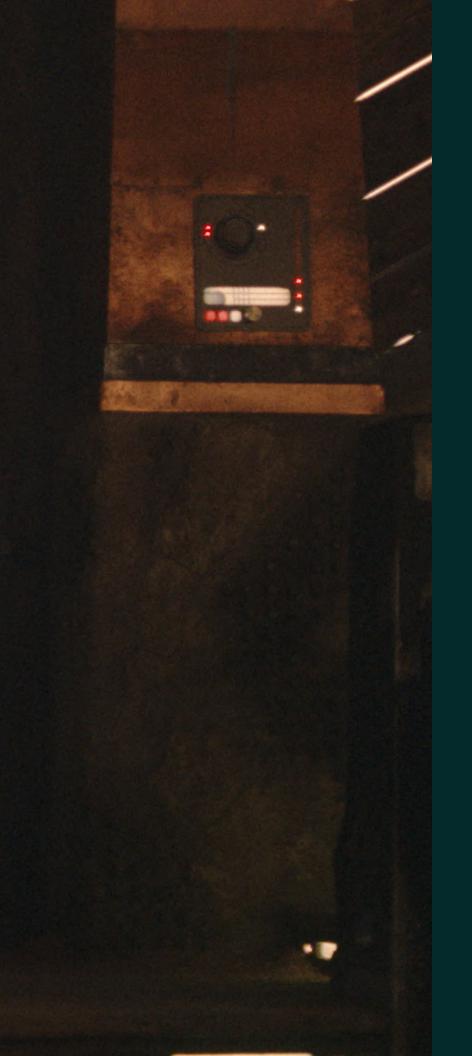
Oppenheim adds that he, Bolen, Vandercruyssen, Editor Daniel Garber, Composer Ari Balouzian, producers Lauren Belfer, Sophie Kissinger, and Christian Vazquez, along with the rest of the crew, shared a mutual understanding to "portray reality that will divide people and elicit strong opinions but present the world really without commentary or judgments."

For Oppenheim, documentaries should be more than educating an audience; they should offer a slice of life that audiences engage with as they would a narrative feature. A big part of earning the viewer's trust in that regard comes from Oppenheim's collaboration with Bolen and Vandercruyssen to sell the world as both our reality and one that lives perhaps just beyond.

FX's SPERMWORLD is available to stream now on Disney+.



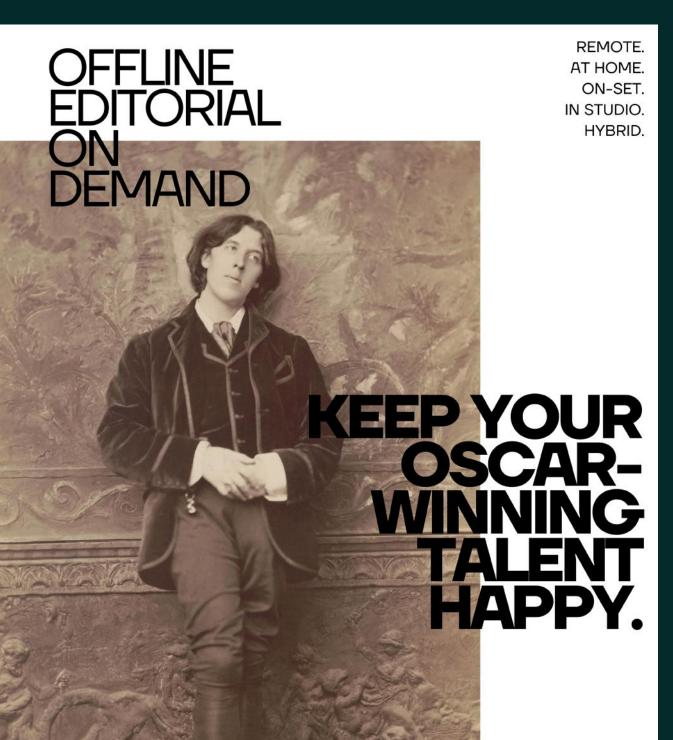




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OFFLINE EDITORIAL
ON DEMAND

#### 69

"ASK MATT" WITH HEAD OF COLOR SCIENCE MATT TOMLINSON



ON BUDGET. ON SCHEDULE. YOU NEED A THIRD REASON?

#### **ADVICE COLUMN**

### **ASK MATT**

Follow along each month as our Head of Color Science Matt Tomlinson answers your questions about anything and everything image science and technology.

#### What tools do you use, Matt?

I was just thinking about how I am often asked about what tools I use to create "Looks" for shows. It's a question that is presented to me as if there is some magic black box that I'm hiding in a dark corner and the person who yields the power of the magic black box holds the keys to the universe. The universe, in this case, usually means the emulation of some look with which someone has an emotional attachment and which lines up with the underlying themes of the "show."

What people want me to tell them is that I use a software named "put name of software here" and like any other piece of software, if you can master the software, you can master what it does. That's not the point. What software I use is not the question you should be asking. The question that I would ask me is not what software/tools I use, but "tell me what makes a good 'Look' for a show?"

It's too easy to say, "I want it to look like film." It's too easy to say, "I don't want it to look like digital." Those answers reference an image in your head. And your idea of what film looks like versus what I present to you may not be the same thing. If I simply present to you what Kodak Vision looks like, that may not be what you are thinking. Instead, tell me what you feel about the movie. Tell me about the hues you see in your head.



Tell me about other movies, art, poetry, and memories that you think about when you think about the "Look" of your show.

Okay, if you really want to know what tools/ software I use, I use them all. I use whatever provides me what I need to complete vision of the show.

My go to is Excel. But I'm willing to bet that's not a very satisfying answer. It's not about the tools. It's about talking to each other. From there, let me show you options and we can grow from there.

Submit questions for Matt here





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ARTISTRY UNFILTERED:
EMBRACING QUEERNESS
IN THE CREATIVE PROCESS

# UNFIL TERED

By: Camille Wilson | Photos by: Ellie Powers

From left to right: Chris Arruda, Theda Hammel, Nadia Dabibi



the ambient lights of an upper room in Soho House, guests settle down as Executive Director of Production at Ogilvy NY, Tim LeGallo, introduces the panelists of the third annual, Artistry Unfiltered. As the crowd finds their seats, one thing is clear – next year calls for a bigger room. For the last three years, Harbor has had the privilege of hosting an event that brings together queer artists and filmmakers for one night. But we never anticipated how much the event would grow and the collaborations that would have come from it. Just ask Director Zen Pace, Cinematographer Peter Pascucci, and Harbor Colorist Oisín O'Driscoll, who met at last year's Artistry Unfiltered and have since then collaborated on Samsung's "Broken Guitar" spot and CBS Sports' "Football for Everyone" spot, the latter of which received a Sports Emmy® nomination.

From left to right, top to bottom: panelists etc etc etc name name name name nameAliaspis magnimint offic te pre pro conecea turisi rae qui quaturis dolum ipsam, cuptatam incimi, solorerum acernam, quam aut lam rerchiliquas non rem commolu ptiam, accaborio id qui quis denempediam faccaes tempor reperum eos et apiet porendam, siniae offic tempori sime volende eumquam quo ommolor aborecatus eum, que sed erumquis sunt pariorestias ipieniminim ium audae peratem.



The panels of the night centered honest discussions on the role of identity in filmmaking, going beneath the vague, treadmilling callto-action of representation. Among the topics explored were Film & TV Producer Chris Arruda's recognition of the queer relationships and communities he found that allowed his career to evolve. The importance of community was reaffirmed by the personal stories shared by Harbor's Executive Producer of Color, Nadia Dabibi, and Colorist Oisín O'Driscoll, which reminded one that the path to radical self-expression is not always a linear one. Regardless, the journey one goes on to embrace their own queerness undoubtedly colors their approach to filmmaking. Writer

and director of Stress Positions, Theda Hammel, reflected on this when positioning her queerness in relation to her creativity. If there's more than one way to live life beyond the white-picket approach, then there's more than one way to direct a movie.

As the panel concluded and panelists and guests were left to fellowship over drinks, one couldn't help but look at the lively crowd and think that somewhere in the room was the beginning of a new partnership destined to give birth to the next trailblazing collaboration. Or three. Until next year.

From left to right, top to bottom: panelists etc etc etc name name name nameAliaspis magnimint offic te pre pro conecea turisi rae qui quaturis dolum ipsam, cuptatam incimi, solorerum acernam, quam aut lam rerchiliquas non rem commolu ptiam, accaborio id qui quis denempediam faccaes tempor reperum eos et apiet porendam, siniae offic tempori sime volende eumquam quo ommolor aborecatus eum, que sed erumquis sunt pariorestias ipieniminim ium audae peratem.

## what film brought you into consciousness?





Executive Director, Production, Ogilvy NY



(PETER PASCUCCI)





# YOUR WORK

### WE'D LOVE TO HAVE YOU.

Get Your Own By-Line in the Harbor Monthly.
Submit Your Pitch Today.

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HARBOR

### **ADVERTISING**

### Smucker's JIF "The Merger"

Executive Producers / Managing Partners: Kim Dellara, Caleb Dewart

Executive Producer: Rick Jarjoura

Editor: Chan Hatcher, Cabin

Associate Creative Directors: Jason Lane, Christopher Vanderkleed

Production Agency: PXP

Executive Producer: Lauren Schneidmuller

Senior Producer: Rachel Tierney

Lead Color Assist: Joni Brandenburg

Executive Producer, Color: Nadia Dabibi

Color Producer: Brad Martin

Associate Sound Mixer, Socials: Chris Perepezko

Senior Audio Producer, Socials: Cameron Ensley

Executive Producer: Jesse Schwartz

Head of Production: Tia Perkins

Senior Producer: Joe Hobaica

Producer: Adean Gopala-Foster

### Samsung Broken Guitar "COA Rapid Response"

Producer: Henry Wolf

Associate Creative Director: Lee Lawrence

Senior Color Assist: Joni Brandenburg

EP, Color: Nadia Dabibi Producer, Color: Brad

Martin

Senior Producer, Audio: Lauren Boyle

### Toyota Global Olympics "Send Off"

Managing Director / Executive Producer: Justin Pollock

Head of Production: Chelsea Schwiering

Executive Producer: Jackie Kelman-Bisbee

Executive Producer / Line Producer: Caroline Kousidonis

ACD Art Director: Nomi Malek

ACD Copywriter: Nick Finney

Head of Production: Doğan Dattilo

Director of Content Production: Rodrigo Vargas

Executive Producers: Stephanie Dziczek, Avi Walsky

Agency Communications Director: Paula Adams

Color Assists: Mara Ciorba, Sophie Sugrue

Color Producers: Sarah Banks, Katie Andrews

Senior Producers, Commercial Sound: Lauren Boyle, Cameron McGarry

Associate Mixers: Catherine Sangiovanni, Chris Perepezko, Andrew Wodzanowski

### Pop-tarts "Unfrosted"

Senior EP: David Thorne Post Producer & Media Manager: Patrick Lopez

Managing Director: Dan

Producer: Sarah Banks

### Ram "The Convoy" feat. Glen Powell

Executive Producer: Taylor Buzbee

EVP: Gary Pascoe

ACD: Guillermo Gonzalez

VP Executive Producer: Mike Albert

Associate Editor: Victoria Villa

Senior Producer, Edit: Lauren Johnson

Executive Producer, Audio: Lauren Boyle

Color Assists: Weiyi Ang, Baptiste Carrara

Executive Producer, Color: Nadia Dabibi

Color Producer: Jake Grom

### Kellogg's Special K "Because"

VP, Executive Producer: Cheherazade Patel

Senior Producer: Beth Dolnick

VP, Account Director: Carly Ricther

Account Supervisor: Alex Rivard

Account Executive: Amber Meklad

VFX: Jason Kerman

Post Producer: Lauren Omachel

Senior Color Assists Joni Brandenburg, Scarlett Thiele

Color Assist: Elizabeth Hickey

Color Producer: Brad Martin

### Oreo x Star Wars "Harvest"

Global Production Lead: Julie Marchesseault

SVP, Group Director, Regional Client Lead: Pamela Serp

Head of Production: Carol Powley

VP, Executive Producer: Steve Intrabartola

Senior Producer: Alex DerHohannesian

Production Planner: Alina Sanders

VP, Director, Business Affairs: Kelly Ventrelli

Business Affairs Manager: Julie Pajuheshfar

Executive Producers: Casey Swircz

Head of Production: Tia Perkins

Senior Producer: Bindy St. Leger

Associate Mixer: Catherine Sangiovanni

Executive Producer, Audio: Lauren Boyle

### Supercell Squad Busters "Squad Up"

Producer: Kaiya Taffel Assistant Producer: Beth Mechem

Managing Partner: Brendan Bell

Business Director: Ross Keane

Account Director Max Nabridnyj

Executive Producers: Tova Dann, Sorcha Shepherd, Michael Sagol

Producers: Bernard Rahill, Dan Hernandez

Chief Production Officer: James Guy

Executive Producer: Jennifer Mersis

Producer: Kortney Rubottom

Color Assistant: Joni Brandenburg

Color Producer: Brad Martin

Executive Producer: Nadia Dabibi

VFX Producer: Charlotte Murphy

Executive Producer: Dan

Bennett

Romeo + Juliet Broadway Promo

**Associate Creative Director:** David Rothstadt

Director of Production: Tom Coppola

Executive Producer: Sherwyn Santos

Senior Color Assist: Joni Brandenburg

Senior Color Assist: Scarlett

Thiele

Color Assist: Elizabeth

Hickey

Color Producer: Brad Martin, Max Hadson

Head of Production: Tia

**Perkins** 

Lead Senior Color Assist: Joni Brandenburg

Color Assist: Elizabeth Hickey

Producer, Color: Brad Martin, Max Hadson

EP, Advertising Color: Nadia Dabibi

Associate Mixers: Catherine Sangiovanni + Chris

Perepezko

Executive Producer, Commercial Sound: Lauren

Boyle

### Samsung "Can I Kick It?"

President: Daniel Bergmann

Deputy MD/Exec Producer:

Mungo Maclagan

Producer: Ash Lockmun

**Associate Creative** Directors: Stephen Icardi, Patrick De Young

Chief Strategy Officer: Samantha Deevy

Senior Strategist: Jessica Neira

**Executive Producers:** Andrew Runkle, Karen McKibben

Associate Producer: Sophia

Koolik

Senior Business Affairs Manager: Katrina Parker President: Agnes Fischer

Creative Practice Lead:

Adam Arnold

Group Account Director:

Nicole Daniel

Account Director: Jean-Luc

Ford

Account Supervisor: Alex

Wyatt

VFX Producers: Bethan Thomas, Cath Daly

Executive Producer: TJ

Sponzo

### **ENTERTAINMENT**

### Eric

Color Assist: Steve Knight Conform Editors: Justin Drew, Aiden Tobin

Picture Post Producers: Kyle Casey, Rebecca Budds

Head of Workflow: Dexter Kong

I/O Coordinator: Paul McCullough

I/O Operator: Ciaran Ahern

Mastering Technicians: Jashesh Jhaveri, Mark Shrapnell-Smith

Data Operators: Chris Munns, Jack Kelly

Head of Episodic Sales: Helen Phelps

### Jim Henson Idea Man

Senior DI Producer: Jeffrey Burgess Reed

Color Assists: Sam Fischer, Whitney Trower

Conform Artist/Editors: Jon Pehlke, Alec Perez, Michelle Perkowski

DI Post Coordinators: Christopher Guzman, Zifeng Zhuo

Mastering Technicians: Chloe Bowman, Andrew Minogue, Jorge Piniella, Gino Volpe

Data Manager: Bianca Sanchez

Support Engineers: Stefan Hueneke, Curt Kuhl, Jerome Raim, Jay Sampson

Imaging Scientists: CJ Julian, Matthew Tomlinson

Executive Producer: Elizabeth Niles

Head of Production: Kevin Vale

Account Executive: Rochelle Brown

Assistant Sound Editor: Kelly Rodriguez

Mix Technician: Alex Stuart Chief Sound Engineer: Avi Laniado

Sound Engineer: Joel Scheuneman

Senior Producer, Sound Post: Lisa McClung

Associate Producer, Sound Post: Madeline Little

Coordinator, Sound Post: Natasha Nobre

### The Acolyte

Lead Finishing Producer: James Reyes

Finishing Producers: Kyle Casey, Kyle Flannery

Finishing Coordinators: Christopher Guzman, Zifeng Zhuo

Finishing VFX Artists: Chris Mackenzie, Rachel Owart

Image Scientists: CJ Julian, Matthew Tomlinson

Technical Project Manager: Randy Main

Mastering Technician: Andrew Minogue

Finishing Engineers: Curt Kuhl, Stefan Hueneke

Senior Dailies Producer: Munah Yahkup

Supervising Dailies Operator: Chris Munns

Dailies Producer: Craig Parker

Dailies Operator: Jordan Altria

Dailies Coordinator: Patrick Barry

Operations Executive: Thom Berryman

Head of Workflow: Dexter Kong

Head of Development: Luke Moorcock

Anchor Operator: Ciaran Ahern

Anchor Production Coordinator: Paul McCullough

Executive Producer: Elizabeth Niles

Workflow Pipeline Engineer: Jerome Raim

Account Executive: James Corless

### **Firebrand**

Post Supervisor: Meg Clark Color Assist: Katie Linard DI Producers: Karolina Dziwinska, Rachael Yates

Assistant DI Producer: Munah Yahkup

DI Assistants: Steve Knight, Sumit Malhotra, Aiden

Head of Workflow: Dexter Kong

Technical Manager: Paul Sisley

Systems Engineers: Adam Powell, Carl Glennon

Mastering Producer: Rob Dowson

Digital Lab Technician: Jashesh Jhaveri

Commercial Director: James Corless

Operations Director: Thom Berryman

### Queenie

Producer: Lisa Walters

Executive Producers: Candice Carty-Williams, Sarah Conroy, Lisa Walters, Steve November

Post Supervisor: Rami Pantoja

Post Coordinator: Cheri Darbon

Color Assists: Maikel Topic, Katie Linard

Post Production Producer: Rachael Yates

DI Editor: Justin Drew

Head of Episodic Sales: Helen Phelps

### **Fantasmas**

Senior DI Producer: James Reyes

Senior Conform Artist: Kevin Szczepanski

Senior Color Assist: David Franzo

### The Young Wife

Post Supervisor: Lauren Orban

Senior DI Producer: James

Reyes Color Assist: David Franzo

Conform Artist: Michelle Perkowski

Associate DI Producer: Nick Gammon

DI Post Coordinators: Bianca Sanchez, Zifeng Zhuo

Dailies Producer: Nick Bussey

Dailies Coordinator: Lauren La Melle

Senior Dailies Colorist: Scott Fox

Dailies Colorist: Elizabeth Hickey

Support Engineers: Curt Kuhl, Jerome Raim, Luke Moorcock, Matt O'Shaughnessy, Stefan Hueneke

Imaging Scientists: CJ Julian, Matthew Tomlinson

Lead Mastering Techician: Andrew Minogue

Mastering Technician: Anil Balram, Gino Volpe, Jorge Piniella, Matt Mamie

Data Manager: Ramos Smith

Supervising Producer: Peter Boychuk

Executive Producer: Elizabeth Niles

Head of Production: Kevin Vale

Account Executive: Rochelle Brown

Mix Technician: Chaim Goodman

Chief Sound Engineer: Avi Laniado

Sound Engineer: Joel Scheuneman

Technical Audio Engineer: Jimmy Cruz

Producer, Sound Post: Lisa McClung

Associate Producer, Sound Post: Madeline Little

### We are Lady Parts, S2

Color Assist: Theresa Crooks

DI Producer: Munah

Yahkup

Producer, ADR: Janice Harrington

### Ren Faire

Post Supervisor: Anthony Shabazz

Senior DI Producer: Rachael Rosenfeld

Color Assist: Sam Fischer Conform Artist/Editor: Michelle Perkowski

Associate DI Producer: Nick Gammon

**DI Post Coordinators:** Christopher Guzman, Zifeng Żhuo

Mastering Technicians: Chloe Bowman, Matt Mamie, Andrew Minogue, Jorge Piniella, Gino Volpe

Data Manager: Bianca Sanchez

Support Engineers: Stefan Hueneke, Curt Kuhl, Randy Main, Jerome Raim, Jay Sampson, Derek Young

Imaging Scientists: CJ Julian, Matthew Tomlinson

Supervising DI Producer: Peter Boychuk

Executive Producer: Elizabeth Niles

Head of Production: Kevin Vale

Account Executive: Rochelle

Brown

### Mother, Couch

Producer: Alex Black Dialogue Editor: Tyler

Newhouse

Chief Sound Engineer: Avi

Laniado

Sound Engineer: Joel

Scheuneman

Technical Audio Engineer:

Jimmy Cruz

Senior Producer, Sound

Post: Lisa McClung

Associate Producer, Sound Post: Madeline Little

Coordinator, Sound Post:

Natasha Nobre

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# HARBOR

### HARBOR MAGAZINE ISSUE 43