

SILENT FILMS

A small town projectionist of silent films secretly cuts out the sad scenes from the film reels. In a strange accident he goes mad, local people discover sadness, fates change, the cinema is abandoned and silent films stop to exist.



DESCRIPTION OF THE MAIN STORY AND POETICS

The last projectionist in the world, accompanied by his coming of age nephew, projects silent films in a small town's cinema. The cinema is the place where fates of the local people meet. The projectionist's secret is that he cuts out all the sad scenes from the film reels. One day, in a mysterious accident, the projectionist goes mad. His nephew takes over the work, but it seems that he doesn't have the secret ingredient. When people discover sadness, their lives change, the silent era ends and the world they knew is already gone.





Exterior sketch

Director's Statement

The basic for the screenplay of this film is a short story 'Silent Films', from an awarded Macedonian writer Dimitar Dimoski. The artfulness that the story is written with, and the gallant passages between historical reality and abstract metaphors, makes a challenge for it to be treated with the stop motion animation technique.



Exterior sketch





'Characters Description'

The Narrator

He is one of those people who will always remember the smell that a summer rain does to the earth. He is modest, well-behaved and hard working kid. When he would grow up, he would then find out that childhood is the only surrealism in life, and by then, he would be in love with the silent films, and he would be in love with Elena, and eventually, all of that would lead to a shipwreck. He is the protagonist to the coming-of-age story.

Elena

Elena is sweet, huggable, her smell reminds of melancholy and her skin is like a sunset in August. She watches films like they exist only at that moment, and she would never say too much or too less, she would think that touches are like words to the body, and she would forever be a metaphor to the wind. She would disappear, and then reappear, and she would make the appearing a universe, and the disappearing — another universe, and both of them would never meet each other.

'Characters Description'

The Uncle

The Uncle is a reflection of the silent films that he is screening. He is like a pantomime, or more like an image of a pantomime that wants to scream, but can't do it because of his performance. He couldn't imagine a world without films that are silent and without women who are constantly talking. He is the only family figure to the Narrator, and he would never tell him that the world is a strange place to live in.



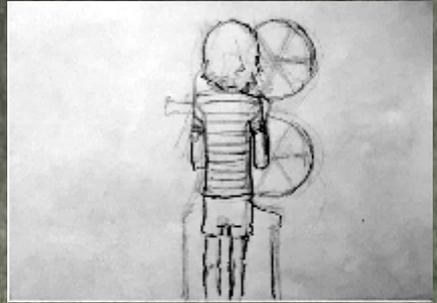
Peasy the Gypsy

Everything about the existence Peasy the Gypsy revolves around magical realism. He deals with the metaphysical world, and in the end, he becomes one. He is the only mutual companion to the Narrator and the Uncle, and his smile is like a smile that a child makes when touching the snow for the first time. He is like a fairytale character, except he wouldn't save the world and be happy for the rest of his life.



Visual treatment

The film is set to have duration of 15 minutes and it will be made in the technique of 'puppet stop motion animation'. Special emphasis will be placed on the design of main characters; the Uncle and the Narrator and their transformation, growing — getting old. There will be many references from silent films on the big screen in the cinema. Their presence provides an opportunity for outstanding play with lights and shadows. The expression will be a mix of styles and techniques which are often used in the modern animated film.



About us

Focus Pocus was established in 2012 by Darko Popov (owner, producer) and Dimo Popov (cinematographer), brothers by blood and by spheres of interest. The name of the company, Focus Pocus, connects to the magic of the film as a medium, but also refers to the magic of bringing ideas to life.

The company has two main missions:

1. To discover, develop and motivate young and talented authors to tell their relevant stories, whatever the length, genre or type, be it individually human or politically social;
2. To function as a link which connects Balkan authors and creatives with counterparts from all over the world, with a purpose to produce quality content which will make us all proud.

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