Note: Since this is an experimental film there is no linear story line, although the scenes are connected to one another, just not in the traditional, obvious terms. This can be viewed much like an absurd theater production. The whole theme of this film is a search for a portal with a suspension of disbelief to reality, much like a dream-like state. The portal is a subjective and abstract term and can be interpreted in many ways.

# The Portal

Author: Orest Bohonok

# **Characters:**

Leon

Women

Mysterious Man

Worker 2 at the coin exchange

Voice

Clerk

Voice on the phone

Worker 1 at the coin exchange

**OS TEXT:** A lunar eclipse occurs when the full moon passes into Earth's shadow and blocks the sun's rays that normally illuminate it.

INT. SMALL BEDROOM POSSIBLY IN AN UNKNOWN HOTEL ERIE CONTINUOUS SOUND OR MUSIC PLAYING QUIETLY (OS)

A small reddish lamp is seen standing on the left side of a dial-tone phone. The lamp is lightly lit with a reddish color and both the lamp and phone or on a small wooden night stand with nothing else on it. The camera is stationary on the night stand.

The phone rings. It rings 2 more times as a hand is seen coming from the right side of the screen to pick it up. As soon as the hand picks up the phone, loud static is heard from the calling side of the phone.

The camera becomes concentrated on the curly phone chord as the unknown static maintains the same volume. The camera pans up from the chord to only mouth height of LEON, where only his mouth and the bottom side of the phone is visible. The camera becomes stationed on the mouth and bottom part of the phone as LEON is in a sitting up position in his bed, woken up from his sleep.

### LEON

(irritated and confused for being woken up so late at night) Hello?

### VOICE ON THE PHONE

(speaking in a Slavic language over the static, subtitles are superimposed O.S.) Where calling from the Baltic regions.

#### LEON

### What? Who is this?

The camera is cut to images of virtual sound waves, much like you would see on the stereo when music is playing. The sound waves are moving rapidly due to the static and the camera is very slowly zooming into them.

# VOICE ON THE PHONE

(over the static) Where from the Baltic's Leon. Are you listening to me? Everything is going to be alright.

# The camera cuts back to Leon, this time it is a medium shot of him showing him sitting up in his bed, leaning against the wall.

LEON

(sounding more confused but alert since the caller knows his name) I'm sorry I don't understand what you are saying. How do you know my name?

> VOICE ON THE PHONE Everything is going to be alright.

Leon is seen sitting with an awkward and confused expression, not being able to say anything as the static is heard perpetrating from the other side of the phone.

The camera cuts to the sound waves again which are moving rapidly due to the static. The sound waves and static diminish rapidly as a semi-loud noise is heard, much of the sound of many lights being turned of all at once from a pull-down lever. With this sound, the static and waves diminish simultaneously, as the screen turns to black, an imitation of lights being turned off in a room.

### CUT TO BLACK

Note: An alternative to this scene might be used. It will follow the same format, but instead of Leon sleeping he will walk up to the phone. He will be revealed in the same manner though; first his hand comes on screen to pick up the phone, ect. You will not see him walk up to the phone though; his hand will be discovered coming from the upper part of the screen to pick up the isolated shot of the phone and the lamp. Also, the voice on the other side will say in a loud whisper and in an interval-like fashion, "You must have the key if you want to live" instead of the foreign voice. It will keep repeating itself in English but with the same static noise. Leon will respond appropriately.

SHARP FADE IN

INT. A SMALL KITCHEN

A fisheye lens is used to make the image look hemispherical or somewhat circular perpetrating outwards. The camera is situated on the right-bottom side of a women's face pointing upward as it reveals a women slightly humming to herself, seemingly enjoying herself. As she's doing this, a noise is heard coming from her

hands; the noise is the sound of a knife cutting a vegetable on a wooden board. The camera cuts to her hands as they are cutting carrots in a rapid pace on a wooden board.

The camera then again cuts to the 1<sup>st</sup> shot of the scene. The women makes a quite grunt as the knife is heard being droped down on the board and she brings her left hand rapidly to her mouth all in a simultaneous motion. The women sucks gently on a side of her finger, she has cut herself. Camera cuts to the board where a small stream of blood can be seen and then back to the women who is standing motionless. The women has here eyes closed and her cut finger away from her mouth and away from the shot. She looks serene and peaceful as she stands motionless with her eyes closed.

Unexpectedly a shot of the portal is shown. The portal itself looks like a magnificent circualar object; it is a large, round, ball-shaped hologram that is floating and circling around in the middle of the air, in a dark room with nothing else in it. It is viewed some what at a distance at first and then it is

rapidly intercut with a closer shot of it. The portal is decorated with various irregular colors on its exterior that somewhat seem to float on the solid sphere. This shot only lasts for about 3-4 seconds which is then cut to the women who is still standing peacfully with her eyes closed. The shot ends showing a quick time-lapse of the sky possibly from mid-day to evening. The time-lapse is a very short clip.

CUT TO BLACK

### BLACK SCREEN

The screen is pitch black and soundless. Suddenly the shot of the portal is shown for about a time-frame, this lasts for less then a second. The screen goes pitch black and is still soundless. From a distance a train can be heard coming toward the image. No sirens can be heard from the train just the noise from the train moving rapidly on the tracks. The noise increases.

The noise becomes very loud in this short progression. It countinues to be very loud as if the train is near by, but the image is pitch black. Suddenly a black and white image of a train is shown as it rapidly passes the screen from cart to cart. The camera is stationary and is only showing a tight shot of the side of a train from its wheels to about midhleght of the train as it rapidly passes the screen. The train lets out a loud, screeching siren, as it perpetrates the ongoing noise of the moving train on the tracks.

As the secound siren is about to come from the train the camera cuts to LEON. The camera is a close up of his face and is situated above his head pointing downward. LEON is facing the camera tilting his head upward, he is about to scream. As he opens his mouth to scream a clear styrofoam layer comes into the picture and tightly covers LEON's face, very tightly dissolving it into the layer. Instead of a scream we hear the loud siren from the train, just as LEON opens his mouth. This shot with LEON is very rapid, it lasts for only about 3 seconds, just as the train is about to make its second siren.

CUT TO BLACK

Note: The styrofoam layer can be already on screen as LEON is shown, dissolving into him as he is about to scream. Also, LEON might be facing normally when he first is introduced in this scene, and then he moves his head up to the facing camera as the layer dissolves into him. This should all be done simultaneously and in about 3-4 seconds.

BLACK SCREEN

# INT. JEWELRY AND COIN EXCHANGE SHOP ERIE CONTINUOUS SOUND OR MUSIC PLAYING QUIETLY (OS)

For a short moment the screen is black as we hear the sound of a door opening and possibly a light bell chime that is usually in small stores to signify that a customer has came in. The screen fades into a POV shot of LEON walking up to a counter with a register. In the POV LEON'S hand is visible as he walks up to the register. His hand is closed up; he is holding something in it.

From his POV his hand opens up as he hands the clerk very small, identical, mysterious objects. The small objects are rectangular in shape and glisten brightly in the center from tiny diamond like features, as light is reflected from them. There are many of them almost taking shape as a form of currency as they rattle together in the clerk's hand. The clerk takes one of the small objects and places it under a professional-looking magnifier to check for its value.

From the POV the object is magnified under the glass, the light is brightly scattered through out the small store. The bright light is sharply visible through the magnifier and many other random directions, almost in straight line form as it scatters randomly. The Clerk looks up from the magnifier with a slight smirk on her face.

CLERK

(slight chuckle and in disarray, emphasis on the last word) You can't get in with this!

The POV PANS to the right after she says this. As it is panning it reveals two other workers in the shop sitting close by, staring at him in disbelief. They laugh, but instead of hearing a laugh from them, a laugh track is dubbed simultaneously in place of there laughter. The laugh track is very similar to that of a sit-com.

# FADE OUT

Note: This whole scene in the coin exchange shop is from the point of view of LEON.

FADE IN

EXT. DOWNTOWN PART OF A CITY ERIE CONTINUOUS SOUND OR MUSIC PLAYING QUIETLY (OS) Medium-High scenic Crane shot of a downtown city possibly with a river being visible as well as many traveling cars and people. The whole shot is in time-lapse; as everything is moving in fast motion no audible sound from the outside world is heard. The crane shot dissolves into a stationary shot inside a subway station where people are seen going in and coming out of entrances to terminals possibly on escalators, this is all done in time-lapse. LEON's voice is superimposed on the screen, it has a bit of echo to it.

> LEON (desirable while a little agitated at the same time) I want to get into the portal!

The shot is cut to a shot on the bridge facing a sunset, with a river right underneath the bridge. The camera Pans across the middle part of the bridge staring at the sunset as the steel barges of the bridge cover the sun up to the camera as it pans and then reveal the sun back as the barges disappear from view. This scene with the bridge is a very quick shot though, although it is not in time-lapse, the pan is relatively slow.

The camera cuts to another scenic Crane shot of the city all in time-lapse. The city is alive with people and cars traveling in fast-motion, going about there daily lives. LEON's voice comes on screen again as this time-lapse is going on. Same echo effect but a little louder.

> LEON (more agitated and a little louder) Get me into the fucking portal!

The camera cuts to a close-up of LEON'S face. There is a bright light coming from above his head at an angle, illuminating his face. Everything else around him is pitch black, a sense of isolation. There is a sharp screeching tone as soon as LEON is introduced in this scene. LEON has his eyes closed and is fidgeting and twitching very rapidly in an uncomfortable manner. He is moving his head around very quickly as he is fidgeting, his hands are visible, his fingers are moving rapidly as his head. This is a very quick shot, lasting very shortly.

The loud screeching tone continues as the camera cuts to a shot of a close-up of the portal. Various colors and images float peacefully on the large hologram shaped ball as it circles. The portal is not viewed fully this time because of the close-up shot. The middle part of the portal covers the whole screen.

INT. SMALL, ISOLATED, DARK ROOM. A TABLE WITH A CHESS SET IS LOCATED IN THE MIDDLE OF IT. ERIE CONTINUOUS SOUND OR MUSIC PLAYING QUIETLY (OS)

LEON and a man are sitting across from each other in a dark room. In between them is a table with a chess set, the only thing practically visible other then them in this room. The camera is stationary and filming them from the side, it's a full shot so there both visible sitting across from each other with a chess set in between them.

Both of them are concentrating on the chess game. The man across LEON is a mysterious figure; he is sharply dressed, tongue-witted and charismatic, and unlike LEON looks alert and enthusiastic. The man looks up at LEON with glaring eyes.

### MYSTERIOUS MAN

(enthusiastically, as if he caught on an idea that he wants to share) You know its amazing, humans are. (chuckles) I mean, you guys breed to every corner of the earth like a virus, walk around your whole life trying to find some meaning to your life. (very mockingly) Oh I need some human comfort I want to be respected and loved by others. (laughs cynically)

The camera cuts to a closer shot of the man. The camera is cut at a right angle to the man where only he and the chess pieces are visible. As he continues with his speech the man leans slightly toward LEON. The speech is not interrupted or slowed down by the shot, it is continuing.

You know who the successful ones are, the lustful! Those who know that they are just like the next animal out there in the wild, competing with each other. What makes you so special to think that you're different then the next creature out there? (moves a chess piece) Check!

The chess pieces are out of focus as the man is talking, but become in focus when he moves the chess piece to say check. The camera cuts back to the first shot where both of them are visible. LEON doesn't budge he continues to look down, concentrating on the game.

The camera cuts to a close up to LEON in the same manner as it did to the man. This time at a left-angle to LEON though, since he is sitting on the left side of the table. LEON seems calm and peaceful; he doesn't look up and maintains his eyes on the chess game.

(calmly and quietly)

The greatest trick you ever pulled was convincing the world that you don't exist.

The camera cuts sharply to the man at a close-up, straight angle, where only his face is visible. This time he is not smiling or enthusiastic, the smirk from his face is gone.

He is staring directly at LEON and leaning slight toward him across the table. His eyes widen up as he is staring.

Suddenly, his mouth opens wide and a loud roar-like screech is heard from him. We do not see the development of his mouth opening up to scream; it is an instant shot from his straight, angry, glare to where rapidly his mouth is wide open and lets out a horrible scream. At the instant his mouth does become open, the man transforms into something ugly and distorted. His face is hard to disguise and it looks very beast-like. Just like the scream, his transformation is not visible from one form to another; it is instant, as soon as his mouth is opened and screaming.

CUT TO BLACK

BLACK SCREEN

INT. A CHAPEL

A black screen is shown. A loud screeching tone that was used earlier in the film is heard but the screen is black. LEON becomes visible in the film as the camera sharply cuts to him from the black screen. It is a close-up shot of him possibly kneeling or standing in a chapel. The shot is of his upper torso and head. The chapel itself is not decorated or colorful; it's mostly made of wooden material. LEON has his eyes closed and is in a concentrated, meditating state as the screeching noise continues. The camera begins to abruptly shake very lightly but in a rapid and random motion and racking out of focus and back into focus, making the image look disturbing and shaky as LEON is peacefully in one position. There is a voice-over of LEON as this is going on.

> LEON (small echo to the voice over, peaceful tone) There is something greater in me.

The camera cuts to a wide image of the portal as it floats in mid-air and then back to LEON, racking in and out focus and slightly shaking in the same manner. The high-pitched tone very slightly becomes louder. LEON'S voice is heard again.

### (peacefully) In all of us.

The camera cuts to the portal this time racking in an out of focus as it did with LEON. The screeching noise continues.

From the back of the camera LEON is seen coming into the image of the flowing portal. He slowly starts walking near it reaching his hand out toward it. The camera racks in and out of focus but is stationary. A voice-over of an unknown voice is heard as he is heading toward the portal.

VOICE There is somebody in here!

The screeching noise is prevalent. Just as LEON nears the portal and is about to touch it, the camera cuts to black and all sound and image stops.

CUT TO BLACK

The End Credits roll.