

LAUREN BABREE

COSTUME ADA ZANDITON COUTURE

PRESS KIT



LIVE WIRE
CREATIVE
STUDIOS

**WHEN YOU SLEEP
THEY WAKE UP**

PSYCHE

WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY

CAN AKSOY

PSYCHE IS A 2022 EXPERIMENTAL EXERCISE CONCEIVED, WRITTEN, DIRECTED, AND PRODUCED BY CAN AKSOY AND STARRING LAUREN BABRÉE. THE PLOT, WHICH ESSENTIALLY TELLS A TURBULENT SELF-DISCOVERY STORY SET IN A DREAM-LIKE ALTERNATIVE REALITY, IS BASED ON THE DUALITY OF SLEEPING AND WAKING, MIND AND MATTER. THE UNSETTLING NARRATIVE BLURS THE BARRIER BETWEEN THE PROJECTIONS OF THE MIND -IMPULSES, URGES, EMOTIONS- AND THE EXTERNAL, WAKING WORLD.

PSYCHE'S NARRATIVE STRUCTURE IS BUILT AROUND THE REPRESSED MEMORIES AND INSTINCTUAL DESIRES OF ITS PROTAGONIST.

DREAMS ARE THE NOURISHMENT OF AKSOY'S FILM.

SYNOPSIS

Every time a man falls asleep, a stranger, a mysterious young woman (**Lauren Babrée**), awakens in the dark and finds herself falling down a deep well. While falling slowly, she undergoes a barrage of random, confusing images and quirky juxtapositions. When she reaches the bottom of the well, a humanoid figure who doesn't have a gender emerges amidst the gloom. Afterwards, the nocturnal fantasies of the man become by turns vivid, alluring, and hypnotic. As he discovers that all he sees are the blurry reminiscences of the stranger in his dreams, the fragments of these memories lead the dreamer to begin a process of self-discovery.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

*"Who in the world am I? Ah, that's the great puzzle."
- Lewis Carroll, Alice in Wonderland*

Over the last few years, I have been exploring who I am and who I want to become, yielding empowerment from both. In 2017, I relocated to Oxford, the UK to study MArch in Advanced Architectural Design. The change of scenery significantly broadened my outlook.

My experience at Andrew Holmes Studio at Oxford Brookes University led me to discover means of representing my ideas using the intrinsic architecture of cinematic expression and the cinematographic essence of architectural experience, which were not merely characterisations of my thinking but acted as generators of powerful emotions in the viewers. I fully immersed myself in the culture of the folk horror genre under the theme "Nightfall". In folk horror, the crowd destroys the individual; this reminds me strongly of the society I was living in.

My penchant for cinema comes from a deeply personal place. Growing up in a small, conservative-leaning city with minimal diversity in Turkey, I only felt truly free and being myself when I was at the cinema, crossing space and time. My grandfather, one of my favourite people in the whole wide world, used to take me to see a whole range of great films, which were so simple, so direct, so unmistakably true, without any complicated plots, or meanings, at our beautiful, local cinema, now a deserted building, every week. He first introduced me to the magic of cinema. At a very early age, I developed a strong interest in films and cinema opened a window into wondrous fantasy worlds for me. Any cinematic experience motivates me a journey into the past, and yet every time, I dissolve from present-day London to the Turkish town of my birth.

Furthermore, I am interested in films as outward expressions of the unconscious. My profound interest in films influenced by psychoanalysis started to develop after I joined a series of masterclasses on cinema and psychoanalysis led by surrealist director, writer, and artist Tan Tolga Demirci in 2020. In this regard,

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

my willingness to discover and encounter the incommunicado space within myself has allowed me to connect with people through visual storytelling, revealing to them that an individual's internal and external realities exist in a dialectical, paradoxical, and multifaceted relation. Very much influenced by the psychoanalytic theories of Carl Gustav Jung, Sigmund Freud, and Jacques Lacan, in my most recent film, PSYCHE, I examine repression, dreams, and memories. Similar to my previous short film, SILENCIO (Official Selection, Nomination for Best Experimental Film, Oxford International Short Film Festival, 2019), PSYCHE focuses on the complexities of the nature of the mind and human development. It takes a deep dive into the unconscious mind.

PSYCHE brings the invisible, the foundational and boundless existence of an individual, into visibility. For the viewer, PSYCHE is itself a projection of the scenario in which their desires, fantasies, memories, and repressed feelings take place. Thus, my ultimate goal is to get the audience to be invoked in the film by projecting their inner realities onto the screen.

To create PSYCHE, I have been gifted with the talent of the cast, Lauren Babrée. Together, we made PSYCHE.

Can Aksoy, Director

CAN AKSOY

WRITER/EDITOR/DIRECTOR

Can Aksoy is a Turkish-born and London-based architect, interdisciplinary artist, photographer, filmmaker, and avid explorer of stories having a particular interest in the horror genre, the cinematic avant-garde, and psychoanalysis. With a diverse background ranging from architecture and animation to digital design, Aksoy's iconoclastic approach to art employs a variety of tools to tell compelling stories through his work. He is inspired by the world where all-encompassing visual experiences have the power to influence the human psyche beyond comprehension.

Aksoy instigated his own eponymous studio in London, the UK in 2019 to work on new ways of creating a relationship between architecture and digital design with storytelling. He writes genre-bending stories that burrow under the viewer's skin and mark their heart. He works globally with brands, organisations, and research groups on new ways of designing abstract and cinematic narrations and visualising alternative realities; from concept ideation and art direction to prototyping and production.

In 2019, Aksoy's neo-noir short film *Silencio* was nominated for Best Experimental Film at the Oxford International Short Film Festival (OXISFF). In 2020, he collaborated with creative director and scenographer Shania Selvendran on the short film *Hoax Meeting* which was selected and screened at the Desert Festival in Australia. His photographic work has been featured in publications, including PhotoVogue.

Aksoy received a Master of Architecture in Advanced Architectural Design from Oxford Brookes University (Oxford, the UK) and a Bachelor of Architecture from Middle East Technical University (Ankara, Turkey).

IMDb: https://www.imdb.com/name/nm12805630/?ref=tt_ov_dr
PhotoVogue: www.vogue.com/photovogue/photographers/264877

CAN AKSOY (cont.)

WRITER/EDITOR/DIRECTOR

FILMOGRAPHY

2022 *Psyche*, 7-minute digital film, London, UK

2021 *House of Mercy*, 5-minute digital film (*in collaboration with Phil Curry, Jeannie Clarke, Erin Pollitt, Pranali Kalkar, Corina Andrian, Marine Tournet, Cat Lawther, Rut Nache*)

2020 *Hoax Meeting*, 4-minute digital film, London, UK (*in collaboration with dancer/visual artist Shania Selvendran*)

2020 *Malevolent*, 2-minute digital film, London, UK

2020 *Faye*, 1-minute digital film, London, UK

2019 *Phantasmagoria*, 4-minute digital film, Brighton, UK

2018 *The Flying Elephant*, Oxford, UK (*post-production*)

2018 *Flow*, 4-minute digital animation

2017 *Silencio*, 7-minute digital film, Oxford, UK

2014 *U-Turn*, 7-minute digital film, Istanbul, Turkey

2013 *Toc*, 8-minute digital film, Ankara, Turkey

2013 *This Is My Year*, 90-second digital film, Ankara, Turkey

LAUREN BABRÉE

ACTRESS

Lauren Babrée from New York City grew up acting and modelling. She graduated from The New York Conservatory for Dramatic Arts and has performed on Broadway and in film. She has worked in New York, Los Angeles, and many other places in the United States, as well as Canada and the United Kingdom/rest of Europe.

Babrée currently resides in Italy where she had her twin boys in January of this year 2022 with her Italian partner and is currently trying to make her way back to work again in Europe/the United Kingdom, and/or internationally in the States/elsewhere.

FILMOGRAPHY

2022 *Psyche* (Short)
2018 *Voyeur Killings* (TV Series)
2017 *War for Lina* (Short)
2017 *Mac Daddy's Vegas Adventure* (Feature Film)
2016 *Stay on Edge: The Making of Monsta Ma\$h* (Documentary Short)
2014 *Gringolandia* (TV Series)
2014 *Holocaust Cannibal* (Video)
2013 *The Green Inferno* (Feature Film)
2007 *DOA - Daughters of America* (Video)

IMDb: www.imdb.com/name/nm3840061/?ref=tt_cl_t_12

ADA ZANDITON

COSTUME DESIGNER

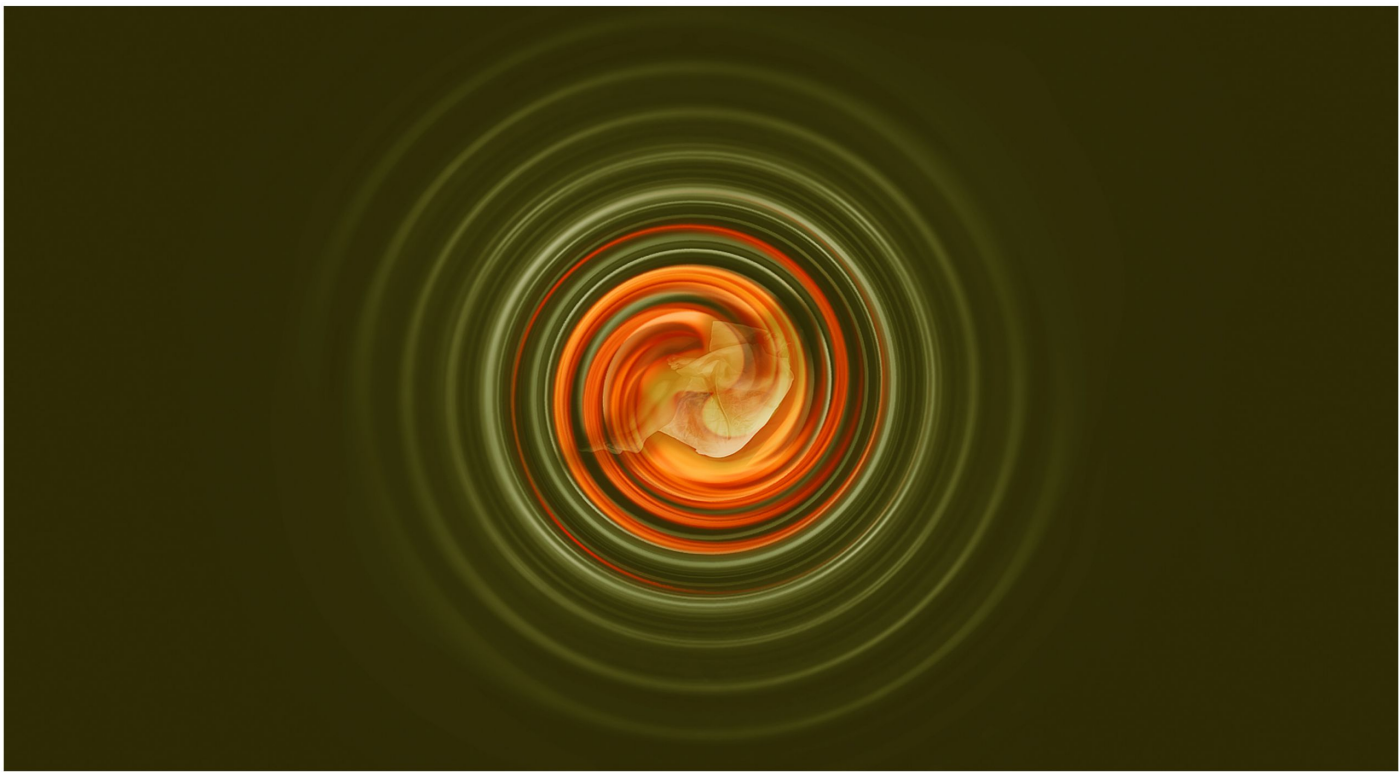
Ada Zanditon, born and based in London, is an award-winning fashion designer and alumna of the London College of Fashion. Ada Zanditon Couture is the brand for those who seek avant-garde spiritual kink. To wear Ada Zanditon Couture is to harness the power of your inner warrior deity, to honour the goddess, god or non-binary deity within, to manifest your divine energy within your physical being, expressing your unique and universal consciousness. Ada creates for all Deities, with a Queer/sex/body-positive femme perspective.

Ada Zanditon Couture is worn by bold individuals, including Ariana Grande, Ava Max, A'Whora, Allie X, Caroline Vreeland, Carly Rae Jepsen, Chrissy Chlapecka, Cheddar Gorgeous, Crystal (Drag Race UK), Daphne Guinness, Drake's video NICE FOR WHAT, Justine Skye, Kate Nash, Kimberly Wyatt, King Princess, Lil' Kim, Mariah Carey, Miles Jai, Munroe Bergdorf, Poppy, Willam and Tinashe.

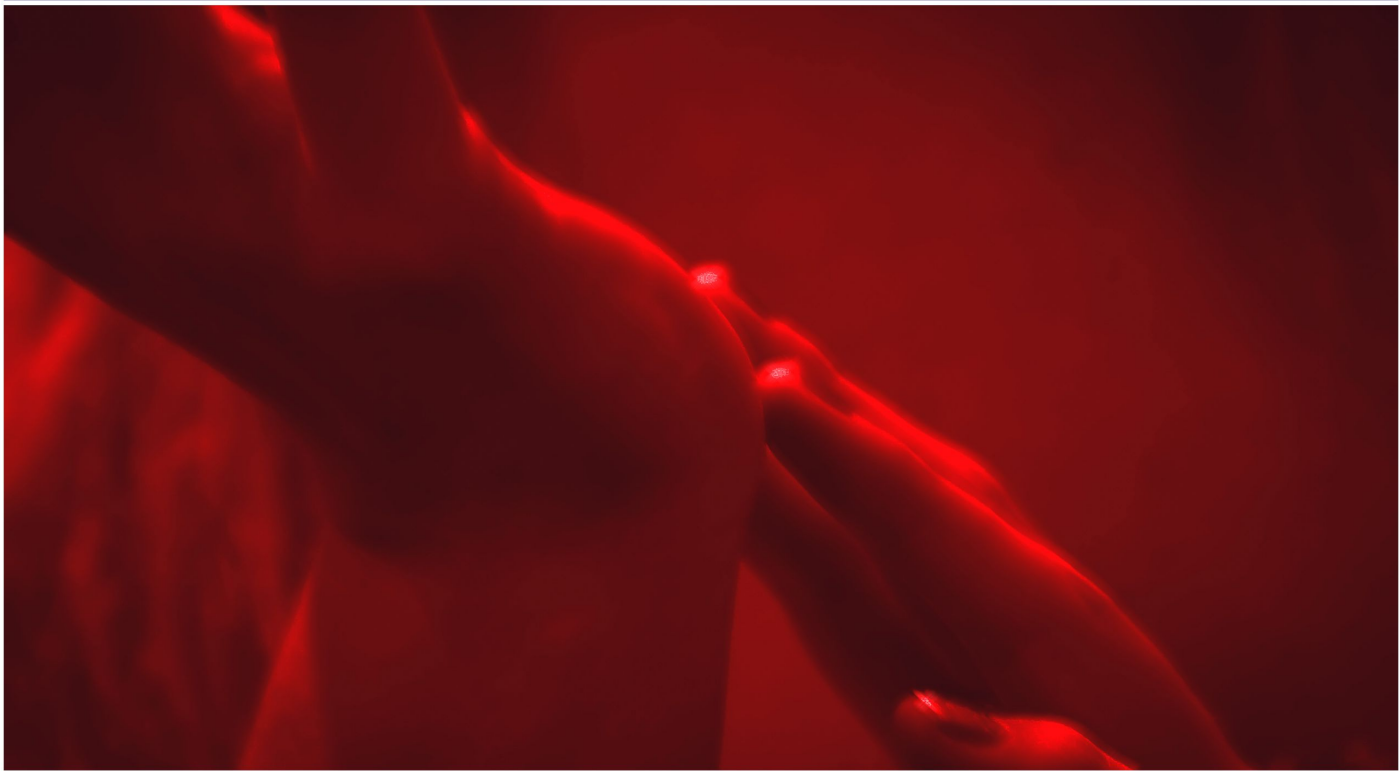
The modular construction techniques that Ada Zanditon spent years developing make each sculptural piece a world-exclusive design and is hand constructed and can be embellished with crystals in her Atelier in East London from the finest quality materials including leather, upcycled leather and PVC. Harnesses and accessories are made to order for each of our individual clients. Zanditon also works on bespoke (custom) projects including bridal, corsetry and costumes for stage and film.

Ada Zanditon Couture collaborated with The London School of Make-Up and lead artist Astrid Kearney to present Spring Summer 2019 collection at Fashion Scout (Freemasons' Hall September 2018) during London Fashion Week. In 2015, Zanditon was commissioned by Selfridges, London to produce one of their world-renowned Christmas window displays, and featured in the store's Christmas campaign film, Journey to the Stars. Zanditon has been featured in a wide range of press globally including British, Russian, Italian and Indian Vogue, LOVE, WWD, Wonderland, i-D, The Observer, Nylon Magazine and many more.

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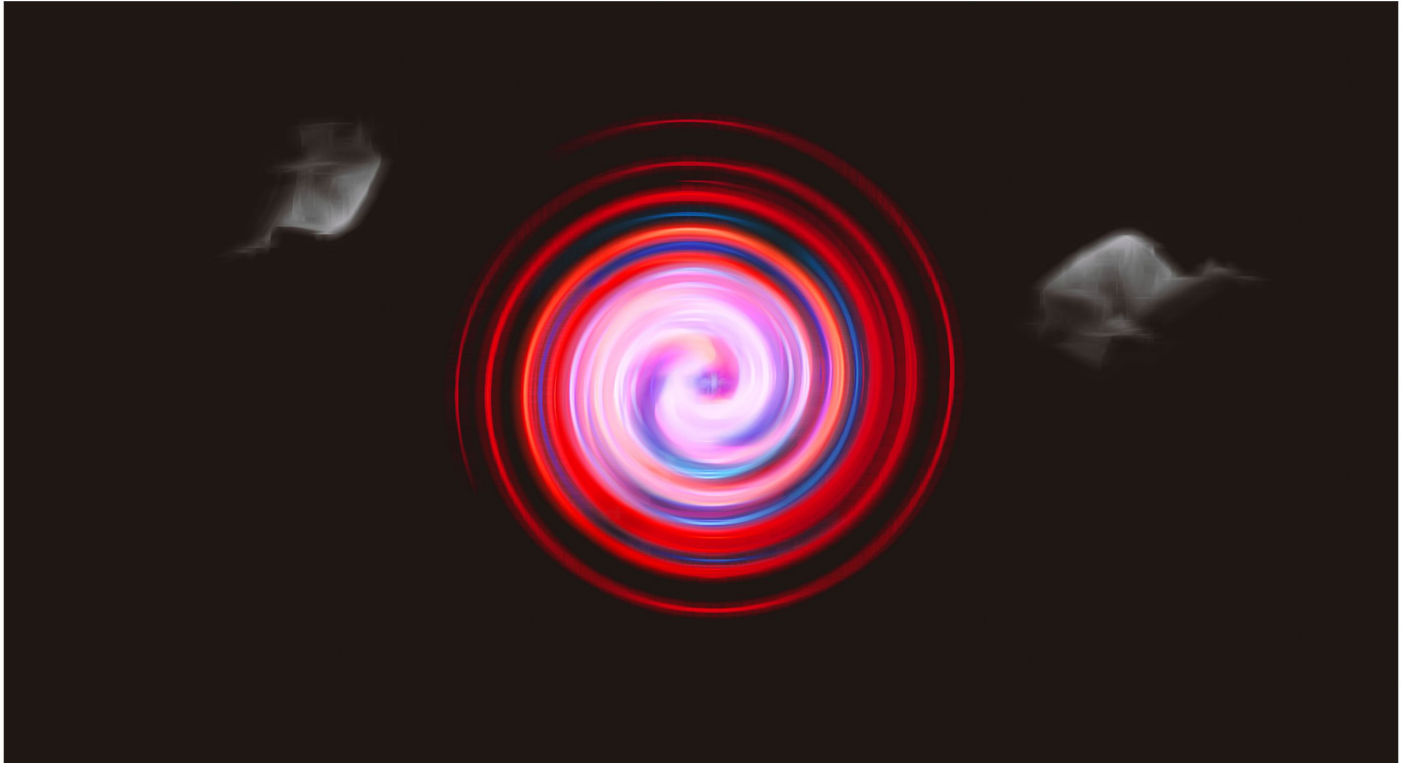
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Forgetting hurts.



Remembering hurts.



LAUREN BABREE

COSTUME ADA ZANDITON COUTURE

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