


Short film

Solipsism

Look book





*SHE WHO IS ONE
IS THE ONE AND
ONLY*



Overview

A reclusive British-Indian blogger finds her solipsistic existence challenged after witnessing a fatally life-altering incident.

Genre: Thriller/Drama | **Language:** English & Tamil | **Location:** London, UK

Themes: Loneliness, suicide, mental illness, solipsism



SYNOPSIS

Set in cosmopolitan London, Aikya, a British-Indian blogger believes she is the only person that exists in the world. Continuing her daily life convinced that every interaction with another is purely a construct in her own world, her beliefs and existence are shattered after she witnesses the untimely suicide of a neighbour. Thrust into a world unknown, Aiyka must process unfounded human emotions, grapple with her solipsism and engage with the idea that she may not be alone after all.



CHARACTERS



Aikya

MAIN CHARACTER

Female | Age: 23 | British-Indian

CHARACTERISTICS

We join Aikya as her success as a blogger is sustaining her existence in a small studio apartment in London. Suffering with solipsism syndrome since a young child, she has lived her life fully certain in the knowledge that she is the only living soul on earth and that all interactions that she has with anyone else are purely a mental construct. Revered in her home country as a Goddess figure, the complex grew to consume her until she reached her mid 20s and is incapable or simply unwilling to entertain the idea that anyone beyond her exists. She rejects the friendly advances of a neighbour in need and ultimately is faced with the consequences of taking a life and wrestling with a number of philosophical questions concerning her own agency, her god complex and the possibility that she isn't alone on this earth after all.





Alter-Aikya

SUPPORTING CHARACTER

Female | Age: 23 | Tamil

CHARACTERISTICS

Once faced with the emotional turmoil following the horrific incident in the train station, Aikya's reality breaks and in order to process the humanity of it all, she turns to a hallucination of her alternate self, the revered princess in the small Tamil village who chose to embrace the Goddess part of her existence. She is the only character Aikya converses with in an effort to process her fears and guilt and being the potential cause of such a calamitous act. She attempts to bring Aikya back further into her own delusion as she is brought out of it by the terrible incident she witnessed. Ultimately, Aikya's own strength prevails and the Alter-Aikya meets a swift and unfortunate end.

Secondary character



NEIGHBOUR

Female | Age: 26 | White British

Neighbour to Aikya, as a viewer we know very little about her specifically as Aikya spends no time developing her as a character in her individual narrative. What we know of her is purely visual; a very average 20 y/o girl living in the same apartment block and crosses paths with Aikya on a regular basis. She is clearly struggling with something internally but this is not addressed by Aikya or indeed any of the cast, she repeatedly tries to reach out to Aikya to no avail, and gives it one last try in the tube station before making the ultimate choice to take her own life.

DIRECTOR'S TAKE

- INSPIRATION
- VISUAL TONE





As a young 15-year-old, I came across the concept of solipsism and was immediately gripped by its complexity and spiritual connotations. Having written a short script at the time, I kept it to one side and carried on with my studies and career producing various other scripted productions. Upon reflection, it was along with my father and wife; Holly Jackson who incidentally is the writer of Solipsism, that we decided to bring it back to life and revamped the idea and script I wrote a decade ago.

Solipsism is a thriller in many a sense, an eery and voyeuristic view into the world of an individual suffering with this one in a billion disease and how after decades of learning to live with it believing herself to be alone in this world, one fatal accident plunges everything into mental chaos and reflection leading to an encounter with the self and alter-self. I have always loved the complexity of the mind and self, I have always aimed to delve deeper into the inner workings of the mind and how we as humans, unknowingly bestow a great deal of power to the mind, until we are almost slaves to it.

With this film, I aim to provide the audience with a powerful thriller, that in its simplest form is a detailed examination of the human mind and self, a picturisation of how a powerful disease can take control and cause grand delusion and detachment. This film, on the whole, is one of hope, for the many people who struggle with mental health problems, it is a suggestion that we are not alone after all, that if we can get through the gripping struggles, there is a life ahead.

The film will aim to capture stillness and chaos at once with the steady, still shots of the interior and fast paced multi-lens captures to mimic Aikya's deteriorating mental frame. The film will have sharp colours with an accompanying 4:3 frame, to fully capture the sights and surroundings of Aikya's life, whilst having her at the centre of everything.



“LOVELY, MYSTERIOUS, AND COSMIC”

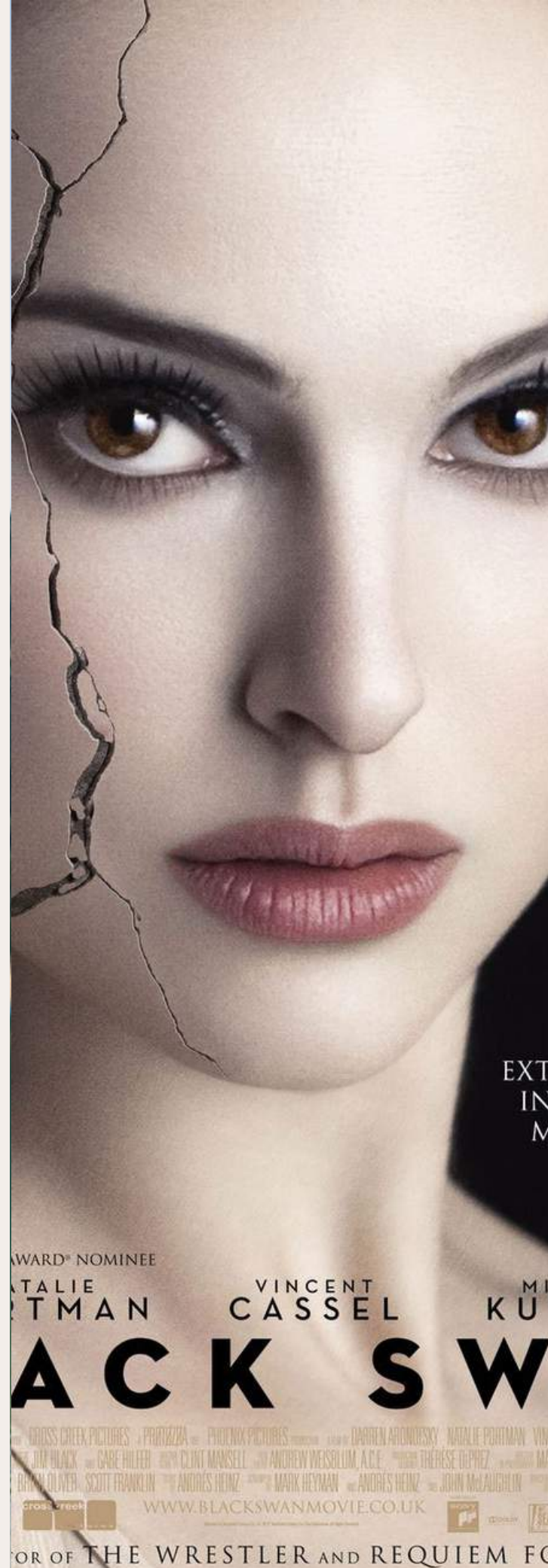
—Joshua Rothkopf, Time Out New York

A GHOST STORY

CASEY AFFLECK
ROONEY MARA



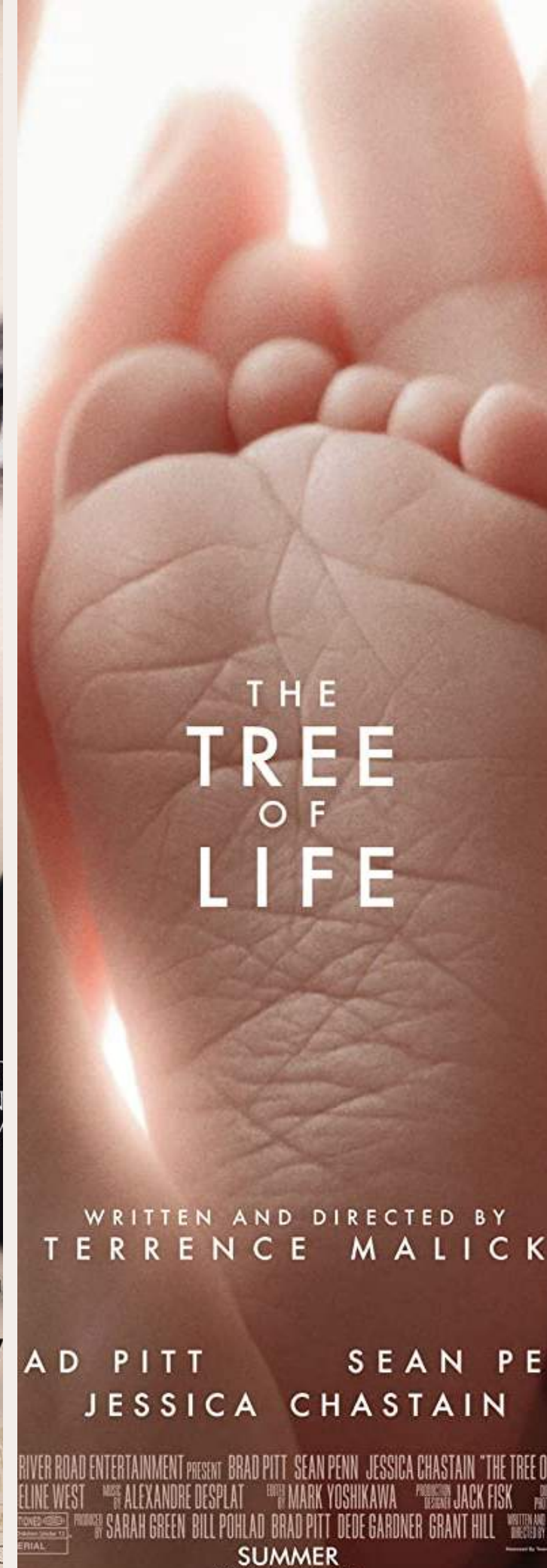
IT'S ALL ABOUT TIME.



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NATALIE PORTMAN VINCENT CASSEL MI
BLACK SWAN

AD PITT SEAN PENN
JESSICA CHASTAIN

FOR OF THE WRESTLER AND REQUIEM FO



THE TREE OF LIFE

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY
TERRENCE MALICK

AD PITT SEAN PENN
JESSICA CHASTAIN

RIVER ROAD ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTS BRAD PITT SEAN PENN JESSICA CHASTAIN "THE TREE OF LIFE"
MUSIC BY ALEXANDRE DESPLAT COSTUME DESIGNER MARK YOSHIKAWA PRODUCTION DESIGNER JACK FISK
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS SARAH GREEN BILL POHLAD PRODUCED BY BRAD PITT DEDE GARDNER GRANT HILL WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY TERRENCE MALICK
SUMMER
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COMPARABLE TITLES

Solipsism is inspired by a variety of films which use the same themes very effectively:

- **A Ghost Story** (2017)
- **The Tree of Life Swan** (2011)
- **Black Swan** (2010)
- **Wings of Desire** (1987)

I am inspired by the films listed above as they are all meditative pieces focusing on the more ethereal side of life and humanity, something which has gripped me in the past.

CORE TEAM



NISCHAY MADHAVAN

Director

Nischay Madhavan is an upcoming writer/director originally from Bangalore, Southern India but now based in London. Nischay's vast experience within film production started when he interned for Fox Star Studios, working on set of an award winning Indian film franchise "Jolly LLB". He's also worked for Create Advertising, a post-production company that specialises in trailers and advertising for major Hollywood movies. Nischay is a masters graduate in Producing Film and Television at Bournemouth University. He was involved in the production of over 8 films during his degree. Within this time he won a best student film award for "Gwen" and was commended for his efforts to create a fully green and sustainable set during his production of "Journeyman". Since graduating he wrote and directed "Edge", a short french language film which has been selected in over 5 film festivals worldwide. Nischay is now working on his debut feature film and a classical dance A/V Project. His mission is to create bold and socially driven cinema concerning African or Indian issues and characters. He aims to use his passion for cinema to give a voice to the people who are under represented and to those who are in the fringes of society.



GUTO THOMAS

Producer

CORE TEAM



EDDIE ADAMSON

Cinematographer

A Producer based in Wales, UK. Guto is a former member of feature film/TV company Red and Black Films. On a daily basis, Guto was part of an award winning team, working closely alongside the Producer and Director. His role within the company allowed him to broaden his skills greatly within script development, project research, distribution, optioning IP and connecting with a range of filmmakers & agents across the globe. He worked on the distribution campaign of horror film "Don't Knock Twice", which generated over \$4 million at the box office and assisted the company in their multi-million-dollar TV pilot with Universal/Syfy. Guto also freelances as a cameraman, working on BT Sport, Channel 4, Sky, BBC & ITV productions. He's had the pleasure of being apart of some historic events during this time, such as working on the Royal Wedding and Champions League Final. Guto now has a slate of projects ready to develop, ranging from shorts, docs and feature films.

Eddie Adamson is a freelance Director of Photography based in South Wales, UK. Having graduated from Newport Film School in 2016 where he specialized in cinematography, Eddie has continued to pursue his passion for filmmaking, shooting multiple award winning short films as well as videos for music artists including Hot Chip, Rustin Man, and Buzzard Buzzard. Eddie has previously worked on programmes such as TNT's "Will" and BBC's "Doctor Who", before making the switch to a freelancer. As well as narrative work, Eddie has shot a wide variety of projects which include documentaries, fashion, beauty, fitness promos and adverts for an array of London based clients.