



O B E L I S K

PRESS KIT

PRODUCTION CONTACT

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FLINDERS UNIVERSITY PRESENTS

OBELISK

Running time.....13'37"
GenreSerious Drama / Speculative Fantasy / Dystopia
RatingPG: Parental Guidance
Year.....2022
Language.....English
Country of OriginAustralia
Format1920x1080, 25fps, Sound 2.1
Sales / DistributionSida Xie – sida.xie@hotmail.com – ph.0491912887
Links<https://www.sidaxie.com/home/obelisk>
.....<https://www.facebook.com/groups/432191911652944/>



TAG LINE

The Obelisk stands there for ages. He listens, he roars, he takes it all.

SYNOPSIS

In a world of numbness, a young man awakens from all the restricted senses by finding a musical instrument, and tries to overthrow the huge deception by confronting the dark icon of this oppressive world, the Obelisk.



DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT



BIO

Sida is a filmmaker with TVC and media background who graduated from Flinders with a masters in film production. He is also a diver – not just dive into mysterious deep ocean, but also dive into the slices of life from all human beings.

STATEMENT

"He listens, he roars, and he takes it all." In this world of numbness, the authoritative iconic figure - Obelisk, is bizarre and alien as if it's gonna devour all human emotion. "He" hums from time to time, spreading the fear in the air - all of it is a metaphor of the reality.

I keep wondering - what if all we believe in are only deceptions; what if I am different from everyone else, should I conceal and fit in or should I be proud of being a freak; how do the elder people live with the enormous changes of values because the new era just washes everything away? I related my experience in this story, trying to figure out the solution.

I created this oppressive dystopian world to imply real life issues and family relations. That's why OBELISK is born.



LOCATIONS

Marino Rocks

The beach with black rocks looks primitive and depressing.

Convenient - Roadside parking by the entry.

Shooting – Fewer tourists

Safety – only 5 metres of rocky to travel thru to a big platform

Higher position – Lookout point



Brownhill Creek Recreation Park

The forest is private and safe; we can see the variation of colour here.

Chunks above creek. Big single tree. Carpark at a trail entry



Barn in Hahndorf

The forest is private and safe; we can see the variation of colour here.

Chunks above creek. Big single tree. Carpark at a trail entry



STARRING



NICK KENNETT

as Canon

Male. About 30. Leading role.

He was like a robot with no feelings until he finds a harmonica, which is a taboo under the restriction. He gradually awakens from the numbness of all the feelings, finally stands out and confronts the oppressive world.



SARIKA YOUNG

as Mel

Female. About 30. Supporting role.

She used to be a friend to Canon. However, she is pious and mental after coming back from a disciplinary institution for a year. She is odd with actions and belief.



PATRICK GLAVIEUX

as Patrol

Male. About 30. Supporting role.

A representation of Obelisk and the oppressive world. He is with a typical villain kind of outlook – strong, fierce and dominant. But he has one other side of his identity.

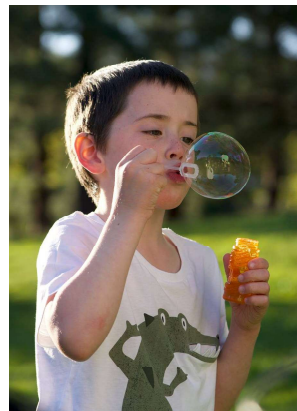


TIMOTHY EDHOUSE

as The father

Male. About 60. Supporting role.

Canon's father, the miniature of the patriarchy and authority, is perspicacious but arrogant and cranky; obedient to the rules and authorities in this oppressive society. Even if he is tough and stern, he sometimes shows vulnerability in despair.



MAXTON ST JOHN

as The kid

Male. About 10. Supporting role.

A kid's figure humming *Row Row Row Your Boat*, playing with parents and blowing bubbles always occur to Canon that's triggered by harmonica. The kid seems to be Canon.

CREDITS



CAST

Canon Nick Kennett
Mel Sarika Young
Patrol Patty Glavieux
Father Timothy Edhouse
Kid Maxton St John

Guitarist Robert Donnarumma
Ukulelist Faith Paredes
Saxophonist Billy St John
Violinist Therese O'Brain
Trumpeter Darren Lutze
Clarinetist Zac Serghis
Mandolinist Weiwei Li
Drummer Kira Beaubois
Pianican Zhang Yang

MAJOR CREW

Directed, Written and Edited by
Sida Xie

Produced by
Thanh Nga Pham
Sida Xie

Director of Photography
Jack Morton

Production Designer
Ailini Steen
Weiwei Li

Music Composer
Billy St John

CREW

First Assistant Director
Dante Niedzwiedz

Second Assistant Director
Shevonne (Tsz Fong) Lo

Art Designers
Vera (Hao) Zheng
Claire (Qi) Cai
Alice Lawrence

First Assistant Camera
Ella Burton

Second Assistant Camera
Ryan Nash
Nicholas Burt

Gaffer
Laura Kennedy

Best Boy
Yang Zhang
Thien Vo

Sound Recordists
Chloe Thomas-Way Claire
(Qi) Cai

Production Assistants
Joshua Barbo
Lachlan White
Kira Beaubois

BTS Team
Yang Zhang
Thanh Nga Pham

Assistant Editor
Anne Yeung

Sound Mixer
Sida Xie

Post-Sound Assistants
Theo (Jue) Wang
Anthony Sramek
Ella Perin
Nelson Miles
James Hamilton

Catering
Billy St John
Therese O'Brian

VFX Artists
Dante Niedzwiedz
Ivan(Yifan) Huang

Colourist
Sida Xie
Jack Morton

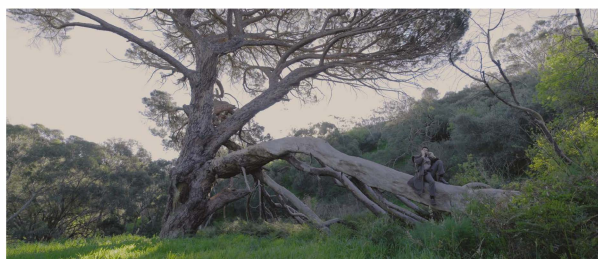
Composers
Billy St John
Therese O'Brian

Special Thanks
Flinders University
Helen Carter
Bec Edwards
Todd Pursche
Matt Hawkins
Julia Erhart
Tom Young

City of Marion Council
Brownhill Creek Recreation Park
District Council of Robe
The Barn on Hereford

Produced with assistance from Flinders University,
Screen and Media Production, 2021

Filmed on Kurna and Bunganditj Land



TECHNICAL

Major Gear:

- FX6 (S-Log3) + Ninja (4K ProRes)+ Sigma Cine Lenses
/ Helios 44-2 58mm (dreamy “Flashback” scenes) + Slide (opening scene)

Robe Pick-up:

- FS5 (S-Log3) + Odyssey Recorder (4K ProRes) + Leica Summicron R 50mm
- DJI MAVIC Pro 2 (w/Hasselblad lens)

Tracking/chasing scene:

- A7M3 + DJI Ronin RCS 2



We used haze machine to create the Tyndall effect which means we can see the beam striking thru the whole room. The lighting plan is inspired by Handmaid’s Tale. This lighting will make people feel suffocated by the static and intangible unsettlement and fear in the air.

The tracking/chasing shot is also inspired by Handmaid’s Tale. The side tracking shot I did with A7M3 (35mm) and DJI Ronin which is a combination to track from side way — which mimics a POV without too much shakes, implying the invisible danger is dominating soon and the character might never escape from the frame.

Obelisk deprives the sensations of colour, sound, and even pain, love and anger. As a result, the style of this film is generally dark and gritty to strengthen the disturbance in the darkness and shadows.

OBELISK is also a film about people defying the world with music. So, the it’s with a more of poetic and melodic tone.

In production design, we used minimalism futurism / Norm-core to emphasise sameness, and subdued in colour to imply everyone is without personality and free spirit in this institutionalised world. The oilskin coat is inspired by the True Grit, which makes the world looks wild, fierce and unpredictable as in western films and creates an ambiguous time line so that no one can tell what era it is.



AUDIENCE

Age 25+. Serious drama & art-house lovers, myths & fantasy lovers and South Australian local audience.

STILLS

