

ÆSTRAL  
runaway

PRESS KIT



RUNAWAY is a 3 minute music video utilizing the song RUNAWAY by German electronic artist ÆSTRAL.

#### SYNOPSIS

A woman kneels in a crumbling ruin and wakes, as if from a dream, to see the wasteland surround her. Without warning, a young girl appears, reaching out to the woman and beckoning her to follow. She has something to show her.

The woman follows the girl as she runs through all manner of different landscapes; more crumbling ruins, de-saturated forests, and desolate fields. Eventually, the woman catches up to the girl. For the first time, she glimpses what the girl is trying to show her; a reality that she struggles to accept. Eventually, she rejects it

The girl beckons her once more; reaching her hand out to the woman, begging her to see. The woman follows the girl once again, though she is more hesitant this time. The girl eventually leads the woman to a decrepit barn, where she is confronted by the girl's dead body. Shocked, she tries to run, but is then confronted with the truth - she is the one who is dead. Both the girl and the woman's experiences mingle, colliding in a black and red void of memory and denial. Eventually, the woman has to accept the fact that she and the girl are one and the same, and the pair hold hands and face the future.

The woman wakes in the barn once again and the cycle begins anew. Will she change it this time?

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The story of RUNAWAY is an allegory for the pervasive culture of allowing the abuse of women and dismissing allegations of such abuse. Not only do men participate in the cover-up of such behaviour, but women are also guilty of turning a blind eye to members of their own sex.

In RUNAWAY, the young girl represents a woman who is making an allegation of abuse. The woman represents a woman the girl is making an allegation to. The girl tries to show the woman the abuse, leading her through buildings and meadows and forests to help her see the truth. But the woman is reluctant, even though she catches glimpses of the abuse with her own eyes.

Eventually, the woman is forced to confront the abuse when she discovers the young girl lying dead. But then the young girl is replaced by her own body. It is here that we see that by refusing to see what the girl has been trying to show her, the woman has effectively killed herself. The betrayal of her own sex will only lead to the perpetuation of the cycle of abuse - and the next time it may be her.

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The primary motifs used in RUNAWAY are the colour red, plastic and nature. The colour red is used in the alternate realm; a space where the woman is taken to experience what has happened to the young girl. Here, the cinematography has elements of the red motif. The blood that the woman sees on the young girl and herself contrasts against the desaturated, bleak nature surrounding them.

Thin plastic sheets are used in both the real world and the alternate realm. This is a reference to the superficiality of the world the woman lives in. The world the woman is trying to live in is fake and only concerned with image.

Nature also plays a large role in RUNAWAY, contrasting with the alternate realm. Nature is seen as bleak, desolate and lonely. This shows the inner world of the woman, and how she feels traveling through life.

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# æstral

Based in Nordhorn, Germany, ÆSTRAL is the pseudonym of composer, producer and graphic designer Mateusz Piasecki. ÆSTRAL began his adventure with music in October 2016, creating his profile on worldwide known streaming website Soundcloud.

The 19-year-old producer is best known for his originality and construction of songs, which are determined, as the artist himself admits, as "ASTRALWAVE". He also describes each track that he produces as a 'pure feeling' of his.

Since the beginning of his career, ÆSTRAL has gained thousands of followers on Soundcloud and over a million plays on various platforms.



[soundcloud.com/astral](https://soundcloud.com/astral)



[instagram.com/astraldepth](https://instagram.com/astraldepth)



[facebook.com/astralmusic](https://facebook.com/astralmusic)



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production stills



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behind the scenes



S.J. van Breda  
writer/director  
editor

S.J. van Breda was born on the 2nd of November 1991 in Durban, South Africa. She graduated Vancouver Film School with specialisations in Directing, Post-Production and Cinematography. Before arriving at VFS, she studied Mechanical Engineering at the University of Cape Town and worked in the aerospace research industry for two years

She is currently a freelance editor, working on commercials, music videos and short films. Her debut short film, *Sentience*, is currently on the festival circuit and won the Golden Ibex at KIFF 2017. Her short documentary 'I Can Do That' was a top 10 finalist in the 2018 edition of Nespresso Talents.

She will be participating in the Blackbird Film Festival 2019 with her experimental short dance film 'Grey' and has been invited to the Pigneto Film Festival 2019 to shoot a short film in Rome. She is developing a short film and documentary which delves into the true story of transgender soccer coach Kaig Lightner and a feature length version of *Sentience*.



Benjamin Janicki  
producer

Benjamin Janicki grew up on a small farm in Washington State, where he developed a keen interest in nature, history, and filmmaking. After completing his undergraduate and graduate degrees in mechanical engineering from the University of Washington in Seattle, he moved to Vancouver, Canada and completed a one-year program in film production at Vancouver Film School.

In 2017, he wrote and directed the Vancouver Film School final project *Shieldmaiden*, as his directorial debut. He has also worked as the first assistant director and producer for several other short films.

Today he lives in Los Angeles, CA, where he is working in the film industry.

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## DIRECTING & WRITING

NOV 2017 - MAR 2018

**KAIG (FEATURE DOCUMENTARY)** (director)  
**PRODUCER: KENT DONGUINES**  
**(IN DEVELOPMENT)**

A feature documentary focusing on the life of Kaig Lightner and the soccer club he founded in Portland, Oregon, U.S.

NOV 2017 - MAR 2018

**THE OFFSIDE RULE (FEATURE)** (writer/director)  
**PRODUCER: KENT DONGUINES**  
**(IN DEVELOPMENT)**

A dramatic feature based off the incredible true story of transgender viral video star Kaig Lightner.

OCT 2017 - JAN 2018

**RUNAWAY (MUSIC VIDEO)** 4 MINUTES (writer/director/editor)  
**PRODUCER: BENJAMIN JANICKI**

An avant-garde music video for musician ÆSTRAL. Based on the struggle of women in the professional industries of the world.

JUL 2017 - SEP 2017

**GREY (EXPERIMENTAL SHORT)** 4 MINUTES (writer/director/editor)  
**PRODUCER: KENT DONGUINES**

A short experimental film about confronting the differences within our society and how we go about accepting them.

APR 2017 - JUN 2017

**BOUND (EXPERIMENTAL SHORT)** 4 MINUTES (writer/director)  
**PRODUCER: S.J. VAN BREDA**  
**(POST-PRODUCTION)**

A short experimental film about a woman dealing with the effects of her abusive husband.

JAN 2017 - JUN 2017

**SENTIENCE - SHORT FILM (DRAMA)** 12 MINUTES (writer/director)  
**PRODUCERS: BENJAMIN JANICKI, S.J. VAN BREDA, MARIANNA ZEPEDA**

A semi-experimental short film that explores the relationship between a man and his wife as he loses all of his senses, one by one. The camera is used as a device to show the degradation of his senses and takes the audience on an emotionally sensory experience.

DEC 2016 - FEB 2017

**V - SHORT FILM (DRAMA)** 5 MINUTES (Writer Samuel Howden-Glasgow)  
**PRODUCERS: SAMUEL HOWDEN-GLASGOW, DENED REY MORENO, KAREN DIAZ, ADRIANA CALLEJAS**

A silent short film about a man experiencing the five stages of grief as he mourns the loss of his husband.

OCT 2016 - FEB 2017

**EXILE - PILOT FOR WEB SERIES (SCI-FI)** 7 MINUTES (Writer Samuel Howden-Glasgow & Dened Rey Moreno)  
**PRODUCER: EMILY PATON**

A sci-fi web series where a young woman in a dystopian society has to choose between family loyalty and love.



## FESTIVALS AND AWARDS

AUDFEST	WINNER - JURY FILM 2017	GREY	2017
KARGIL INT. FF	WINNER - GOLDEN IBEX	SENTIENCE	2017
LOS ANGELES CINEFEST	FINALIST	GREY	2017
LOS ANGELES CINEFEST	SEMI-FINALIST	SENTIENCE	2017
ALTFF (BEST WRITER & DIRECTOR )	NOMINATED	GREY	2017
ORINOS FILM AWARDS	WINNER	GREY (BEST EXPERIMENTAL)	2017
ORINOS FILM AWARDS	WINNER	GREY (BEST EDITING)	2017

## ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE

NO TURNING BACK (MUSIC VIDEO)	EDITOR	PROD. KENT DONGUINES	2019
RUNAWAY (MUSIC VIDEO)	EDITOR/AE	PROD. BENJAMIN JANICKI, KENT DONGUINES	2019
THE BELLADONNAS (SHORT)	EDITOR/AE	PROD. KATE FULLER	2017
THE CERTAINTY MACHINE (SHORT)	EDITOR/AE	PROD. MCKENZIE CLEMENTS	2017
GREY (SHORT)	EDITOR/AE	PROD. KENT DONGUINES	2017
V (SHORT)	EDITOR/AE	PROD. SAMUEL HOWDEN-GLASGOW	2017
SHIELDMAIDEN (SHORT)	TITLE SEQUENCE	PROD. JONATHAN MCFAUL	2017
CHARLOTTE (WEBSERIES)	TITLE SEQUENCE	PROD. PALESA THELEDI	2017
RUNAWAY	PRODUCER	DIR. S.J. VAN BREDA	2018
BOUND (EXPERIMENTAL SHORT)	PRODUCER	DIR. BENJAMIN JANICKI & S.J VAN BREDA	2017
SERPENTINE FIRE (MUSIC VID)	PRODUCER'S ASSISTANT	PROD. KENT DONGUINES	2017
FREMSKILLET SKONHED	PRODUCER'S ASSISTANT	PROD. KENT DONGUINES	2017
THE CERTAINTY MACHINE	1ST ASSISTANT DIRECTOR	DIR. JF FERLAND	2017
PUBLIC TIES (SHORT)	2ND AD/LOCATIONS MGR.	DIR. GABRIEL CHEMALI	2017
EXILE EP.2 (WEB SERIES)	2ND AC	DIR. ROBIN GUELEN	2016
ANIMA NERA (EXPREIMENTAL SHORT)	2ND AC	DIR. GIANLUCA RICCIO	2017

## EDUCATION

JAN 2010 - DEC 2013	UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN - UCT (Cape Town, South Africa) BSc. MECHANICAL ENGINEERING (HON. AEROSPACE ENG.) Graduated with first class honours with a specialization in aerospace topics including turbomachinery and turbine design for aerospace systems.
JUN 2016 - JUN 2017	VANCOUVER FILM SCHOOL (Vancouver, BC, Canada) Diploma in Film Production, Directing, Cinematography and Producing specializations.

## CERTIFICATIONS

JULY 2016	MOTION PICTURE INDUSTRY ORIENTATION COURSE
DEC 2013	ADVANCED FIRST AID CERTIFICATION
DEC 2013	INTERMEDIATE FIREFIGHTING CERTIFICATION (MARINE)

# Benjamin Janicki

Writer/Director

References Available Upon Request

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## Credits

<i>Runaway</i>	Producer 2019 Music Video with ÆSTRAL, FSF and Aimer Films
<i>Baked</i>	Director / Co-Writer 2017 Short Film – Comedy
<i>Shieldmaiden</i>	Writer/Director 2017 VFS Final: Short Film – Period Action/Adventure
<i>Bound</i>	Co-Director / 1 <sup>st</sup> AD 2017 VFS Mini-Shoot: Short Film – Experimental
<i>Sentience</i>	Co-Producer / 1 <sup>st</sup> AD 2017 VFS Final: Short Film – Drama
<i>Harry Lucky Pilot</i>	Director 2016 VFS Web Series Pilot – Crime-Thriller Comedy

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## Education

<b>Vancouver Film School</b> , Vancouver, BC <i>Film Production with Honors</i> ➤ Specialization in Directing and Producing	<u>June 2016-June 2017</u>
<b>University of Washington</b> , Seattle, WA <i>Masters of Science in Mechanical Engineering</i> ➤ Thesis: “ <i>Design of a Pneumatic Tool for Manual Drilling Operations in Confined Spaces</i> ”	<u>Sep. 2014-March 2016</u>
<i>Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering</i> ➤ Interdisciplinary Honors, Mechatronics	<u>2010-2014</u>

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## Experience

<b>Set Construction Subcontractor</b> Wonderworks, Canoga Park, CA	<u>May-November 2017</u>
<b>Graduate Student Researcher</b> Boeing Advanced Research Center at UW, Seattle, WA	<u>Nov. 2014-March 2016</u>
<b>Engineering Intern</b> Janicki Industries, Sedro-Woolley, WA	<u>June-Sep. 2012, 2013, &amp; 2014</u>
<b>University of Washington Campus Tour Guide</b> University of Washington Campus Visit Program, Seattle, WA	<u>April 2013-June 2014</u>
<b>Honors Teaching Assistant</b> University of Washington Honors Program, Seattle, WA	<u>Sep.-Dec. 2012 &amp; 2013</u>

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## Skills:

- Video Editing: Premier Pro, Avid
- 3D Modeling: Solidworks, Catia, NX, Sketchup
- Celtx, LaTeX, Matlab, Movie Magic Budgeting & Scheduling, Microsoft Office