

THIS WORLD DOESN'T DESERVE YOU

Paul Gerrard

The Earth,  
The Worm

Direction  
Reswin Bahas

Cinematography  
Shuai Guo

Produced by  
Chloe Zheng



## LOGLINE

A BIOLOGY TEACHER WITH A PECULIAR FASCINATION FOR EARTHWORMS FORMS AN UNLIKELY FRIENDSHIP WITH A BULLIED STUDENT. YET, HIS DARK SECRET UNFOLDS AS HE TAKES EXTREME MEASURES TO SPARE THEM FROM THE PAINS OF GROWING UP.



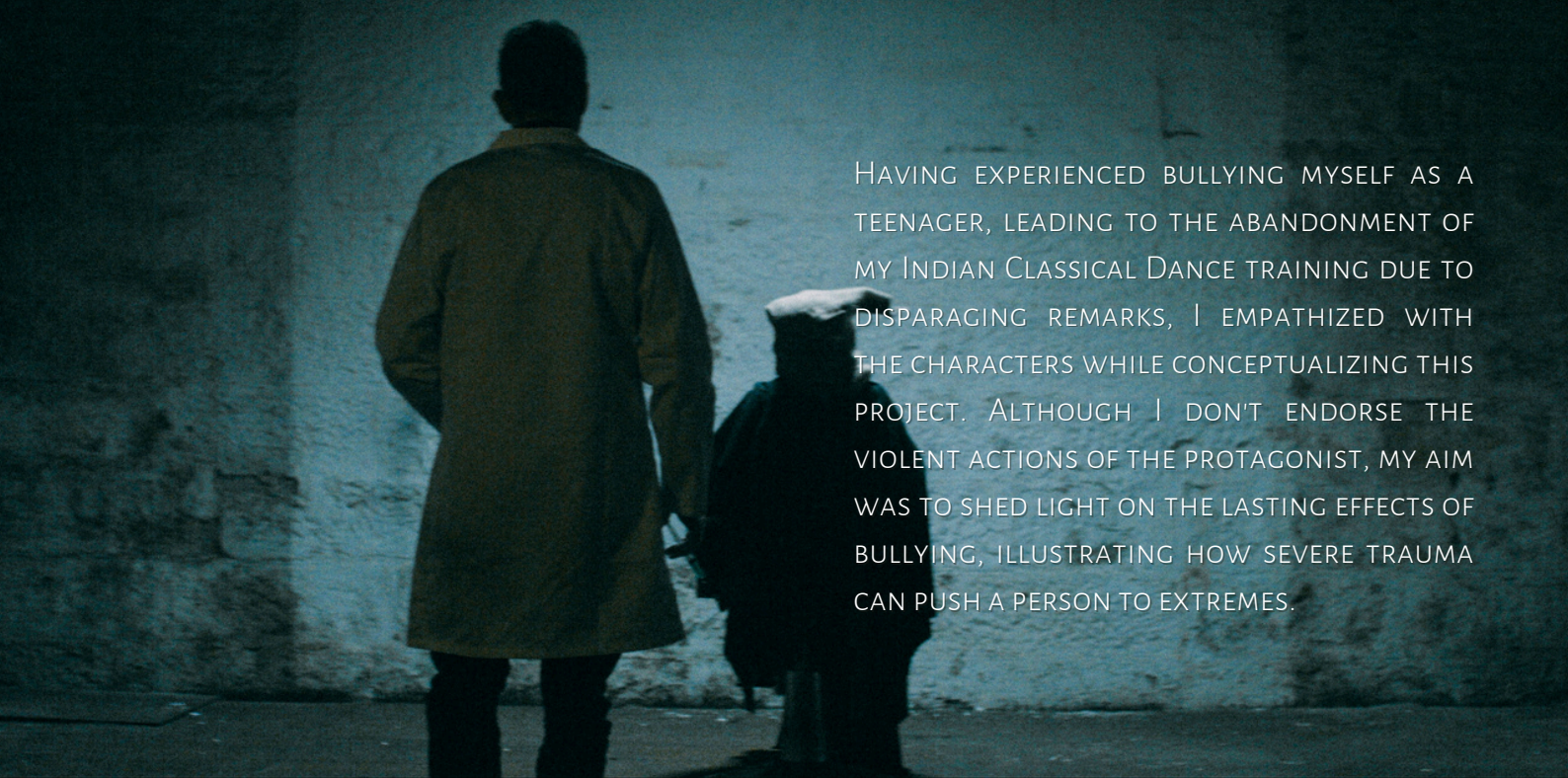
## SYNOPSIS

WHILE LECTURING AN UNINTERESTED CLASS ABOUT EARTHWORMS, JOHNSON, A SOCIALLY AWKWARD BIOLOGY TEACHER, BEFRIENDS A BULLIED STUDENT HENRY WHO SHARES THE SAME INTEREST IN WORMS. JOHNSON HIMSELF IS DOMINATED AND BULLIED BY EVERYONE AROUND HIM, BUT HE DOESN'T INTEND TO FIX IT. HE BELIEVES HIS PURPOSE IS TO PROTECT YOUNG WORMS LIKE HENRY FROM THEIR FUTURE. SO HE TRAGICALLY ENDS HENRY'S LIFE. IN THE END, HE ADDS A HAIR SAMPLE OF HENRY TO HIS SECRET COLLECTION.


# DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT



"THE EARTH, THE WORM" DELVES INTO A PSYCHODYNAMIC PORTRAYAL OF AN ANTI-HERO INITIALLY DESERVING EMPATHY FROM THE AUDIENCE, GIVEN HIS ROLE AS A SCHOOLTEACHER WHO EMPATHIZES WITH A BULLIED STUDENT. THE CENTRAL THEME REVOLVES AROUND MERCY-KILLING AND EXPLORES THE PROFOUND IMPACT OF BULLYING, PERSISTING EVEN INTO ADULTHOOD.



HAVING EXPERIENCED BULLYING MYSELF AS A TEENAGER, LEADING TO THE ABANDONMENT OF MY INDIAN CLASSICAL DANCE TRAINING DUE TO DISPARAGING REMARKS, I EMPATHIZED WITH THE CHARACTERS WHILE CONCEPTUALIZING THIS PROJECT. ALTHOUGH I DON'T ENDORSE THE VIOLENT ACTIONS OF THE PROTAGONIST, MY AIM WAS TO SHED LIGHT ON THE LASTING EFFECTS OF BULLYING, ILLUSTRATING HOW SEVERE TRAUMA CAN PUSH A PERSON TO EXTREMES.




SYMBOLISM PLAYS A PIVOTAL ROLE IN OUR STORYTELLING APPROACH. THE WORMS SYMBOLIZE INDIVIDUALS LIKE THE PROTAGONIST, AND THEIR ABILITY TO REGENERATE ONLY WHEN CUT SERVES AS AN INTRIGUING ELEMENT. THE PROTAGONIST SEES THIS AS A FORM OF LIBERATION AND REGENERATION RATHER THAN THE TERMINATION OF THEIR LIVES, EMPHASIZING THE PROFOUND IMPACT OF TRAUMA ON INDIVIDUALS.

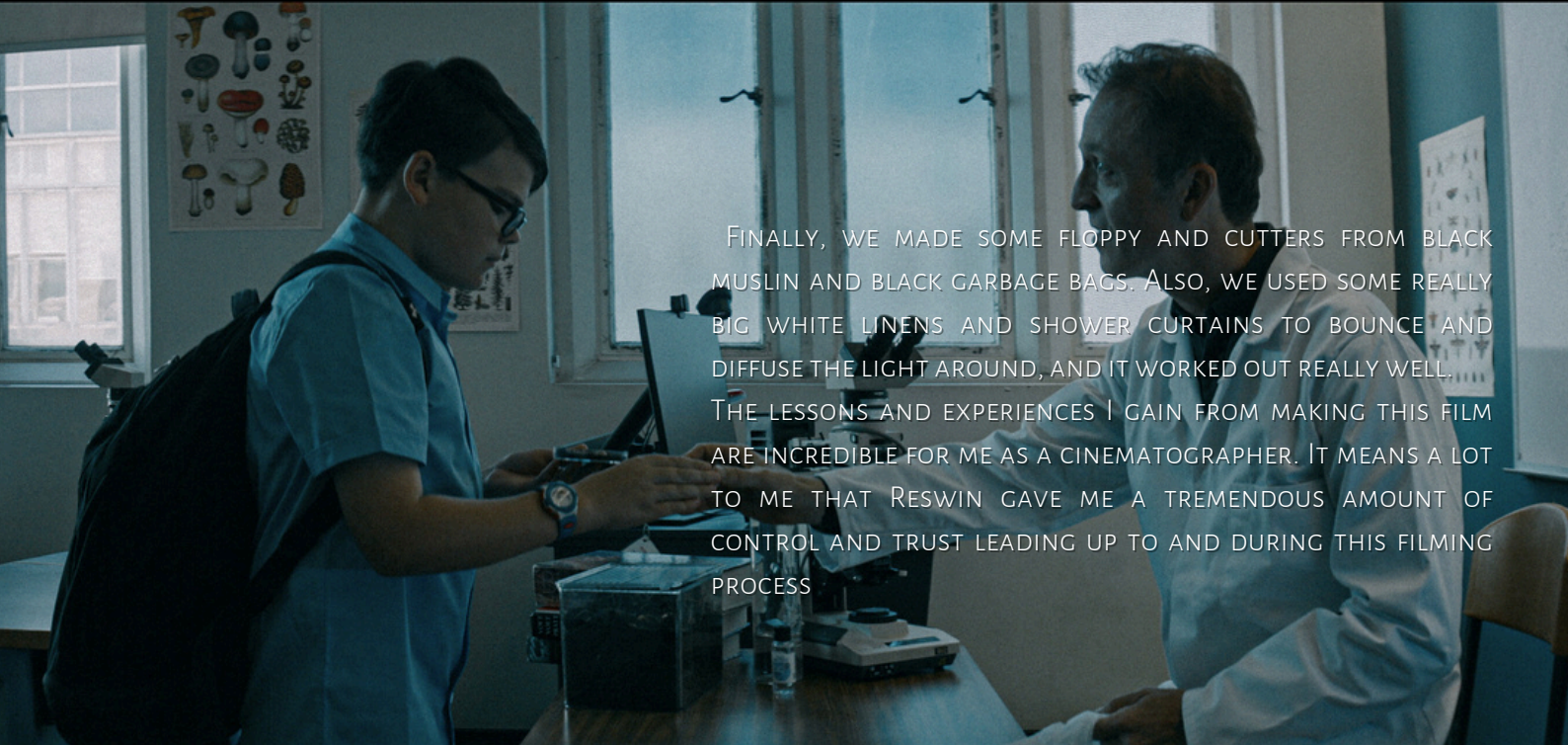


## CINEMATOGRAPHER'S VISION

RESWIN AND I SET OUT IN PRE-PRODUCTION TO CREATE A MUTED, GRITTY AND REALISTIC LOOK, BUT THE SCALE OF THIS FILM IS SOMETHING I'VE NEVER DONE BEFORE. I STUDIED ERINK MESSERSCHMIDT'S WORK, ESPECIALLY MINDHUNTER, WHERE HE LIKES TO FIND A MOTIVATION FOR LIGHTING, THEN START LIGHTING AROUND IT WITH MINIMAL SETUP. WE USED A BLACKMAGIC URSA MINI AND FX30, WITH ANAMORPHIC ADAPTERS, SINCE THE URSA IS TOO HEAVY TO PUT ON A GIMBAL.



SINCE THIS IS MOSTLY ABOUT JOHNSON, I REALLY WANT TO SEPARATE HIM FROM THE WORLD AND TAKE THE AUDIENCE INTO HIS WORLD. AS A RESULT, I KEPT THE DEPTH OF FIELD SHALLOW, SHOT CLOSE-UPS, AND HELD THE CAMERA IN MOTION UNTIL THE MONTAGE STARTED. WE HAD SOME LIGHTING ISSUES. BECAUSE I DON'T HAVE FULL CONTROL OVER THE ENVIRONMENT, I CAN'T PUT THE LIGHTS OUTSIDE THE WINDOWS IN THE STAFF ROOM AND CLASSROOM. WE END UP SHOOTING WIDE SHOTS WITH NATURAL LIGHT AND THEN MEDIUM SHOTS AND CLOSE-UPS. HERE'S WHERE WE CAN CHEAT BY MATCHING THE WIDES. SYAFIQ AND I STRUGGLED WITH HOW TO CUT LIGHTS IN DIFFERENT LOCATIONS EFFICIENTLY.



FINALLY, WE MADE SOME FLOPPY AND CUTTERS FROM BLACK MUSLIN AND BLACK GARBAGE BAGS. ALSO, WE USED SOME REALLY BIG WHITE LINENS AND SHOWER CURTAINS TO BOUNCE AND DIFFUSE THE LIGHT AROUND, AND IT WORKED OUT REALLY WELL. THE LESSONS AND EXPERIENCES I GAIN FROM MAKING THIS FILM ARE INCREDIBLE FOR ME AS A CINEMATOGRAPHER. IT MEANS A LOT TO ME THAT RESWIN GAVE ME A TREMENDOUS AMOUNT OF CONTROL AND TRUST LEADING UP TO AND DURING THIS FILMING PROCESS

# CAST



## PAUL GERRARD (MR. JOHNSON)

Paul Gerrard, born in Manchester, UK, is a versatile actor and presenter. With a Bachelor of Arts in Drama and Sport from De Montfort University, UK, he has honed his skills both on stage and in front of the camera. From playing memorable roles in theater productions, including Agamemnon and Salt of the Earth, to amassing over 2000 hours of live presenting credits on UK national television. Since moving to Sydney in 2009, he has continued to make waves in the industry, training at NIDA and taking on television and film roles. With his passion for storytelling, Paul's captivating performances and engaging presence leave a lasting impression on every project he undertakes.

## JACK WATERS (HENRY WILSON)

Jack, a passionate and energetic 13-year-old from Sydney, is fueled by his love for acting and his dream of becoming a television actor. Alongside his pursuits on the stage, he indulges in gaming, drawing, and sports. Recently, Jack has ventured into singing, showcasing his talent in musicals. With his dedication, he secured 1st place in Drama and CAPA Drama competitions, solidifying his exceptional skills. Jack's unwavering commitment to his craft and diverse interests propel him toward a promising future, as he strives to make his mark in the entertainment industry.



## SIERRA PAPPS (ARIA JOHNSON)

Sierra, a talented 13-year-old from Sydney, is a rising star in the acting world. With accolades for her performances in short films and a strong foundation in the Meisner technique, Sierra's passion for acting is evident. She also finds joy in modeling, reading, singing, and drawing, showcasing her diverse artistic talents. Watch out for this vibrant young talent as she continues to make her mark in the industry.



# KEY CREW



## RESWIN BAHAS (DIRECTOR)

Reswin Bahas is a Sydney-based Writer-Director, award-winning filmmaker, and versatile storyteller known for his captivating narratives and global perspective. His directorial debut film, "Switch," has garnered critical acclaim and earned him prestigious awards, solidifying his position as a rising talent in the industry. With a keen eye for storytelling and a dedication to pushing creative boundaries, Reswin continues to create impactful cinematic experiences that resonate with audiences worldwide.

## SHUAI GUO (DOP)

Arsa Guo, also known as Shuai Guo, is an emerging Chinese Australia based student filmmaker with a focus on cinematography, editing, and writing. In Yunnan, China, he grew up in an impoverished town as an aboriginal Chinese. Back then, watching films was the only way he could connect to the outside world and that pushed him to find a way of making them. In 2019, he made his first documentary, I Can't Be One of Them, about four subculture kids making their way out of suffocating monotony. Since then, he's made short films like Late Dinner, META and With You, and also music videos for underground rappers like ODontheway in Yunnan. Recently his cinematography and editing at With You (2022) won at the MMI Showcase at Sydney University. And he worked as 1st AC and drone operator with Dr. Andrew Sully for The Dam (2023).



## CHLOE ZHENG (PRODUCER)

Qingxin Zheng as known as Chloe Zheng is a filmmaker based in Sydney, Australia. As a graduate of screen and media of Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology and the College of the Arts of University of Sydney, she has interested in architecture, contemporary art, visual art and V.A.J.P. Her body of work currently spans short film, music video, video art installation and creative photography. Chloe is a valued participant in Rookwood HIDDEN Sculptures 2022 internship program.



# SPECIFICATIONS

TITLE: THE EARTH, THE WORM

RUNNING TIME: 13:50 MINS

COMPLETION DATE: 26TH JANUARY 2024

SHOOTING FORMAT: 4.6K - BLACKMAGIC -DIGITAL

SCREENING FORMAT: DCP/ APPLE PRORES 422 HQ

ASPECT RATIO: 2.39:1 ANAMORPHIC

SOUND: 5.1 STEREO

COUNTRY OF PRODUCTION: AUSTRALIA

YEAR: 2024

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH



PRODUCTION COMPANY: INDIVISUAL PRODUCTIONS (ARRBEE)

DIST/SALES: INDIVISUAL PRODUCTIONS

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