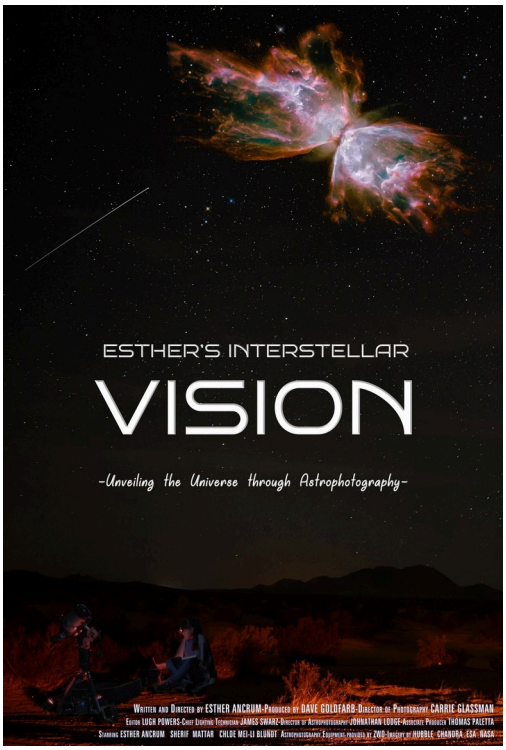
ESTHER'S INTERSTELLAR VISION

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION • LIVE ACTION SHORT FILM

An Experimental Narrative Short Film
Unveiling the Universe Through Astrophotography
A Film by Esther Angelica Ancrum • Pink Modesty Production



LOGLINE

A young woman wanders the wilderness with her telescope, unveiling the universe through astrophotography as she discovers a deeper connection to the stars and to love, reflecting on her place in the cosmos through poetic thought.

SYNOPSIS

Esther's Interstellar Vision is an experimental narrative short that follows a young woman who escapes into the wilderness with her telescope. Through long nights under the stars, she captures celestial images and writes poetry, drawing inspiration from the quiet beauty of the cosmos. With a red light glowing to protect her night vision, she slowly assembles her gear, documents constellations, and reflects on love, loneliness, and belonging.

This deeply personal film is grounded in the realities of amateur astrophotography and invites viewers to rediscover their own sense of wonder. Blending real astronomical imagery with poetic narration, the film incorporates NASA's sonification of the Big Bang — “The Sound of the Big Bang,” created by physicist John G. Cramer from data captured by NASA's WMAP (Wilkinson Microwave Anisotropy Probe) — offering audiences a quiet and transformative journey of discovery.

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FILM DETAILS

Genre: Experimental, Narrative Short

Runtime: 10 minutes, 55 seconds

Format: DCP (DCI-compliant)

Language: English

Country: USA

NOTABLE ELEMENTS

- Features NASA's sonification of the Big Bang — “The Sound of the Big Bang,” created by physicist John G. Cramer from data captured by NASA's WMAP (Wilkinson Microwave Anisotropy Probe).
- Blends scientific imagery with poetic storytelling and personal reflection.
- Weaves together faith, science, and wonder through an immersive visual and auditory experience.
- Red-light cinematography rooted in authentic astrophotography practice.

FROM THE FILM



A still from the film



A still from the film

WATCH THE TRAILER

Official Trailer (59 seconds):

vimeo.com/1100462295

Full Film (10:55):

youtu.be/egtsTtnUK0U

Scan to watch the trailer

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ASTROPHOTOGRAPHY GALLERY

The deep-sky imagery featured in the film is authentic astronomical data from the Hubble Space Telescope and ground-based observations in Chile, integrated into the film's visuals by Visual Effects lead Jonathan Lodge.



Pac-Man Nebula (NGC 281)



Antennae Galaxies



Barred Spiral Galaxy



Cat's Eye Nebula (NGC 6543)

THE RED-LIGHT TECHNIQUE

Astrophotographers use red light instead of white light because it doesn't disrupt night vision, making it easy to see through the telescope and work with the equipment in the dark without losing that adjustment.



Red light preserves night vision during long exposures



Esther working with the telescope rig on location



Night setup among the rock formations



The red-light technique in practice

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ASTROPHOTOGRAPHY & ASTRONOMICAL IMAGERY

Esther's Interstellar Vision incorporates astronomical imagery created through a combination of real astronomical data, astrophotography, image processing, color work, and 3D animation.

Astrophotographer and visual artist Jonathan Lodge collaborated on the film's astronomical imagery. His work incorporated astronomical data from sources including the Hubble Space Telescope and ground-based telescope observations in Chile, accessed via Telescope Live, a platform providing data captured by professional telescopes around the world. He processed and developed this material into cinematic astronomical sequences.

Jonathan used Blender and DaVinci Resolve to process, composite, color grade, animate, and render the imagery for the film. The work included astronomical subjects such as the Antennae Galaxies, Leo Triplet, Cat's Eye Nebula, and Butterfly Nebula, along with additional visual elements created specifically for the film.

Some sequences combine astronomical data with 3D animation and visual effects. This allowed the film to move through the astronomical imagery in a cinematic way while maintaining a connection to real astronomical observations and data.

ABOUT JONATHAN LODGE



Jonathan Lodge is most recognised for his astrophotography. Living in Doncaster, England, he has been honing his craft since 2014.

He graduated from the Open University in 2008 with a BSc (Hons) in Physical Science, with a focus on astronomy, and earned a further BEng (Hons) in Engineering in 2014. He has served as Chair, Treasurer, and Trustee of his local Astronomical Society, and gives talks on astrophotography and astronomy outreach to children and adults.

His work has been recognised with four images shortlisted in the International Astronomy Photographer of the Year Awards (two in 2023 and two in 2024), and has been featured by publications including National Geographic, BBC Earth, and BBC The Sky at Night, as well as four times on NASA's Astronomy Picture of the Day. He has also reached the finals of the British Photography Awards three years running, been shortlisted for the Science Photographer of the Year Award, and had work exhibited in two national waterways museums and published in The Times through the Flow Photo Competition on behalf of the Canal & River Trust.

Jonathan's passion for astronomy and science began in childhood, sparked by a love of science fiction books, games, TV, and film. He brought that passion, along with his experience in astrophotography, astronomical data processing, and visual storytelling, to Esther's Interstellar Vision.

Jonathan Lodge

Astrophotographer & Visual Artist

Doncaster, England

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AWARDS & RECOGNITION

★ **Theatrical Exhibition**

Roxie Theater, San Francisco, CA • January 2–8, 2026. Screened for 7 consecutive days via DCI-compliant DCP projection. Certification issued by Kelly N. Wiggin, Operations Director, Roxie Theater.

■ **Audience Award, Best Short Narrative**

Marina del Rey Film Festival, 2025

■ **Honorable Mention**

Athens International Monthly Art Film Festival (AIMAFF), 2025

■ **Semi-Finalist**

Arthouse Festival of Beverly Hills, 2025

■ **Semi-Finalist**

Santa Monica International Filmmaker Awards, 2025

■ **Official Selection**

Culver City Film Festival, 2025

■ **Official Selection**

Toronto Global Film Festival, 2025

■ **Official Selection**

Lift-Off Global Network Sessions, September 2025

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ABOUT THE DIRECTOR



Esther Angelica Ancrum is a DGA director focused on faith-based and science fiction storytelling. She directed Esther's Interstellar Vision, a visually driven sci-fi short film inspired by her passion for astronomy and the deeper questions of existence. Her goal is to create films that inspire, challenge, and leave a lasting impact. She often draws inspiration from astrophotography and her personal experience exploring the night sky.

Esther's filmmaking is deeply informed by her lifelong passion for astronomy. For years she attended astronomical star parties, gatherings where enthusiasts bring their telescopes to observe the night sky together, developing a practiced eye for light, atmosphere, and the cosmos long before a camera was ever involved. She began exploring astrophotography approximately three years ago, a discipline she continues to actively master. Capturing the night sky demands an intimate understanding of weather patterns, atmospheric conditions, moon phases, and specialized equipment, variables that are constantly in flux and require patience, precision, and technical discipline. That same sensibility carries directly into her work as a director, shaping a visual storytelling approach that is both technically exacting and deeply atmospheric.

Esther has worked on major studio productions, including Fast X, before transitioning into directing, giving her firsthand experience with large-scale sets and collaborative filmmaking. She has trained in Unreal Engine and LED wall technology through IATSE Local 695, giving her experience in virtual production and modern filmmaking tools. Before directing, she worked in the film industry as both a production assistant and a video assist technician, gaining hands-on experience across multiple sets and learning how productions come together from the ground up.

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DIRECTOR'S APPROACH

Esther's Interstellar Vision was designed as an intimate, atmospheric exploration of solitude, wonder, and connection. I wanted the visual language to feel grounded in authentic astrophotography, using darkness, red light, natural environments, and celestial imagery to place the audience inside Esther's nighttime experience. The contrast between the quiet human moments and the vastness of space reflects the film's central idea: that even in moments of solitude, we can still feel connected to something much larger than ourselves.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Astrophotography has been my hobby for years. I've always had a deep love for astronomy, and that passion naturally evolved into photographing the stars.

This film was inspired by my personal journey, as well as my father, who worked on Christopher Nolan's Interstellar. His work influenced my path as a filmmaker, and Esther's Interstellar Vision became a way to honor him. This project is not only a tribute to him, but also to my younger self, and to anyone who has ever felt drawn to the stars.

It is a story about love, light, and finding yourself in quiet moments. The red light used in the film reflects a real part of astrophotography, preserving night vision while working in the dark. Through the character Esther, who sets up her gear and reflects in solitude, I wanted to capture something honest and personal.

I made this film to show that your hobby, your solitude, your light, and your love matter, and can inspire others.



Esther's own telescope rig, the actual equipment used for the astrophotography featured in the film

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KEY CAST & CREW

Director / Writer / Executive Producer: Esther Angelica Ancrum

DGA filmmaker and founder of Pink Modesty Production. Blends science and faith-based storytelling.

Executive Producer: Dave Goldfarb

Seasoned DGA assistant director and producer with credits spanning Star Trek: The Next Generation, Star Trek: First Contact, Star Trek: Insurrection, Baywatch, Dr. Quinn, Medicine Woman, and Melrose Place.

Director of Photography: Carrie Glassman

Visual artist focused on natural light and cinematic imagery.

Editor: Lugh Powers

Six-time Emmy Award-winning editor for Outstanding Achievement in Editing for a Multi-Camera Series, known for his work on Days of Our Lives.

Colorist: Peter Swartz

Trained in color theory and cinematic grading; brought cosmic contrast and vibrant tones to the film.

Visual Effects: Jonathan Lodge

Handled astrophotography integration and cosmic visuals.

Chief Lighting Technician: James Swartz

Expert in natural lighting setups for night scene clarity.

Art Director: Amanda Hart

Led visual tone and field design, making the wilderness intimate and celestial.

Narrator: Chloe Mei-li Blundt

Voice talent who delivered the film's poetic narration with warmth and emotion.

Starring: Esther Ancrum as Esther • Sherif Mattar as Thomas

PRESS & INDUSTRY CONTACT

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