



Trust no one. Live longer.

The Experiment

The Cinematography of Horror

STORY

A narrative or story in its broadest sense is anything told or recounted; the telling of a happening or connected series of happenings, whether true or fictitious.

GENRE

Horror is a film genre seeking to elicit a negative emotional reaction from viewers by playing on the audience's primal fears.

STYLE

Nick Perry talks about the Director's Vision which gives a clear and concise insight into the style, influences and visual themes for The Experiment

REPORTS

The pre & post production process with useful insights into how The Experiment was produced.

A short film by Nick Perry



Credits

InDesign Magazine

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Photographs by Adam Davies Photography

This magazine was curated by Nicholas Perry P143985
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Final Major Project Stage Two submission - M4X01557-
Learning Journal





Above: Adam in the role of Alex shot taken in the bank vaults of Quest for coverage, Swansea.

Right: Erin in the role as Jennifer shot taken in Morgans Hotel, Swansea.

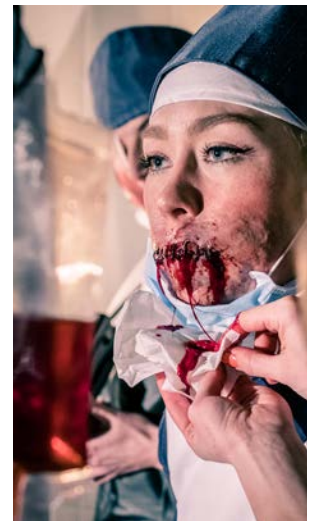


Left: Agata Losa touching up Erin's make-up in the Morgans Hotel, Swansea



Left: Andrea Morgan taking a moment before her scene in Volcano Theatre, Swansea

Right: Last final touches of blood for the trippy surgical scene.



Left: Benjamin in the role of Major Newman protecting Les Kenny as Frank.



Above: Ellen goes over her lines one more time prior to camera rolling. Shot at the Arc, Swansea.



VISION

The Director's Vision Statement

A director's statement is a written proposal of the directors vision for a film. A director's statement is often asked for by producers to see if your vision is right for the job and then by investors or funding body's to help them decide if your vision for the film is worth funding, so it is important that you get it right. Director's statements can be long or quite short, sometimes you are given a page limit and other times it is up to you. A director's statement is ever changing, anytime the script changes so will the statement as posted by Directing-101(October 2016)

Q: What's the story?

A: From the age of eight Alex has been in the state care system and has known nothing but betrayal and rejection his whole life. Alex (28) struggled to make friends and continually fought against the system. That was until he met Jennifer. Jennifer (30) is a bright young woman, who works in a government research facility, which, unbeknown to Alex, specialised in psychological testing on humans for military research.

Alex is persuaded by Jennifer to bring two 'Activist' associates (Cailtyn & Peter) to the centre, under the façade of gathering evidence to expose the facility and its illegal and unethical research. When Jennifer sneaks the group into the research facility, she secretly passes Alex a pill, which

is supposed to protect him from any of the effects of the testing. As the three intruders progress through the facility, it soon becomes apparent that all is not as it seems. Alex starts hearing noises and starts to feel that something is not right. The facility is dimly lit, with only a security light, and the occasional spatter of moonlight through the secure windows.

In another part of the facility a control room is located, which is where the three onlookers, Frank (the facility coordinator), Major Tom Newman and Jennifer observe the experiment. The Major is there to sign off the latest stages/enhancements of this research. Back in the centre the noises are getting louder and the trio move cautiously from lab to lab, soon realising that they are not going to find any incriminat-

ing evidence. As they move along a dark corridor, Alex turns around to check on Caitlyn, but she is not there. Alex and Caitlyn start to double back but, as they do, a horrendous noise vibrates around them. Alex is spooked by something and starts to run, closely followed by Peter. After a while Peter stops and insists on going back to find Caitlyn. When they go back, all that can be found of Caitlyn is a piece of her face, which is illuminated by the torch she was carrying.

In the control room Frank, Jennifer and the Major remain unfazed by what is unfolding on their screen, as they feel that the experiment is only now starting to become interesting. Alex starts to feel sweaty and dizzy, and his vision is blurred. Peter leads the way down the corridor. Alex senses that something, or someone, is following him. He has a flashback, which is a montage of events, the result of which only increases his paranoia. Peter turns left into the next lab, but Alex stops at the entrance. Suddenly Alex feels a presence close to his face. What ever was following them, pauses for a brief moment examines Alex's face then darts into the room to find Peter. At this point,

a terrifying series of noises come from the same room Peter has entered, suggesting that Peter is being attacked.

Alex starts hallucinating and then, panicking, he runs for the exit. It takes him a while to reach the exit and when he gets there he finds the door is locked. Alex knows that there is someone on the other side of the door. He starts shouting for them to open the door. His mind is all over the place and he thinks back on everything that has occurred, in an attempt to determine what is happening to him. Suddenly this becomes clear, as the figure behind the door is joined by two more figures. He pleads for them to let him out, as the terrifying sounds behind him get closer. He suddenly realises that the final betrayal has been from the only person he finally came to trust, Jennifer, and the two people flanking her are Caitlyn and Peter.

Cut to black where we see Alex suddenly wake up from a dream to see Jennifer laying in bed with him. He is relieved and lies back down to reveal one of the nurses from his dream holding his heart. (20 October 2016)



©Adam Davies Photography

RESEARCH

Pre-Production & Research

The first thing that had to be done was lock down the script, however before this could happen a certain amount of research needed to take place. This would be crucial if the script was to be worthy of shooting. In the September of 2016 it was decided that the author would change his idea for the Final Major Project. The original idea was an adaptation which would merge two films, Quadrophonia and Macbeth. After several discussions with the faculty the author chose to select an un-produced script from SimplyScripts.com. Before selecting an appropriate script I read the comments and feedback. This was very useful but the author almost rewrote the original script and after numerous drafts the script was locked. There were a couple of script read throughs prior to shooting which allowed the actors a chance to make the characters their own. (20 April 2017)

Jung believed that universal, mythic characters 'archetypes' exist within the collective unconscious of people the world over. Archetypes represent fundamental human motifs of our experience as we evolved; consequentially, they evoke deep emotions.
(December 2016)



EDITING STYLE

The editing style will be similar to Alfred Hitchcock's Psycho where he builds up to a frenzy with quickening cuts.

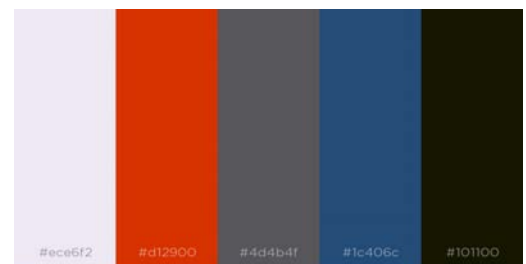
Then lengthens the cuts down to slow the pace down

The cuts will get quicker as the story unfolds and especially when Alex starts hallucinating.

I did the first rough cut with Rhys Warlow refine the edit. It was the correct move to have a separate member of the team finishing the edit. (March 2017)



COLOUR PALETTES





FEAR

Fear is subjective and according to a recent You Gov survey the UK's top five biggest fears are:

1 - Fear of Heights,
2 - Snakes,
3 - Public speaking,
4 - Spiders,
5 - Small spaces with clowns, the dark and blood being the least feared.

But according to The Chapman University's study the fears are

different in the States. 1-Fear of Crowds
2 -Thunder & Lightning
3-Fear of Water
4-Spiders
5-Small spaces

The Experiment intended to explore these fears with the intention of using a couple of them in parts of the film. (6 December 2016)

GENRE

Q: What is the aim of this film?

A:The Experiment is different, the aim of this film is not only to showcase my cinematography skills but to also to take a horror film back to its early roots where fear, suspense and mystery were king. Hitchcock is a prime example of the early horror masters

Q: What Genre best suits this film?

A: The Experiment falls within the psychological horror, which is actually quite a broad statement as there are several sub genres within horror itself. (January 2017)



THEMES, SUBTEXT & ARCHETYPES

Archetypes

According to the psychologist, Carl Gustav Jung, and his concept of archetype in his theory of the human psyche, Alex the main character would fall into either of the archetypal labels of

The Rebel

Motto: Rules are made to be broken

Core desire: revenge or revolution

Goal: to overturn what isn't working

Greatest fear: to be powerless or ineffectual

Strategy: disrupt, destroy, or shock

Weakness: crossing over to the dark side, crime

Talent: outrageousness, radical freedom

The Outlaw is also known as: The rebel, revolutionary, wild man, the misfit, or iconoclast.

Or

The Orphan/Regular Guy or Gal

Motto: All men and women are created equal

Core Desire: connecting with others

Goal: to belong

Greatest fear: to be left out or to stand out from the crowd

Strategy: develop ordinary solid virtues; be down to earth, the common touch

Weakness: losing one's own self in an effort to blend in or for the sake of superficial relationships

Talent: realism, empathy, lack of pretence

The Regular Person is also known as: The good old boy, everyman, the person next door, the realist, the working stiff, the solid citizen, the good neighbour, the silent majority. (November 2016)

CAST

Acting is behaving truthfully under imaginary circumstances.

-Sanford Meisner



ADAM BYARD - has starred along side Minnie Driver in the feature film Hunky Dory and is currently under the management of Mark Jermin but has done this project independently and for expenses only.

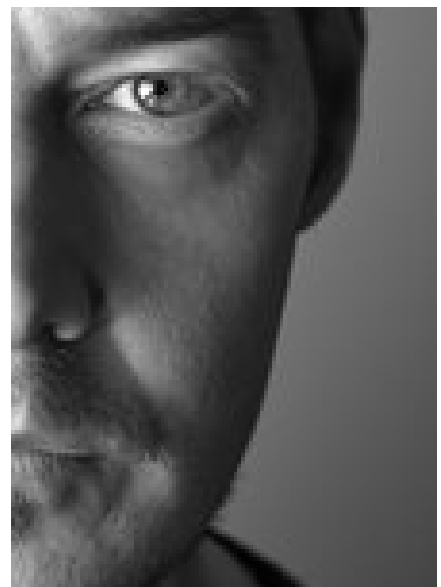
Q: When did you first meet Adam?

A: I met Adam on set filming Excalibur Rising with Tornado Studios, I was the Director of photography and Adam was the lead. We hit it off straight away.

Q: So how did he get involved with The Experiment?

A: I knew I had my final major project to shoot in the early part of 2017, so I asked him if he would play the lead and he immediately said yes. (6 December 2016)

Right:
Stuart McNeill in the role of Peter. Stuart
has recently starred in Viking Legacy
(2015) and Excalibur Rising (2016)





Left:
Erin Leighton as
Jennifer in the
creepy surgical
scene that Alex
stumbles across
(23 March 2017)

Q: What was the time frame for securing the actors?

A: It was important to get the cast in place quite early so we could confirm their availability.

Q: Were there many problems if any?

A: Well, I originally wanted Ellen Thomas to play the lead of Jennifer and I had reached out to her back before Christmas. There was no reply so I had to go ahead and seek another lead, that was Erin Leighton. I had also approached Abbie Hirst to play Caitlyn but she was unable to commit. Then Ellen finally got back to us and we cast her as Caitlyn. In hindsight this worked out better as Caitlyn had a lot more dialogue than Jennifer. (6 December 2016)



Above:
Ellen Jane Thomas as
Caitlyn. Apart from
being a talented actor
Ellen is also a director
who also directed Tin
Dancing Shoes in 2016



Left:
Les Kenny-Green who
plays Frank is known for
his work on The Bank
Job (2008), Midnight
(2005) and The Sky in
Bloom (2013)



Right:
Benjamin Leonides-Morgan
as Major Newman and is also
the executive producer. A
position he purchased through
The Experiments Indiegogo
campaign.

Jennifer

LOCATIONS

The locations needed to be procured and then recce'd. It took over 6 months to finalise the locations as I originally wanted a disused hospital or old building. I initially wanted the Old Boy School at Barry but the owner wasn't prepared to do it for a low cost.

I approach Cefn Coed Hospital and they were nointerested one bit. The final locations were:

Dynevor photography corridor and rooms

Zinco's Lounge

Volcano Theatre

The Arc, Bonamean

Itec, Carmarthen Rd

Morgans Hotel, Swansea

Quest for Coverage

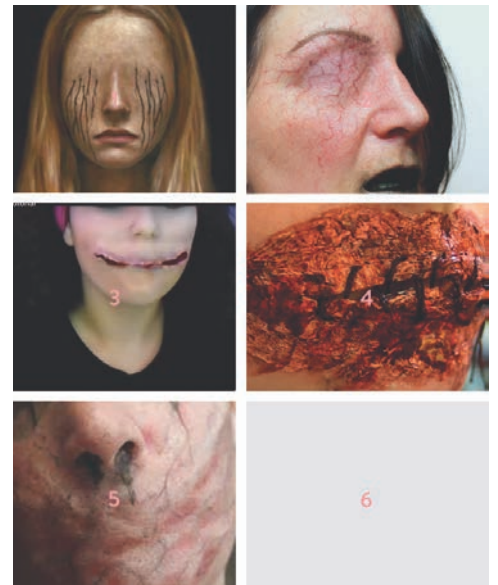
Langland Beach

(October 10 2016)



Left: Adam as Alex's apparition in his trippy sequence.

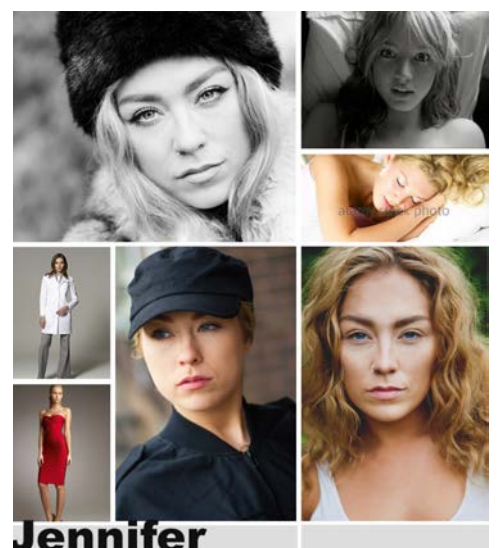
Examples of SFX options discussed with Agata Losa two months prior to shooting. (January 2017)



Overall aesthetic discussed with team on several production meetings prior to shoot (January 2017)



Jennifer had the largest wardrobe so examples had been researched and relayed to production team (February 2017)



Jennifer



Money

Budget & Funding overview

Q: How did you raise the funds?

A: Well, I set about working on the budget and then started an IndieGoGo crowdfunding campaign.

Q: How does that work?

A: You create a great pitch and supply as much information about your project to potential investors.

Q: Do you have an example of your pitch?

A: Yes.

WHY IS THIS FILM IMPORTANT

Although 'The Experiment' is my graduation piece, it is also intended for submission to National and International Festivals. In this film I have the unique role of writer, director and cinematographer. Therefore I am in the perfect position to experiment with the use of the more traditional aspects of horror, such as suspense, editing style and aesthetics. Many modern horror films over use the 'jump scare', but we believe that 'The Experiment' will leave you breathless and on the edge of your seat, without the excessive use of this technique.

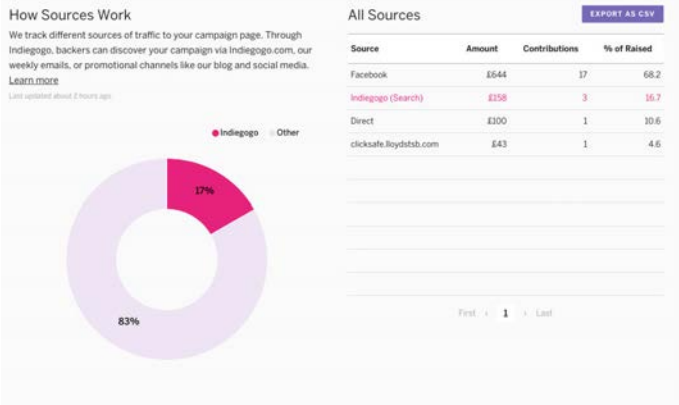
WHY WE NEED YOUR HELP: "HOW WILL THE FUNDS THAT I CONTRIBUTE BENEFIT THE PRODUCTION?"

The aim of this campaign is to raise enough funding to successfully produce this film without compromising the quality of the actors or locations. After careful consideration of our production budget, we agreed that additional funding was vital to take the project to the next level. I have personally invested £500 in this project so far.

However, the overall budget for 'The Experiment' is £2000, so we are seeking your generous support to help raise the remaining £1500. Nearly 50% of the budget will be spent on actors, of which there are eight. The remainder of the budget will be split between VFX/SFX, catering, location fees, insurance, festival submission fees and perks.

Q: Did you reach your goal?

A: Not quite but we did achieved 65% of the overall funding applied for.



Top Left: Campaign activity
Top Right: Sources
Right: Progress Overview



The Experiment short film Budget Breakdown					
Account #	Category	Notes	Estimated Total Expense	Actual Total Expense	Difference
Budget Breakdown Summary					
1000	Pre-Production		£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
2000	Purchases		£3.00	£302.83	£299.83
3000	Equipment		£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
4000	Production		£687.50	£768.97	£81.47
5000	Post-Production		£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
6000	Marketing		£42.70	£10.00	£-32.70
7000	Distribution		£32.00	£0.00	£-32.00
8000	Miscellaneous		£76.52	£108.18	£31.66
Grand Total			£841.72	£1,189.98	£348.26

Left: Budget Breakdown of The Experiment todate.



CREW

Handbags at thirty paces?



Above: The cast and crew of The Experiment taken on day 2 of the shoot.

Q: How would you say the group dynamics were?

A: Well I'd have to say the cast & crew worked extremely well together. I was acutely aware of certain crew members experience but because we had several production meetings prior to the shoot almost everyone upped their game.

Q: So, did anything go wrong?

A: Yes!

Q: Would you like to elaborate?

A: The audio was almost totally unusable.

Q: What happened?

A: The boom operator had never done that role before and the sound recordist who was filling out the sound report failed to inform us of any issues.

Q: What did you do then?

A: I wanted to see if the sound designer could use what we had firstly to see if we had an issue. So it appears we can rescue the sound from the onboard audion from the camera. It will be a conversation I have with the two crew members involved but, more of a heads up than a roasting. It's difficult when to have a go at someone when they are helping you out!

KEY PRODUCTION CREDITS

Production Company - Mise En Scene Films

Original Story by - James Cartlette

Screenplay by - Nick Perry

Script Consultant - Kerry Norton

Director - Nick Perry

Producers - Katie Ward & Nick Perry

Executive Producers - Benjamin Leonides-Morgan

Director Of Photographer - Nick Perry

Editor - Rhys Warlow

Sound Design - Gethin Woolcock

COUNTRY OF PRODUCTION

United Kingdom

Date of Completion - 2017

Format - Digital

Ratio - 1:85:1

Duration - 12 mins

Genre - Psychological Horror



PRODUCTION

REPORTS, UPDATES & RELEASES



Right: The director trying to figure out the best movement for this shot.

Conclusion:

Now the film has been completed one can reflect on the process, from the conception through to delivery. The initial plan was to get a director in for this film but it was suggested that because I had written and produced the film it made absolute sense that I directed it. This was a challenge and one that I would not take on lightly going forward. I am equally comfortable both directing and being the cinematographer but not together. There are certain areas in the film that lacked a little attention, which has resulted in extra postproduction.

Another initial disappointment was the audio therefore going forward I will allow a larger proportion of the budget for a professional sound team.

The sound design has saved the day and with the overall sound design works well.

I have enjoyed the whole process and while I was initially drawn to the technical side I also feel a calling toward production....

All photographs courtesy Adam Davies Photography



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Trust no one. Live longer.



THE EXPERIMENT

A FILM BY **NICK PERRY** IN ASSOCIATION WITH **UWTSO** PRESENTS **ADAM BYARD ERIN LEIGHTON STUART MCNEILL ELLEN-JANE THOMAS**

LES KENNY-GREEN HELEN MORGAN PAUL BRAYLEY "THE EXPERIMENT"

MUSIC BY **GETHIN WOOLCOCK** MAKE UP ARTIST **AGATA LOSA** GRAPHIC DESIGNER **REBEKAH HERNANDEZ- REES**

ART DIRECTOR **MIRIAM NOSEWORTHY** EDITED BY **RHYS WARLOW**

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY **NICK PERRY** VISUAL EFFECTS BY **VAUGHAN WILLIAMS** EXECUTIVE PRODUCER **BENJAMIN LEONIDES MORGAN**

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR **ALEXANDER WILLIAMS** PRODUCED BY **KATIE MORGAN** WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY **NICK PERRY**