

PRESS KIT

THE ARK OF DOPAMINE

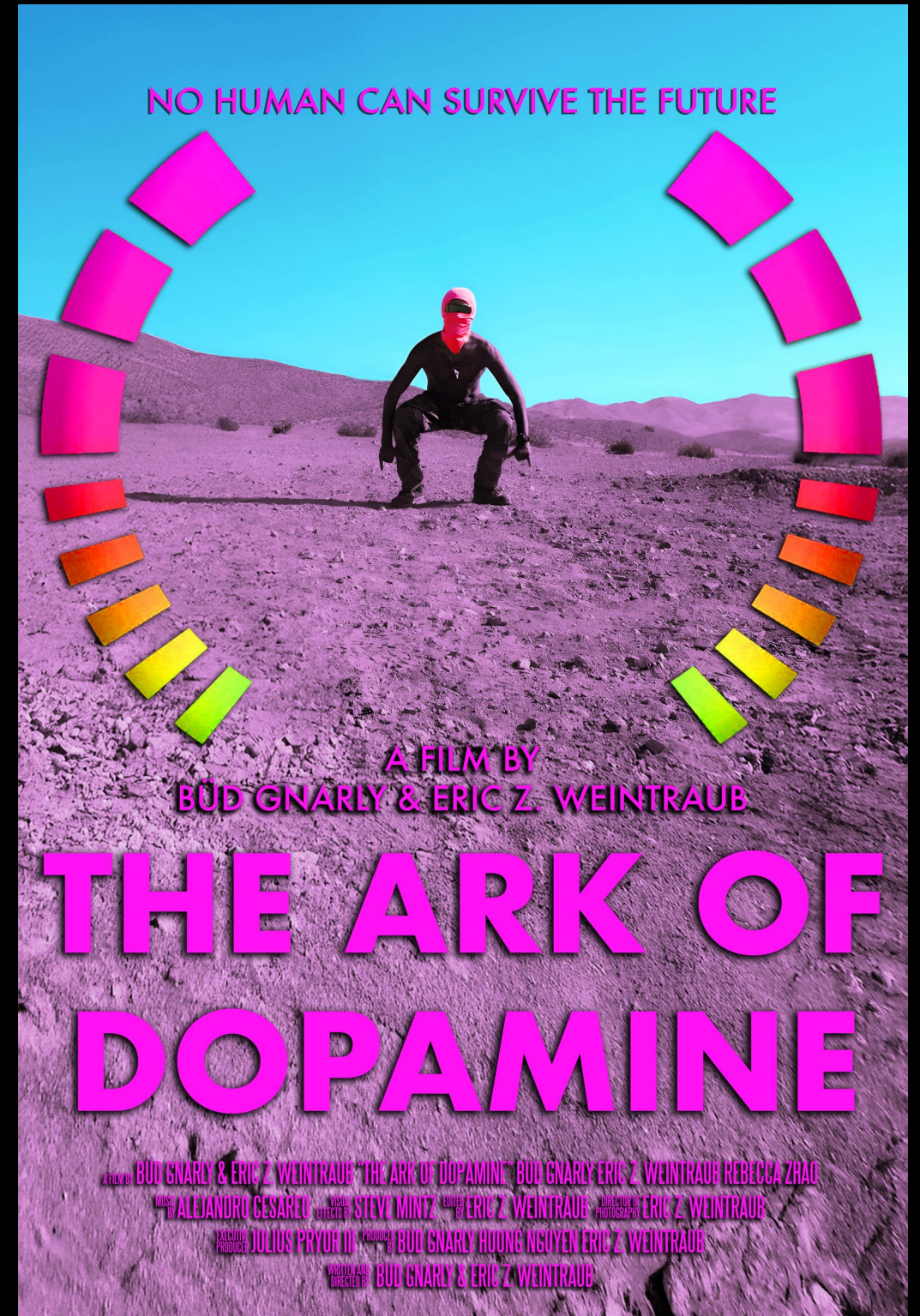
NO HUMAN CAN SURVIVE THE FUTURE

A SHORT FILM BY BÜD GNARLY & ERIC Z. WEINTRAUB

GENRE
SCI-FI / ACTION

RUN TIME
6 MINUTES

CONTACT
ARKDFILM@GMAIL.COM



SYNOPSIS

In the year 2064, dopamine has been eviscerated by way of advanced technology. Humanity's last hope depends on a mysterious football player turned super soldier sent on a deadly mission to retrieve the last stockpile of dopamine on Earth.



DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

The Ark of Dopamine is a project born out of the overstimulation of today. Dopamine drives us to live, but it's also a potent chemical neurotransmitter that can destroy us if underestimated. In the modern world of technological accelerationism, things move at hyperspeed: we're in a forever loop of clicking, swiping, liking, watching, and reacting that far exceeds the processor speed of our brains. The endogenous chemicals in our bodies are being pushed to their absolute limit, it's only a matter of time until we go beyond that limit and feel nothing.

As filmmakers who met in a philosophy class at the University of Southern California, we wanted to explore a futurescape in which dopamine has been depleted for most. A world in which only a select few have enough dopamine receptors to function. A world in which one mystery man seeks a fabled device that could reverse engineer our "dopa-coma" and help humanity feel alive again. But it won't be easy, as adversarial forces want to eliminate human existence.

Inspired by kinetic filmmaking and the practice of tackling topical subject matter through genre, our goal is take our audience on an adrenaline fueled experience of what it means to survive in an age of overstimulation.

-Büd and Eric

THE FILMMAKERS



Búd Gnarly

Writer · Director · Producer · Actor

Búd Gnarly is a writer, artist, photographer, surfer, ultramarathoner, and American businessman based in Miami Beach, Florida. A graduate of the University of Southern California, Búd brings a restless creative spirit and an athlete's endurance to every project he undertakes. *The Ark of Dopamine* marks a bold step into narrative filmmaking for this multi-disciplinary creator.



Eric Z. Weintraub

Writer · Director · Producer · DP · Editor

Eric Z. Weintraub is an award-winning author and emerging filmmaker based in Los Angeles, California. His novels include *South of Sepharad* (History Through Fiction, 2024) and *Dreams of an American Exile* (Black Hill Press, 2015). Drawing on his background as a lifelong cinephile and literary artist, Eric recently began channeling his storytelling instincts into the visual medium. He is a graduate of the University of Southern California.

CAST & CREW

STARRING

BÜD GNARLY as SOLDIER RON
ERIC Z. WEINTRAUB as MISSION COMMANDER
REBECCA ZHAO as AIMEE OS

KEY CREW

WRITERS/DIRECTORS

BÜD GNARLY
ERIC Z. WEINTRAUB

PRODUCERS

BÜD GNARLY
HUONG NGUYEN
ERIC Z. WEINTRAUB

MUSIC COMPOSER

ALEJANDRO CESAREO

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

JULIUS PRYOR III

CINEMATOGRAPHER & EDITOR

ERIC Z. WEINTRAUB

VISUAL EFFECTS SUPERVISOR

STEVEN MINTZ

BEHIND THE SCENES

The Ark of Dopamine was filmed by a small crew on location in California's Mojave Desert. The film combines the use of GoPro, iPhone, and traditional digital cinematography to achieve its unique look and kinetic energy.



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ARKDFILM@GMAIL.COM**

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