

# SPECULO

Digital Press Kit



**Tagline**

Tensions build as Malva continues to shut out her friends following the passing of their friend Mary.

**Synopsis**

The passing of Mary has her friends in various forms of grief. Madeline is trying to overcompensate for her sadness by being optimistic, whilst Morgan is retreating to the nostalgic times they all had together. Then there's Malva. Malva wishes not to think about the situation, her friend's passing, OR how she's feeling. Yet, as this is going on, a figure looms in her dreams. Said dreams begin to affect her day-to-day and start to bring her down even more. As time goes on, the dreams get more vivid, and they begin to take a darker turn.



# Director's Statement

For years I wanted to make a film centered around someone dealing with a meta-physical embodiment of their emotions. There's just a lot of visual potential there, and I've had the idea for this screenplay since 2017 or so.

The central themes of reflection and processing are rather personal to me because they are things that I see myself and many people in my life struggle with.

I think the film's uniqueness shines in its style. A lot of the shots and actions have an air of deliberateness to them, and the presentation is very artistically motivated. Many of the shots were composed with the idea of making sure they could stand alone as photographs or stills. I also wanted to highlight the visual diversity and beauty of my home city, Newark.

I hope people take away from the film that they shouldn't deny themselves a space to process and heal from emotionally damaging events.

- J. A. Grad, *Director, Writer, Producer*

# About the Director



J. A. Grad, *Director, Writer, Producer*

J. A. Grad (born Jacob Andrew Gradaille), is an American filmmaker hailing from the North Ward of Newark, New Jersey. His influences range from Stanley Kubrick to David Fincher. Grad has been creating digital content on a personal level since 2009 and began formally honing his skills both at Arts High School and the Video Production program at Rutgers University - Newark.

A jack of all trades, Grad has worn numerous hats in various productions, ranging from director to cinematographer, producer, and even talent. He has also lent his talents in graphic design to numerous productions both in and outside of Rutgers.

## FILM CREDITS

| | |
|---|---|
| **Director, Editor, Writer, Producer** | J. A. Grad |
| **Director of Photography, Camera Operator** | Alana Garcia |
| **Sound Recordist, Gaffer** | Shelssy Solano |
| **Sound Recordist** | Safa Daftani |
| **Production Assistant** | Veronica Papianni |
| **Original Music by** | Adam Hassan, Mikey Colon, Azmeer Rahman, Alex Ruiz |

## Cast

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|---|---|
| **Malva** | Zoe Papianni |
| **Morgan** | Dariel Angeles |
| **Madeline** | Alyson Fernandez |
| **Mary** | Veronica Papianni |
| **Mirrorface** | Jaevon Lawrence |

**Specifications**

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|---|---|
| **Film Title** | SPECULO |
| **Film Type** | Narrative Fiction, Short Film |
| **Genre** | Drama |
| **Special Subject** | Death, Grief |
| **Runtime** | 16 min 32 sec |
| **Completion Date** | May 5, 2022 |
| **Country of Origin** | USA |
| **Country of Filming** | USA |
| **Film Language** | English |
| **Shooting Format** | Digital (UHD) on Blackmagic 6K Pro |
| **Aspect Ratio** | 16:9 (.MOV) |
| **Film Color** | Color |
| **Screening Format** | .MOV |
| **Framerate** | 24 fps |
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| **Original Script** | Yes |
| **Original Music** | Yes |
| **Music Rights Cleared** | Yes |

***Director Contact***
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