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# Black Forest

2013

## Behind the Film

'Black Forest' is a visually abstract and metaphorical journey, which gently explains where I feel Gen Y's current thinking is moving towards. We shot the majority of the film on location at Hanging Rock in Victoria, a place that was feared by the local indigenous culture because of spirits that hide amongst the confusing maze of crevices and volcanic rock.

Due to the current global situation, combined with a new level of consciousness and connectivity that has come about thanks to the Internet and mobile technology, our generation seems to be developing an exciting new level of open mindedness and a resulting thirst for truth. To me it seems like this may be a part of the reason why we are seeing a trend of geometric, indigenous and fractal patterns in fashion and pop culture at the moment.

After taking a hike at Hanging Rock in Victoria, and discussing this further with my business partner and fellow filmmaker Thomas Honeyman, I felt inspired by these thoughts and the overwhelming sense of wonderment that we both share for the universe.

We decided to explore these notions in a fashion film format, using new visual technologies and animation in an attempt to create a progressive and immersive psychedelic journey for the audience, whilst paying a little bit of an homage to the classic Australian story and film 'Picnic at Hanging Rock', which touches on the issue of European culture and its lack of awareness regarding local Indigenous culture and beliefs.

As part of this 'cultural evolution', I think our current generation is now slowly opening its mind and is tentatively dipping its toes into ancient indigenous philosophies and cultures from all over the world, which the West historically and arrogantly, had always rejected as being primitive.

Now it seems we are finding evidence that these cultures may have actually been onto something.

For example, Ron Englash, an American Ethno-Mathematician, has found that priests and mathematicians in ancient Africa and other cultures around the world have translated the theory of fractals (nature's phenomenon of self organisation) into a mathematical equation that has been used for thousands of years in their spiritual practices and architecture. It just so happens that Englash has also found this ancient technology, sourced from nature, is reflected in today's computer binary coding, the base system for technologies and software like Google and iPhones.

Fractals and geometric patterns are created from mathematical equations found within nature itself, for example; the theoretically infinite spiral of a shell, the uniformed hexagonal pattern found in a bee's honeycomb home, the perfect and beautiful structures of snowflakes or even the self replicating vascular system of a leaf.

When certain mathematical rules are applied to these natural structures, the same inexplicably beautiful, infuriating and perfect equation of infinite self-replication is always uncovered. These patterns found in nature have baffled Mathematicians, Philosophers, the religious and Scientists ever since they have been realised.

To go a step further, certain three-dimensional shapes can be formed from these equations like diamonds, cubes, pyramids, hexagons, stars etc. This is known as 'Sacred Geometry' and has been used by different religions and theorists all over the world. This phenomenon has also been the basis of many symbols and attempts to explain the way the universe works, and with some religions it is even considered as being clear evidence of a god.

Now that modern science has the technology to look further into these ancient mysteries, which were once disregarded by the science world as being purely incidental and primitive mumbo jumbo, researchers are now uncovering some amazing parallels between nature and quantum physics.

I wanted to utilise some of these shapes, theories and patterns in our film as a climatic and colorful visual exploration of what it might be like to stand at the gateway to another dimension. What would the fabric of our dimensional reality look like if it were split open before your eyes?

The overall message with this film is that nature has the answers and will always lead the way, just look at solar panels and compare them to how the leaves from a tree work, or think about the 86 billion neurons that make up neural paths in the human brain, and then compare that to the internet, which spans our entire planet and seems to be in the early stages of becoming an artificial brain. It seems to me that we humans are actually one step behind!

Whether you're a subscriber to science or religion, it doesn't matter. We need to drop our arrogance and fear, open our minds collectively as one powerful entity and get with the program. To me this seems like the unavoidable truth that everyone needs to hurry up and embrace.

Once people start to think like this, our species will be able to stop wasting time banging its still primitive head against the brick wall of self-destruction, which we seem to have created for ourselves.

It's obvious that by merging with the greater force that is nature instead of trying to control it, we will not only have a better chance at survival, but we will be able to move much closer to understanding the big questions we all seem to have.



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16 Pakington St, St Kilda 3182 VIC Australia

E [info@primedpictures.com](mailto:info@primedpictures.com)

ABN 61 298 498 761

T +61 3 9942 2593

[www.primedpictures.com](http://www.primedpictures.com)