

S1NGULAR

S1NGULAR is a retro-psycho thriller about the birth of a nano-tech enhanced human species in an alternate past where our future has already happened.

Two men raise somebody else's baby in deep isolation until one of them decides to escape with "it".

In this short film prequel, we discover that one of the scientists, far from being human, is being coded as the holographic AI companion for the year long experiment that will change Humanity as we know it.

RAMON J. GONI - Creator and writer

As a highly versatile artist, Ramon's work spans from fashion and entertainment to sci-fi, film, and LGBTQ+ narratives.

Every project and collaboration he involves himself with stems from his passion to break barriers. To find solutions through film and storytelling. Over the last few years Ramon has directed and filmed the promotional campaigns for some of the most awarded international TV shows such as Netflix's "The Crown", "Narcos", or Amazon's "The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel".

VANITY FAIR's first-ever Hollywood Portfolio short film, went viral online and was featured as part of the official selection of several international fashion film festivals (London, Milan, Berlin) winning the fashion short of the year award at the Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia.

As a queer filmmaker, he seeks to bring out relatability with those that the world typically labels as *different*. His venture into sci-fi stems from his longing to express his vision of a better, more inspiring future - stories rooted in the present and past.

An avid surfer, Ramon approaches every shoot as a different type of wave. In the ocean he's grown acutely aware of the swell power, wind, water conditions, and of course, other humans. This approach translates into his *flow* on set, and his journey in filmmaking.

PEDRO PAULO ARAUJO - Writer

Raised across the world, I was brought up believing it was normal to not "belong" anywhere, and that a "home" was just a warm word to describe a two or three-year shelter. As I got older I realized that wasn't the norm, but for a child of diplomatic parents, it could be.

Raised in countries of extreme poverty and conflict, I surrounded myself with stories; those stored in VHS tapes and eventually onto DVDs that would somehow ground me while letting me escape. As my surroundings kept on changing, like going from Sub-Saharan landscapes to Southeast Asian tropical sceneries, my one constant was always the movies. It was natural to me, that Los Angeles would be the north star on my map - the final frontier - home. So, at the age of 18, I moved to LA to speak the one language that I knew somewhat fluently: film. During film school, I found myself surrounded by an international community of people like me, and shortly after, as I was recruited by an agency, I met Ramon. Although we didn't have much in common upfront (I was working mainly in Music Videos and Ramon with Fashion) we were both drawn to each other's pursuit of identity through our mediums. Through various conversations and long lunch meetings, Ramon and I eventually began opening up about our individual struggles with identity and a sense of belonging which became the seed for this project.

Singular originates out of Ramon's hyperactive mind and was brought over to me like a fetus for both of us to incubate and see grow. Our mutual quest for exploring identity, both sexual and ethnic, has become the DNA for this episodic epic that we are certain will find a creative cradle with Outfest's writing lab. Like the experiment in the series itself, Ramon and I are both curious and anxious to see what can come out of this experience.

CAST

FIN ARGUS

Fin Argus is on track to becoming one of Hollywood's rising stars. A true multi-hyphenate, they continue to showcase their versatility as a professional actor/ singer/ songwriter in a variety of different projects.

This year Fin will be seen in the film *STAY AWAKE*, which in addition to garnering rave reviews at Berlinale (The Berlin International Film Festival), also received two awards: Special Mention from the Generation 14+ Youth Jury and the German Arthouse Cinema Award. In the film directed by Jamie Sisley, Fin stars as "Derek" alongside Chrissy Metz and Wyatt Oleff and tells the story of brothers "Ethan" (Oleff) and "Derek," who try their best to navigate the pressures of teenage life while tending to their mother's (Metz) debilitating prescription drug addiction.

Fin is currently in production on Peacock's re-imagining of the popular British series *QUEER AS FOLK*. Created by Stephen Dunn, the reboot will be set in New Orleans and will follow a diverse group of friends whose lives are transformed in the aftermath of a tragedy.

In 2020 Fin appeared alongside Sabrina Carpenter in the Disney+ biopic *CLOUDS*, directed by Justin Baldoni. Based on a true story, Argus portrays Zach Sobiech, a young man battling osteosarcoma (a form of cancer), who goes on to share his gift of music by becoming the first unsigned artist to ever have a single hit #1 on the iTunes Top 100 with his song "Clouds."

Argus' credits include *THE GIFTED* (Fox) and a leading role on Awesomeness TV's popular YouTube series *THE COMMUTE*.

A passion for music led Argus to release their debut EP titled "Lost at Sea" in 2017, which received coverage in notable publications including a feature in *Billboard Magazine*. This year, Argus will release new music including a song they wrote that will be featured in their upcoming Disney+ film, *CLOUDS*. A multi-instrumentalist, they play 9 different instruments: guitar, piano, ukulele, cello, French horn, bass, mandolin, banjo and percussion. Argus has also modeled for Yves Saint Laurent and Barneys.

A Chicago native, Argus currently resides in Los Angeles, California.

SEAN FORD

Hailing from Little Rock Arkansas, he began his career in adult entertainment and made a name for himself with his unique approach to his work. Refusing to be put in a box, Sean soon expanded his horizons and began collaborating with acclaimed artists and directors such as Gus Van Sant and Bruce La Bruce.

Sean's work focuses on overcoming boundaries between sex and visual media, taking "inspiration from artists past and present who are open and vulnerable when it comes to their sexuality". He is currently exploring new ways to bring his sex-positive approach to new avenues such as acting and music.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

I often like to approach film projects as startup companies. Usually there's a big story we want to tell over the years but we first need to go through different stages of development until we can launch. We must prove to current and future investors that not only our concept but the people we've gathered to bring it to fruition is aligned with our moonshot project.

The short film *Singular* is the incubator stage of this entire process. As an experimental sci-fi prequel introducing the universe where the story I'm creating unfolds, my goal is not only to tease people with what's to come but also to create the best possible team to make it happen along the way in the production process and in post.

So I called my friends, cinematographer Jake Saner who just won Tribeca Film Festival to frame this short as an actual 70s film; Greg Swales (The Kardashians' family official photographer) and fashion editor and stylist Gorge Villalpando making a photo shoot happen alongside the film to push the boundaries of my initial aesthetic approach with wardrobe and actions I would have never thought of on my own; Production designer Martha Bernabe creating objects that don't exist (yet) as a blast from the future-past; Legendary hair stylist Thomas Dunkin who's basically worked with every rockstar in the history of music bringing his extensive experience to the table; And of course the fantastic chemistry between Fin Argus and Sean Ford doing the rest. Both actors are currently at the edge and the top of what they do, crossing boundaries with their work in fashion, film and sex positivity drive projects. My intention is also to shed light on the artificial lines we've created for decades on gender, sexuality and self-expression in film and art which I think is what ultimately queer narratives and sci-fi in cinema are about for me; barrier-stomping stories to make people think and feel in a way they've never done before, to spark their imagination.

The post process is also an incredibly interesting one as we've tried to strike a balance between minimal visual effects and a period environment that never really existed. Our partners at Scissor Films made this possible. But also in this alt-70s universe the music becomes a mix from super weird electronic experimental compositions from the time (Daria Semegen's incredible work at Columbia University or Nadia Reisenberg and Clara Rockmore's work with the theremin, a magical instrument) all mixed with new compositions by our music and sound design artists from Retail Space in Brooklyn, NY who dig the genre we're exploring as much as I do.

SHOT DIGITALLY - PRINTED ON 35MM

We used the "Shift AI" process offered by Fotokem. This is the same technology that was used for "The Batman," which has been getting acclaim for its visual style. The service has been available for feature films for a little while and just recently has been opened to short-form projects like S1NGULAR so we are on the cutting edge of experimenting with the medium and blending digital processes with analog to create a unique result.

The "Shift AI" process is a digital-film-digital transfer where projects that have been shot digitally are projected onto film and then scanned back into a digital format. This gives you all the benefits of shooting digitally (lower cost, high dynamic range and detail preservation) with the benefits of traditional analog film (texture, authentic film curve, frame judder and film breath) and the result has been stunning. The VFX were applied before the scanning process, which helped unify the image and make the VFX appear as a natural part of the image. We did a creative digital pre-grade to visualize the type of look we were aiming for, but the scan was done in log with just a basic technical color pass for balance. The final creative color grade was done after the scanning process in order to retain the most information and utilize the natural look of the film projection as a baseline to work off of.

CREW SOCIAL MEDIA @

Premiering @Outfest Film Festival in LA on July 17th!

Cast:

@finargus

@theonlyseanford

Original concept and creative direction: @rjgoni

Writers: @pedropauloaraujo and @rjgoni

Voiceover: #IsaacAsimov

Director: @rjgoni

Cinematographer: @jpsaner

1st AC: @sky.mars

Ronin op: @landgreven

Editor: @rjgoni

Grooming: @thomasdunkin1

Production designer: @martha_bernabe

Prop assistant: @galvineyesdesign

Post sound and original music: @retailspace

Additional music: #dariasemegen #clararockmore and #nadiareisenberg

On Set VFX sup: @coryisalive

VFX: @scissorfilms

VFX producer: @Ashlyndesroches

Graphic design: @rhubarbagency

Tattoos and titles design: @naatalieaabraham

Color: @rkmstudios_color

ShiftAI: @fotokem_la

Executive Producer: @rjgoni

Producers: @pinkproduction_carolinatakagi @rjgoni

On set coordinator: @ethanwhite

Location: @geraldusshouse

Photography: @gregswalesart

1st assistant: @janaschuessler

Digitech: @casey.franklin

Art direction: @rhubarbagency

Fashion editor: [@gorgevillalpando](#)

Junior Stylist: [@anissasil](#)

Styling assistant: @maxdonahue1111

Interview: @ryanoconn

Editorial director [@huwgwyther](#)

#Outfest #Outfest40 #Filmfestival #sci-fi #queer #film #experimental #70s #NewYork