Sleepwalk Cinema

presents

TALENT KEYHOLE

97 MIN / U.S.A. / COLOR / 2022 / ENGLISH

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LOGLINE

Kassandra, a brilliant scientist, is recruited into a defense contractor's top secret SCIF* where she's entangled in a dangerous espionage mission.

SYNOPSIS

Get a look into the clandestine world of defense contractor Kassandra (KRIS LUNA), who must choose between duty and catalyzing greater justice in the world. Human rights activists Stephan (DAUSTIN HARVEY) and Jasmine (JANESSA HO) become the target of CIA agent Gresham (JEREMY BARNES), one of Kassandra's superiors at the SCIF* where she is recently granted a Top Secret clearance. There she also encounters a seductive and mysterious research volunteer, Rachel (KARLI ISABELLA STUNKEL), toward whom is Kassandra is pulled — and into the activists' noble reconnaissance mission of their own.

PITCH

Director Michael Lauter beautifully blending science-fiction, film noir, espionage, and romance to bring *TALENT KEYHOLE* to life and create a once-in-a-lifetime cinematic experience.

BACKSTORY

For rendering Kassandra's psychological landscape and her journey through the clandestine world, director Michael Lauter pulls from his own personal experience working in a top secret SCIF.* Michael also drew inspiration for the elusive character Jasmine, after reading Elaine Sciolino's book *Persian Mirrors*. (Elaine's journalistic research depicts the plight of women in Iran and the middle East.) With the dichotomy of these landscapes, Michael Lauter paints Orwellian surveillance motifs, and then subverts them; creating an iconoclastic message of hope for a better world.

THE LOOK

Director Michael Lauter - having previously contributed image&color science expertise during his time at top Hollywood finishing house EFILM (rebranded in 2020 under Company3) — performed extensive camera and digital intermediate (DI) tests to develop *Talent Keyhole*'s rich color pallet. Cinematographer David Auner, AAC utilized clever lighting, and cutting-edge "Full-Frame" cameras and optics to create the film's stunning visuals.

THE TITLE *Talent Keyhole* has deep roots in the United States' national security history, referring to its space-based reconnaissance efforts. Further, it is a SCIF* data dissemination channel.

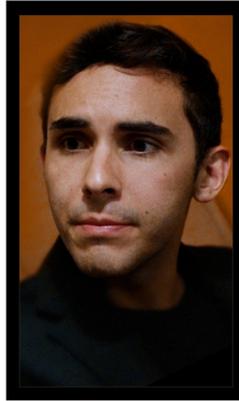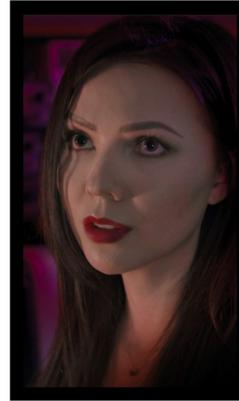* SCIF = <u>Sensitive Compartmentalized Information Facility.</u>

CAST

TALENT KEYHOLE

Kris Luna **as Kassandra**	**Karli Isabella Stunkel** **as Rachel**	**Daustin Harvey** **as Stefan**	**Janessa Ho** **as Jasmine**	**Jeremy Barnes** **as Gresham**

KRIS LUNA is an American actress, producer and model known for her leading role in *Talent Keyhole* and her work as a model in Dallas, TX. Luna was born in Memphis, Tennessee, but grew up in Arlington, Texas, where she also attended college and earned her Bachelor of Arts in Journalism at the University of Texas at Arlington. Luna began acting at the age of 12 in independent short films, TV and commercials and has been modeling professionally since 2015. *Talent Keyhole* marks Luna's feature film debut.

KARLI ISABELLA STUNKEL is an American actress, model, and cover girl. *Talent Keyhole* is Karli's feature film debut.

DAUSTIN HARVEY is an American actor and producer, known for *A Girl Like Me*, *Ghosters Phantom Patrol*, and *Colorado Recovers*.

JANESSA HO is an American actress, model, and musician known for her roles in *Talent Keyhole*, *DIGNITY*, and *Art & Style: Mona Lucero*. She was born in Denver, Colorado and has a Bachelor of Science degree in Music from the University of Colorado at Denver.

JEREMY BARNES is an actor, known for *Talent Keyhole*, *Give Me Back*, and *Making It*.

FILMMAKERS

MICHAEL LAUTER is an American director known for his debut feature *Body Gulch*, the fashion documentary *Art & Style: Mona Lucero*, and his latest sci-fi noir feature *Talent Keyhole*. He is also known in the image science community, having contributed color science and digital intermediate (DI) expertise to many feature films. He earned his Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Colorado at Boulder.

COURTNEY HOSKINS is an American producer and director, known for *Snowbird*, *Slusho Zoom!! (With Robots)*, and *The Galilean Satellites*. She earned her Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Colorado at Boulder.

DAVID AUNER, AAC is a cinematographer based in Los Angeles, CA. He was born and raised in Graz, Austria. His grandfather, a retired photographer, started teaching him the *Art of Seeing* and film photography at a very early age. After graduating from high school he moved to Vienna. During that time David started working as a photographer and in film. He began as a sound recordist and camera assistant for TV news and corporate and industrial films. Subsequently, over the next 15 years, he shot many such projects and spent hundreds of hours behind the camera. Meanwhile, he worked as an electrician, grip and 2nd assistant camera on narrative projects. Later on he gaffed and key gripped several music videos and shorts. David started to photograph short films and music videos. He found his true passion in narrative feature and episodic television and long form documentary projects. He graduated from Middlesex University, London, with a BA in Digital Film Arts and an MFA in Cinematography from the American Film Institute Conservatory in Los Angeles. David is a proud member of the Austrian Association of Cinematographers since 2015.

WARDROBE SUPERVISION

MONA LUCERO is fashion designer a love for both fashion and art. This love results in designs that are often whimsical, sometimes elegant and always unexpected. Her training - a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the University of Colorado at Denver and an Associate in Fashion Design from the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York - has enabled her to bring together the two disciplines into her signature style. She has a variety of design experiences including doing costumes for theatre, dance and even a children's book in which she created clothing for both a rabbit and a tortoise.
She is the subject of director Michael Lauter's 2017 documentary *Mona Lucero: Art & Style*.

MUSIC

S Y Z Y G Y X is the synth-based project of Luna Blanc, based in Washington, DC, United States. Blanc contributed two licensed tracks and one original composition just for the film.
Affiliated with Negative Gain Productions (US) | Cold Transmission (EU) | Cleopatra Records (US).

ROXYTOCIN is the synth-based moniker of filmmaker Michael Lauter, who composed *Talent Keyhole*'s original score.

TESTUBE was formed by Jeff Danos in 1994. Approaching each new musical release as an experiment in sound, Jeff fuses atypical IDM, industrial, glitch, and ambient textures into complex cohesive compositions…which is a fancy way of saying that he has a knack for making strange and experimental music somehow more palatable.

NIGHT CLUB is an American electronic band, formed by Mark Brooks and Emily Kavanaugh in 2012. The band contributed a licensed track for the film.

DREAMSTALK is synth-pop collaboration between filmmaker Michael Lauter and of Project 12:01's vocalist Melly London.