Over four years in the making and shot entirely on green screen, this 27 minute, sci-fi featurette was a collaborative effort by many VFX artists around the world with Writer/Director Bobby Bala at the helm. In addition to a very passionate cast & crew, we were able to complete this very ambitious independent film.

Screening Schedule : (Part of the ‘Down to Earth’ shorts program)
Runtime : 27 Minutes
04/27/2019, 9:00 PM at REGAL-11
04/28/2019, 2:30 PM at VEC-05 - Press/Industry Screening
04/30/2019, 8:45 PM at REGAL-04
05/03/2019, 5:45 PM at VEC-03
05/04/2019, 11:00 PM at VEC-02

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DIRECTORS STATEMENT

My initial goal was to simply make a short film with my daughter Ishana who plays Zohra in this film. I felt this would be a memorable experience we could both share for many years afterwards, and it definitely was and so much more.

As a believer of intelligent life on other worlds, I’ve often wondered if we share certain similarities with alien beings. Do they have families or jobs or addictions? Do they experience love and hate?

Are there alternate realities in the universe where alien families experience scenarios similar to life on earth?

One day while parked at a gas station, I saw a burly truck driver and his young daughter getting fuel for their large semi truck. I wondered if he was a single Dad and I imagined how a similar scenario would play out if he was a cargo hauler in space traveling with his daughter.

These questions were the seeds and inspiration that established the foundation for the story and script of this film.

-- Bobby Bala
With over 15 years of experience as a Visual FX Artist and 3D animator, Bobby decided to take the next step and apply these skills as a filmmaker.

In order to finance his film projects, he founded Elite HTS in 2004, which is a manufacturer of custom home cinema seating. After many years of profitable operations, he was finally able to start production on his first film ‘The Shipment’.

After deciding to forgo film school, Bobby was inspired to create his first project with his daughter Ishana who plays Zohra in this film. However, what was meant to be a simple 10 minute sci-fi short, turned into an epic 27 minute featurette which had many unexpected challenges along the way.

During pre-production he was able to use his animation skills to create a complete previz animation of this film. This was an invaluable tool which allowed him to visually communicate his vision to the rest of the cast and crew.

Bobby brings a unique family-oriented approach to the sci-fi genre by following a blue-collar hero set within a fantastical universe inhabited by strange and multidimensional creatures.

Bobby is currently in development for a possible TV series which is inspired by ‘The Shipment’.
Music was the foundation upon which this film was made. Even during the screenwriting process, many pages were visualized and written from existing music tracks which carried the emotional weight of these scenes. Iconic sci-fi films such as 2001: A Space Odyssey used music to convey the essence and story of the film. We attempted to use a similar approach with our film. Most songs were written and performed by our composer Crispin Hands who is best known for the ‘Gears of War’ video game franchise. To capture the warmth and richness of the music, Crispin’s final score was performed by the Vancouver Film Orchestra, and the Vancouver Cantata Singers.
Born in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, “Van Helsing” star Aleks Paunovic knew from an early age that he was destined to tell stories; whether it was with his fists as an amateur boxing champion, or in the truest form of storytelling: acting.

Credits include feature films such as “War for the Planet of the Apes,” “Freaks,” with Bruce Dern and Emile Hirsch, “Siberia,” with Keanu Reeves, and “Cold Pursuit,” with Liam Neeson.

On the small screen he portrays Julius in Syfy’s “Van Helsing,” (returning for its fourth season this fall), and has additionally starred in CBS’ “Zoo,” “Get Shorty,” with Ray Romano, “Motive,” “Supernatural,” “Continuum,” “iZombie,” “The 100,” “Once Upon a Time,” and “Smallville,” amongst many others.

Next up is TNT’s anticipated new drama “Snowpiercer,” with Jennifer Connelly and Daveed Diggs.
Omari Newton is an award-winning professional actor, playwright/writer & director. His Hip Hop theatre piece Sal Capone was recently featured at Canada's National Arts Centre. Highlights of his extensive list of film, TV and voice over credits include voicing The Black Panther in various Marvel Animated projects, "Larry" on cult comedy classic Blue Mountain State, and Corvus on Netflix’s "The Dragon Prince."

Ishana Bala is an aspiring actress and singer. She is currently a grade 10 senior at her high school. What she enjoys more than anything is performing, whether it’s through her highschool performance of FAME or singing, she cannot get enough of it. She is also a very driven student academically and shows interests in psychology and teaching young children. She loves playing competitive volleyball and volunteers at various organizations through her school from soup kitchens to hamper programs as well as volunteering at summer camps.

Canadian actor Robert Maillet is best known to horror fans as “The Master” on the hit TV show “The Strain,” based on the book from Guillermo Del Toro. He has also appeared in SyFy’s “Haven” and had memorable roles in “Pacífic Rim, 300, Brick Mansions and Sherlock Holmes.” Robert also spent time as a professional wrestler, Kurrgan, in the WWE. Most recently he appeared in Deadpool 2 and Netflix’s Polar.

Omari Newton is an award-winning professional actor, playwright/writer & director. His Hip Hop theatre piece Sal Capone was recently featured at Canada’s National Arts Centre. Highlights of his extensive list of film, TV and voice over credits include voicing The Black Panther in various Marvel Animated projects, “Larry” on cult comedy classic Blue Mountain State, and Corvus on Netflix’s "The Dragon Prince.”
PRODUCERS

ANA CARRIZALES

Ana Carrizales is a Peruvian-Canadian filmmaker & producer. Ana has written, produced and directed several short films and documentaries and is currently co-directing a new feature documentary set in the Amazonian jungle titled ‘School of Shamans’. She was awarded an NBC-Universal Screenwriting Scholarship and graduated with honours. She sits on the boards of Documentary Organization of Canada (BC Chapter) and Vancouver Latin American Film Festival and is a Vancouver Film School producing Instructor. Her latest documentary production, ‘The Day Don Died’, screening soon at Hot Docs (2019) played in Whistler Film Festival 2018, Northwest Filmmakers Film Festival and Vancouver Short Film Festival. She also wrote, directed and starred in ‘Media Luna’ which is premiering at the Vancouver Women in Film & TV Film Festival (2019).

ARUN FRYER

Arun Fryer is an award winning filmmaker and media producer from Vancouver, Canada. Arun produced the indie feature thriller ‘Cadence’ and directed the documentary short ‘Before She’s Gone’. He also received the Vancouver Mayor’s Arts Award for Emerging Artist in Film & Media, served for two years on the Board of Directors for DOC BC, and recently completed a TEDxTalk based on his experience with ‘Before She’s Gone’. Arun is presently an instructor at Vancouver Film School and and is developing a feature documentary titled ‘School of Shamans’ about a family from Ecuadorian Amazon fighting to protect their land from resource exploitation. He is the 2019 Artist in Resident for the Reel 2 Real International Film Festival for Youth.
Being a strong proponent of practical FX and makeup vs CG characters, Bobby Baia insisted on using traditional prosthetic makeup.

Though computer technology and CG realism have advanced in recent years, nothing still beats the nuances and expression of real actors.

Sarah Elizabeth was our head of Special FX makeup and her team of makeup artists and sculptors did a masterful job of creating all of our alien characters including the Mechanic, Slavekeeper and Alien Slaves.

Sarah Elizabeth was one of the contestants on season 3 of the hit reality show ‘Faceoff’ where makeup artists compete against one another to create amazing prosthetics and creatures.
Movie magic was created by our VFX wizards and CG artists who transformed a small food storage facility into fantastical alien worlds and environments.

Over 95% of our 350 shots were shot entirely on green screen in our makeshift studio.

The following pages show the before and after imagery.
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