

SERIOUSFILM & TROPISM PRESENT
AN IMPROVISATION ANIMATION BY ROBIN NOORDA

THE ADVENTURES OF ANTONIO ASTRONAUT IN LUNATIC



SCRIPT, DIRECTOR, ANIMATOR, PD, DOP ROBIN NOORDA, MUSIC ALFRED MARSEILLE, ASTRONAUT PUPPET JEROEN ZIJLSTRA, TECHNIQUE PAUL GODSCHALK
SOUNDEDITOR CAMIEL MUISER, RE-RECORDING MIXER JOS VAN GALEN, AUDIOPOST STUDIO POSTA, GRAPHIC DESIGN MARGOT VAN DE STOLPE
PRODUCERS TROPISM ART & SCIENCE COLLECTIVE, MORPHOSIS, EXECUTIVE PRODUCER SERIOUSFILM

seriousfilm

TROPISM

Morphosis

LUNATIC

Logline

This seriously absurd environmental comedy, tackles urgent earthly issues, and unearthly issues like space debris, as seen by a lonely astronaut, called Antonio, who was left behind on the moon after his coming out.

Synopsis

The film tackles urgent earthly issues, as seen by a lonely astronaut, called Antonio, who was left behind on the moon after his coming out.

The Moon Guard, a statue of a skinned warrior rising from the moon's surface, symbolises defence against the space debris danger from above. In addition to the climate crisis, human waste, even in space, determines our fate. Ultimately, collisions between space debris and satellites will cause a cascade of collisions that will destroy all communications. It's called Kessler syndrome. The earth ends up with a Saturn like dust ring of metal and silicon. Antonio is aware of these problems and as he put's it: "It is one small scrap by man, one giant heap by mankind." He tries to do some terra forming on the moon and finally he meets the all knowing 'I am AI' who also happens to be the voice over.

Lunatic is an improvisation animation film by Robin Noorda, based on his poem about the human behaviour of leaving waste everywhere, even in outer space and his juvenile drawing of a skinned warrior, trying to defend itself against a lunar lander.

Themes and genre

Themes: human behaviour, earthly issues as climate catastrophe, global heating, the big burn, drought and floods, waste, space debris (Kessler Syndrome), danger of AI, danger of tech-totalitarianism, call to diminish digital dependence, death and extinction, pandemics, panspermia, terraforming, inclusiveness and awareness.

Genre: improvisation animation, hybrid, experimental and absurd environmental comedy.

Credits

Script, art, direction, camera, animation, edit, vfx, sfx, production - Robin Noorda

Astronaut Puppet - Jeroen Zijlstra, 5 A.M. Studios

Music - Alfred Marseille

Technique - Paul Godschalk

Soundeditor - Camiel Muiser

Re-recording mixer - Jos van Galen, Posta

Graphic Design - Margot van de Stolpe

Producers - Tropism Art & Science Collective, Morphosis

Executive Producer - Marc Thelosen, seriousFilm

Distribution - Ursula van den Heuvel, Kaboom Distribution

Technical information

Format: 4096 X 2160 DCI 4K, 1.90:1 (256:135) - DCP, ProRes, mov, m4v

Length: 16 minutes (16'00")

Sound: 5.1 surround (and stereo)

Image: colour, stop-motion animation

Used software: Dragonframe, FCP, Motion, Photoshop, Topaz

Director's statement

The array of urgent crisis the world is facing is of an absurd magnitude. The people who really can do something about it, do too little or are looking the other way. Since we are aware of man's lunacy, perhaps it is best to laugh about it.

It is an improvisational animation because the workflow was not based on a fixed script, storyboard or plan. The only way to be truly independent meant making the film without a budget. So, I didn't even bother applying for funding. I started with only some ideas and images in my head. Improvisation animation is an approach I promote in order to maintain creativity during production instead of being merely a slave of the pre-production script and storyboard.

The film is based on my poem and my lost and recently re-emerged juvenile drawing (made in 1975) of a skinned warrior, trying to defend itself against a lunar lander. It also features a 40 years lost model spaceship I made during my internship at Toonder Studio's that also recently came back to me.

Facts and figures

The 'LUNATIC' film:

- is an improvisation animation,
- is an experimental and absurd environmental comedy,
- is based on the directors poem about urgent earthly matters and our capability to produce waste everywhere, even in outer space,
- is also based on his juvenile drawing of a skinned warrior, trying to defend itself against a lunar lander.
- features a large model starship he made 40 years ago, which was lost and only recently returned.
- is a zero budget, 16', 4K, one-year-one-man-production, indie, art-house, stop-motion-animation film of over 24.000 photographs.
- was made with a little help from AI: the voices were AI generated, a few shots had some AI inbetweening, and the newspaper article about "Total AI Takeover" in the AI scene was written by AI.

Robin Noorda - director | artist | animator | PD | DoP | VFX | producer | poet - robin.noorda@gmail.com

For more info: <https://www.tropism.eu/lunatic.html> pw: Moonguard





Bio- and Filmography Robin Noorda

Robin Noorda (31-12-1959 Laren NL) studied animation, graphic design and photography at the Gerrit Rietveld Academy and the Rijks Academy both in Amsterdam. In the early eighties he started as designer and animator for the Dutch public broadcasting organisation and was a pioneering computer animator at the first CGI studio in the Netherlands. In that period he also co-founded the art movement Tropism Art & Science Collective and his design company Morphosis. Nowadays he is an independent filmmaker and (back to basics) stop-motion animator. As an artist he is also active in experimental photography and interactive light installations.

Lunatic (2024, short stop-motion animation, 16')

London, New Arts International Film Festival - Poetry Award
Milano, Absurd Film Festival - Absurd Award
Istanbul, Anatolia International Film Festival - World Building Award
Cleveland Ohio, Short Sweet Film Fest - Environmental Award
Kookai International Film Festival - Current Issue Award

Rebirth of Venus (2021, short stop-motion animation 9')

Premiere: Netherlands Film Festival
Berlin Underground Film Festival - Best Rhythm & Poetry
Mumbai International Film Awards - Best Content Award
Cooper Awards - Best Screenwriter
Golden Harvest Film Festival - Best Production & Best Experimental Film
Milan Gold Awards - Silver Award Indie Short Film & Gold Award Production Design
New York Movie Awards - Best Production Design
Blastoff Los Angeles - Best Sound Design
Only The Best Film Festival, Winner Experimental & Winner Animation
Pacific Beach International Film Festival - Best Experimental Short
European Cinematography Awards - Best Visual Effects
New York City IO Festival - 3th place winner- Women's Issue Themed
Anticensura Film Festival - Best Political Film
Festival Angaelica - Jury Award Animation
Cine Pobre Film Festival - Honorable Mention
Make Art Not Fear Film Festival - Best Poetry Short

Red-end and the Factory Plant (2015, short stop-motion animation, 15')

Premiere: Netherlands Film Festival
nominated: Clermont Ferrand Short FF, Mecal, HAFF, FIFE, MIAF, Cartoons on the Bay.
Award at the NCAIAF Sapporo, Japan
Honourable Mention for the Devour! Golden Tine Award for Best Animation in Canada.

Red-end and the Seemingly Symbiotic Society (2009, short stop-motion animation, 15')

Premiere: Holland Animation FF, Moviesquad Award.
Nomination: Gouden Kalf - Netherlands Film Festival
Espinho, Cinanima, Award for Best Short Film
Tallinn, Animated Dreams F, "Brain-tap" Award for Best Film
Angers, Premiers Plans - Audience Award Best European Short Film
St. Petersburg; IF of Animation Art, special mention for unconventional look.
Nominated: Annecy International Animation FF, Cartoon d'Or, Nijmegen, Go-short FF

Shivering Beauty, Soundscape of Mongolia (2007 - dir. cut 2010, documentary / music film, 74')

Premiere: Amsterdam, Buddhist Film Festival
Broadcasted: BOS/NPO Dutch Pubic Broadcaster

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LUNATIC

Time itself will slip away,
history of life is astray.
No one will write or speak, no sound of breath.
In oblivion dwells the memory of death.



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