



F I L M A K A D E M I E
B A D E N - W Ü R T T E M B E R G

SONAR

Synopsis

An asteroid emerges from the darkness of space, sending out some kind of signal. A drone tries to locate the source and dives deep into an extensive cave system.

General information

Genre: Science Fiction, Horror, Experimental, 360° Immersive VR
 Release: 2014
 Running Time: 6:20 min
 Original Language: without dialogue
 Technique: 3D computer animation
 Format: Equirectangular 360° projection, stereo sound

Credits

Director: Philipp Maas, Dominik Stockhausen
 Film Music: Alexander Maas
 Sounddesign: Alexander Maas
 Executive Producer: Philipp Maas, Dominik Stockhausen
 Production Company: Filmakademie Baden-Wuerttemberg GmbH

Trailer:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ghqwWGiv7Tg>

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S O N A R
 EVERY SIGNAL HAS A SOURCE.

FILMAKADÉMIE BADEN-WÜRTTEMBERG PRESENTS A VIRTUAL REALITY EXPERIENCE
 DIRECTED BY PHILIPP MAAS DOMINIK STOCKHAUSEN MUSIC BY ALEXANDER MAAS
 PRODUCED BY PHILIPP MAAS DOMINIK STOCKHAUSEN
 FILMAKADÉMIE
 B A D E N - W Ü R T T E M B E R G

About the experience

"Explore your surroundings and dive deep into an ancient cave system. Follow the drone ship and discover the horrific truth about the darkest of all places..."

SONAR is a new kind of cinematic entertainment, striking a balance between traditional movie making and interactive media. The shortfilm is a fully immersive, slow paced, 360° computer-generated experience for various virtual reality headsets such as the Oculus Rift, Samsung Gear VR or Sony Morpheus.

We made sure to create the most pleasant and immersive experience possible by guiding the audience through the movie in various ways.

Visual composition and the movement of objects always define the point of interest. Slow paced action and smooth editing transitions reduce motion sickness and allow people new to VR to enjoy and explore their surroundings.



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Changing the point of view introduces a new way to think about cinematography in 360°. The audience is not playing a game or just passively watching a giant screen. Being inside and outside at the same time, never knowing what happens next and never feel like being in control is undeniably exciting.

Add to that a rich soundscape as well as an exceptional orchestral score and the mood is set for an epic adventure through space.

SONAR is a perfect example for creative storytelling in VR and can be a great introduction to the technology.



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About the production

SONAR was created by Philipp Maas and Dominik Stockhausen at Filmacademy Baden-Wuerttemberg in Ludwigsburg, Germany, during the summer term of 2014. The original score was written by Alexander Maas, who also did the sounddesign and mixing. Production started in may and finished at the end of july 2014.

The initial concept of a classic scifi-horror short in the cinemascope screening format was turned upside down as we got our hands on the Oculus Rift DK1. Immediately hooked by the technology and its creative potential, we were eager to produce the first 360° shortfilm at the Filmacademy.

After a few days of R&D, we knew what was possible for us to achieve and what workflow to use.

During production, we had to drop stereoscopic rendering and binaural audio engines due to the additional complexity of those technologies and our limited resources at the time. Using mostly our own equipment, we managed to produce six minutes worth of 3D animation on only four workstations by utilizing the latest GPU rendering technology.

Advancing our workflow for 360° productions, we are currently developing novel ideas for virtual reality entertainment, commercials and education.

Extending our professional network even further, we would be very happy to hear from potential clients, post-production facilities and agencies, interested in the project and the future of VR.



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About us

Philipp Maas - Director, Producer

Philipp Maas was born 1990 in Saarlouis, Germany. After receiving his high-school diploma he worked two years as a 3D Junior Artist and Postproduction-Assistant at M.A.R.K. 13 in Stuttgart.

Since October 2012, he is a student in Ludwigsburg with his main focus on animation. In his spare time and during holidays he freelances as a CG generalist.

<http://www.philippmaas.com/>
contact@philippmaas.com

Filmography:

- Lichtspiel (2015) - ITFS trailer / commercial - director
- Seven Rooms (2015) - short - 3D Artist
- Electrofly (2015) - short - digital compositor
- Sonar (2014) - short - director, producer
- Golf All (2013) - short - director, editor
- Der Pirat (2013) - short - director of photography
- Der edle Mensch (2013) - short - director
- Escape from Tibet (2012) - feature - digital compositor
- Ich Kauf Dir Ein Schloss (2011) - short - digital compositor
- No Comment (2011) - music video - director
- Citylights (2010) - music video - director



Dominik Stockhausen - Director, Producer

Dominik Stockhausen was born 1988 in Schwabach, Germany. After receiving his high-school diploma in 2007 he studied Theatre and Media Studies at the University of Bayreuth. Since 2012 he is a student of Animation and Visual Effects at the Filmakademie Baden-Württemberg.

<https://vimeo.com/dominikstockhausen/>
dominik.stockhausen@filmakademie.de

Filmography:

- Auster (2015) - ITFS trailer / commercial - director
- Sonar (2014) - short - director, producer
- Dustbuster (2013) - short - visual effects
- Mecarnicum (2013) - short - director, editor, animation
- SMSvonGesternNacht (2012) - video installation - director, producer
- Schuld (2011) - short - visual effects supervisor
- Yellow Brick Road (2011) - music video - 2D animation



Alexander Maas - Composer, Sounddesigner

Film composer Alexander Maas was born on April 12, 1988, in Saarlouis, Germany. He began studying the piano at the age of six and quickly developed a love for playing film music.

He composed for several (international) short films and wrote the orchestral score for "Honor Flight", a feature-length WWII documentary which broke the Guinness world record for the largest film screening in history. He currently lives in Kaiserslautern, Germany.

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Filmography: (excerpt)

- Porsche Macan (2014) - Commercial
- Vincents Dream (2014) - Mobile Game, 01/15
- Sonar (2014) - short - 360° Sci-Fi Horror for the Oculus Rift
- LIBRE Initiative (2013-2014) - Commercials
- Der edle Mensch (2013) - short
- Der Pirat (2013) - short
- Golf All (2013) - short
- Honor Flight (2012) - feature documentary
- Oiedysse (2010) - short

