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New transmedia project SYNEMATIKA by Michael Pope begins with movie script as 3D immersive installation

Filmmaker & director of experimental feature film NEOVOXER immersed himself in a 30-day endurance lockdown to create a feature film script in 3D, as a 2000-square foot walk-through experience with sound

Kingston, NY: Filmmaker Michael Pope announced he has completed a 30-day endurance art project in upstate New York in order to create the script for his new transmedia project, SYNEMATIKA. Conceived as leading to a full-length experimental feature film, this current project will be a “3D script” in the form of a 2000 square foot site-specific multimedia installation in a converted mill loft space, with interactive soundscapes. Pope spent 30 days and nights locked down in the space under 24/7 live streaming video as a “Ritual of Creating,” completed on August 15. Still living fulltime in the space through September to finalize the installation, he will then photograph it to create a book or “shooting bible” for the planned movie. It will be opened for the public to visit and explore from Sept. 29-October 13.

“It’s about process,” explains Pope. “When I am developing a project, written words alone can’t really convey it, I need to lay out visual images in a space. I compose music that has the feeling I’m trying to achieve, and use that as a background to create and to shoot to. I even make dioramas with figures, and a lot of drawings. This is just skipping the step of artificially reducing the whole thing to words on a page. That’s a Hollywood convention, but you wouldn’t write out in words how you were going to do a painting, you’d sketch and do color studies.” Pope reports he has been planning this work for several years, and has the world, characters and plot largely in mind, though it will evolve and coalesce during this creation phase.

Backers of the project have been invited to bring or send items that will be incorporated into the piece, on a theme of “transformation”. “A key part of the process,” says Pope, “is that it incorporates collective creative action. Part of what will go on both in the story and the larger process is the idea of humans exploring their true creative potential.”

Pope reports that the soundtrack is already in production, with collaboration from drummer Brian Viglione (Dresden Dolls, Nine Inch Nails, Scarlet Sails), and that a core production team is in place.

Pope’s previous transmedia project, Neovoxer, won him a Tanne Award for Outstanding Achievement, and was the first film by an American director to screen at the P1: International Biennial in the Czech Republic (2004). Neovoxer was an experimental, non-dialogue feature film and event that included live performance of its musical score and sound effects, site-specific installation and tableau vivant. Pope was writer, director, editor as well as actor, designer, and one of the composers of the project.

About Michael Pope: Michael Pope is a self-taught film and video director based in Brooklyn who is also a member of the Cloud Club artists’ community in Boston, MA. In music circles he is best known for many music videos including his work with Amanda Palmer, directing all but one of the Dresden Dolls music videos and the Who Killed Amanda Palmer video series, as well as film work for the Boston Pops.

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