
THE
BLAST
A psychedelic, psychological thriller about consciousness, morality, and the search for true meaning.
WRITTEN BY
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THE STORY

An accomplished neurosurgeon risks it all after his first psychedelic DMT experience unlocks something in himself. His desire to understand and share life's purpose leads to homicidal experiments in a search for the connection between everything.





SYNOPSIS

The Blast begins in a world of surgical precision and rational certainty before dissolving into a hypnotic psychedelic nightmare. Equal parts intellectual thriller, spiritual odyssey, and psychological horror, the film explores the terrifying possibility that enlightenment and madness may be the same destination.



TONE

Obsessive.
Cerebral.

Psychedelic.
Transcendent.

Intimate.
Unsettling.

Dreamlike.
Existential.

Visceral.
Spiritual.





DR. MAX OXLEY

A dedicated neurosurgeon whose search for the meaning of existence leads him down a path of obsession and self-destruction.

Casting References

- Boyd Holbrook
- John David Washington
- Oscar Isaac
- Bill Skarsgård

Wardrobe & Palette

- Tailored Neutrals
- Increasingly disheveled as obsession grows

Arc

Begins as a man of science
Ends as a man willing to sacrifice everything for revelation

OLIVIA

A talented Psychiatrist and Max’s one true friend and confidant.

Casting Reference
- Emma Stone
- Rebecca Hall
- Mackenzie Davis

Wardrobe & Palette
- Muted Neutrals
- Analogous, cool main and accents

Arc
Begins as an anchor in Max’s reality.
Ends as nothing more than a victim to his violent, hallucinatory infatuation - or does she?









LSD JESUS

Drug Dealer, Shaman, Friend.

A psychedelic prodigy that's travelled to the edges of the entheogenic mind and beyond. He looks to safely guide curious minds to hallucinatory ether and back.

Casting References
- Lewis Pullman
- Harris Dickinson

Wardrobe & Palette
- Earthy neutrals and mains

Arc
Starts with a mind open to all possibilities.
Ends as the sole, practical voice of reason.

MRS. RILEY

A much loved widow, mother and grandmother dealing with Stage 4, refractory cancer. A beautiful woman whose lived a prosperous life full of gratitude and warmth.

Casting References
- Emma Thompson
- Viola Davis

Wardrobe & Palette
- Wide range of neutrals, mains, and accents when young
- Surgical blues currently

Arc
Starts as a cancer patient towards the end of her life, ends as Max’s first dose of human DMT







THE SPIRIT MOLECULE

Dimethyltryptamine (DMT) is a naturally occurring, psychedelic tryptamine found in trace amounts across a vast range of living organisms. It is known as the dream drug. And is known to be especially present at both birth and death.



MAX'S HOME

Questioning his solitude and meticulous nature. Is there more?





SUBURBAN LOS ANGELES









GREATER LOS ANGELES





THE VISUALS

The Blast is a visual exploration of what happens when empirical truth collides with spiritual mystery, pulling audiences into a world where certainty gives way to wonder.





LENSING & MOVEMENT

The Blast will shoot on anamorphic lenses to create unique depth, organic distortion, dreamlike focus falloff, and expressive lens flares that enhance the film’s heightened reality.

Camera movement evolves from controlled and deliberate to increasingly fluid and subjective as Max’s perception shifts.

Practical in-camera techniques, optical effects, and visual distortions are used to subtly reinforce the psychedelic experience.

Timely use of dutch angles will introduce unease and disorientation, visually reflecting a world that is gradually slipping out of alignment.

LIGHTING

Dramatic overhead lighting will emphasize isolation, obsession, and psychological tension.

Warm practicals contrast with cool moonlight tones, visually separating the familiar from the unknown.

Silhouettes conceal and gradually expose character and intent, reinforcing the film’s themes of mystery, transformation, and hidden truth.





VISUAL EFFECTS

The Blast utilizes sophisticated, practical and visual effects to bring its hallucinatory sequences to life while maintaining an organic, cinematic feel.

Rather than relying on spectacle, VFX are used to subtly distort reality, visualize altered states of consciousness, and immerse the audience in the protagonist’s psychedelic experiences.

The goal is to create imagery that feels both beautiful and unsettling, blurring the boundary between perception, memory, and the unknown.



COLOR

The film moves with color. Purple, the representation of Lily, Max’s mother, follows him in many forms. Color will continuously be used throughout Max’s decline into madness as visual cues and clues in his current state of mind and reality. Eventually all collide into a kaleidoscope of chaos and beauty.



























American Psycho
Enter The Void
Black Swan

INFLUENCES

Annihilation
The Fountain
Inception









WHY DOES THIS STORY MATTER?

Every human being eventually asks the same questions:

Why are we here?
What happens when we die?
Is there something beyond ourselves?

The Blast explores what happens when a man becomes so desperate for those answers that he sacrifices everything he once believed made him human.



THANK YOU

To the Film Independent Team

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We're grateful for your time and consideration, and excited about the possibility of building this film with your support.

Derek & Paul