

Hanging From Infinity

An **Ursidae Parade** Production



Directed & Written by
Christopher Phelps

Produced by
Maxim Van Scoy, Christopher Phelps,
Stephen Phelps

Starring
Lucas William Hale Van Scoy
Laura Hajek

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DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

When we first began production on “Hanging From Infinity” we didn't have a script, or a title for that matter. It just existed as a concept, a few images and moments. It was literally just a couple friends (that happen to be filmmakers) getting together and shooting some ideas.

As amateur as that sounds, this was really the start of a video script. In the same way a script is reworked / rewritten; we would shoot, re-shoot, cut a scene and let the project build upon itself. It was evolving, changing, and we were rolling with it. This might seem expensive, but with no budget and everyone (cast and crew) working for nothing but the passion and excitement for the project, it was perfect.

When I started to see the story form, I began to write a script that was built from the elements we had already shot. But I didn't want to tie ourselves down too much. I still wanted to let the scenes flourish on set in the moment. The film already had its own life, its own way of evolving; and it was beautiful.

This isn't to say there wasn't a vision from the beginning. What started as a look at a young man's decision not to take his own life grew into a surreal story that follows his internal voyage while trying to overcome his personal baggage. It's about self-realization through memories, thoughts, and dreams as well as nightmares. It is the physical vs. the psychological. It's about understanding. It's about internal discoveries through time, love, life, and death.

SYNOPSIS

In dark, black nothingness, a lone figure hangs from the neck, swinging like the pendulum of a clock. His eyes slowly open just before he's cut free and plunged into a world of fleeting thoughts and visions. Through strange dreams and distant memories the man travels, piecing together the remnants of a past relationship with a mysterious girl.

ABOUT *Hanging From Infinity*

Hanging From Infinity is a purely cinematic experience. In a day and age in which many films are based on best selling novels, comic books, old cartoon shows, and just about every other commercial property under the sun, it can be rare to find a story that can only possibly exist as a film. But that's exactly what director Christopher Phelps has created. The story itself was born out of the imagery. "It started as a very vague concept. I wanted the project to build upon itself, so in the very beginning there was no script." Phelps explains. "After we shot a couple of scenes and moments, and once I realized the right path for the film, I wrote a script that was still ever-changing until the end. I wanted to keep it that way."

The loose nature of the writing process set the tone for the rest of the production, and allowed the film to grow organically as scenes were shot, edited, re-thought and re-written over the course of a year. This was a beneficial workflow because it allowed the small crew to overcome budgetary and time constraints. "This is a no budget film, not a \$5,000 no budget film, but a \$0 no budget film. Everyone who worked on this did it out of passion and excitement for the project. People chipped in anyway they could, which leads to another challenge... time. Without money, we were forced to do this project on the side and that can take a long time when trying to assemble the proper crew. It took us over a year to shoot the entirety of the film, but instead of letting that get in the way, we used it to our advantage and made it a part of the story."

Despite being produced on the cheap, the film features many impressive set pieces and complicated effects. The movie relies heavily on its surreal visuals and its nonlinear structure to tell its story. "Well, it being an experimental narrative, I know some people will totally get it, and some won't. Regardless, I think there's a lot of really amazing relatable beautiful moments in this film. There's a lot to take in here."

The emotional weight of the story is carried by a very small cast, and required two extraordinary actors pull it off. The task fell to the leads played by Lucas William Hale Van Scoy and Laura Hajek. "Working with Luke and Laura is always great. We've been close friends for many years and have worked with each other on several projects, which makes it easy to stay on the same page with very little words. Talking through a scene with them is quick and painless. On the set of this film, working with Luke was amazing. He was totally into the experimental nature of the project, which made it easy to explore his character for both of us. When we started, it was a lot of figuring it out on set, which ultimately built his character and led to me writing a story that surrounded him. With Laura it was a different approach. She was only around for three days spanned over 8 months or so. But she fell into the character with ease and hit the points exactly where she needed to. Her scenes are split, referencing different points in her

character's life. Anytime I'd come up with a new scene, Laura was always excited to explore the new territories.”

Aside from playing the main character, Van Scoy also exercises his musical talent as well, providing the film with its main theme “World Losing Pity”. “Luke is a phenomenal artist and musical performer. He recorded "World Losing Pity" in 2006 on an old tape recorder. Hearing it back then it always stuck out to me. I always got a certain feeling from the song, brought on by it's haunting quality, lyrics, and melody (almost as if from another place or time). I started throwing some ideas around back then, and we actually shot a scene but it never became anything until now. It just made perfect sense to have it in *Hanging From Infinity*, and without hesitation Luke recorded a newer version, added new lyrics inspired by the film, and there it was.”

Ultimately, *Hanging From Infinity* took on a life of it's own, equally challenging and inspiring the cast and crew, who were constantly surprised by the evolving story. “I think it's more about whatever people want to take from it, they will, I just hope they enjoy the journey that is *Hanging From Infinity*.”

ABOUT THE CAST

LUCAS WILLIAM HALE VAN SCOY – The Hanging Man

Lucas William Hale Van Scoy is an actor and musician with The Ravacon Collective, based out of Glens Falls, NY. He has been involved in a number of video projects, taking different roles in production to fit the needs of each endeavor. Though his passion lies in his work as a singer/songwriter in the band "William Hale" he finds great satisfaction while experimenting in a multitude of art forms and creative mediums.

LAURA HAJEK – Ellie

Laura Hajek currently resides in New York City. She most recently played Adela in Theatre of War's production of *The House of Bernarda Alba* at The Millennium Film Workshop. She has been working with The Ravacon Collective for over 5 years and plans to continue this trend. Laura Hajek is a candidate for Miss NY USA, more information can be found at [facebook.com/laurahajeknyusa](https://www.facebook.com/laurahajeknyusa)

ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS

CHRISTOPHER PHELPS – Director / Writer / Producer

Christopher Phelps is an independent filmmaker and artist. Working with video since a very young age, he started taking it seriously around 2002 when he co-founded a video production company that was active until 2007 when he attended Full Sail University's accelerated film program where he earned directing positions on 16mm and 35mm projects, graduating in 2009 with a Bachelor of Science in Film. Since the end of his academic studies, he has been doing freelance editing work, and has co-founded "The Ravacon Collective" (a group of filmmakers, musicians, and artists based in upstate New York) and Ursidae Parade (an independent film production company) with his friend and colleague Maxim Van Scoy. His most recent project is the short film *Hanging From Infinity*, which he wrote, directed, produced and edited.

MAXIM VAN SCOY – Producer

Maxim Van Scoy began working in video production at a young age. In 2002 with Christopher and Stephen Phelps, among others, he co-founded the company Nice Guys Productions. Together they produced a number of short films and videos including *The Ravacon Show*, a 30-minute variety television show, which aired for two years on WNCE Look TV in Glens Falls, NY. After working in television for four years directing live shows, he attended Full Sail University where he received a bachelor's degree in film production. There he wrote and directed the short films *Dollhouse* and *Madame Pompadour*. After graduating he co-founded The Ravacon Collective, a group of filmmakers, musicians and artists based in upstate New York. With the Collective he helped produce a number of projects including the Manhattan based television program *Channel 616* with Muckraker Productions and live performance visuals for the band Phantogram. Most recently he founded the production company Ursidae Parade with Christopher Phelps. *Hanging From Infinity* is their first production with the company.

STEPHEN CLARK PHELPS – Producer

Stephen Clark Phelps is an independent filmmaker and video artist from upstate New York currently residing in NYC. His focus recently has been in deconstructing and rebuilding image from the ground up, while drawing inspiration from the intricate absurdities of life. After having completed work as the Property Master on his second feature film, he aspires to helm passion projects that blend imaginative storytelling with distorted reality.

URSIDAE PARADE – Production Company



Ursidae Parade is an independent film and video production company based in upstate New York. It was formed in 2011 by Christopher Phelps and Maxim Van Scoy. *Hanging From Infinity* is the company's first official production.

THE RAVACON COLLECTIVE – Production Company



The Ravacon Collective was created in an effort to help promote and organize the various projects and artistic works of filmmakers, musicians and artists based in the Glens Falls region of upstate New York. Members include the production companies Ursidae Parade and Muckraker Productions, the bands William Hale and The Mathematicians, visual artists Joel Barlow and Justin Paszul and many more.

THE RAVACON COLLECTIVE
presents

an URSIDAE PARADE production

“HANGING FROM INFINITY”

LUCAS WILLIAM HALE VAN SCOY

LAURA HAJEK

Sound Design
JOEL BARLOW

Visual Effects by
STEPHEN CLARK PHELPS

Edited by
CHRISTOPHER PHELPS

Original Music by
STEPHEN CLARK PHELPS
LUCAS WILLIAM HALE VAN SCOY

Cinematography by
CHRISTOPHER PHELPS
MAXIM VAN SCOY

Produced by
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