

# APOCALYPSIS

Albino Fawn Productions

Written and Directed by Eric Leiser

Produced by the Leiser Brothers



TRT: 90 MINUTES | HD | COLOR | ENGLISH | UNRATED |

# LOGLINE

Set in a parallel universe entering a black hole, a woman reading the book of Revelation has visions of regeneration during Anthropocene.

## BRIEF SYNOPSIS

The fourth feature by Eric Leiser, *APOCALYPSIS* is the third manifestation of a visionary trilogy of film that began with *IMAGINATION* [2008] and *GLITCH IN THE GRID* [2012]. Set in a parallel universe entering a black hole, a woman named Evelyn Rose has visions of regeneration during Anthropocene.

## LONG SYNOPSIS

The film opens with two black holes colliding and merging into one giant black hole in a time lapse that spans millions of years. We then see a spinning planet earth, overlaid by its double, close to entering the event horizon of a black hole. New York City comes into view and we see people struggling with the effects of Anthropocene. We are introduced to Evelyn Rose, a devout but newly converted eastern orthodox Christian attending a funeral service at her local parish in the east village. We are then introduced to her employer, a rare book seller named Allen, who reminds Evelyn of the totalitarian government they live in and what can happen to people who resist it. That evening, Evelyn attends Revelation book study at her church, which is lead by a priest. He warns them of the book's controversial nature and the easy pitfalls of false interpretations. That night after class, Evelyn has an intense vision while reading Chapter One, becoming confused and fearful. What follows shortly after is a series of strange events where she is being watched and contacted by opposing members of the spirit realm.

Michael O'Leary, aka Michael Bandlewack, is a late-night conspiracy radio show host who has become convinced that a worldwide shadow government is implementing a system to implant tracking chips in people by covert force. Because of this threat, he has teamed up with international "hacktivist" groups in addition to his local hacker friends to thwart this operation by crippling the fiber optic and electrical grids in New York City and other locations. Through a secret network, these hackers team with others to launch attacks on the government's system while also physically planting orgonite, a homemade resin, metal and crystal device based on the work of Wilhelm Reich. This compound disrupts harmful electrical signals next to cellular towers and ley lines in an attempt to disrupt the grid once they shut it down. Michael also plans to organize citizens who resist the totalitarian government to help.

Meanwhile, the NSA, FBI and shadow groups of the government have taken special notice of Michael and, by association, Evelyn Rose. Based on evidence of security breach measures, trespassing and other acts taken by Michael and his hacker network, the government realizes that the best course of action is to use Evelyn to unknowingly spy on him until they can take down the entire subversive network. Their plan is to implant her with an RFID tracking chip. When Michael finds out, he suspects that Evelyn is working for them, but his friends convince him to hack her out of jail before she gets chipped, and it works.

Back in the free world, Evelyn receives a letter that she has been invited to travel to Japan to assist refugees after a disaster. She is overjoyed, having hoped for an opportunity to help and because of a special connection to the people there she does not fully understand. The catch is that they can't fund her, so she sets about raising money. However, this effort is sidelined when the building she works in is sold and her boss Allen is forced to close his rare book company. Now without a job, Evelyn resorts, unsuccessfully, to door-to-door petitions for funds and online fundraising as her visions deepen, distressing her further.

Michael is having problems of his own now that the shadow government has increased their surveillance of him. After protesting outside the UN, he is arrested and chipped but is let go as the government wants to catch him and his network in a major act of what they believe to be cyber-terrorism. Once out of jail, Michael runs into Evelyn, who encourages him to seek a deeper path with God. She believes that the only way to combat this chip-implantation system is through prayer, healthy activism and meditation on scripture but he disagrees and continues to mistrust her. Privately, Evelyn continues to have visions every time she reads a chapter of Revelation that both terrify and propel her to keep reading without telling anyone of what is happening.

Michael decides to leave his radio program, successfully dislodge his chip, evade the government and leave the city. While off the grid, he is encountered by a shadowy figure who tells Michael to go back to the city and protect Evelyn, so he returns to NYC. Back home, he disregards the encounter as a bad dream and decides to mount an ultimate attack on the chip implementation system. He gathers his friends to plan this out, but Evelyn tries to dissuade him, believing that they all could be in real danger of being caught. They have a rift and after Michael leaves, Evelyn decides to visit a monastery to gain better insight into the whole matter.

During her time at the monastery, she confesses to the priest about the visions she is having and gains insight and guidance from him. Following this, she has a vision, affirming her purpose to continue reading the book. Shortly after a sum covering her trip expenses arrives in her bank account from an anonymous donor. When Evelyn returns to find Michael again, she encounters a guardian angel instead, who encourages her to go to Japan. After she buys her plane ticket and leaves for her trip, she is arrested at the airport by shadow government agents. She is taken to a secret government facility and forcibly drugged and chipped with a RFID. After passing out, Evelyn has a dream where it is revealed to her that the earth she lives on is entering a black hole and is suffering from the distortion of the space-time continuum. There is a message of hope at the end that if she hangs on and uses her time to help people, the earth will survive entry into the black hole and beyond. Upon waking, she realizes she has been chipped but is then released and mysteriously allowed to fly to Japan, leaving her shocked and violated, but reassured by her dream. While in Japan, she continues to read Revelation and have terrifying visions. Meanwhile, martial law has been declared in the US as they announce that all citizens must receive the Chip. When Evelyn finds out, she travels back to the United States and looks for Michael.

At a government RFID facility, Michael and friends plant orgonite in order to shut down the central arteries of the forced-chip system and are successful. When Evelyn finally tracks down Michael, he is at Times Square about to implement the attack on the grid through the veil of a mock protest. She convinces him that she's not the enemy by cutting out her chip and agreeing to follow his escape directions to meet up at a specified location far outside the

city post-attack. Meanwhile, shadow government agents finally track Michael and attempt to arrest him, but he initiates an electronic pulse attack, disabling the system and causing a massive power outage. Still, he is captured and taken away by car, but inside the vehicle, he is surprised to find that the agents who arrest him are themselves on his side. Michael is able to escape to upstate New York, where there is an underground cave-dwelling for like minded people working closer with the land in order to survive Anthropocene off the grid.

Meanwhile, Evelyn is helped by the remaining hackers to escape the city, and she eventually reaches Michael, led by her guardian angel. In their new home, they continue to evade government surveillance and Michael resumes his pirate radio show. As for Evelyn, she has enjoyed serving her new community and has a final vision while reading the last chapter of Revelation. In this vision, the entire universe is destroyed and created anew. We then see the earth enter into the black hole, tunnel through a wormhole and reveal a vibrant new universe.

## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

APOCALYPSIS is my fourth feature film and the final film in a trilogy starting with IMAGINATION and GLITCH IN THE GRID. While my previous features stand on their own, they share a connection that is deeply intertwined. What I wanted to explore was the Trinity through artistic expression and explore the spectrum of Christianity from Western to Eastern. IMAGINATION was inspired by a vision I had of the film before it was made, involved my patron saint St. Eustace's vision of Christ seen in between the antlers of a stag. I also saw an albino fawn which represents spiritual innocence while at the same time referencing the lamb of God. In GLITCH IN THE GRID, the focus was on the Holy Spirit symbolized and the dove and how after a time of darkness to light, such as Christ's crucifixion and resurrection, following a short time with Pentecost, the Holy Spirit descended on people with the disciples from that day up until now. With APOCALYPSIS, the film came out during my time in Alphabet City while attending the Holy Virgin of Protection Cathedral of New York, a few blocks from where I lived in the East Village. Early and Eastern Orthodox Christianity was new to me as I grew up attending Western Christian churches of different denominations. In this film, the mystery of God is explored throughout the whole film. The idea came to me in images within my mind, heart and spirit. The character Evelyn Rose is an albino Christian who did not want to live for her self, but to help others through service. When she is invited to come to Fukushima, Japan shortly after the Fukushima disaster, she is so passionate about serving that she forgets to help people at home – that is, until she realizes where she is needed most. The Michael character came out of watching a conspiracy radio show called New York Skywatch. The show caught my attention after I researched geo-engineering and global warming. Michael's character adds another viewpoint to the events that transpire in the film, which deal with the police state, surveillance and the recent disclosures on NSA spying that has been revealed to the public. This relationship between the two characters creates a dynamic in how they manage to respond to their environment, their goals and offer a glimpse into the overlapping spiritual worlds insides both themselves and the world around them. Questions are posed in this film on how we can grow in a time of decay and provide for insight into Apocalypse, death and rebirth. A ray of light into the new earth and how it will be like is explored along with how future generations will live on earth both during and after a time of catastrophe and regeneration.

## ABOUT THE CAST

### **Maria Bruun**

Maria Bruun was born in Esbjerg, Denmark. She is currently living and working in New York City. She graduated from the Martha Graham School Of Contemporary Dance. In addition to the Martha Graham technique she is also fluent in; modern dance, jazz, lyrical, show dance, house, funk and hip hop. She has done jobs for clients such as; L'Oreal, MAC cosmetics, LORDE, Pitbull, Maroon 5, Def Leppard and Tommy Hilfiger to name a few. She works on fashion films, concert visuals and music videos combining her dance experience with modeling. Maria studied acting at T-Schreiber studio under the direction of Terry Schreiber, in his by invitation only advanced scene study class. She has appeared in a number of independent films. Recent credits: Maria played Evelyn Rose, the leading role, in *Apocalypsis*, a feature film. Produced by Albino Fawn Productions, the film has already signed a distribution deal with INDICAN Pictures. *Hellware* is a feature film in which Maria plays the supporting role Lena; it premiered at BAM and was accepted into the Austin film festival.. Distributed by Factory 2. Her film *Ensom*, which she produced, choreographed and directed, was accepted into Columbia Gorge International Film Festival 2014 and Bornshorts film festival in 2014. Her artistic voice is born in reality but exists on the edges of abstraction, blending together different art forms and exploring new methods for creative processes. Her work is inspired by film, music, visual arts, photography and human behavior. In 2012, she founded the New York based dance and choreography company Comotion Productions NYC. The company provides a variety of services including; choreography, movement consulting, casting and dance performance for film, music videos, fashion, photography and live events.



## **Chris O'Leary**

Chris O'Leary is an NYC-based actor and hair stylist, as well as a make-up artist. He explores notions of human potential through the lens of speculative fiction, comic book culture and the histories of art and technology. As an actor, he has starred in cult classics such as *The Invisible Life of Thomas Lynch*, *Pox*, and *The Sisters Plotz*, working routinely with Lisa Hammer of Venture Bros fame. *Apocalypse* is the first foray into dramatic fiction for Mr. O'Leary.

## **Eros Galbiati**

Raised in Veniano, Eros graduated from the European High School *Paolo Giovio of Como*. Immediately after graduation, he moved to Rome. Between 2003 and 2004, he starred in various commercials. On television, in addition to having participated in the TV series *Carabinieri 4*, it led six episodes of MTV's *Fast Forward* program. In 2004, he starred with Alessandra Mastronardi in *The Short Things That are Said in the Dark*, directed by Marco Costa. In 2006, he starred in a new short film, *H5N1*, winner of several awards. In the same year, he gained popularity thanks to the film *Nightmare Before*, directed by Fausto Brizzi, in which he co-starred in the role of Richard. In early 2007, he starred in *Teatro De 'Servi* in Rome and *The Prozac Family* comedy directed by Marco Costa, with Alessandra Mastronardi; for both this play is his debut in theater. In the same year, he appeared on the screens with the film *Night Before Exams - Today*, directed by Fausto Brizzi, and *All the Women in my Life*, directed by Simona Izzo. In January 2009, he returned to the theater with the comedy *The Family Prozac*. In 2010, he starred for three episodes in the film *Sin and Shame*, directed by Luigi Parisi and Alessio Inturri.

## **Azumi Tsutsui**

Azumi Tsutsui is an actress and model from Osaka, Japan. She has appeared in TV commercials and productions such as *Mitsubishi Jisho*, *McGraw-Hill*, *Peking Food*, *Samsung Milk App Promotion*, *FCI Morning Eye* and *Gutto Chikyu-bin*. She has also appeared in films that have received many acclaimed awards at film festivals such as Telly Awards, Ciclope Festival and Cannes Lions Festival. She was also nominated for Best Supporting Actress at

Sparrow Film Project 10. Her recent works include the movie *Marjorie Prime* where she co-starred with Tim Robbins, Geena Davis, John Hamm and Lois Smith. She is a black belt in Aikido.

## ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS

### **Eric Leiser**

Eric Leiser is an award-winning artist, filmmaker, animator, puppeteer, writer, holographer working in the New York and California. A graduate from CalArts Experimental Animation program, he creates animated and live action feature films and shorts as well as works integrating animation, holography, puppetry, painting, live performance and installation. Eric's fine art and holographic paintings have exhibited at museums across the world. Recent exhibitions include *Dreamlands* at the Whitney Museum of American Art and *Holonomic* at the Flux Factory in NYC, created out of a Holocenter residency program at the Pulse Laser Studio and Island Holographics and was funded by the Queens Art Fund Grant. Other recent event include screening as a visiting filmmaker at the Wexner Center for the Arts and a Kinoscope retrospective of Eric's experimental short films, 30 in number. The event was produced and was sponsored by the School of Media Studies at the New School in New York City. The event received press from major outlets, such as ARTNews, Fandor, and AWN..



## **Jeffrey Leiser**

Jeffrey Leiser is a film and concert composer, producer and screenwriter. He has composed original music and created sound design for over 30 short films and 4 feature films, including *Glitch in the Grid*, for which he was awarded a Gold Medal from the Park City Film Music Festival. Jeffrey has also created music for multiple art exhibitions including *Hologalactic*. In total, 150+ film, art and concert works can be found on iTunes across 11 albums. Jeffrey is the co-founder, with his brother Eric, of Albino Fawn Productions, an independent production company focused on exhibiting experimental and spiritual works. As a screenwriter, Jeffrey wrote *Finding Infinity*, a biopic about Georg Cantor. *The Summit*, his first full-length symphony, was recorded at Avatar Studios and released in November 2015 by Discovery Music + Vision in the UK. He also composed *Time Squares* and is writing an opera about Gudrid Thorbjarnardóttir. Most recently, he completed the score for the feature film *Apocalypsis*. He is represented by Bright Media in the UK.

# **APOCALYPSIS CREDITS**

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY: ERIC LEISER

PRODUCED BY: THE LEISER BROTHERS

COSTUME DESIGNER: LINDY FOX

MUSIC BY: JEFFREY LEISER

EDITED BY: ERIC LEISER

PRODUCTION DESIGNER: ERIC LEISER

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY: ERIC LEISER

## **CAST**

MARIA BRUUN  
EROS GALBIATI  
WEINICK  
ALEXANDER W. SMITH  
JENNY HUTTON  
KAM PEREZ  
VNCENT LEONG  
LAWRENCE SAMUELS  
JAMES J. CRAWLEY  
ANDRE W OPPENHEIMER  
MACKENZIE GINSBURG  
LILLIAN SHERMAN  
BETTY T. KAO  
ASTIJUS TAUJANSKAS  
JEFFREY ROGERS  
CARNELL ADAMS

CHRIS O'LEARY  
AZUMI TSUTSUI ROSS  
STACY KESSLER  
BILL DIVITA  
DION QUAMINA  
FUKUMI KASHIWAGI  
BRUCE APAR  
NICK MCGUINESS  
NICHOLAS TENE  
JEFFREY SCOTLAND  
GELNDA LEZEAU  
ERICA JOHNSON  
CARRIE SWIM  
  
ASHLEY MICHAEL  
MITCHELL CETUK

# SOCIAL MEDIA OUTREACH

## WEBSITE

[www.albinofawn.com/project/apocalypse/](http://www.albinofawn.com/project/apocalypse/)

## TWITTER

<https://twitter.com/albinofawn>

## FACEBOOK

<https://www.facebook.com/Apocalypse00/>

## WATCH THE TRAILER HERE

<https://vimeo.com/162802737>

## FESTIVALS & AWARDS

Wexner Center for the Arts – Opening Night

San Diego Underground Film Festival – Official Selection

## PRESS

Albino Fawn Teases Hybrid Pic 'Apocalypsis: Theosis'

[www.animationmagazine.net/features/albino-fawn-teases-hybrid-pic-apocalypsis-theosis/](http://www.animationmagazine.net/features/albino-fawn-teases-hybrid-pic-apocalypsis-theosis/)

APOCALYPSIS (THEOSIS): Watch The  
Trailer For Eric Leiser's Latest Stop Motion  
Oddity

<http://www.dogster.com/bolz/gone-doggy-gone-film-parody-yorkie>

Eric Leiser Presents Apocalypsis

[http://www.zippyframes.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=2499:eric-leiser-presents-apocalypsis&catid=145:feature-films](http://www.zippyframes.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=2499:eric-leiser-presents-apocalypsis&catid=145:feature-films)

Teaser for Hybrid Film 'Apocalypsis: Theosis' Released

<http://www.beyondthecartoons.com/albino-fawn>

Trailer for Apocalypsis, starring Maria Bruun and Chris O'Leary.

<http://www.traileraddict.com/apocalypsis-2016/trailer>

Kensington Video Kicks Off Film Series With Leiser

Brothers <http://www.kpbs.org/news/2016/jan/08/kensington-video-kicks-film-series-leiser-brothers>







