

π he wisdom tree

AS THE MYSTERY UNRAVELS, THE QUEST BEGINS...

VISIONARY SCI-FI MYSTERY SPIRITUAL DRAMA

APPLAUDED BY SCIENTISTS, ARTISTS, THINKERS, SCHOLARS, MEDIA, ACADEMIA,
STUDENTS AND AUDIENCES (FROM 10 TO 80+ YEARS OLD).

SHEETAL SHETH PATRICK ALPARONE ERIC HOLTER

WRITTEN and DIRECTED by
SUNIL SHAH

PRODUCED by
LAURA TECHERA FRANCIA
RENU VORA
SUNIL SHAH

in association with
ZPIXELS STUDIO

140 minutes / HD / Color / USA / Dolby Digital 5.1 (English)
PRODUCTION COMPANY: The Wisdom Tree, LLC
IN THEATRES DECEMBER 2013

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A MYSTERY AS COMPLEX AS ITS TIMES

VISIONARY SCI-FI MYSTERY SPIRITUAL DRAMA

"An earnest attempt to combine
EASTERN MYSTICISM and WESTERN SCIENCE.
A MIND-WARPING SCI-FI."

– Marc Mohan, THE OREGONIAN

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STARRING

Dr. Trisha Rao	SHEETAL SHETH
Steve Hamilton	PATRICK ALPARONE
Mike Parker	ERIC HOLTER
Eugene Rogers	NICK SCOGGIN
Dr. Armstrong	ROSS TURNER
Susan Hamilton	SHANNON MAHONEY
Debbie Hay	JESSICA RAAUM
Dr. Mcneese	GARY S. MARTINEZ
Ken Miller	THOMAS COKENIAS
Shirley Hamilton	ROSEMARY GARRISON
Young Shirley	CRISTINA DELVALLE
Young Steve	NICHOLAS DANIEL PAULINE
Shelly Richter	MONIQUE BRICCA
Dr. Catherine Searls	BILLIE SHEPARD
Trisha's Father	KEITH STEVENSON

FILMMAKERS

Writer & Director	SUNIL SHAH
Producers	LAURA TECHERA FRANCIA RENU VORA SUNIL SHAH
Director Of Photography	PIYUSH SHAH
Music Composer	SHWETA JHAVERI
Background Score	WILLIAM STORKSON
Sound Designer	ANGIE YESSON
Sound Re-Recording Mixers	MICHAEL SEMANICK ZACH MARTIN ANGIE YESSON
Sound Mixer	DAN JASPAR
Editors	SUNIL SHAH RENU VORA
Visual Effects Supervisor	APURVA SHAH
Production Designer	JOSH KORAL
Casting Directors	NINA HENNINGER SARAH KLIBAN

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SHEETAL SHETH PATRICK ALPARONE ERIC HOLTZ MUSIC BY SHWETA JHAVERI COSTUME DESIGNER WILLIAM STORKSON EDITOR SUNIL SHAH EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS NINA HENNINGER SARAH KLIDAN PRODUCED BY MARGARET CARAGAN WRITTEN BY DAN JASPER PRODUCED BY PAULA LOUIE EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS KATHERINE BRUNIS EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS CHRIS PROCTOR EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS APURVA SHAH EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS JOSH KORAL EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS PIYUSH SHAH EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS ANGIE YESSON EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS MICHAEL SEMANICK EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS LAURA TECHERA FRANCIA EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS RENU VORA EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS SUNIL SHAH

www.TheWisdomTreeFilm.com

SYNOPSIS (SHORT)

Three very different people — a quantum physicist, a neuroscientist (Sheetal Sheth), and an FBI agent — find themselves drawn into a spiraling mystery. Confronted with a mysterious car accident, the three must interpret clues that defy common sense. Their collective quest takes them from science to art to music to mysticism in a widening search for answers. After an intense outward chase to satisfy their rational minds, the trio realizes the answers they desire lie buried deep within themselves. As each seeker begins to embrace the true nature of reality, each is rewarded with revelations beyond their wildest imaginings. What they learn leaves them humbled and in awe of the strange and beautiful universe we call home. When everything makes sense, nothing makes sense.

SYNOPSIS (LONG)

SCIENCE meets ART meets MYSTICISM

For several years, Steve Hamilton, a self-conflicted quantum physicist has struggled to uphold and prove a groundbreaking theory that had ended his mother's career when she proposed it years ago! Now, Steve's research is also in jeopardy when a mysterious car accident leaves him in the throes of death! A chain of events brings Steve together with compassionate but unwavering neuroscientist Dr. Trisha Rao (Sheetal Sheth); and anguished FBI Agent Mike Parker, as they all get drawn into an intensifying mystery. However, not in their wildest dreams could they have foreseen what lay ahead!

Before long they're engulfed in clues snowballing from science, art, music, mysticism; and oddly, through a bizarre set of coincidences, from their own past, present, and future too! As they struggle to interpret a multitude of hard-to-comprehend events, every answer evokes a set of new questions. Caught in the maze, tranquil Trisha not only steers them across a longwinded, ever-deepening mystery, but also helps Steve and Mike overcome their deep-rooted fears and guilt. However, this transformative spiritual journey also brings about a realization that the incident with Steve was merely the tip of an iceberg — the more worrisome, imminent danger lay in that the people of this planet are imperiled! In this story of personal redemption, if they can unravel the enigma, not only may they guide — and, thus save — the human race, but they may also chance upon the most profound and far-reaching discoveries... ever.

With Writer-Director Sunil Shah, Producers Laura Techera Francia and Renu Vora, The Wisdom Tree features talented award winning actress, Sheetal Sheth, in the lead role, along with Patrick Alparone and Eric Holter as lead co-stars. Also, the indie boasts a stellar crew including nominees/award winners of the Oscars, Emmy, BAFTA, National Film Awards (India), Golden Reel, Independent Spirit, ASCAP, Grass Roots International, Artio, and

Visual Effects Society (USA). This slow-paced, contemplative sci-fi mystery is a journey spanning intriguing artworks attuned to ethereal music. A haunting background score, coupled with carefully sketched cinematography and subtle sound design, add novel dimensions. The film heavily relies on — and attempts to bind — theories and doctrines, as well as hypotheses, from science and math, music, art, philosophy, mysticism, spirituality and interdisciplinary possibilities, to create an engaging whole.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

The Wisdom Tree is a tale of human fears, desires and guilt, a classic drama with both sci-fi and spiritual elements. This captivating and intriguing mystery attempts to bind Science (quantum physics, neurology), Arts (fine art paintings, classical music) and Mysticism suggesting that the universe is multi-dimensional, strange, harmonic and that – as some Eastern spiritual traditions have long maintained – “All is one.”

The Wisdom Tree is a deep, thought provoking journey through numerous layers of mystery. The recurring theme of the film is "contradictory elements merge to create a sense of equilibrium". Science v/s mysticism/spirituality, left brain v/s right brain, yin v/s yang, rational v/s intuitive, life v/s death, effects v/s cause, time v/s space and so on. The film subtly reinforces the age-old belief - these opposing elements are two sides of the same coin and both are needed to attain a true sense of harmony and balance.

A broad vision set in motion the making of The Wisdom Tree. To confine the film to a few genres would limit it. Timeless, it is as much a mystery, as it is a meditative journey. It involves art, music, science...and science fiction. It is just as much a compelling human drama, as it is a spiritual experience. Call it offbeat, consider it experimental. In a moment it may strike a chord deep into unknown realms of the human subconscious, and in the next it may spiral you into the expanse of an uncharted and unfathomable universe.

The Wisdom Tree is a sincere effort – sans pseudo-science or instant spirituality, no gimmicks. Since inception, we aimed at presenting facts without distortion - not even under the guise of creative license. Indeed, we feel gratified with our achievement.

The overall treatment of this subtle, subdued and slow paced drama is minimalist. Camera moves only when it is absolutely necessary. The mysterious sound track coupled with minimalist sound design amplifies the inner as well as external searches of the lead characters. The VFX, motion graphics and sound effects are very carefully crafted to not enhance the pace or raise tension.

Though The Wisdom Tree is an original work of fiction, it heavily relies upon proven as well as proposed theories & doctrines by eminent scientists, quantum physicists, neurologists, scholars, philosophers, published books and academic research papers. The Wisdom Tree draws inspiration from various Quantum Physics proposed models, Einstein's theory of space and time relativity, Eastern Mysticism, numerous parallels between various scientific disciplines and Eastern Mysticism, proposed effects of music on human brain and neurology, medieval Indian Raagamala paintings (instant transformation of one art form (music) into another (paintings) without rational interpretation), nature's repetitive patterns found in sounds, shapes, colors, time, space, time-space and their relationships with mathematics - just to name a few.

The long journey - from inception to research to completion - has taken close to seven years, all that could go wrong certainly did go wrong. Made with an ultra-low budget, this indie battled many odds. Despite innumerable challenges, the dedication and passion of a team spanning four continents has brought to fruition a dream.

Even though it is my first feature, because of the concept, script and treatment, I have been able to bring many prestigious award winners and nominees (academy, national award (India), Visual Effects Society (USA), ASCAP & Grass Roots International, Artio, Independent Spirit, Golden Reel and Emmy) to this project.

In this information age, knowledge is at our fingertips and exposure vast. Today we enjoy intricate plots with stories that span across cultures, and seemingly diverse disciplines. We have dared to bring to you - our esteemed audiences - a story that is both riveting as it is compelling. The breadth, depth and minutiae of this multidimensional film should intrigue you... we promise.

I'm extremely proud of what my dedicated, focused and talented team has created against many odds and I'm reasonably confident that you will enjoy the film.

Thank you for your time.

- *Writer/Director Sunil Shah*



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Casting NINA HENNINGER SARAH KLIGAN EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS MARGARET CARAGAN PRODUCED BY DAN JASPAR PRODUCED BY PAOLA LIMA PRODUCED BY KATHERINE BRUNS
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER CHRIS PROCTOR VISUAL EFFECTS SUPERVISOR APURVA SHAH PRODUCTION DESIGNER JOSH KORAL DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY PIVUSH SHAH EXECUTIVE PRODUCER ANGIE VESSON
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER MICHAEL SEMANICK PRODUCED BY LAURA TECHERA FRANCIA RENU VORA WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY SUNIL SHAH

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BRIEF BIOS

Sheetal Sheth (Dr. Trisha Rao, Neuroscientist)



Best known for her role starring opposite Albert Brooks in **LOOKING FOR COMEDY IN THE MUSLIM WORLD** (2005), Sheetal Sheth has also played major roles in over a dozen international feature films and has appeared as a guest star in many popular television series, including *Nip Tuck*, *Royal Pains*, and *NCIS: Lost Angeles*.

Sheth has won 3 Best Actress nods in the festival circuit for **THE WORLD UNSEEN** and **WINGS OF HOPE**. In 2012, fans voted her ‘Favorite Movie Actress’ in After Ellen’s Visibility Awards.

WRITER & DIRECTOR

Sunil Shah



Sunil Shah left a successful career in software development a few years ago to pursue his passion for filmmaking. Sunil has spent the past 20+ years studying various sciences and forms of eastern mysticism. Driven by a desire to share his enthusiasm for these eclectic subjects, he has chosen to do so via film. The Wisdom Tree marks his directorial debut. Though he loves to handle seemingly complex subjects and disciplines, he believes in and attempts to be as minimalist as possible.

PRODUCERS

Laura Techera Francia

Laura has produced US based as well as international films. To her credit, she has produced an award winning film “Everything Strange And New”. The film won awards at the Munich Film Festival, San Francisco International Film Festival and San Francisco Film Critics Circle. Laura was also nominated for Independent Spirit Awards for the same.

Renu Vora

Debbie Brubaker (Consulting Producer)

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

Piyush Shah

Piyush, an acclaimed cinematographer, recipient of many international awards and accolades, has received the prestigious National Award by the President of India, best cinematography award for film “Kaal” at Capalbio Short Film Festival, Italy, best cinematography award for film “Moksha” at National Film Awards, India.

Piyush has been a part of many diverse Indian and European film and documentary productions. Many films lensed by him have been screened at various film festivals worldwide. His film “Siddheshwari” has been screened at more than 130 film festivals. Some of his films are also archived and kept as a collection at The Museum of Modern Art in New York and the Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris, France.

MUSIC COMPOSER, VOCALIST AND LYRICIST

Shweta Jhaveri

Shweta a renowned master vocalist (North Indian Classical) and composer, is recipient of various awards including Grass Roots International Music Award, ASCAP (American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers) award, the Indo American Chamber’s award, USA and Gujarat State Academy Award(India). She has sung and composed music for international dance ballets, performed & recorded Indian classical and World music with western musicians, and has sung for Indian feature films, Indian TV productions, western documentaries and at sold out concerts (Indian, Jazz, and Fusion)

BACKGROUND SCORE

William Storkson

For more than 18 years, William Storkson has been performing, composing, recording, and engineering music and sound design for a variety of media. William has composed music for

more than a dozen feature films and dozens of short films and commercials. Several of his projects have ended up at Sundance festival and a few projects he has been involved with have also received Academy Awards.

VISUAL EFFECTS SUPERVISOR

Apurva Shah

Apurva brings over 15 years of experience and a wealth of expertise in 3D visual effects and animation to the project. He has lent his expertise at PDI (DreamWorks) and Pixar. He led a team of effects animators on the Academy Award winning film “Finding Nemo”, supervised effects on Disney Pixar’s Academy Award winning film “Ratatouille” and supervised sequence on the Academy Award winning “Shrek”. He won the VES award for best supporting effects for the film “Ratatouille”.

SOUND RE-RECORDING MIXER

Michael Semanick

Michael is a two time academy award winner and has been nominated ten times for Achievement in Sound Mixing. He was nominated for all three Lord of The Rings films and won for Return of the King in 2004. He received his second Oscar for Peter Jackson's King Kong. Michael has been nominated twice for his work with Pixar on Ratatouille and Wall-e, and for his efforts on The Curious Case of Benjamin Button in 2008. His nominations for both Wall-e and Benjamin Button were given in the same year. He was nominated for The Social Network in 2011.

CASTING DIRECTOR

Nina Henninger

Casting Society of America’s Artio award winner, Nina brings over 20 years of casting experience. She has casted actors for over 35 films including Milk, The Kite Runner, The Pursuit of Happyness, Memoirs of Geisha and What Dreams May Come - to name a few. Films she has been associated with have been nominated as well as have received Oscar awards.