

PRESS KIT

A woman with long brown hair in a ponytail is shown in profile, looking upwards and to the right. She is wearing a white head-mounted display (HMD) with orange butterfly-shaped markers on the forehead and eye-tracking markers on the eye area. A yellow brushstroke-like graphic is drawn across the HMD. The background is a gradient of purple and blue.

# DOPAMINING

HAPPINESS IS A HUMAN RIGHT... RIGHT?

Contact

Jyot Bhalla, Producer-Director

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# SPECS

<i>Title of Film</i>	Dopamining
<i>Country of Production</i>	Australia
<i>Date of Completion</i>	April 2024
<i>Shooting Format</i>	Black Magic Ursa, BRaw, 1.85:1 4k 3840 x 1634
<i>Screening Format</i>	Pro Res
<i>Ratio</i>	Standard 1.85:1
<i>Sound</i>	5.1, Stereo
<i>Duration</i>	12 minutes, 17 seconds
<i>Genre</i>	Sci-Fi, Drama
<i>Language</i>	English

# LOGLINE

Dopamining is a sci-fi drama about depressed Marge who, in a last ditch effort to find happiness, goes for a brain massage but soon finds herself trapped in a bizarre political scandal.

TRAILER: <https://vimeo.com/manage/videos/939643264>





## SYNOPSIS

It's 2048 and while all the cool kids are getting month-long doses of dopamine injected into their brains, 30-year-old Marge is hopelessly depressed. Out of desperation, she visits a luxurious brain spa to get her first ever brain massage. In the following weeks, she inexplicably finds herself drawn to The Greater Good political party, which campaigns on the notion that *happiness is a human right*.

With her newfound zest for life, she gains an influencer-like status on social media, and her dreams come true when the Greater Good party asks her to become an official brand ambassador. Leaving her loved ones behind, Marge embarks on her new life, but is so blinded by superficial adoration that she fails to realise: she is simply another brick in the wall.

## CONTACT

Writer, Director,  
Producer

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Co-Producer

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Production Company

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## FROM THE DIRECTOR

It breaks my heart when someone tells me how unhappy they are. Yet I create perpetual distraction for myself by scrolling through social media, rewatching feel-good TV shows and drowning myself in hardcore trance music.

Without wanting to admit it, I too am living in a soft pink hell.

As a sci-fi drama, Dopamining deals with posthumanism, conformity and the endless pursuit of something elusive. Personally, I don't believe that happiness can be attained by looking outwards. It can only be found within you – and to discover it is an intentional choice that you must make.

Dopamining manifests a woman who has spent her entire life seeking external validation, that she simply does not know how to detangle herself from it. Like many of us in the “social media generation”, Marge has been let down by the instant, short-term perception of happiness that has been sold to her.

Since its inception in August 2022, this film has been the culmination of many breakthroughs, friendships and growth. I am grateful to my cast and crew for their faith in my vision, and their tireless efforts to breathe life into it.

To my editor Aditya Manikashetti, my co-writer Quentin Baudenon and my co-producer Nelson Wong – I am so happy to have found you.

- Jyot Bhalla

# KEY CREW BIOS



**Jyot Bhalla**  
**Writer, Director, Producer**

Jyot is an emerging director based in Singapore and Sydney. As an artist, she wants to propel people to better understand themselves - in hopes of making the world a better place.

Since starting her film career in 2018, she has worked in production houses, run a creative agency (615 Productions) and practiced independent filmmaking. Jyot graduated from the Masters in Moving Image at the University of Sydney in June 2023, and Dopamine is her debut short film. She is now developing a slate of sci-fi shorts and a sitcom - all of which are simply an ode to humanity.

**Aditya Manikashetti**  
**Editor, VFX Artist**

Aditya is the founder and Creative Director of Split Second Studio. Despite having been trained as an engineer, he now writes, produces and directs for tech brands like AirAsia, Korn Ferry and Lenovo. His latest film Sticky Note (2023) clinched a top prize in a virtual production competition fuelled by Unreal Engine and Singapore's Infocomm Media Development Authority (IMDA).



**Sinclair Suhood**  
**Cinematographer**

Sinclair is a Sri Lankan-Australian cinematographer recognised for his naturalistic style and ability to invoke raw authenticity. His film Pretty Boy (2020) was distributed on Blu-Ray and Amazon Prime via Peccadillo Pictures. His fashion film Objekt Im Raum (2021) was part of the Milano Fashion Film Festival, in competition against Dior, Gucci and British Vogue.



**Riley Maguire**  
**Co-Producer, 1st AD**

Riley is an AFTT alumni and filmmaker based in Sydney. His film 'The New Boyfriend' was nominated for Best Short Film at the AACTA awards (2024).



**Nelson Wong**  
**Co-Producer**

Nelson is an Australian filmmaker. He has produced a plethora of films and screen art pieces - working for clients ranging from local charities such as Dirrum Dirrum, to brands like Google.

# KEY CAST BIOS



## **Raechyl French (Marge)**

Raechyl is a multifaceted actress, voice artist, and voice coach based in Sydney, Australia. She is a graduate of the Diploma of Screen Performance at WAAPA and National Institute of Dramatic Art (NIDA) with an MFA in Voice. Having trained through Stella Adler Studio in NYC, Howard Fine, NIDA Open, AMAW Sydney, Peter Rasmussen Acting Classes and The Actors Workshop, Raechyl has developed a strong and diverse set of skills across theatre and film.



## **Aisling Delahunt (Fiona)**

Aisling is a Sydney-based, multi-disciplinary performing artist. She has trained and worked professionally in Australia and North America. She starred in *The Naughty List* (2023), which premiered at the Lift Off Sydney Festival, and made its rounds in the global festival circuit. Aisling's career includes a mix of stage productions, commercials, short films, and web series. Some of her notable theatre credits include performances in "Far From the Madding Crowd," "The Children's Hour," and "Bombshells."

## **Natascha Borg (Summer)**

Natascha Borg has been a working actor in Los Angeles for the past 10 years. She starred in over 90 commercials in the US and Australia as well as film and television roles. She is a recurring character, Mrs Vaughn, on Netflix's reboot of *Heartbreak High*. On Australian television currently she is starring in commercials for Uncle Toby's, Dettol, NSW Transport and Panasonic. She is a graduate of the Atlantic Acting School Conservatory in NYC, and a founding member of The Common Tongue Theatre Company NYC.



## **Sel Hiew (The President)**

Sel is an emerging Australian actress known for her impressive versatility and compelling screen presence. She starred as the lead in *Jia* (2022) – an AACTA Nominee for Best Short Film (2024) that garnered critical praise for its depth and authenticity.

## **Bryce Webster (Brad)**

Bryce is an actor, radio host and podcaster at Give Me a Flick. He made his writing and directing debut with *Wasteland* (2023), in which he also starred as the lead. His most recent project is the lead role in a short written and directed by Australian comedian Ed Kavalee that is currently in post-production. Outside of acting, he is the lead digital producer for SportBible Australia and The Latch.



# STILLS



# STILLS



# CREDITS

## KEY CREW

### Written and directed by

Jyot Bhalla

### Co-Written by

Quentin Baudenon

### Produced by

Jyot Bhalla,  
Nelson Wong

## CREW

### Director of Photography

Sinclair Suhood

### Editor

Aditya Manikashetti

### Production Designer

Jyot Bhalla

### Art Director

Jacquelyn Hire

### Art Assistant

Louise Marambat

### Sound Design

Liam Del Prete

### Stylist

Jay Joshi

### Original Music

Prema Yin Rane  
Kali Kavandan

### Colourist

Dinesh Kumar  
(PostPond Media)

### VFX

Aditya Manikashetti  
(Split Second Studio)

### 1st Assistant Director

Riley Maguire

### 1st Assistant Camera

Max McCluskey-Voight, John

Katz

### 2nd Assistant Camera

Stella Muriti, Kyle Riordan,

Kent Wang, Alexandra

Anonuevo

## 2nd Unit Camera

### Operator

Kieran Camejo

### 2nd Unit 1st Assistant

### Camera

Syafiq Ibrahim, James  
Olney

### Sound Recordist

Kieran Camejo

### Gaffer

### Head of Hair and Makeup

Karli Norman

### Makeup Artist

Aysia d'Anthes

### Makeup Artist

Yvonne Tran

### Hair Stylist

Jinnaya Wilson

### Graphic Designer

Amber Young

### Social Media

Devon Riddle

## CAST

### Marge

Raechyl French

### Fiona

Aisling Delahunt

### Brad

Bryce Webster

### Massueuse

Natascha Borg

### President

Sel Hiew

## EXTRAS

Akash Sen Thakuri

Alexa Jasmine Vinzant

Annabelle Miller

Cheyenne Griggs

Courtney Watts

Diab Metry

Gerard Fahy

Gracie Franklin

Jacquelyn Hire

James Dongmin Lee

Jay Joshi

Justin Summerill

Lara Bate

Lauren Abela

Mieke Kennedy

Monique Simone

Patrick Steven Goller

Quentin Baudenon

Quyen Cheng

Scott Gabutto

Shayla Belle Sumner

Sofie Steffensen

Sonny Lockett

Srijan Kharel

Tara Forghani

Val Chidiac

## SPECIAL THANKS

Anna Broinowski

George-Alex Nagle

Gursimar Bhalla

Reswin Bahas

Virginia Hilyard

## STOCK FOOTAGE

Artgrid

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**Contact**

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