



S U C C U B U S

By R. J. Daniel Hanna

LOGLINE

A young father in the midst of a marital separation reluctantly joins a dating app, only to swipe right on a demonic presence searching for the ideal human mate.

SYNOPSIS

Coached by his over-sexed friend Eddie, Chris, a new father, joins the StarCrossed dating app “just to see what’s out there,” and eventually comes to the conclusion he should probably rekindle things with his estranged wife. But when he matches with Adra, a seductive young woman with a mysterious past, his curiosity gets the better of him, and he finds himself getting sucked into her world even as his own life falls apart. As Chris, Eddie, and Adra’s “stalker,” Dr. Zephyr, circle her, Adra’s power grows, finally revealing her harrowing true form, a demoness who has chosen Chris as her vessel for the final stage of her evolution.

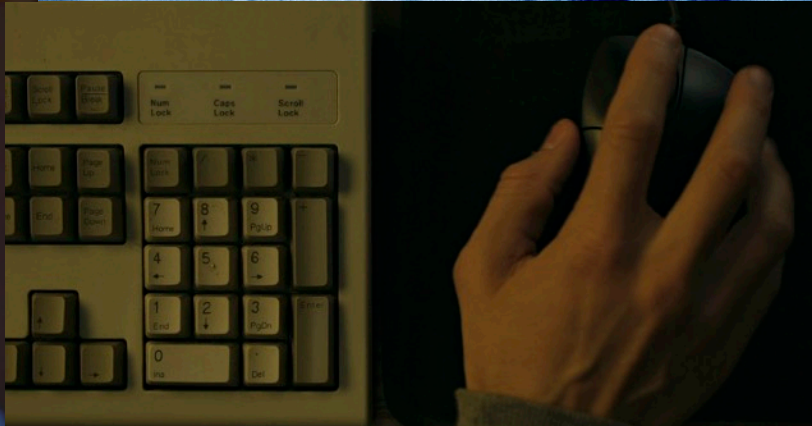
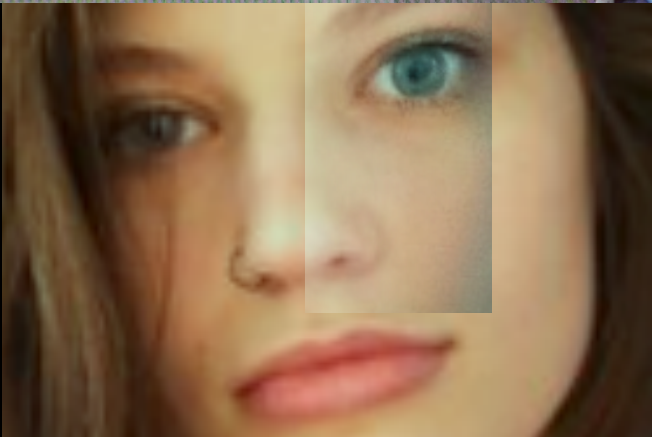


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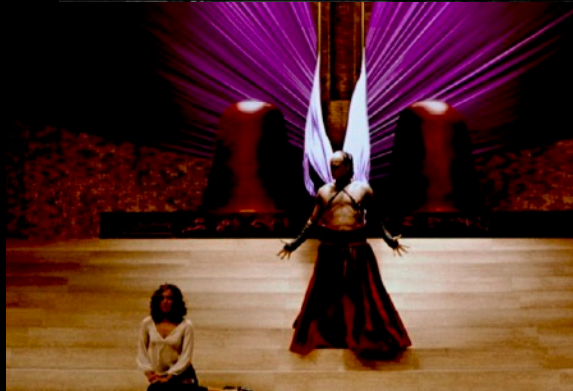
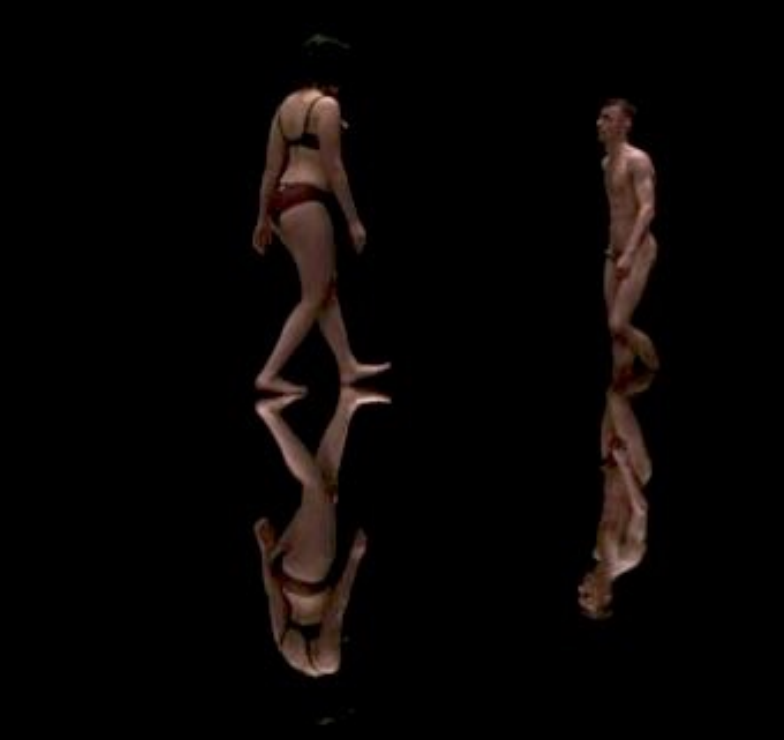
STYLE

“SUCCUBUS” follows the exploits of modern, millennial characters through their online interactions via phones, iPads, and computers. At times there’s a frenetic energy to their desperate attempts to set their digital lives right, and at times we view their descent during FaceTimes, dating swipes, and secretive messages with a cinematically clinical observation, giving the sense that something ominous is happening beyond the margins of the screen.





As the film progresses, and Chris falls down the rabbit hole, the line between the digital and the metaphysical worlds blur, taking us into Adra's abstract dark matter "space" before he's spit back out into our reality, with Adra following close behind...



DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

If this film is for you, you'll be frightened by what makes you laugh, and grinning at the scariest moments. This is not a traditional horror story, but an examination of masculinity--toxic and domesticated--as well as dating, breakups, recreational sex, procreational sex, and whether thirsting over someone's Instagram constitutes infidelity. It's an opportunity to explore our inner sexual demons, to see that even the best of us are tempted to stray, and the worst of us still need love and compassion. It's a film that will ring true, start conversations (as well as arguments), and scare the hell out of people.

My first feature, "Miss Virginia" starring three-time-Emmy-winner Uzo Aduba, was an expansive story shot on both ends of the country, with a big cast, bigger crowds, and a real woman's inspiring story at its core. It was a heartfelt and humbling experience, but now I'm excited to look at something that's beautiful and ugly all at once. A project that isn't about breadth of vision, but depth. At first, I was nervous to share this script because I included conflicts from my own internet dating experiences and relationships. It's honest, warts and all, but unlike the men in "Succubus," I've come out the other side with all my pieces intact (physically, at least). We all have romantic scars to be sure, and I think it would be good for people to pick at these scabs a little, squeeze out some of the puss. It's therapeutic.

I don't see this as a story about a man falling victim to a demonic force, but about how we've always been possessed by lust and doubt, and that we're even more haunted by these ghosts in the internet age. What represents life today better than trapping our characters in the dark with their screens? The consequences of their actions seem only half real, until things get way too real way too fast. I want to make the viewer feel the weight of the physical and spiritual worlds, then compare that to the flimsy, empty online existence we all curate, especially when lust and love are involved.

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