



Nia

A SHORT FILM BY CLEMENT SOO

essential information

Director/ Writer/ Producer	Clement Soo
Production Company	Not So Serial Entertainment
Executive Producer	Yun Phua
Film Ratio	2.35:1
Sound	Stereo
Running Time	7 Mins
Country of Production	Australia
Date of Completion	December 2015



Noeyline

A woman, struggling with the guilt of leaving her devoted husband, must face a disturbing apparition that threatens both her and her husband life.



short synopsis

'Nia' is set somewhere between nightmare and reality. In this short psychological horror, Nia struggles to deal with her guilt after leaving her devoted husband Wilfred. Living within a nightmare she has built for herself, things spiral out of control as she is haunted by a sinister apparition.



.Lorey synopsis

'Nia' is a short psychological horror film that seamlessly blends real events, memories and nightmares into a powerful narrative. Nia struggles to cope with her guilt after leaving her devoted deaf-mute husband Wilfred. In order to escape the nightmare she has created for herself, she must not only revisit her past but face a disturbing apparition that repeatedly haunts her. Nia's journey out of her mental prison highlights an important issue, hidden within the title and last scene of the film and symbolized by the semicolon.



Gyandeepa Paramegar - via

Gyandeepa is an engineer degree holder who I joined the Screen Actors Australia in 2014 in order to learn the nuances of acting. She has starred in the short films 'The Waterer', 'Happy Birthday Davo', and 'Anamika'. In addition to short films, she has starred in a yet to be titled feature film, corporate training videos and a music video for the band 'Ragasur'. She is currently working in a short film depicting the suffering of poor Indian farmers.



• amar sran - wilted

Amar studied theatre at the Victorian College of Arts (VCA) in 2013. He has performed in two plays: Goddess of 'Hindustan' (2013) and 'Ramaya' (2015). These performances were in Punjabi and English. He has starred in a number of short films including 'Act of Love', 'Love Is' and 'Red Ink'. Amar has also performed in music videos, TV commercials and a bit part TV show 'Winners and Losers'.



Director's statement

'Nia' follows on from my previous short films 'Perspective' and 'Rhythm', to form a trilogy of films focusing on deaf-hearing relationships. While 'Perspective' is a silent psychological drama and 'Rhythm' an uplifting romance about an unlikely deaf-hearing relationship, Nia adopts elements of both. It's a surreal romance-horror that explores the difficulties of a deaf-hearing relationship.



'Nia' was inspired by the notion that a single decision can lead to a chain events, each with significant consequences. Often our decisions are based on assumptions and hence misunderstandings. It's only human to give meaning to what we don't understand based on our outlook on the world. By the time we realise our assumptions were wrong, it may be too late to stop the chain of events set in motion. 'Nia' builds on this concept and weaves it through a relationship drama that incorporates elements from the horror genre in order to heighten the characters' internal struggles.



The challenge of writing and then filming a short film of this length, is to condense all of these elements down into the allowed run time while still providing depth to the characters and their conflicts. Further challenges were posed by the limited time we had available to shoot the film and the shoe string budget we were working on. To pull it off, a great deal of script development was required. After months of writing and re-writing and with the help of Yun Phua and Michael Young, 'Nia' was ready for the pre-production stage.



I picked a small enthusiastic crew, all determined to translate the story of 'Nia' from the page to the screen. My director of photography was Benjamin Luck and sound recordist Jack McCulloch, both of whom I had met while crewing on other films. Benjamin had been first assistant camera operator on a previous set, where I had noticed his skill and talent behind the camera. The remaining crew were made up of fellow Victorian College of the Arts Foundation students.



Once on set, my team all worked well together. My production designer and gaffer, Dushnath Weragama, formed an incredible duo with Benjamin, setting up and shooting amazing scenes that gave 'Nia' its distinctive visual style. One particular scene, the climax of the film, was a set built on the weekend that did not appear in the original script. Such is the nature of filmmaking.

• Director's Biography - Clement Soo

Clement was born in Sabah, Malaysia, though moved to Perth, Australia, to complete a degree in Mechanical Engineering. He later moved to Melbourne, Australia, to start a Master of Engineering.

Soon after starting his Masters of Engineering, Clement enrolled in the Film and Television Foundations Course at the Victorian College of the Arts (VCA), University of Melbourne. He had a lifelong passion for visual storytelling, inspired by Asian American Youtubers, Just Kidding Films, and sought to further this interest.



Clement soon withdrew from the Masters of Engineering to concentrate on pursuing his passion of filmmaking. By the end of the year, he had written, produced, and directed his first major production, 'Nia.' This film went on to be accepted at a number of international film festivals and also helped him get selected for the Masters of Film and Television (Narrative) Course.

Clement is now studying filmmaking full time, and has created his own indie Youtube company, Not So Serial Entertainment.



Key crew

Directed, Written and Produced by

Clement Soo

Executive Producer

Yun Phua

Director of Photography

Benjamin Luck

Production Designer

Dushnath Weragama