



# FRACTURED FRAME

A PSYCHOLOGICAL SHORT FILM  
BY NATALIE LAUREN

CINEMATOGRAPHY HELENA GONZALEZ CO-DIRECTOR SIMON LONDON EDITOR GIANLUCA TRUDA  
SOUND ROBERT KIVITS & WILL HENLEY GAFFER NGAWANG LEKTSO COLOURIST VANESSA APARICIO  
GRAPHIC DESIGN SHAROZE TALLAT WITH ACTORS DEREK JECK & SAM THACKWELL

LOCATION



SUPPORTED BY



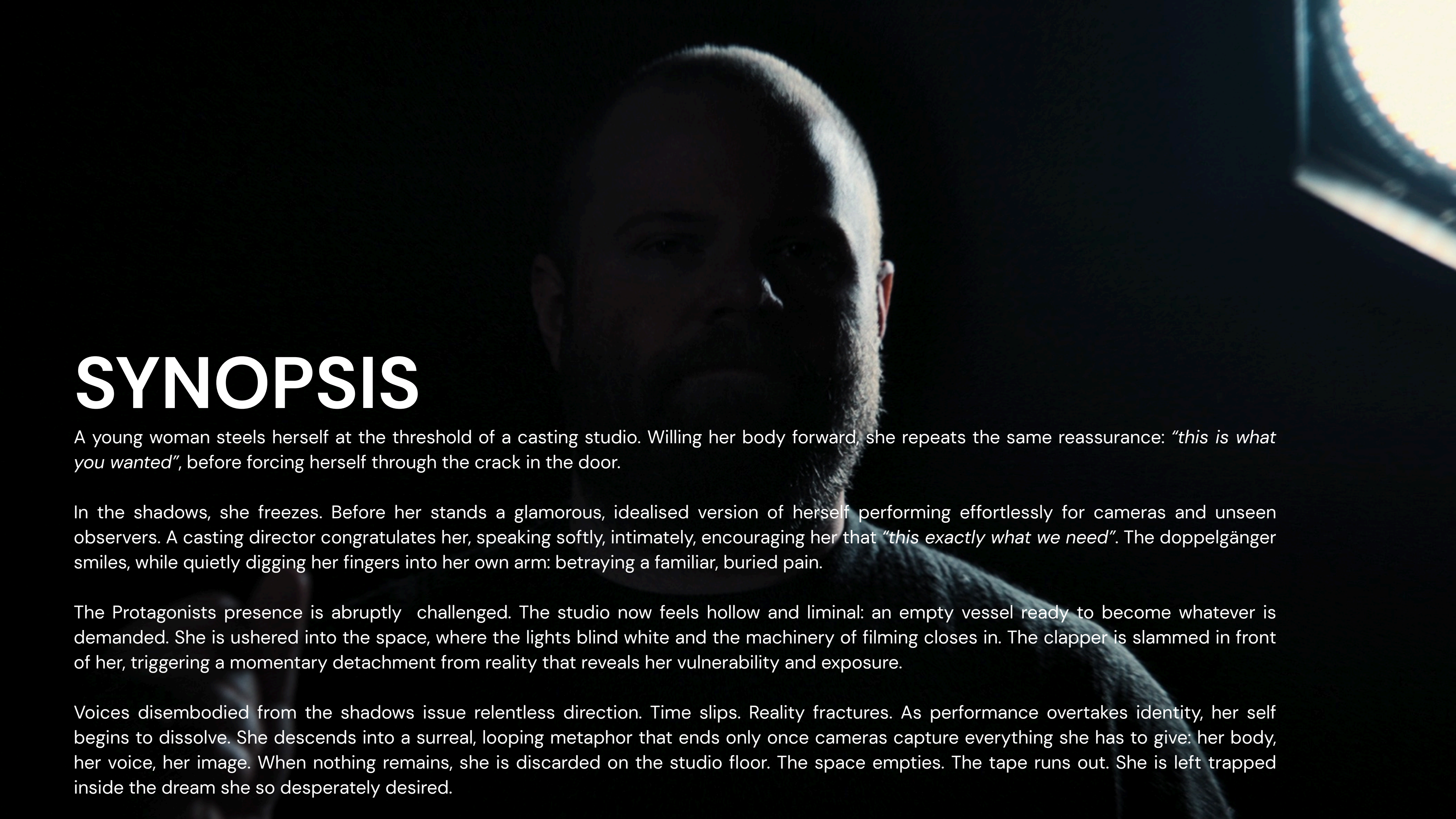
SPLICE



A close-up portrait of a woman with dark, wavy hair, looking directly at the camera with a serious, intense expression. The lighting is low and dramatic, highlighting her face against a dark, textured background. The overall mood is somber and mysterious.

# LOGLINE

A woman's psyche is haunted and fractured by the relentless demands of the predatory industry she sought to break into.



# SYNOPSIS

A young woman steels herself at the threshold of a casting studio. Willing her body forward, she repeats the same reassurance: *"this is what you wanted"*, before forcing herself through the crack in the door.

In the shadows, she freezes. Before her stands a glamorous, idealised version of herself performing effortlessly for cameras and unseen observers. A casting director congratulates her, speaking softly, intimately, encouraging her that *"this exactly what we need"*. The doppelgänger smiles, while quietly digging her fingers into her own arm: betraying a familiar, buried pain.

The Protagonists presence is abruptly challenged. The studio now feels hollow and liminal: an empty vessel ready to become whatever is demanded. She is ushered into the space, where the lights blind white and the machinery of filming closes in. The clapper is slammed in front of her, triggering a momentary detachment from reality that reveals her vulnerability and exposure.

Voices disembodied from the shadows issue relentless direction. Time slips. Reality fractures. As performance overtakes identity, her self begins to dissolve. She descends into a surreal, looping metaphor that ends only once cameras capture everything she has to give: her body, her voice, her image. When nothing remains, she is discarded on the studio floor. The space empties. The tape runs out. She is left trapped inside the dream she so desperately desired.



# STATEMENT

Fractured Frame is a surreal, psychological short film about the mental experience of **dissociation**. It explores the elements of **performance, identity, gendered power, and a destructive nature of ambition**. By physicalising a quiet violence that's often embedded into the casting process, we spotlight the toll that this takes on the psyche of performers desperate to succeed in a competitive industry. For many women, this is a space where the body becomes **both commodity and canvas**, and the self risks being buried beneath versions that are more acceptable, more desirable, more palatable.

The film draws directly from my own experiences and anxieties as an actor. Sitting between narrative and experimental cinema, Fractured Frame is designed as an embodied, visceral experience: one that communicates through image, sound, rhythm, and repetition rather than traditional dialogue. Influenced by surreal and avant-garde cinema, the film uses fractured visuals, immersive sound, restricted colours and deliberate editing choices to sit the audience inside the protagonist's experience of depersonalisation and identity confusion, offering a window into the intensely personal moments of a mind detaches from reality.

This is my debut as a Writer-Director, realised with a remarkably talented team of emerging filmmakers. Made with minimal resources and maximal intention, Fractured Frame is driven by a commitment to emotional honesty, formal boldness, and telling a story that feels as unsettling as it is deeply personal.

– **Natalie Lauren**



# DIRECTORS

**Natalie Lauren** is an actor and filmmaker from Norfolk, England. She holds a degree in Psychology and Philosophy from the University of Oxford, and an MA in Classical and Contemporary Text from the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. She was selected for BFI NETWORK x Film Hub South East's Future Producers programme and completed the Raindance Film Producers Certificate with support from ScreenSkills. Her filmmaking credits include the BIFA Qualified, festival-hit comedy "STI: Sexually Transmitted Introductions", AI-Filmmaking Hackathon winning "How To Be Human", and the upcoming drama "Unauthorised Absence". Self-taught as a writer, director, and editor, Natalie is drawn to psychologically driven stories that interrogate both society and the complexity of the human mind. Fractured Frame marks her writer-director debut.

**Simon London** is an award-winning filmmaker, photographer, and actor from New Zealand. He is a recent graduate of the MA Directing Fiction at the National Film & Television School. His films have screened at major Oscar, BAFTA, and EFA-qualifying festivals, including "That Workman's Arm", which premiered in competition at Clermont-Ferrand International Short Film Festival, and "This Is Ours", winner of the Golden Egg at Reykjavik International Film Festival. With two decades of experience across theatre, television, and film, Simon brings a strong performance-led sensibility to his work. His films explore identity, vulnerability, and the human need for connection.





# SPECIFICATIONS

**Runtime:** 5 minutes 32 seconds

**Genre:** Surreal, Psychological, Avant-garde, Drama

**Country:** UK

**Language:** English

**Subtitles:** English, French (more available on request)

**Camera:** Sony FX3, Sony Mini-DV Handycam, Drone

**Sound Mix:** Stereo, 5.1 Surround, R.128, LtRt

**Aspect Ratio:** 16:9

**Formats:** H264, ProRes, DCP

**UK Premiere:** BIFA Qualifying Worcester Film Festival

**US Premiere:** Academy Award Qualifying CINEQUEST

**Confirmed Awards & Nominations for:** Best Sound, Best Editing, Best Actress, Best Film

# CREW

Director, Writer, Producer: [Natalie Lauren](#)  
Co-Director: [Simon London](#)

Cinematographer: [Helena Gonzalez](#)  
Gaffer: [Ngawang Lektso](#)  
Sound Recordist: [Robert Kivits](#)

Editor: [Gianluca Truda](#)  
Sound Designer: [Will Henley](#)  
Colour: [Vanessa Aparicio](#)

# CAST

Protagonist: [Natalie Lauren](#)  
Casting Assistant: [Sam Thackwell](#)  
Casting Director: [Derek Jeck](#)



# LINKS & CONTACT

**Trailer:** [Click here to view on Vimeo](#) and [here for Dropbox](#)

**Stills Library:** [Click here to view on Dropbox](#)

**Directors' Websites:** [Natalie Lauren](#) and [Simon London](#)

**Cinematographer:** [Helena Gonzalez](#)

**Editor:** [Gianluca Truda](#)

**Sound:** [Will Henley](#)

**Instagram:** [Fractured Frame](#), [Natalie Lauren](#), and [Simon London](#)

**IMDb:** [Click here](#)

**Letterboxd:** [Click here](#)

**Coverage:** [Worcester Festival Blog](#), [Short-Stuff Feature](#), [Location Blog](#)

**Film Freeway:** [Click here](#)

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