

Noorafshan Mirza and Brad Butler

Logline

Better to live fighting
for love then be a
prisoner all the
nights of your life.

The NightCity





She is a friend of my mind.
She gather me, man.
The pieces I am, she gather
them and give them back
to me in all the right order.
It's good, you know, when
you got a woman who is a
friend of your mind.

-Toni Morrison, *Beloved*



Inspiration

Set in a city spilt between an **authoritarian day regime** and a **night revolution** of equality and sisterhood, *The NightCity* takes contemporary social movements such as **#MeToo**, **Black Lives Matter** and **Extinction Rebellion** and asks what would happen if they created their own night society in opposition to a corporate day world? This 2-city system takes inspiration from works such as ***The Dispossessed***, ***The City & the City*** and ***Counterpart*** and writers such as ***Ursula K. Le Guin*** and ***Octavia Butler***.

The NightCity also recognises that throughout cinema and western thought, the night has been portrayed as a home for vampires, psychotic killers and criminals. This film reverses this perception **making the night a space of safety and possibility.**

Women
are the
agents
of the
Revolution



Story

Set in a city spilt between an authoritarian **day regime** and a **night revolution** of equality and sisterhood, Ellis has arranged to meet her girlfriend Jessica at zero hour in a bar close to a police checkpoint. As the clock approaches 00.00.00 and the city prepares its transition from regime to revolution, Ellis begins to confess her **double life** as a night city revolutionary—a truth she has concealed from Jessica who has been brought up on the dayside. As Ellis bares her vulnerability, exposing her heart and desires the couple must come to terms with the weight of their impossible love, clinging to their connection and complexities of their racial backgrounds.

The DayCity



Within the 13 districts of the DayCity passports and visas are needed to access the city. This is supported by checkpoints, random checks and surveillance. For this reason many of the population choose to stay put in their district. There are even ‘high up’s’ who live and work in the towers, some of whom are rumoured to have never gone below the 50th floor.

The 13 founding corporations of the DayCity



The founding fathers
Oilmast
Broadfield Property Ltd
Senscorp
Edencorp
Shopko East
Refco
WorldCom
Kia Bank
Drax
Shopko West
Global systems
State Grid Corp
HND Group

SENSCORP  FIRST



Senscorp Logo

SENSCORP FIRST

The DayCity sweatshops

Daysiders are taught from childhood to stay at home in the night hours. This allows the dayside corporations to run their own 24 hour sweat shops where their citizens are sent if they misbehave.



The DayCity

So why are daysiders afraid of the night?

They have been conditioned to fear the night. Some want to protect what they have. Some are afraid of difference. Some believe the night is full of horror, some believe they are targets, others are wary of the unknown.



Sweatshop uniforms are frequently colour co-ordinated.



DayCity surveillance

DayCity surveillance even extends to dream extraction. Commonly known as *The Psych*, dream analysts record the dreams of dayside citizens.

The countdown



The day regime is held in place by a digital clock that counts down the day in hours, minutes and seconds until it reaches the zero hours 00.00.00 at dusk. This is a city-wide takeover of historic advertising spaces that once were dedicated to products, and that now display the countdown.

DayCity

Professor Jessica Jeong

Jessica analyses children's dreams and reports on any illegal dreamers she finds as part of her psych tests.



SENSCORP  FIRST

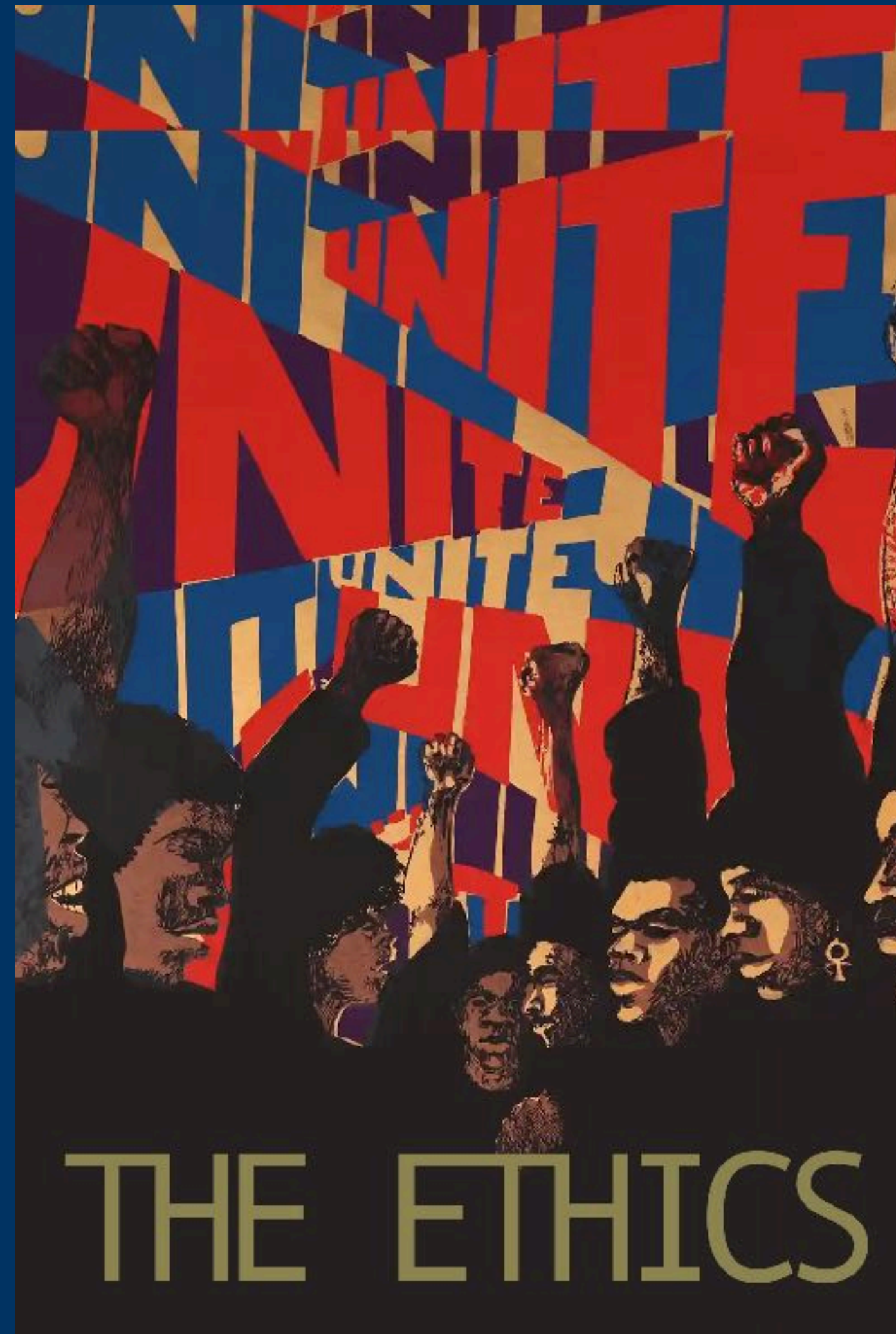
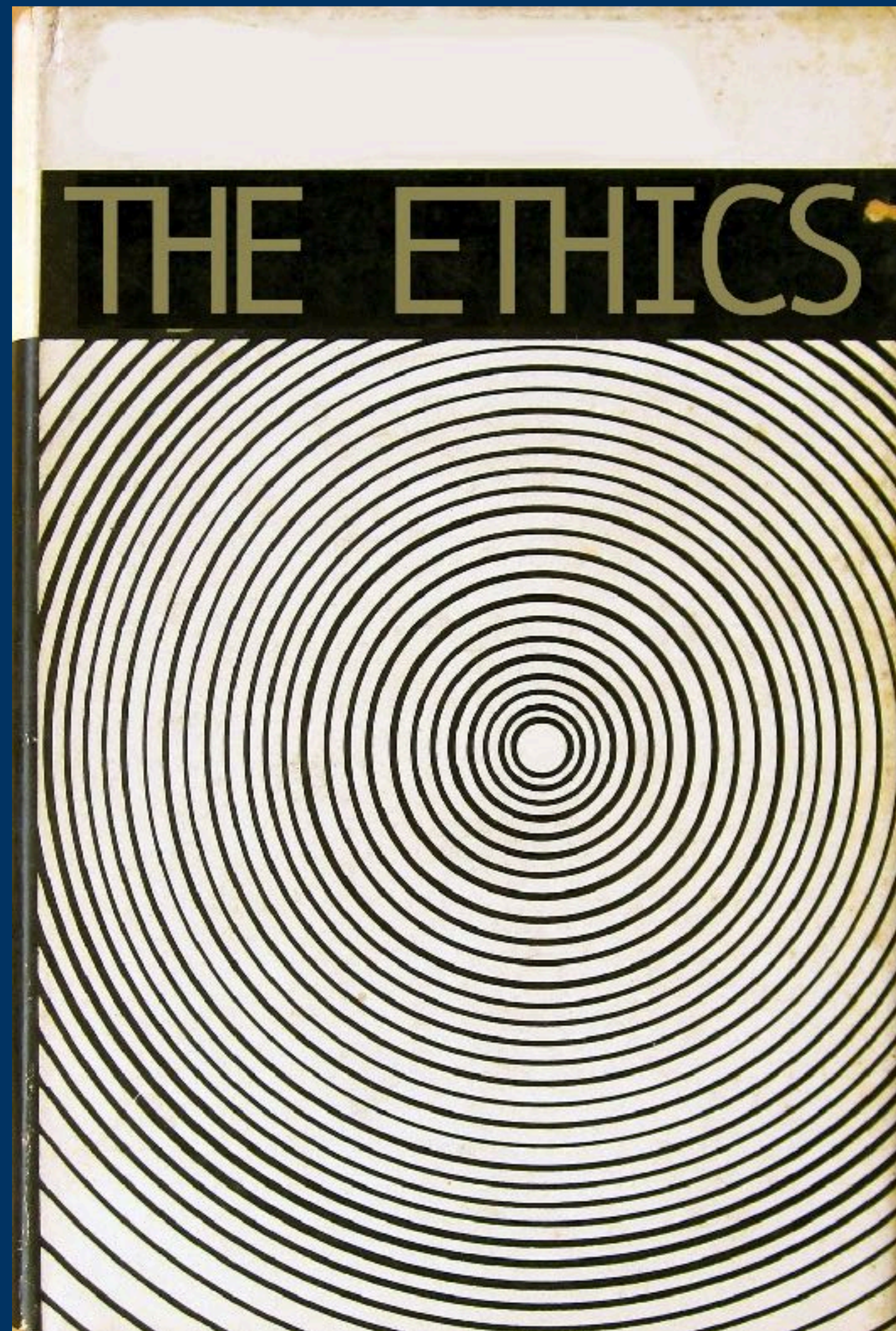


00.00.00 Zero Hour

When the countdown clock that divides day from night meets 00.00.00, the main lights of the city go dark and emergency lighting kicks in.



The NightCity



The Ethics were written together by its people, it is taught as a set of choices. Each of the 40 ethics are named after an inspiring person in the history of the struggle for freedom.

3. *Ethic Murray*: All genders, race and sexual orientation are equal.

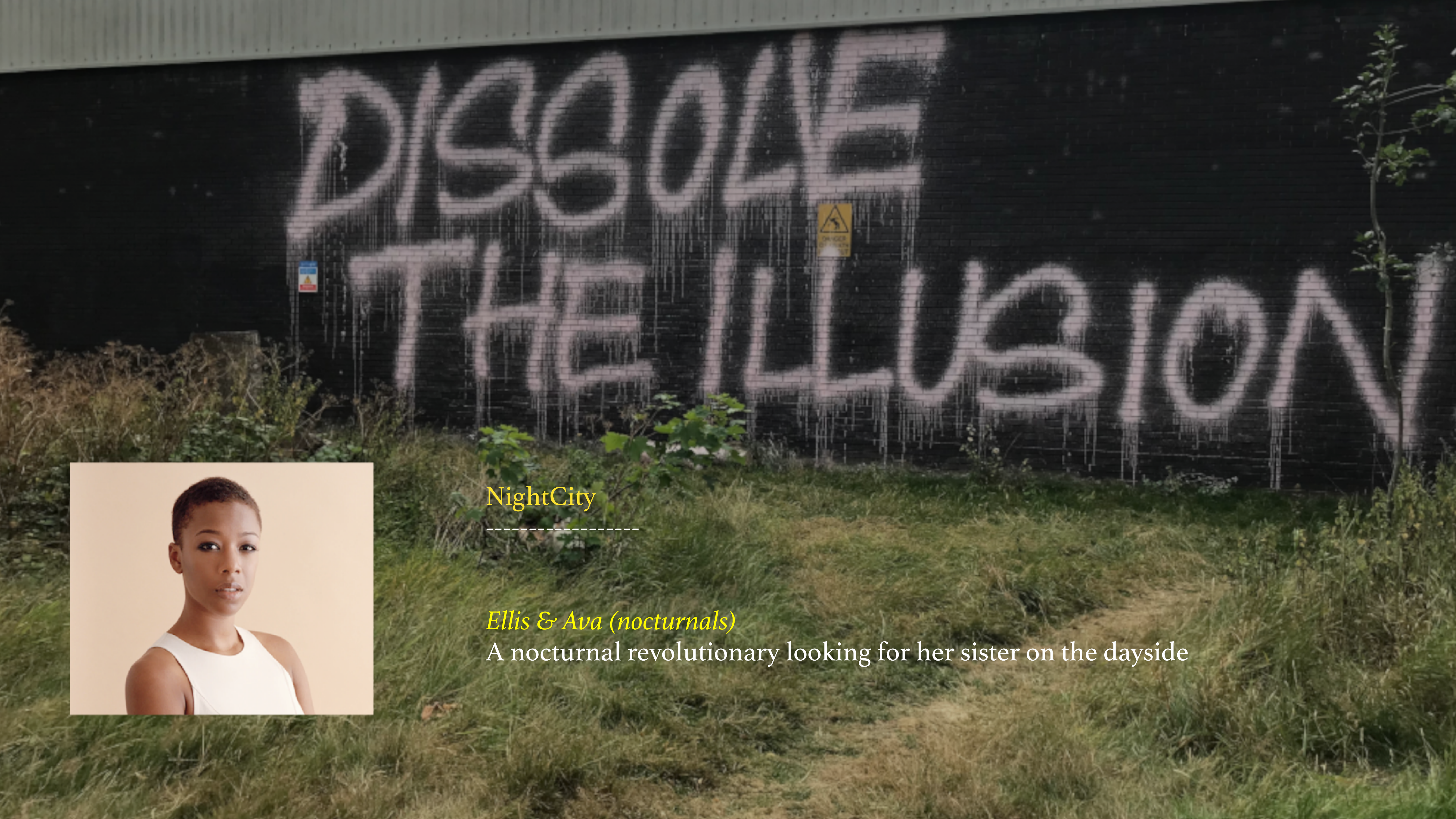
11. *Ethic Morrison*: No one may be arrested.

17. *Ethic Lorde*: No one of us can be free until everyone is free.



If you took *#MeToo*, *Black Lives Matter* and *The Indigenous People's Movement* and they rose together to take their space in the city – they might call it the NightCity.

It's salvage. It's community. It's pre-war vegetables and herbs. It's Fems. It's women in positions of power. It's cactus for the thorn fence. It's alternate realities, parallel universes, and ancestral herstories.



NightCity

Ellis & Ava (nocturnals)

A nocturnal revolutionary looking for her sister on the dayside

Architecture

The NightCity had to build itself into already existing space.
To make a new city within what already existed.

This includes rewilding



Example of nature overtaking buildings.



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wY3oW8omuEQ&feature=emb_logo

Example of nature overtaking buildings.





Rewilding is also about reintroducing animals into the city, in this case at night.



Architecture

An example of an ideal collaborator for interfacing recycling with existing environments would be architect [Olalekan Jeyifous](#) for visioning the NightCity architecture. .



Architecture

Artwork visions by architect [Olalekan Jeyifous](#) from his *Bodega Ecohaven* series exploring alternative futures for Brooklyn





Examples of how architecture has been added into already existing spaces using upcycled materials.



Lighting is key to depicting the NightCity.

When the countdown clock that divides day from night in the city meets 00.00.00, the main lights of the city go dark and emergency lighting kicks in.



Depicting the NightCity will require pockets of lit activity rather than whole cityscapes.



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This change in lighting will add drama to the story.
How the nocturnals make this emergency lighting
normal will add depth.



Sci-Fi look

The Near Infra Red



In this script *Jessica* sees in the Near Infra Red adding a unique Sci-fi look and feel into this film. This changes to normal perception with the glasses she is given by Ellis



Different perspectives of the same city are used to communicate to the viewer that this is not only a film where people are divided by space, this is a film where people's perceptions and assumptions divide each other.

NightCity iconography



NightCity iconography



NightCity iconography



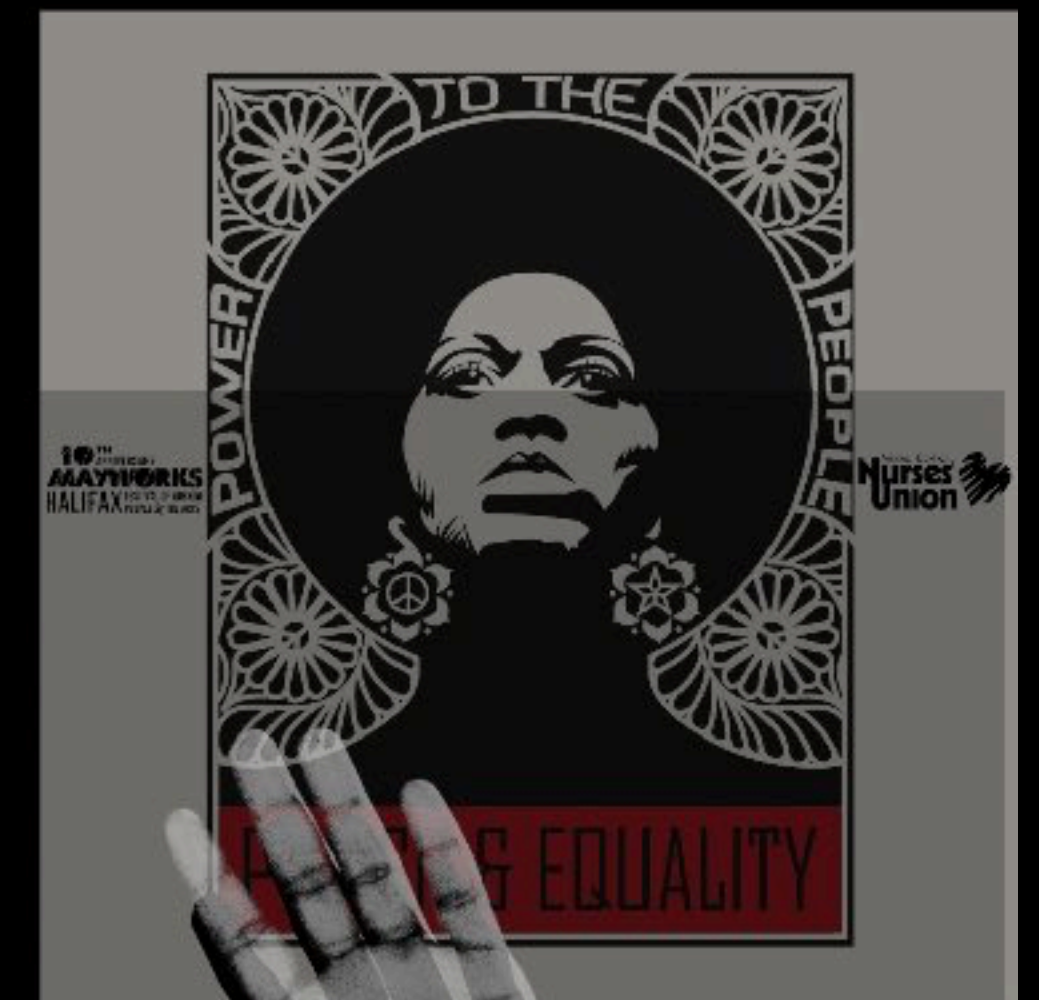
Night City iconography the attacking of symbols and signs that already exist in the environment.





Market profile and Audience appeal

The NightCity is an Indy work for people involved with *Occupy*, *the Umbrella Revolution*, *Intersectional feminism* or fans of works that imaginatively depict social and political conditions. It will appeal to conscious gamers imagining other societies, counter narratives and **the freedom to dream**.





Writer & Directors

Brad Butler and **Noorafshan Mirza** are award-winning socially engaged artists who has been making Films together for 23 years.

They have been nominated for the Jarman Award, The Artes Mundi Award, and winners of Artist Film International and the Paul Hamlyn Award. Their work has been commissioned by Artangel, The Hayward gallery, The Sydney Biennale, Film London, Film and Video Umbrella, The Serpentine Gallery and The Walker Arts Centre



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