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Muse

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Muse

Senior Project Submitted to
The Division of the Arts of
Bard College

By

Bettina Campomanes

Annandale-on-Hudson, New York May 2019

Artist's Statement:

Bettina Campomanes is a Filmmaker and Music Producer specializing in online content creation and short form narrative film. Her films and music videos have garnered viral success and have earned multiple festival selections for categories such as best student director, best short, and best music video. As an electronic producer, she performs under the stage name “Valiant Vermin” and continues to mix or produce for other musical acts.

Muse is a short film about a writer who is unable to live in the present when his authorial dreams begin to merge with his past. Blaming himself for the loss of his loved ones, he is ultimately putting his own life at a standstill and fighting the guilt he has bottled up inside. The story explores love, mental health, loss, and the ways in which people cope. Using both drama and horror to better display the protagonist's intentions, we get a better idea of how frightening the mind can be when we assume the worst of the people we care for most.

In this piece, I take on the role of the writer, director, director of photography, and composer. Here, I try to further her craft by creating an aural and visual experience of the corrosive, unrelenting nature of grief. Using my knowledge in both film and music, I created a piece that highlights my strengths and test the balance between my two passions. The scoring of Muse uses a combination of modular serge synths, analog synths, computer generated synths, and cello. Inspired by the horror drama film *The Exquisite Cadaver* (1969) and the science fiction film *Annihilation* (2018), I focused on a style the culminates the stresses on the feelings of being watched, ignored, and confronted with foreign emotions.