

A wide-angle photograph of a desert landscape at dusk. A paved road with a yellow dashed center line stretches from the bottom center towards the horizon. To the left, a dark, silhouetted mountain range rises against the sky. The sky is a gradient of blue and purple, with a bright, hazy glow on the right side, suggesting the setting or rising sun. Sparse desert vegetation is visible in the distance. Two yellow L-shaped graphic elements are overlaid on the image: one in the upper left and one in the lower right.

Sandseer

An aerial night photograph of a desert landscape. In the center, a long, low brick building is visible, surrounded by sparse vegetation. Several small, bright lights are scattered across the scene, including a pair of white lights near the building and a single red light further to the right. The background shows a vast, dark desert plain with some distant lights and structures under a dark sky.

Written by Dyllan Thweatt

Directed by Daniel Song

Cinematography by Ryan Bradford

Estimated Running Time: 30 mins.

Film Contact: Keili Fernando, kfernando34@gmail.com

About the team

We are 20 young filmmakers bursting with passion for our craft of filmmaking. We met and became collaborators at UC San Diego through its premiere student film organization, [Triton Television](#), over the course of the last 4 years.

We view this summer as our opportunity to take a big step forward as filmmakers and to show the world the visions we have within us. Every single member of this team has a strong committed work ethic to see our work on the silver screen.



the crew

Production Heads



DANIEL SONG
Director

Daniel is absolutely possessed by a love for cinema. His greatest ambition is to make films that enlighten and touch people, just as so many films have enlightened and touched him. In 2015, he graduated from UCSD's Visual Arts Program. Since then he has been working as a projectionist at a theater and doing endless research to prepare for a lifetime of filmmaking. In the rare moments that he isn't thinking about film he listens to Jimi Hendrix and the Beatles and watches Laker games.



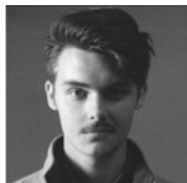
DYLLAN THWEATT
Writer

Dyllan started writing as an author of short stories through UCSD's Literature Writing program and transitioned that education into his interest in filmmaking. After finding the university's filmmaking community, he went on to write for several 48-hour film festivals, including the San Diego 48-Hour Film Project, as well as directing a few of his own projects. He has a love for horror films and hopes to breathe new life into the genre but has worked on everything from sketch comedy to mythology.



KEILI FERNANDO
Production Manager

Keili holds a B.A. in Communication and a minor in Theatre from UCSD. She has a background in performing arts, photography, and communications. Over the past six years, she has production managed various festivals, films, plays, and performances. She has also stage managed La Jolla Playhouse's *The Car Plays: San Diego* and a number of plays in UCSD's MFA Theatre program. Aside from filmmaking, she is a singer-songwriter and actor.



RYAN BRADFORD
Director of Photography

Ryan is a fourth year Visual Arts major at UCSD. He has been making independent films for five years and will continue to make films for the rest of his life. Today, he is the Station Manager of UCSD's premiere student film organization, Triton Television. For him, every project is an opportunity to make a better and more perfect film. Fun fact: Ryan speaks English, but he prefers to speak in the visual language.



JAKE CUSHNIR
Production Designer

Jake is finishing up his time at UCSD where he studies Engineering, Film and Theatre. It is his goal to find ways to combine these seemingly disparate, yet surprisingly similar disciplines. Though he has a background in photography and cinematography, he is very excited to be working on his first major project as a designer, as it is a wonderful way to combine these passions. In his free time he cooks, he brews, and he traverses the world with a camera.



NEDA KERENDIAN
Art Director

Neda has a passion for finding and creating beauty within the ordinary. Her abstract paintings and installations have been featured at two shows in the Adam D. Kamil Gallery. Her work has also been displayed at MOCA San Diego and UCSD's University Art Gallery. Neda utilizes her fine art background and experiments with different modes of expression. Her unique eye for aesthetics landed her Best Production Design at Triton TV's 48 Hour Film Fest.



GRASON CALDWELL
Editor

Grason has been cutting videos since high school. His projects have won Best Picture at ArtPower's Up&Coming Film Festival, Best Editing from Triton TV's 48 Hour Film Fest, and Honorable Mention on two accounts from the Adam D. Kamil awards. He is fluent in commercial ads, short-form narrative, and experimental film. Outside of *Sandseer*, he is currently working on a documentary at USC and consuming as much media as possible.



KINSEY GREEN
Sound Designer

Kinsey is a UCSD alumnus with a degree in Visual Arts and a minor in Theatre. He has always been interested in film, but he was inspired to pursue sound design as his career after a class taught by Michael Trigilio. He also enjoys roadtripping to Joshua Tree and taking photos with his film camera. His passions in life are sound design, growing succulents, and ice cream.

Synopsis

Sandseer is a meditation on finding peace in our modern world. The main character Dominic is consumed by a desire to find more to life than the day-to-day routine that he lives in. He tries his best to assimilate into his office job and suburban living, yet begins to resent himself for doing so. A series of unexpected conversations convince him that there are answers in the desert. In the blistering heat, he starts to experience visions that warp and stretch his perspective. The desert lays bare all of the pain and torment that he's been holding back for years, and through it all, he comes to a realization. It is the realization that he has been struggling to find.



Director's Notes

Dyllan (the writer) and I began conceptualizing, wanting to make a detective film. We asked ourselves, “What is something we want to search for?” The answer we immediately came to was “meaning.” So, we began to embark on the impossible challenge of trying to describe someone searching for meaning. The script has gone through multiple drastic revisions trying to figure out how to make a film that could allow us to pursue our artistic instinct, yet remain accessible to an audience. The guiding light of the film is the idea that meaning is self-created, but we really wanted to make that revelation mean something not just to Dominic (the main character), but also to our audience. So, we let the character and viewers stew in the heat of the desert. When they get to that point, it hits them full force.

The biggest inspiration for this film is a little known film called *Walkabout* from 1971. The film is a masterpiece about two children wandering through the Australian outback. It is full of gestures like astounding zooms and cross-fades that are incredibly idiosyncratic. I made it required for the whole crew to watch the film, I think Roeg (*Walkabout's* Director) has come the closest to what we're trying to tackle. Beyond that, there's the obvious one of *Lawrence of Arabia* and the way Freddie Young makes you fall in love with the desert. There's a lot of pulling from the old masters like Bresson and Tarkovsky to figure out how to visualize transcendence, but this film is definitely pulling from a little bit of everywhere.

Product Placement / Brand Integration



- Product, package, and other merchandise will be inserted and used contextually into this film.
- The integration involves the audience being exposed to brands and products in the natural process of the film.
- Looking for products that work well both domestically and internationally.
- Brands will receive Special Thanks Credit at the end of the film.
- No drug use, no sex, no violence in the film.

Production Information

Start Date: Summer 2016

Release Date: TBD

Format: Digital Video

Distribution: TBD

Budget Proposed: \$7,000

Film Festival Submissions: Sundance, TBD

Director: Daniel Song

Writer: Dyllan Thweatt

Cast: TBD

Filming Location: Anza-Borrego, San Diego

Cinematographer: Ryan Bradford

Sound Designer: Kinsey Green

An aerial photograph of a vast, arid desert landscape. The terrain is characterized by deep, winding canyons and eroded hillsides, with a dry riverbed meandering through the center. The colors range from light tan to dark brown, highlighting the rugged geological features. The sky is not visible, as the horizon is filled with the desert's expanse.

Contact Information

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THANK YOU!

