

BIFAN 부산국제판타스틱영화제
BUCHEON INTERNATIONAL
FANTASTIC FILM FESTIVAL
2020.7.9—7.16

FILMETS
Badalona Film Festival

HollyShorts
FILM FESTIVAL

A FILM BY NINA KOTYANTZ

PRODUCED BY ARA WOLAND

PHANTOM VALLEY





LOGLINE

In the desolate countryside, haunted by recurrent dreams, a young drifter finds himself at the borderlands between the living and the dead.



genre	DRAMA FANTASY
country year	USA 2020
duration	21'13"
shooting format	SUPER 16 MM
exhibition format	DCP PRORES
aspect ratio	1.66 : 1
picture	COLOR
sound	5.1 STEREO
language	ENGLISH

SYNOPSIS

Carl Milton, 30s, is a drifter. Though once a painter, he has become an aimless wanderer haunted by recurrent images in his dreams and in his paintings. When a black wolf-dog from one of his sketches materializes, Carl follows it to a mysterious farmhouse, where he meets an old Medicine Woman and her young godchild, Helena. The Woman offers Carl temporary abode and employment. Weary from his journeys, and mesmerized by the likeness of this place to the haunting visions of his dreams, Carl accepts the offer. In the course of his stay the world of his dreams and the reality of the countryside mix, leading him into the borderlands between the living and the dead.



DIRECTOR'S NOTE

PHANTOM VALLEY is a story of a becoming -- a becoming of an artist. I have long been fascinated by the idea that our lives, our emotions, our actions, our sense of who we are and who we are to become are propelled and influenced by forces invisible, mysteriously lurking underneath our conscious self. Whether they originate from our own psyche or spring forth from the collective unconscious, or are the engraved traces of our ancestral and genetic memory, they draw us closer, step by step, to a seemingly predetermined path towards the purpose of our existence.

Within this dance of interdependent forces, known and unknown, there is a deep reciprocity between what we create and how the very things we create, inevitably create us. The ideas, the images, the feelings, the sounds, coming out of the hidden depths of our psyche, end up leading us towards realizations, discoveries of our potentialities, and transformations: in other words, becomings.

In PHANTOM VALLEY I wanted to explore what happens when an artist allows himself to be led by the very work he is compelled to create, delving deep into his own unconscious mind, and letting the images, the feelings, the vague understandings create circumstances in which he comes face to face with the very purpose of his life. And at that crossroad make the decision to either jump into the fire so that out of the ashes he can recreate himself and embody the journey of his life, or to walk away and lead a smoldering existence.





A WOLAND-KOTYANTZ PRODUCTION

CAST

Carl Milton

Medicine Woman

Helena

Wolf-Dog

ARA WOLAND

JANE EDWINA SEYMOUR

LOGAN LAUREL

DRINY

CREW

written | directed | produced by

produced by

cinematography by

co-produced by

associate producers

music & sound design by

theme composed by

production design by

art direction by

colorist

visual effects by

NINA KOTYANTZ

ARA WOLAND

SHADI CHAABAN

FRANCISCO PEREIRA COUTINHO

HRIPSIME KOTOYAN

HALEY MCHATTON

THOMAS HALLAL

AARON DRAKE

ARA WOLAND

NINA KOTYANTZ

GENEVIEVE PARKES

NATE SEYMOUR

PETER BAS





NINA KOTYANTZ – WRITER | DIRECTOR



A child of a drama theatre family, Nina Kotyantz is an Armenian American writer-director who grew up with immense fascination for the depths of the human psyche. Curious to understand what makes us who we are, she went on to explore the human condition through various artistic and academic forms, studying memory, identity, dreams and the unconscious mind. She holds an MTS in existential anthropology and psychoanalytic theory from Harvard University, and an MFA in film directing from Loyola Marymount University. Her short films have screened at various festivals. Her most recent film-- PHANTOM VALLEY --shot on super 16mm, premiered at the prestigious Bucheon International Fantastic Film Festival 2020. Nina is currently developing a feature script, continuing with themes of dreams and the unconscious mind.

WWW.NINA.KOTYANTZ.COM



ARA WOLAND – PRODUCER | ACTOR



Ara Woland is an Armenian-American actor, producer and musician. He started acting for theatre at the age of ten and transitioned into film acting in his twenties. Deeply committed to the art of cinema and to telling unique stories, Ara also produced both short and feature films. His work has screened at numerous festivals worldwide, including Karlovy Vary Film Festival, Moscow International Film Festival, and at iconic establishments such as the Lincoln Center NYC, Egyptian Theatre Hollywood, and Harvard University. As a composer, Ara has written music for several short films. Ara's most recent film-- PHANTOM VALLEY --shot on super 16mm, premiered at the prestigious Bucheon International Fantastic Film Festival 2020.

WWW.ARAWOLAND.COM



SHADI CHAABAN – CINEMATOGRAPHER



Raised between Belgium and Lebanon, Shadi Chaaban is a narrative-focused cinematographer based in Los Angeles. He draws inspiration from Renaissance arts and Greek mythology as well as from life experiences in a mundane post-war childhood. With an MFA from the American Film Institute, he seeks to create films that stick true to what he wishes to share with other people and to what align well with his philosophies. His career took him on worldwide travels from Mexico to The Reunion Islands and continents in between, shooting projects in the likes of *MIRRORS* -- an art film for Yves Saint Laurent, *ALL THIS VICTORY* -- his first feature shot in Lebanon, and working with directors like Andrew Thomas Huang and Elia Suleiman.

WWW.SHADICHAABAN.COM



AARON DRAKE – COMPOSER



With a background in performance art, video art, sound installation, curation, and music for dance, Aaron Drake has lent his scoring talents to a wide range of projects. Among them, the critically acclaimed documentary about Robin Williams, *Robin's Wish*, the coming of age NETFLIX Original *XOXO*, the seminal documentary on NY Hardcore band, Agnostic Front, *The Godfathers of Hardcore* as well as TV projects including *Live in Front of a Studio Audience* with Jimmy Kimmel and Norman Lear. In addition to his catalog of film and TV scores, Drake runs *Sound in Space*, an incubator for composers, music producers and musicians to pair up and work collaboratively with directors, producers and agencies on visual media projects.

WWW.SOUNDINSPACE.LA

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