

Media Practice Project
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Glow

written by

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FADE IN

INT. PHILIP'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

PHILIP (22-year-old) is lying on his bed. Looking up towards the ceiling, drumming with his hand on the bed, looking anxiously excited.

Moments later - heavy footsteps coming towards the door, followed by a loud knock. Philip's FATHER opens the door abruptly.

Philip is startled, stands up fast, trying to fix his hair midway and looks with caution towards his father's displeased face.

Philip's father, dressed in neat formal clothes, barely moves inside the room. His eyes fall on his son's messy bed and messy hair. He flinches from the view and points towards the door, then leaves.

PHILIP'S FATHER

Philip! What are you waiting for?
Everyone's waiting for you!

Philip nods in agreement. The father leaves.

Once alone, Philip opens the wardrobe and stares at its insides for a while.

SERIES OF SHOTS

---Starts browsing

---Tries a variety of different shirts on

---Looks himself at the mirror in disapproval

---Takes each new one off

---His face showing desperation

---His own reflection judging him.

END OF MONTAGE

Philip flumps on the floor surrounded by a pile of clothes. His look falls on a box on the lowest shelf of the wardrobe.

He reaches to it, looks around and takes it out, puts it on his bed.

On the lid of the box there is a beautifully handwritten note - **From mum** - with a drawn smiley face above the text.

Philip smiles softly. He takes out an orange hand-knitted scarf and puts it on. His reflection smiling back at him - the scarf matches perfectly his style.

EXT. GARDEN PARTY - NIGHT

Philip's POV - going down the stairs CUT TO opening the door, he enters the garden.

WIDE - It's decorated, warm lights flashing, everyone is wearing party hats.

JOE jumps in front of Philip, blowing a party pipe to his face and laughs. He taps Philip's shoulder, then points with his head towards a nearby table.

In its centre, there is a cake with candles, waiting to be lit. Philip gets surrounded by his friends, cheering on for him to blow the candles. He does so.

CUT TO BLACK.

EXT. GARDEN PARTY - NIGHT - LATER

Philip is sitting on a chair on the same table. In the background there are disposable plates with bits of leftover cake and party hats, some broken burned candles.

Nearby him, in the foreground, are sitting TWO GUESTS. *Their conversation sounds distorted/muffled. Music in the background.*

Philip is looking towards the night starry sky when he notices several blinking dots flying. Their light pulsing, their flight trajectory moving up and down, flying around coming closer.

Meanwhile, the Guests' conversation becomes stronger, their laughter louder.

JOE is trying to catch a firefly and bumps into the table, which catches Philip's attention.

OTS - Philip follows Joe, turns - oversees people trying to catch fireflies with him. After some unsuccessful tries, he manages and they all cheer.

As Philip smirks at them, a firefly passes by his face. He gets excited, gets up and follows it, distancing himself from the others.

POV - the firefly lands. Philip's hand slowly reaches out, millimetres from it --- a big strong hand grabs his own and pulls it down. Beat.

It's his father. He pulls him by the scarf, tries to take it off, doesn't succeed. Leaves angry.

Philip sends a last look towards the firefly - it is now gone. He then looks at his guests. Feels utterly small and alone - leaves.

INT. PHILIP'S BEDROOM - NIGHT - LATER

Philip enters his room, which now looks cold and blue. He is angry, visually hurt, his eyes red and swollen.

He pulls off his scarf over his head, makes it in a ball, about to throw it away. Instead he hesitates, holds it in his hands, tightening his fists around it, then slowly kneels next to the bed and hugs the scarf.

CUT TO BLACK.

INT. DANCING ROOM - NIGHT

Darkness. White wall, a spotlight falls onto Philip on a beat. He is hugging his knees, his head hidden in between his legs, looking down.

WIDE - We see two mirrors positioned adjacent to both his sides. Light starts flashing in a rhythm of a heartbeat.

Philip is now laying on the floor, still between the mirrors. His hands fixed, motionless away from his body. He is looking up.

BEGIN FLASHBACK

INT. DANCING ROOM - DAY

Philip is rehearsing. Often stops to look at a video tutorial, then starts the music again - dances - fails.

MONTAGE of his several tries of succeeding in a particular choreography movement. Keeps falling. Keeps failing. Looks at peers who succeed.

They all have flashing light on their chest. He looks down on himself - he lacks light. He falls apart.

END OF FLASHBACK.

INT. DANCING ROOM - NIGHT

Philip closes his eyes, he covers his ears with his hands.

Dissonance music. Whispers. Flashing of light becomes faster.

His body convulses with each beat. He tries slowly to get up. Manages for a bit and falls back on his knees. In each mirror there is a reflection of a black silhouette figure. Hands reach towards his head, pushing him down.

Dissonance music. Whispers of his fears/doubts continue.

INT. CORRIDOR - DEMON CHASE

Philip runs away in a last attempt to escape from the demons' grasps. He stumbles on a corridor, covered in obstacles.

Series of shots of him struggling through the corridor, demons breathing in his back...closer and closer...until they catch him.

Jump location.

INT. MAKEUP ROOM - NIGHT

Philip is forced to sit on a chair in a grim-looking makeup room. The same black hands are now covering his face in dark stains, pinching his cheeks, forcing him to smile.

Glitch effect - it is no longer him on the chair. He is a demon! His own hands tormenting the demon. His personal thoughts suffocating him.

Jump location.

INT.MIRROR CORRIDOR, APARTMENT - NIGHT

Philip is now in front of a big full-body mirror. He stares in it, while slowly approaching it. Something pulling him in closer to the mirror -- a scene - a memory.

BEGIN FLASHBACK MIRROR ILLUSION

INT. PHILIP'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - DAY

YOUNG PHILIP and a lady are dancing together. This is Philip's MOTHER. Philip is shining with happiness, looking up to her and repeating her every move.

PUSH IN - to Philip's chest. He has a shining bright light on his chest.

INTERCUT BEGINS

INT.MIRROR CORRIDOR, APARTMENT - NIGHT

Fast switch to older Philip who is still looking into the mirror - covered in darkness, no light coming from him.

INTERCUT ENDS

INT. PHILIP'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Back to the mirror illusion -

Suddenly, his father storms in angry. The father grabs the mother's hand in the same way as he had just done to Philip on his birthday.

Disspleased about Philip dancing, he looks down on both of them, while they seem terrified and stunned. Young Philip is protected behind his mother, who has gently pushed him besides her.

END OF FLASHBACK ILLUSION

INT.MIRROR CORRIDOR, APARTMENT - NIGHT - LATER

Philip screams and stomps on the mirror, powerless to prevent his father's actions. The mirror breaks under his poundings, glass falls around him. He looks down, his face distorted - a puzzle of broken pieces.

He leans closer above the broken parts for a better look, only to realise it is his younger self's reflection looking back at him. His reflection smiles to him.

Philip turns around only to be surprised by the appearance of his younger version in front of him.

YOUNG PHILIP
It's all going to be okay.

Young Philip passes a bright warm light. They hug. Philip is calm for the first time. Everything is okay. He just found his light, his hope, his confidence.

The world slowly going to black.

CUT TO BLACK

INT. DANCE CLUB STAGE - NIGHT

Filmed at eye level same angle as before - we see Philip sitting on the stage floor, hugging his knees.

In the background behind him are silhouettes of DANCERS, covered in smoke.

With the beginning of the song they start moving in a similar way as the demons he has previously faced.

Light on - They are people, his friends, his crew.

Two of them help him get up. Chaos - everyone is looking for something (light). He disappears between them.

Beginning of actual song - the performance begins. Modern dance - hiphop.

With the beat, one dancer after another makes a specific move, which is followed by them bringing out light sticks - they have found their light.

Philip makes a solo part, ending in the centre of the stage, surrounded by his crew. He holds the flashing warm light in his hands. He looks towards it, then at the audience and smiles.

The audience claps. They bow in synchrony. The dance ends.

INT. MAKEUP ROOM / BATHROOM - DAY

Philip enters the room happy. Looks at himself in the mirror. Then his eyes fall on something - a framed picture.

He takes it and spends some time in his memories, then smiles warmly and leaves the room, proud of himself.

Push in slowly towards the photo. Him and his mum are in front of a dancing centre, hugging and smiling towards the camera. She holds a flower, hugging him with her other hand.

Push back - A firefly flies above the room.

Following the firefly - it enters the photo, towards the mother's chest.

MISSING PART:

OTS - On his right can be seen a reflection of a blurred human figure.

PHILIP'S MOTHER (V.O.)

(Softly)

Philip!

Philip looks up in the mirror, sees his mum. She smiles warmly and nods in approval. Philip abruptly turns back -- she is gone.

THE END