



- TREATMENT - **UNEARTHED**

WHAT IF THE THING YOU FEARED
THE MOST TURNED OUT TO BE TRUE?

A SHORT FILM BY
RISHI VASUDEV

2019

THE DEATH OF A CHANCE ENCOUNTER FORCES A MAN TO
INVESTIGATE FEARS OVER THE POWER OF HIS
THOUGHTS.

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY RISHI VASUDEV

IN PART FULFILMENT OF THE MA IN FILM MAKING
UNIVERSITY OF SUSSEX

2019

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SYNOPSIS

David is a man haunted by the traumatic childhood memory of his father's death. While out walking he discovers a nest of distinctively marked beetles. As he looks at them a runner Paul bumps into him as he goes past. As David leaves the park he sees Paul collapsed and being attended to by paramedics. Thus begins David's desperate attempts to find out what happened to this stranger. He has no success until he happens to meet Paul's father Thomas who tells David that Paul died from a heart attack caused by an underlying heart defect.

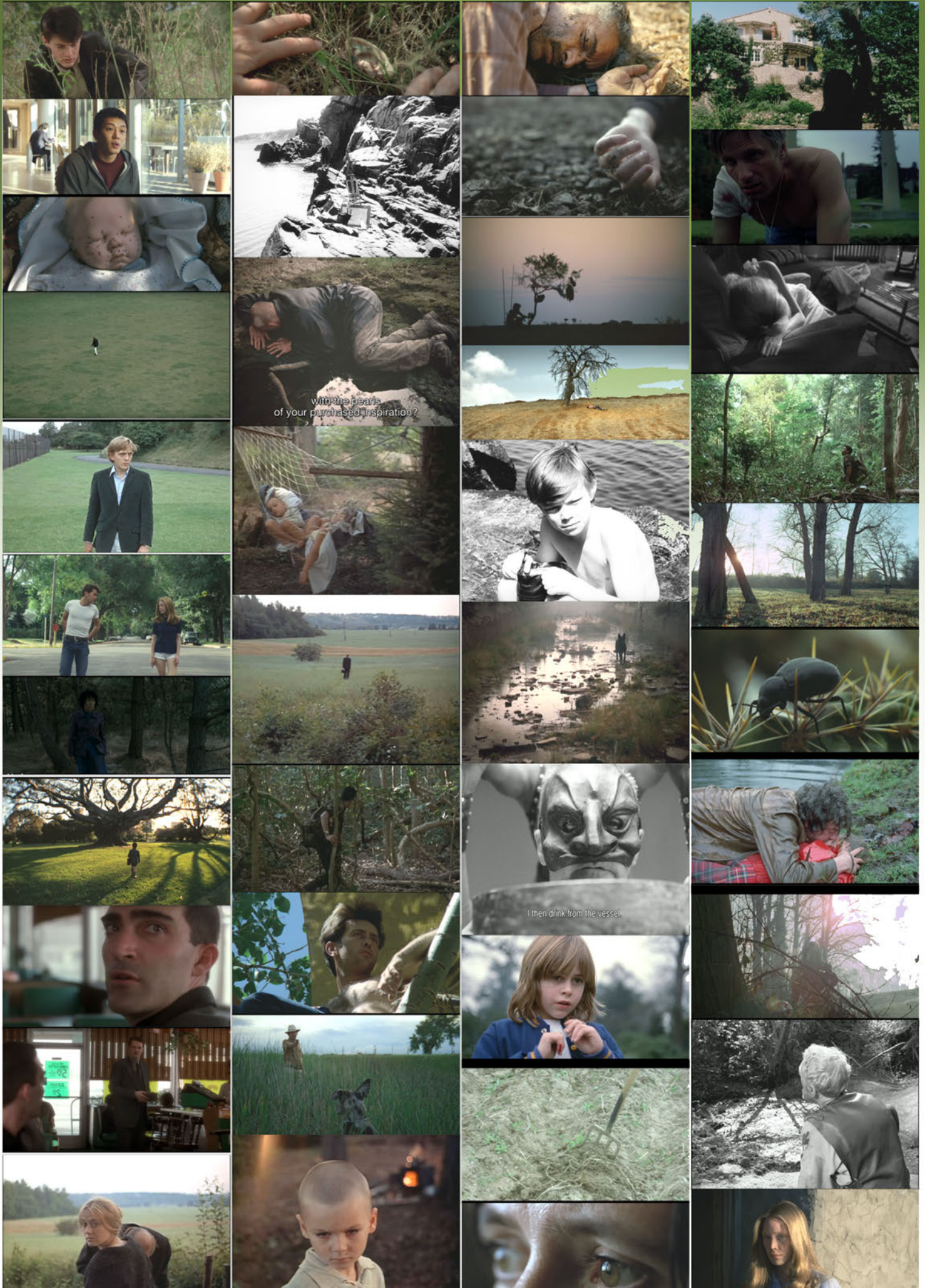
Later in the week David is out on a date with his friend Laura and they witness a Hypnotist's performance during which the subject under hypnosis manages to perform a feat of extraordinary strength by focusing her mind. This event terrifies David and makes him recall the memory of his father's death where as a young child David was taking his anger out on his father by squashing beetles when suddenly his father dropped dead of a heart attack. The next day Claire takes David out for a picnic during which David watches a young child run off into the area where the beetles nest is. As David watches the child kill the insects he closes his eyes and concentrates as if he is performing some sort of mantra. He is initially relieved when he sees that nothing untoward happens to the boy but as he goes back past him in the arms of his father David is filled with sadness.

The next day David meets Thomas in a café. Thomas mentions seeing bite marks on Paul's body in the funeral home and shows David a picture of Paul in which he bears a striking resemblance to David's dead father. David tells Thomas to meet him in the park later as he has some information about how Paul died. At the park David is covered in dirt and highly animated and explains his theory that Paul's death was somehow caused by a combination of David being angry at him and some of the beetles being killed. He wants to show Thomas a demonstration but cannot find any beetles and has been digging up the ground in search of them. Paul tells Thomas that he is clearly disturbed and begins to leave. As he is going David sees a troop of the beetles walk past him. He instinctively kills them one by one with the shovel in his hand and hears the thud of a body fall to the ground.

MOODBOARD

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**The death of a chance encounter forces a man
to investigate fears over the power of his thoughts.**



WRITER/DIRECTOR: RISHI VASUDEV

DIRECTOR'S BIO

Rishi is a writer/director from London. After directing several student theatre productions whilst studying for a BA in English Literature at the University of Sussex, he ventured into film production and embarked on an MA in Filmmaking. Having written and directed productions throughout his course this will be his graduation film.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

As we go about our busy regimented lives it's very easy to forget how sharply curated our perception and experience of life is. It only takes one extra step or different conclusion about how the world operates before life can become terrifying. Of course our past experiences play a huge role in determining perception and while one event can barely register for one person it can have life changing consequences for another. I wanted therefore to tell a story where a character carries a trauma that has subtly influenced and altered their perception of the world. These changes are subconscious, hiding just beneath the surface of their regular life until the event of the film causes their full devastating impact to be realized. Once made conscious, every experience further validates their fears, entangling them more and more in the trauma of their past until the present is just a stage for past experiences to be played out again.

I wanted to set up a seemingly typical murder investigation only for it to be ostensibly resolved by the end of the first act. That however is only the beginning of the real investigation, as the present become the means to investigate the trauma of the past. As the main character becomes increasingly entangled, he loses agency to his trauma and paranoia and the story becomes increasingly fatalistic and circular and the audience experiences the world of the main character in which past and present exist and are experienced concurrently. In this way I wanted the film's form and narrative to reflect and be the means by which the audience experience the mental state of the character. The aim was not to create some sort of intricate puzzle of past and present for the audience to solve. Rather I wanted to leave ruptures and fissures in the coherence and consistency of what the character experiences to reflect the inconsistencies and incoherence of life itself and especially the mind of the character. I wanted the audience to experience the desperation and vulnerability of a character so deep in their paranoia that everything they experience becomes another means and weapon to further trap and torture them.

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CHARACTER BIOS

David (29)

David's life has been shaped by the traumatic death of his father when he was a little boy. He has managed to find a way to cope with the trauma and has gone on to have a successful life but he has never really come to terms with it. This has resulted in the development of his fears about the power of thought as well as making him somewhat timid and pensive. He is deeply disturbed by the death of the runner Paul and is desperately looking for a way to free himself from the fears, thoughts and trauma it has unearthed.

Laura (29)

Laura is David's work colleague. Outwardly she presents like a confident extrovert but is often trying to mask her own fears and insecurities. She sees some of herself in the weaknesses of others and so is drawn to nurture and protect them. She has known David for a while and they had an instant friendship that has developed over time into an attraction. This helps motivate but is subordinate to her desire to help and protect him.

Thomas (55)

Thomas is frank and forthright but has an honest and sincere disposition that combined with his self-effacing humility means he usually gets on with people and sees the best in them. He is grieving deeply for the loss of his son and does not have a great support network around him. He finds some comfort in David's company and is somewhat drawn to this surrogate child figure.

Hypnotist (32)

The Hypnotist is charismatic and a great performer and enjoys the power he has over his subjects. However he is also bored and somewhat frustrated with his situation in life. He has started behaving increasingly unethically during his performances, putting his subjects in increasingly difficult and traumatic situations for his own amusement, both as a means of distraction and as an outlet for his own frustrations.



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PRODUCTION INFORMATION

Production Type: Independent / Student

Project length: Short Film (20 minutes)

Shooting format: 4K Digital

Posted on: Sunday 21 July 2019

Production location: London, England

Production Company: Gloved Hand Productions/
University of Sussex MFM Department

Director/Writer: Rishi Vasudev

Producer: Rishi Vasudev

Audition Location: London TBC

Shooting Location: Greater London

Compensation: Travel costs, Meals provided, Varied pay

Email: glovedhandproductions@gmail.com

KEY DATES

Auditions:

August 2, 2019 2.00PM – 8:00 PM

August 3, 2019 10:00AM – 8:00 PM

August 4, 2019 10:00AM- 8.00 PM

(Please note all auditions will be given a specific time within this window)

Call Backs (if required): August 7th & 8th, 2019
4:00PM – 10:00 PM

Shooting Starts: Aug 26, 2019

Shooting Ends : Aug 30, 2019



A
Gloved Hand Production

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SCREENPLAY & RISHI VASUDEV
STORY

DIRECTOR/ RISHI VASUDEV
PRODUCER

