

SPECTRAUMA

Director's Statement

Of all my life achievements, completing the feature film *Spectrauma* is the one I'm most proud. It has also been the most trying experience of my life; the process was filled with many setbacks and heartbreaks. The film itself is a brooding mystery that explores themes of empathy, class warfare, elitism, paranoia and – ultimately - finding ones place in the world. The story follows ambitious college students who stumble upon a powerful side-effect of their engineering research, thereby opening lurid realms of consciousness.

For *Spectrauma* I wanted to capture the hopes, fears and emotions which I had felt during my undergraduate years. College is a time when one's idealism, innocence and convictions are typically colliding with the world's harsh realities. How do we reconcile our ambition and compassion? Are we controlled more by external demon or internal ones? What if we found ways of unlock our innate, primordial power? If so, what do we then become?

-Michael Lauter

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