

The background of the image is a dark, atmospheric seascape. The sky is filled with dark, heavy clouds, with a bright, golden light source (the sun or moon) breaking through near the horizon, creating a strong glow and illuminating the clouds from below. The sea is dark and textured with small waves. In the distance, on the horizon, a large sailing ship with multiple masts is visible, its sails partially illuminated by the golden light. The overall mood is mysterious and dramatic.

AESOP'S FABLES



**An Awe-inspiring Tale
Based based on the classic
collection of cautionary tales.**

A dramatic landscape painting featuring a steep, rocky cliff on the right side with a waterfall cascading down. A path leads from the bottom left towards the center, disappearing into the distance. The sky is filled with soft, golden light and a few birds are visible. The overall tone is majestic and somewhat somber.


**Once Upon a Time,
the Gods created paradise,
and filled it with both
Man and Animal.**

**We were to live in harmony,
but Man thought
themselves our betters,
and brought nature to heel
under their whips and boots.**



**This angered the Gods,
so they granted a
Goose infinite vitality,
which she passed to
others she deemed worthy.**

**Together, we drove
Man from the island.
With the Golden Goose's
power as our cornerstone,
we thrive in peace.
Or so they say...**



**But Paradise is fickle,
for its shadows harbor
selfish intentions and the
coldest of slums. I survive
thanks to my sly and clever
mind, but cleverness isn't
always enough.**

**One day, a foreign
scent arrived in the air.
Something nearly forgotten.
Something that had the
power to change everything.**



**Fractured visions,
our Savior in chains.
Normally, I wouldn't mind.
Upheaval gives the clever
the advantage.
But even I couldn't
see this coming.**



**By leveraging my freedom
and my family, the Monkey
forced me to spy on the
most fearsome of us all.**

**To restore order, we embarked
upon an epic odyssey over a
treacherous landscape to find
what we have lost, with only a
man's "visions" as our guide.**



**And as our journey
took us further, fear grew
for the Monkey's plot.**

**Only the most clever
of minds could capture
the Golden Goose, and
whoever controls her,
controls us all...**

AESOP'S FABLES

is a bold reimagining of the classic series of folktales.

Based closely on the original collection of cautionary tales, this series is an epic journey following a slave as he washes up on the shore of a mysterious island, home to a society of animals. Characters including the Lion, the Fox and the Monkey have been transformed into complex heroes in the throes of an extraordinary quest, centralized around the themes of class and human nature. Aesop's Fables has always provided a framework used to help us understand our place in the world, and this is the very heart of this series.

Characters







◀ Fox

Our primary protagonist, Fox is a down-on-her-luck mother struggling to exist in the slums with her young family. Despite her clever mind, she has been displaced by the social inequality that runs rampant in the great city, and she resorts to desperate measures when her family falls ill. Over the course of the series we will discover where her loyalties truly are.

Aesop ▶

A slave with amnesia who washes ashore of our mysterious island. Aesop is a stranger in an even stranger land. After nearly perishing at sea, he is saved by the Golden Goose in the first moments of our series, but this gift of restored vitality comes at the cost of a fractured memory. Aesop quickly finds himself the key to finding the missing Golden Goose amidst a coup within the Animal Kingdom, and must accompany Fox and Lion on their crusade to recover their missing savior. Along the way, he acts as scribe for the benefit of generations to come.



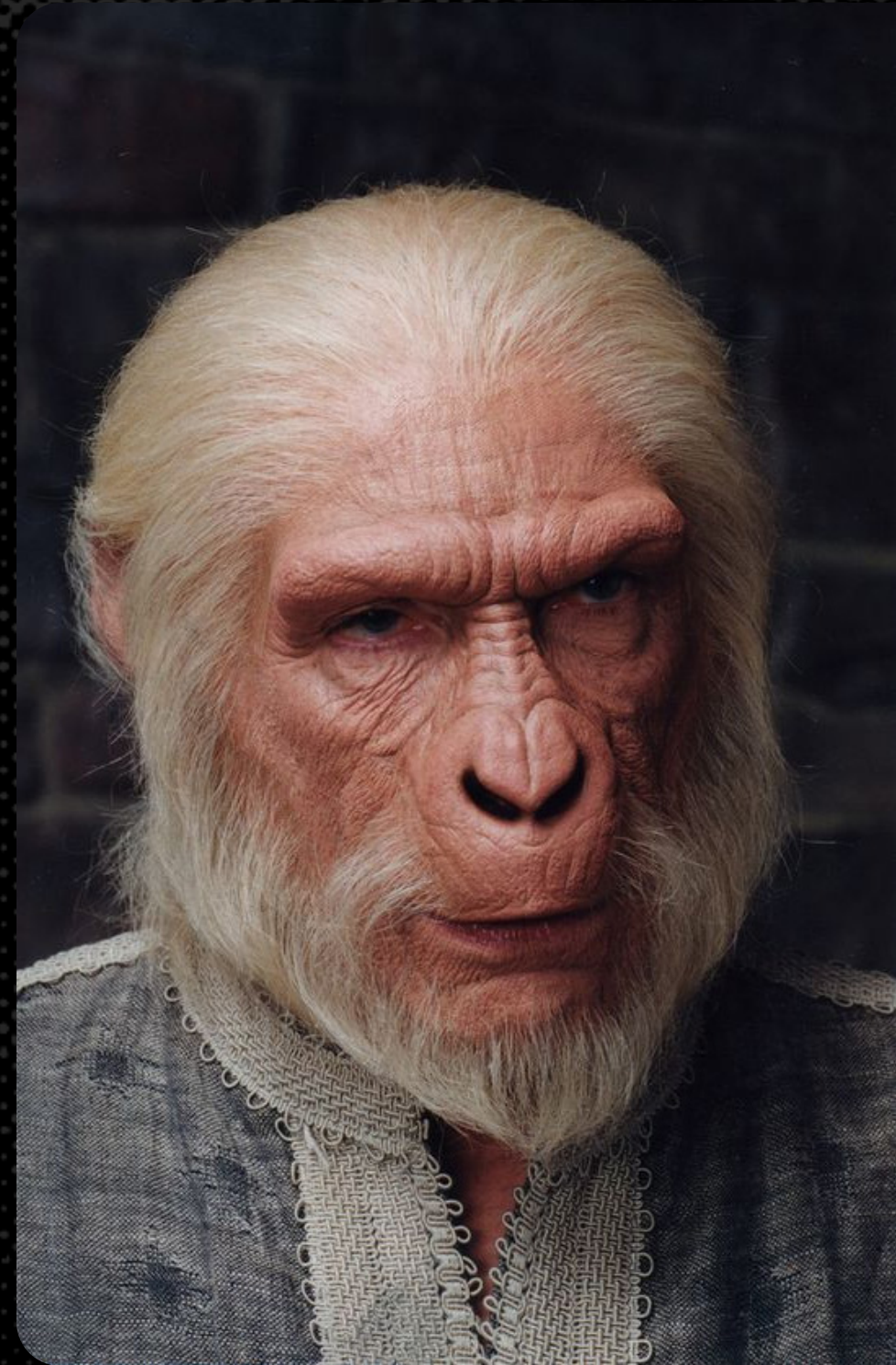


◀ Lion

Royal protector of the island, and first to be chosen by the Golden Goose, Lion represents the military order on the Island. Lion, like many before him, comes from a ruling class of warriors charged with the protection of the savior, and the elimination of any threats to their great society. When the Golden Goose goes missing, it is Lion's responsibility to find her before the society collapses.

Monkey ▶

Another ruling class of animals. If Lion represents the military, then Monkey represents the government. He maintains order through manipulation and cunning rather than brute force, but his true intentions always remain unclear.



The Golden Goose

The Golden Goose is a religious icon, more closely resembling God or an angel than an animal. Few have ever been blessed enough to see her in-person. The Golden Goose is the source of the golden eggs that grant that gift infinite vitality. They have the power to heal any wound, cure any ailment, and grant powers to those she deems worthy. The Golden Goose's existence is what maintains order on the island, and the supply of her eggs is the cause of all social inequality in the surrounding kingdom.





◀ ASS

Unappreciated side kick, and occasional comedic relief. Ass represents the lowest of positions on the social hierarchy, yet has accepted his position as a utilitarian citizen. But dotting on the needs of his masters, he is able to survive. The butt of many a joke, Ass is often the one made an example of. But like the fool, he may well be the wisest of us all.

WOLF ▶

The king of a neighboring kingdom, Wolf is his own master. He and his brood have taken refuge in the snow-capped mountain forests far from the great city. Here, they can take what they want, fight for who they choose, and make freedom the highest priority of all.



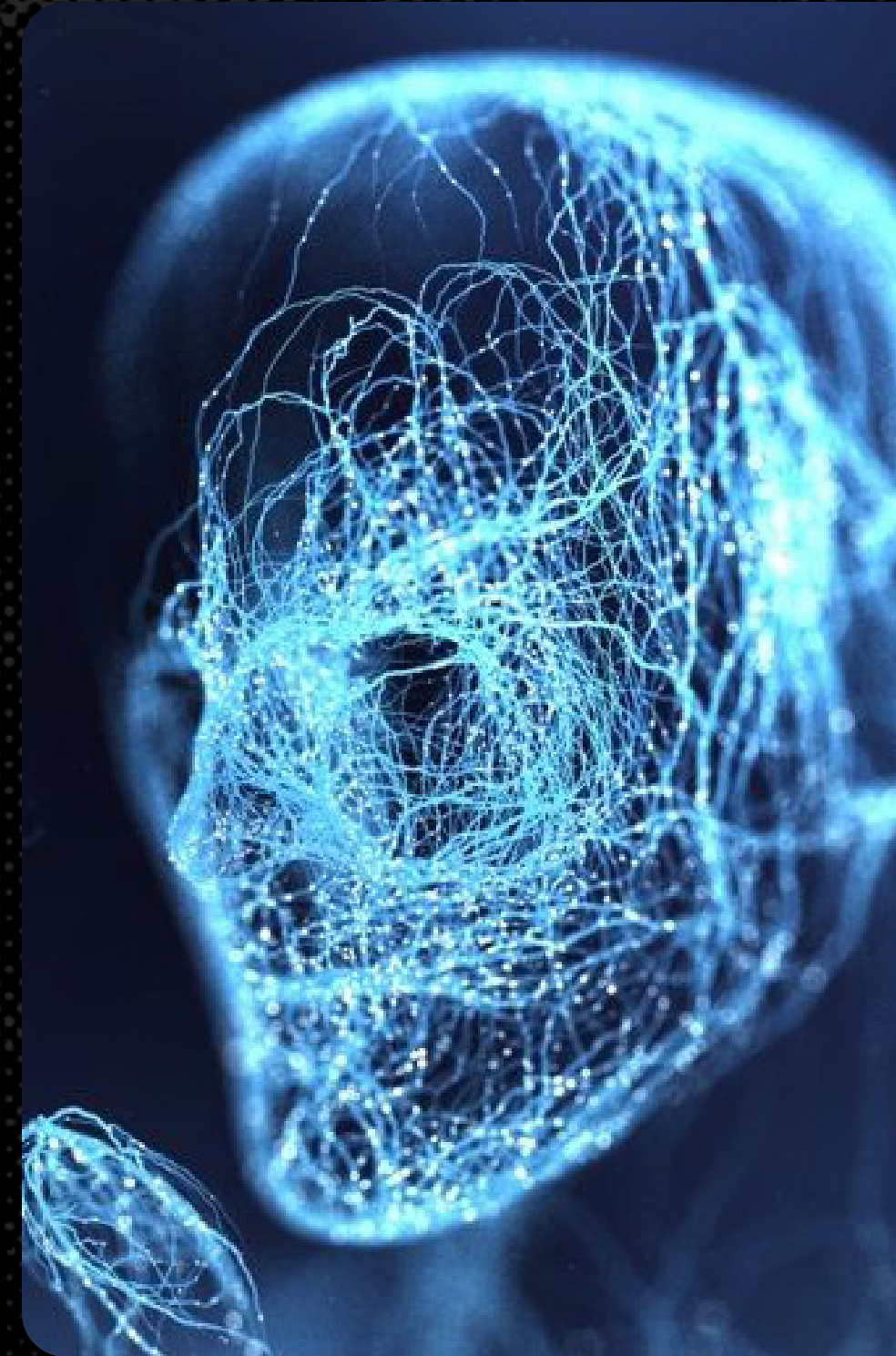


◀ Man

The legend of man is transcendent to the inhabitants of the island. Once rulers who subjugated all animals, they were banished by the Golden Goose and her army many years ago. Man represents an outside force that has the potential to upend the status quo. A disruption of the natural order that could even be advantageous to a clever mind.

Gods ▶

Ultimately represented as a future iteration of humans, they have created a simulation as an experiment to discover the true nature of behavior.



A cinematic jungle scene with large trees and hanging vines. Sunlight filters through the canopy, creating a dramatic atmosphere. The text "Episode One" is overlaid on the right side of the image.

Episode One



The Fox and the Brambles

A wounded human slave struggles off shore in a hurricane, and just before he drowns is saved by the angelic vision of the Golden Goose. He awakes with his wounds healed, but no memory. After wandering for days through a hostile forest, he encounters Fox, just before being attacked by the forest itself. But Fox is on the run, and abandons Aesop just as Aesop is discovered by Monkey and his Hounds. Monkey notices Aesop carries with him the shards of a golden egg. The first man seen in years, and clearly incapable of fending for himself, he is brought back to the Great City for questioning.





Additional Episodes

The Scorpions & The Lion

Lion and Wolf make quick work of a small uprising of Scorpions, and we learn that there is civil unrest on the island. Whatever Lion has, the Scorpions want it, and Lion sustains a mild injury in the upheaval. On the way back to their home, they encounter Monkey and Aesop, and discover that a hollowed egg has been stolen. Surprised to see the first human in aeons, Lion orders Monkey to question him thoroughly.



To Either Flatter or Rail

Once inside the City, Lion and Wolf immediately check on the Citadel, where they discover signs of robbery and kidnapping – their Messiah gone. Investigating, Monkey calls on Fox, where she's caught red-handed attempting to feed her ailing child with the missing egg. Meanwhile, Lion interrogates Aesop for information, receiving none but discovering he has healing powers beyond this world.





To the Victor Goes the Spoils

We open on a flashback of Fox stealing the egg, relying on her cunning and a crystal key she shouldn't have. Back to present, Fox sits in a dank dungeon, where she and Aesop are called before a Council led by Lion and other leaders of the City. It's decided that Lion will take a small Party, Aesop and Fox among them, and follow the Man's fragmented memory to the Golden Goose..



Beware the Flatterer

We journey to the brambles, where there's an attack, and the party is surrounded. This sparks a flashback with Fox, where we see her steal the crystal key from an Eagle and witness firsthand her cunning and manipulation. Back to present, Fox uses her guileful ways to bargain with the brambles to let them go, obtaining a key piece of information that sends their journey towards the ice-capped mountains.

Might Makes Right

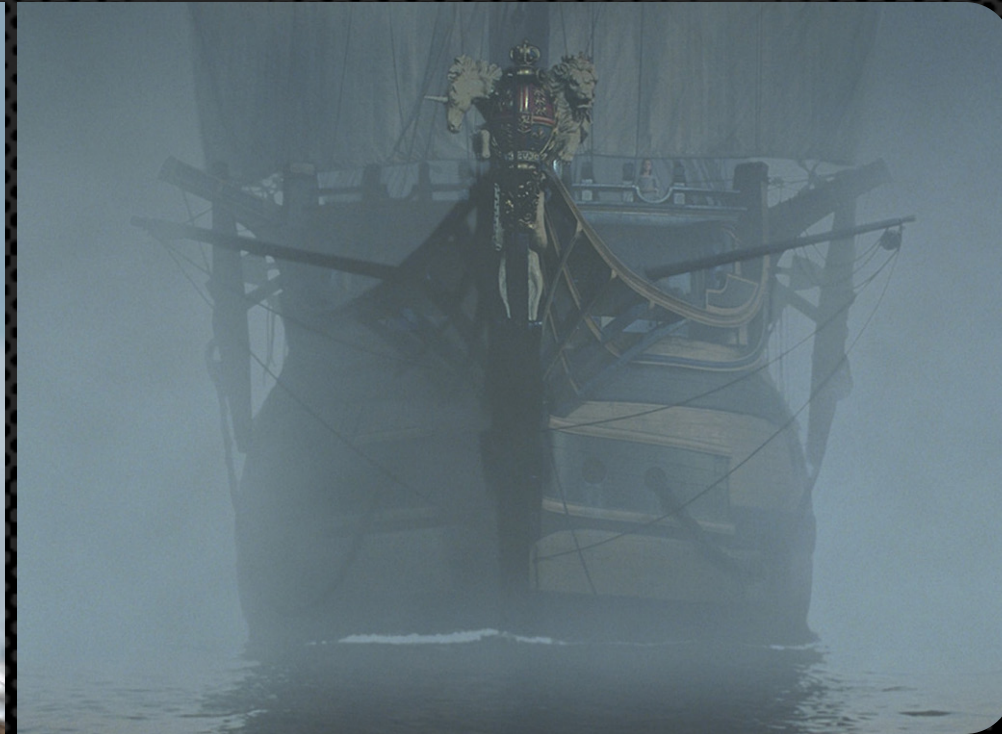
Traveling to the mountains, the Party arrives in Wolf territory, where they stumble upon a lamb carcass and are soon attacked by a pack of canines. Back in the City, Monkey confers with Eagle and lets slip less than pure intentions. Cut back to the wolves, where the Party's situation has worsened, Lion standing his ground, preparing for battle.



Man's Nature

Protecting the Party, Lion attacks the pack of wolves, fighting valiantly but overwhelmed by the numbers. Aesop is knocked unconscious in the commotion, sparking fleeting memories of escaping a slave ship with the help of a young girl. Landing in raging waters, we see him encounter the Golden Goose, following her across the island, from the beach to the desert to the plains. Waking, Aesop finds the Party has been saved.





Strength in Numbers

We open on Monkey and Eagle sailing together to a destination we don't yet know, muffled voices coming from the brig. Rejoin the Party traversing the hot plains hungry from their journey. They encounter four oxen, and work together in order to distract, kill and eat them. Meanwhile, Monkey's modest boat approaches a large human ship – the same from Aesop's memory.



History is Written by the Victor

Aboard the human ship, Monkey meets the Human Captain, offering the caged Golden Goose in return for rule over the Animal realm. Having second thoughts, Eagle decides to break ranks. Back with the Party, they traverse through the plains and desert, arriving at the beach but finding it empty, save for an ominous statue of man subjugating animals, sparking painful memories for Aesop.

Gift the Means for your own Destruction

Still in Aesop's flashback, the Captain questions him, where we learn he stowed away on the ship running from his masters. Back to present, with the Golden Goose imprisoned, Eagle decides to flee under the cover of night, where he's discovered by Monkey and shot with arrows made with his own feathers. Falling to his death, we see a plume of his feathers taken by the wind.



A Message in the Wind

The wind carries news of Monkey's treachery across the island to alert Lion and the Party. Upon arriving, Aesop is in a catatonic state still locked in flashback, Fox and wind conversing with concern. In Aesop's flashback he's beaten and broken on verge of death, when the Captain's daughter comes to his rescue and helps him escape in a raging storm. Finally awakening, the Party races home to face Monkey and his treachery.





Return of the King

The Party returns to the City just as the Captain performs a ritualistic sacrifice of the Golden Goose, consuming the raw egg in her stomach and attaining near-omnipotent power. Enraged, Lion attacks, only to be defeated like a child. The Captain, now taking the Party captive and establishing a new order within the City, puts Monkey in charge. With all seemingly lost, Fox escapes her captors and locates the only known egg kept safe by Monkey, a plan to save the City hatching in her mind.





Environments



The Forest



The Beach



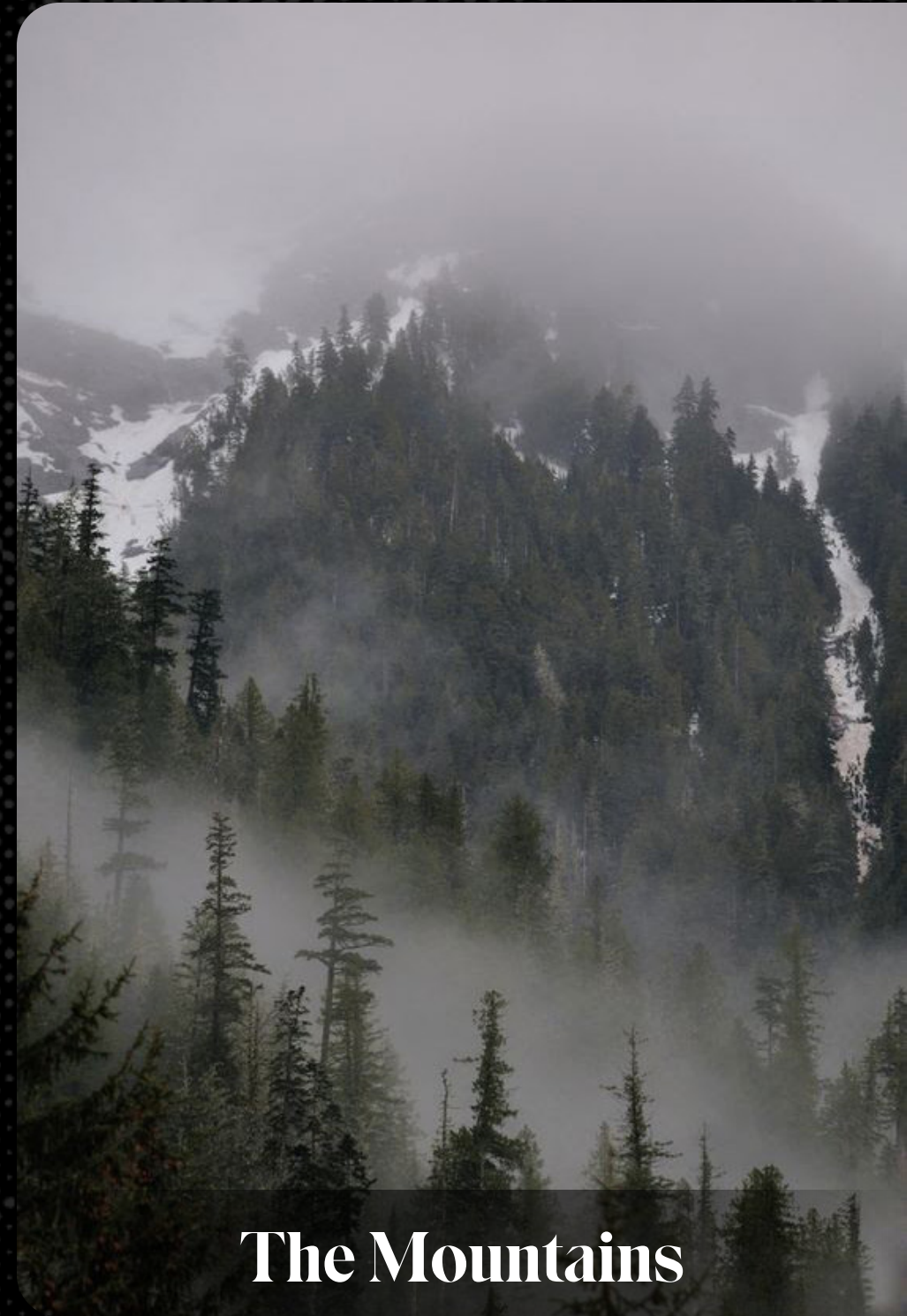
The Citadel



The Slums



The Plains



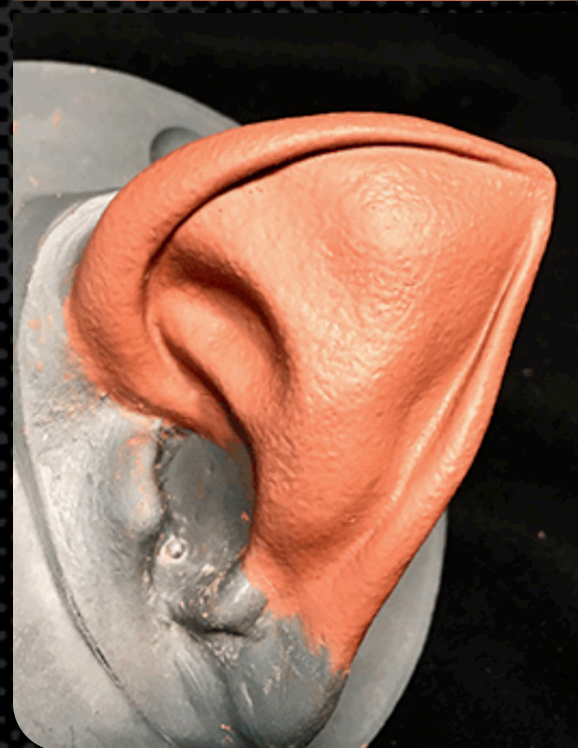
The Mountains

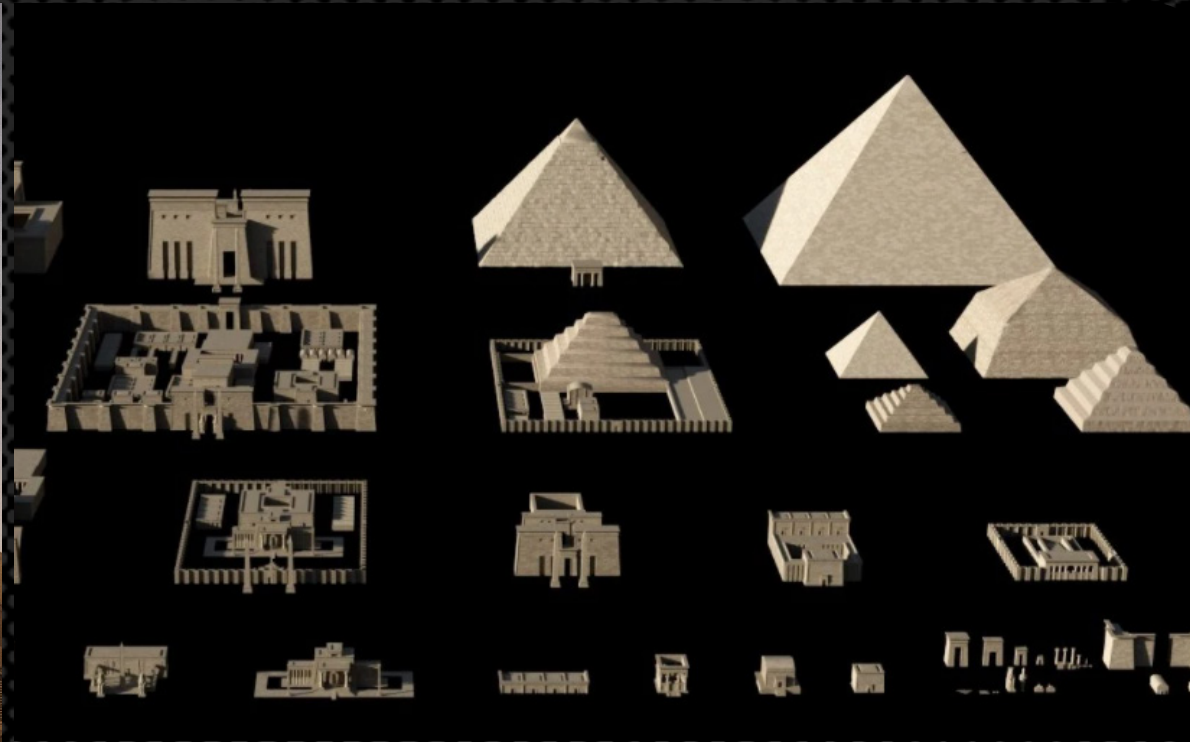


Production

Production Methodology

Prosthetics and makeup – From a makeup and special effects perspective, the intention is to use a library of previously sculpted, general prosthetic pieces that can be applied to our characters. There are multiple catalogs that we can pull from, with individual prosthetic pieces ranging between \$100-\$500 a piece. A makeup artist and paint and apply these in a few hours, and will enable us to be both cost conscious and elevate the production value, and retain a emotionally genuine, human performance from our actors.





Environment Design

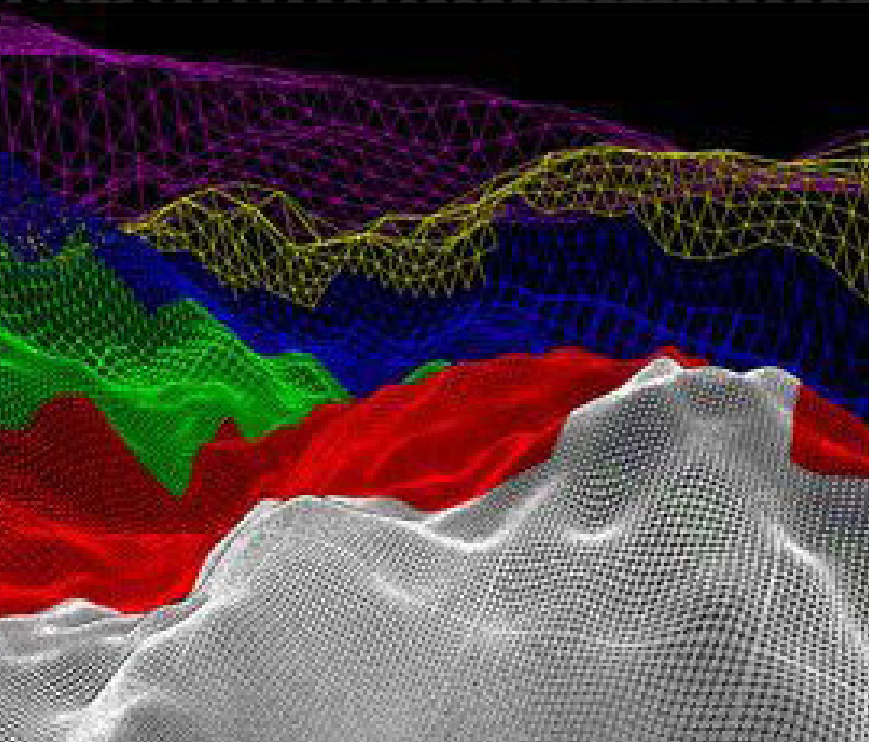
Similar to the approach to makeup and special effects, the intention with the environment design is to use a combination of storyboards and pre-made environments like the ones found on Kitbash.com to exponentially raise the bar in terms of environment design, and at the same time keep our costs low and streamline our post production process. This also gives us the ability to design and compose shots specifically for mobile platforms such as quibi and snapchat.



Compositing

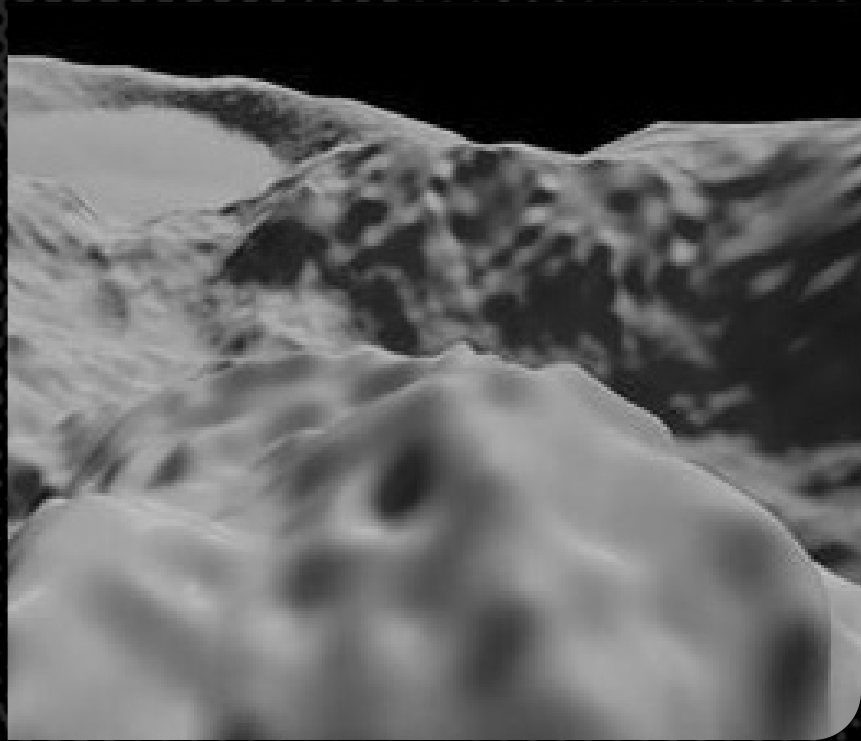
The trick to getting the aesthetic right will be found in the compsiteing. It is the blend between the foreground and the background that will make everything work together. We will draw influence first and foremost from the Aesop's fables storybook aesthetic, but also employ production methodologies found in films like A Scanner Darkly and the Amazon prime show Undone.





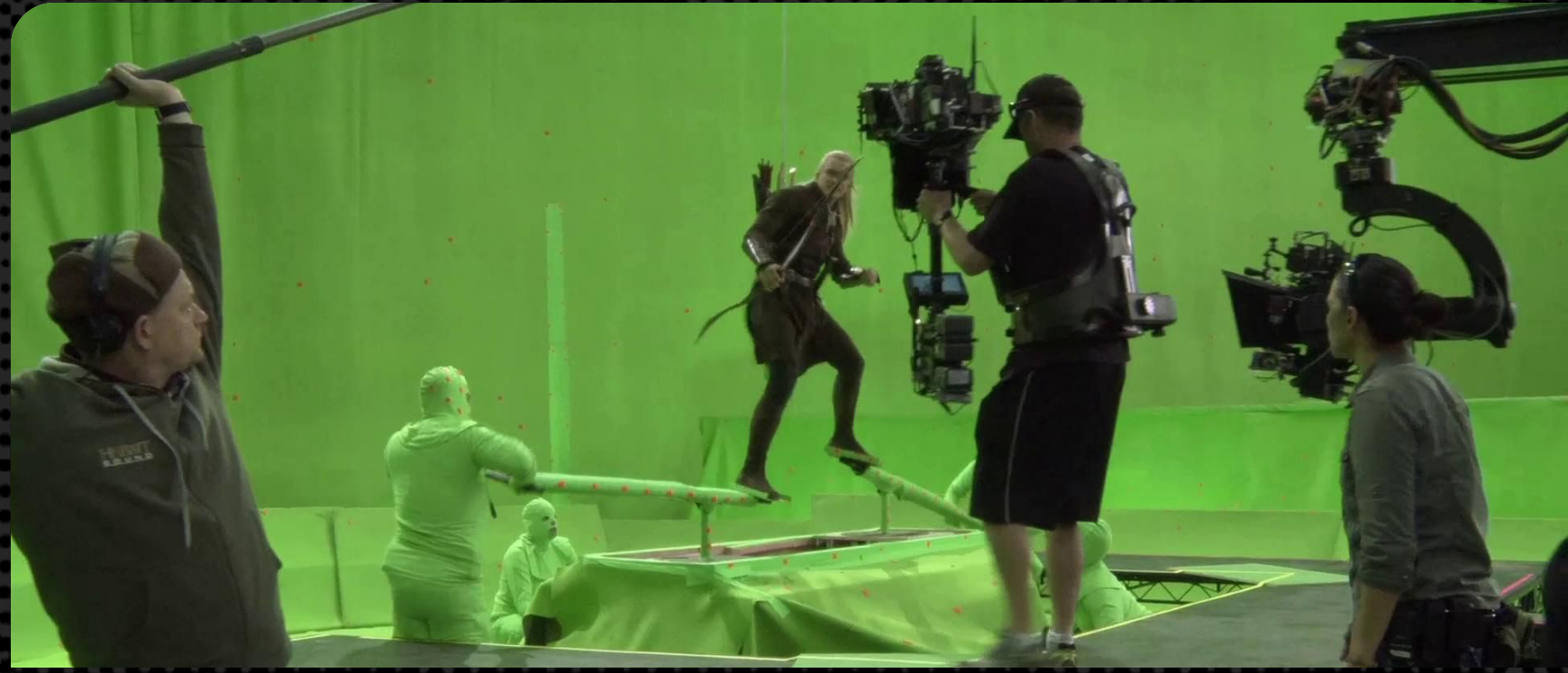
Unreal Engine

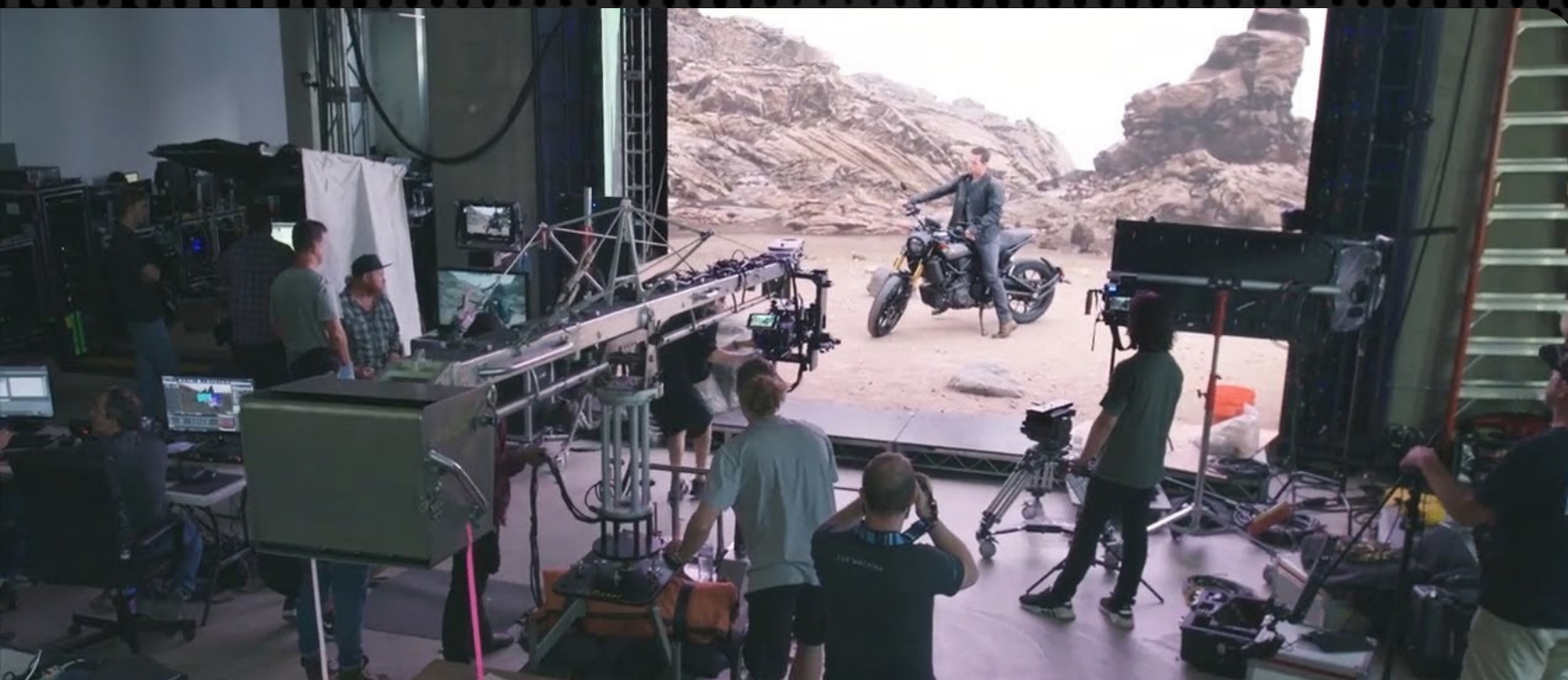
Using the latest innovations made possible by the wonderful folks at Epic Game, and resources such as the Quixel Megascans Libraries, we will create a beautiful textured world that has both a storybook quality reminiscent of the original source material



Green Screen

With our storyboards, prosthetics, and costumes in place, the majority of our action will be shot on green screen. The environment design and framing will have been worked out in advance, enabling us to simply focus on performance, and lighting the scene in a way that is consistent with light sources that have been predetermined.





Virtual Production

An alternative to the traditional post production workflow is to consider the quickly growing use of real time LED Projection stages in combination with Unreal Engine. This technology enables us to effectively eliminate the post workflow with traditional green screen. This has been used extensively and made famous by shows such as the Mandalorian. Learn more here:



A dramatic scene of a medieval army marching at sunset. The soldiers are seen from behind, wearing chainmail and conical helmets. They are carrying long spears and banners. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a strong backlighting effect and silhouettes. The ground is dusty, and the overall atmosphere is one of a grand, historical event.

The Team

The Team



Anthony Pietromonaco

Anthony is an award-winning director with a diverse background. His commercial work includes clients such as Porche, Verizon, Mastercard, and a number of other household names, but his personal passions skew towards the spiritual. He first gained notoriety for creating realistic adaptations of popular video game franchises, but he has created a number of original works that question various aspects of human nature, generally told through the lense of science fiction, horror, and fantasy. Anthony is also an experienced martial artist with over 25 years of experience studying various disciplines



Evan Tarver

Evan Tarver is a screenwriter focused on telling fantastical stories grounded in truth and realism. Inspired by writers and filmmakers such as Alex Garland and Bill Dubuque, Evan has written sci-fi, fantasy, as well as historical screenplays that pose timeless questions related to society and humanity. Previously, Evan developed the sci-fi pilot script ROM, which provides a fresh take on the simulation hypothesis. He also spearheaded the writing of DON OF DIXIE, the true American story of the Southern mafioso who ran 1960s Texas before his unwitting demise.

Additionally, Evan is the co-founder and CEO for the nonfiction publication Selling Signals, writing long-form articles delivering the most actionable advice for salespeople on the Internet.



Alastair Ramsden

Alastair is an English Producer based in Los Angeles. Having spent the first ten years in production, rising through the ranks as an Assistant Director with ITV, he was relocated to Southern California to develop cable drama for their scripted division. In 2017, he established 21st Street Creative, a production company that focuses on commercials, brand content, and short-form narrative stories. In 2020, Alastair led the charge as Executive Producer on 'Life By The Horns', a docu-series commissioned by social media giants Snapchat for their Originals division. Alastair is driven by authentic stories about people experiencing the ebbs and flows of life.

THANK YOU

Anthony, Evan & Alastair

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