

RE-ENTRY



AFI CONSERVATORY PRESENTS "RE-ENTRY"
STARRING DANIELLE SQUYRES TIROSH SCHNEIDER ROBERT DOWDY
JODI HARRISON MATTHEW HENDERSON LEON A. WALKER
CASTING BY SASHA FORESTS ORIGINAL SCORE BY JOANNA KARSELIS EDITED BY VICTORIA VILIG
PRODUCTION DESIGN BY SARAH GAWN HAMLIN CINEMATOGRAPHY BY MARYN MCGAW
PRODUCED BY LAYDA CETINKAYA SCREENPLAY BY ARIEL MAHLER NICHOLAS SCHMID KUNAL SENGUPTA
DIRECTED BY ARIEL MAHLER





RUNTIME

15 min, 52 sec

LOGLINE

A trans NASA scientist rediscovers a long-lost satellite she helped launch, forcing her to face her past and reconcile who she once was with who she's always been.

GENRE

Scientific Drama

SYNOPSIS

Thirty-five years ago, Maya Redding, a closeted, male-presenting NASA engineer, and her best friend George launched a satellite meant to study the origins of the universe. But when a critical miscalculation sent the satellite drifting into the wrong orbit, Maya's career imploded, forcing her to leave NASA in disgrace. Now, decades later, Maya has transitioned to female, and lives quietly, haunted by the life she left behind. When she unexpectedly rediscovers the lost satellite, its signal pulls her back into the orbit of her own past. Maya must decide: will she deliver the satellite's data and reclaim her former legacy? Or will she let her past burn up, like the very satellite re-entering the Earth's atmosphere?

TRAILER



AWARDS & SCREENINGS

SCAD Savannah Film Festival - 2024

Winner - Audience Award for Best LGBTQ+ Short

Katra Film Series - 2024

*Winner - Best Short Film

New Filmmakers LA Monthly Film Festival - 2025

OutfestNEXT - 2025

AFI Fest Conservatory Showcase - 2024

Aesthetica Short Film Festival - 2024

St. Louis International Film Festival - 2024

Utah International Film Festival - 2024

Sidewalk Film Festival - 2024

InsideOut Film Festival - 2024

Out on Film - 2024

Science New Wave - 2024



DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

As a proud trans woman, it always evokes a mix of emotions when I recall my closeted past. I remember the pain of being forced into the 'male' behaviors expected of me, and how hard I tried to suppress my femininity. I'm faced with regret as I consider how things might have gone differently if I'd only had the courage to embrace my true self. But along with these painful emotions, I also have a deep sense of love and empathy for the childhood version of me, the scared and confused trans girl who was just doing the best she could in a world that tried to force her into a box she didn't belong in.

RE-ENTRY was inspired by this complicated dichotomy. Maya is a manifestation of my simultaneous feelings of regret, remorse, and empathy for my former self. Her story makes literal the work many of us must do as we work to reconcile who we once were with who we've always been.



STARRING

Danielle Squyres
Tirosh Schneider
Robert Dowdy
Matthew Henerson
Leon A. Walker
Jodi Harrison

DIRECTED BY

Ariel Mahler

WRITTEN BY

Ariel Mahler
Kunal Sengupta
Nicholas Schmid

PRODUCED BY

Ilayda Cetinkaya

CINEMATOGRAPHY BY

Maryn McGaw

PRODUCTION DESIGN BY

Sarah Dawn Hamlin

EDITED BY

Victoria Villig

ORIGINAL SCORE BY

Joanna Karselis

CONTACT



ARIEL MAHLER
Writer/Director

arielmahler@gmail.com

IG: [@arielmahler](https://www.instagram.com/arielmahler)
arielmahler.com



ILAYDA CETINKAYA
Producer

ilaydactnkya@gmail.com

IG: [@ilayda.cetink](https://www.instagram.com/ilayda.cetink)
ilaydacetinkaya.com

[Film Website](#)

[Film Instagram](#)