

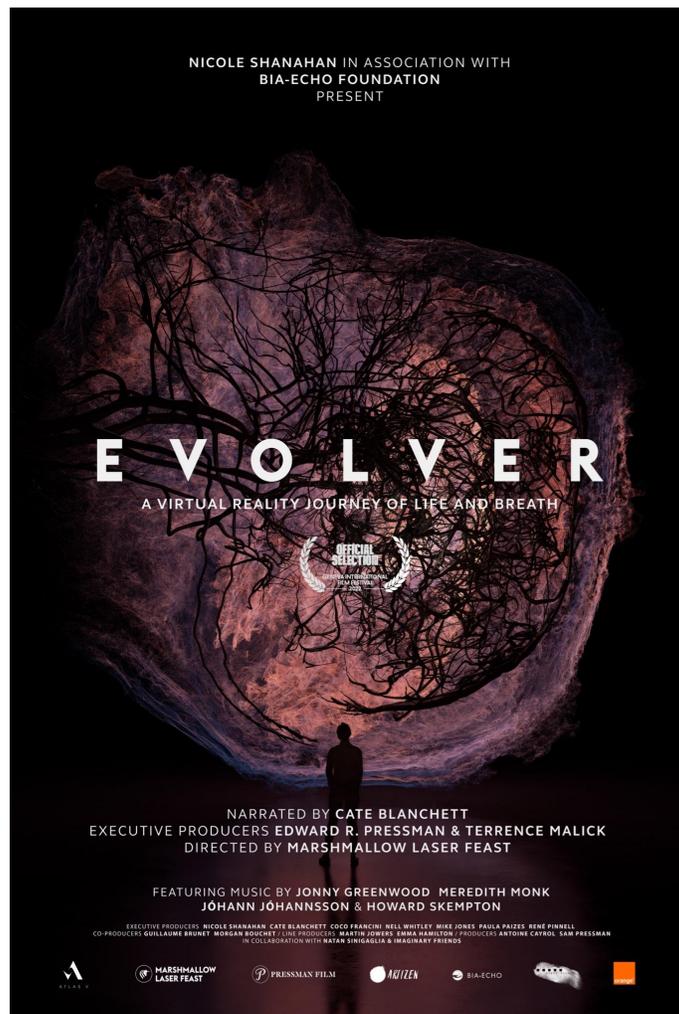


MARSHMALLOW
LASER FEAST



The European Premiere of
EVOLVER

A VIRTUAL REALITY JOURNEY OF LIFE AND BREATH



*"As beautiful as it is philosophical" * * * * The Independent*

"A mesmerising representation of the human body... It's a stunning work of exquisite educational power." Cool Hunting

"A VR free-roaming, music-filled interactive and transcendental experience" Variety

2022 GENEVA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

4 - 13 NOVEMBER 2022

PRESS & INDUSTRY NIGHT: WEDNESDAY 9 NOVEMBER

LOCATION: RUE DE CAROUGE 52, 1205 GENÈVE

PRESENTED BY NICOLE SHANAHAN & BIA-ECHO FOUNDATION

NARRATED BY CATE BLANCHETT

EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS: EDWARD R. PRESSMAN & TERENCE MALICK

EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS: CATE BLANCHETT, COCO FRANCCINI, ANDREW UPTON

DIRECTED BY MARSHMALLOW LASER FEAST

AN ATLAS V & MARSHMALLOW LASER FEAST PRODUCTION

IN COLLABORATION WITH NATAN SINIGAGLIA, IMAGINARY FRIENDS & DIRTY FILMS

[Book tickets](#) for *EVOLVER* at GIFF 2022

Further information about [Marshmallow Laser Feast](#)

Key Press Visuals: [Official GIFF Trailer](#) (Videographer: Paul McGeiver)

[Exhibition Stills](#) (Photographer: Paul McGeiver) [Poster](#) / [Additional Stills](#)

United States, UK, France | 24 Minutes | English | (No Subtitles)

Following its world premiere at the 2022 Tribeca Festival, London based art collective Marshmallow Laser Feast brings *EVOLVER*, their extraordinary, collaborative virtual reality experience, to Europe. Narrated by Cate Blanchett, *EVOLVER* is produced by Edward R. Pressman, Terrence Malick, Dirty Films and the famous French studio Atlas V, supported by Nicole Shanahan's Bia-Echo Foundation, Fraunhofer MEVIS and Orange. The auspiciously conceived installation - a free-roaming, immersive journey through the breathing body - will appear exclusively at the 2022 Genève International Film Festival from 4 - 13 November.

Pushing the frontiers of film, technology and medical science, this mind-expanding work drops audiences into an unseen landscape, deep inside the human body. It follows the flow of oxygen from first intake of breath, around our complex, inner branching ecosystem, through to its origin, a single 'breathing' cell. It represents the life-affirming journey of just one among trillions of cells in every living being, all of which function thanks to the reciprocal act of respiration.

EVOLVER's unique journey unfolds with narration from Academy Award-winning actor Cate Blanchett, alongside opening music with an unreleased version of *Tayos Cave* from musician and producer Jon Hopkins. *EVOLVER's* score also features music by Jonny Greenwood, Meredith Monk, Jóhann Jóhannsson, Yair Elazar Glotman, Hildur Guðnadóttir, Robert Aiki Aubrey Lowe and Howard Skempton, whose myriad musical compositions add a further dimension to describing the internal processes accompanying our every living moment.

EVOLVER invites participants to explore structures hidden far beneath the skin, through an all-encompassing virtual reality trip around the human form. This deep dive takes viewers through a sequence of breathing, visualising the very essence of life itself, as air travels from the mouth into the lungs, whirling like a tornado, before circulating around the complex rivers and tributaries of our cardiovascular system.

As this life force reaches the outer extremities, from the billowing synapses of the brain to our fingers and toes, the interior blooms into a forest of branching pathways and possibilities, suffused by a fog of life-bringing oxygen. As attention and scale zooms ever further inwards to the microscopic and cellular levels of being, it becomes clear that breath not only sparks life, but also connects us to one another and the natural world through the cycle of respiration.

Executive producers Edward R. Pressman and Terrence Malick, first collaborated on the independent classic *Badlands*. *EVOLVER* re-teams them nearly 50 years after premiering the film at the New York Film Festival. *Badlands* is often cited as one of the most influential films of all time and was selected for preservation by the Library of Congress. Pressman and Malick have produced 5 feature films and a documentary together, *EVOLVER* marks their first venture into Virtual Reality together.

Dirty Films' Cate Blanchett, Coco Francini and Andrew Upton are also Executive Producers for the project.

EVOLVER is presented by Bia-Echo Foundation. Its founder, Nicole Shanahan, has, along with The Buck Institute for Research on Aging's Jennifer Garrison, acted as a scientific advisor for the project on the cutting-edge research being done by the Institute on Female Reproductive health. *EVOLVER*'s key scientific collaborator Fraunhofer MEVIS provided data sets and bodily scanning techniques that have informed every aspect of the project.

Barnaby Churchill Steel of Marshmallow Laser Feast says: *"If you could explore yourself, you would discover that just under your skin you are a branching being made of rivers, whirlpools and ripples in the tides of existence. The world flows into you and you flow into the world."*

Cate Blanchett, Coco Francini and Andrew Upton of Dirty Films say: *"EVOLVER is a breath of fresh air. A wonder and delight to experience. This astonishing team of artists have created a visionary sensory experience that evokes a profound understanding of the rhythms of the human body and how those rhythms echo throughout nature."*

Edward R. Pressman and Sam Pressman of Pressman Film say: *"What Marshmallow Laser Feast has done with EVOLVER is a profoundly new experience; it's a new form of transcendental story-telling, a new visual philosophy, and a new sensory language. Great cinema has always*

been an immersive experience, blending together elements of the arts that came before it, becoming a new art form onto itself. Pressman Film is thrilled to continue its 50+ year mission of championing independent cinema in this collaboration with visionary partners who are pushing the art and science of the motion picture into a new frontier."

Nell Whitley of Marshmallow Laser Feast says: *"As technology advances, our curiosity for who we are amplifies. Our explorations with time, scale and space aim to present audiences with new perspectives. We hope to build a stronger relationship to the world we live in and the life it sustains."*

Antoine Cayrol of Atlas V says: *"Bringing together the most inspiring creative minds from cinema, digital art, and music, and fuelled by cutting-edge interactive VR technology, EVOLVER sets the next level for immersive art and entertainment."*

Nicole Shanahan from Bia-Echo Foundation says: *"At a time when women's reproductive rights are coming under attack, and the planet is under climate duress, the use of an immersive visual medium to show the immutable relationship between how we treat the female body and how we treat the planet is needed more than ever. Bia-Echo is thrilled to support this project, as we believe it has the power to awaken the restless spirit to a greater truth about our existence, and the interwoven web between humans and the natural world."*

Ersin Han Ersin of Marshmallow Laser Feast says: *"In this and other works we have created, we are seeking to highlight our connection with the wider systems of nature through the experience of art. The oxygen trees exhale flows into our tree-like lungs, flowing from our heart centre outward, through fractal branching arteries to feed every cell in our body. Placing the audience in the centre of these nested ecosystems, we aim to bring them closer to an understanding of our interconnectedness."*

-ENDS-

Editor's notes:

For further press information, assets and interview requests, or to experience *EVOLVER* at the 2022 Geneva International Film Festival, please contact Sophia Hammond OR Emma Pettit at Margaret on: sophia@margaretlondon.com OR emma@margaretlondon.com

EPK [HERE](#)

Visitor Information:

EVOLVER at Geneva International Film Festival
4 - 13 November 2022
RUE DE CAROUGE 52, 1205 GENÈVE, SWITZERLAND

OPENING TIMES:

Friday 4 November: 18:00 > 00:30
Saturday 5 & 12 November: 10:30 > 1:00
Sunday 6t & 13 November: 10:30 > 23:00
Monday 7, Tuesday 8, Thursday 9 and Friday 10 November: 14:00 > 22:30
Wednesday 9 November: 14:00 > 18:30 and then Digital Night private view

Social Media Links:

Instagram - www.instagram.com/marshmallowlaserfeast
Instagram handle - #marshmallowlaserfeast
Twitter/Facebook - @marshmallowlf & @MarshmallowLaserFeast @pressmanfilm
Twitter/LinkedIn - @FraunhoferMEVIS & Fraunhofer MEVIS

Hashtags:

#evolver
#VR #VirtualReality #ImmersiveArt #Breath #Breathing
#MarshmallowLaserFeast
#AtlasV
#PressmanFilm
#EdPressman
#CateBlanchett
#JonnyGreenwood #MeredithMonk #JohannJohannsson #HowardSkempton
#Bia-EchoFoundation #NicoleShanahan
#FraunhoferMEVIS

Credits:

Nicole Shanahan in association with Bia-Echo Foundation present

EVOLVER
A Virtual Reality Journey Of Life And Breath

Narrated By: Cate Blanchett
Executive Producers: Edward R. Pressman & Terrence Malick
Directed By: Marshmallow Laser Feast
An Atlas V and Marshmallow Laser Feast Production
In Collaboration With Natan Sinigaglia and Imaginary Friends
Music By: Jonny Greenwood, Meredith Monk, Jóhann Jóhannsson, Howard Skempton, Yair Elazar
Glotman AND Jon Hopkins
Executive Producers: Nicole Shanahan, Cate Blanchett, Coco Francini, Andrew Upton, Nell Whitley, Mike
Jones, Paula Paizes, René Pinnell
Co-Producers: Guillaume Brunet Morgan Bouchet
Line Producers: Martin Jowers Emma Hamilton
Producers: Antoine Cayrol Sam Pressman

Producers:

Marshmallow Laser Feast (Barnaby Steel, Ersin Han Ersin, Robin McNicholas)

Marshmallow Laser Feast (MLF) creates immersive experiences, expanding perception and exploring our connection with the natural world. Fusing architectural tools, contemporary imaging techniques and performance with tactile forms, MLF sculpt spaces that lay dormant until animated by curiosity and exploration. Informed as much by playfulness as research, MLF breaks the boundaries to worlds beyond our senses.

Atlas V

Deeply engaged in a community of creative technologists, atlas v works to identify and foster independent creators who are innovating the art and form of storytelling. Atlas V immersive projects span genres and formats from non fiction, to virtual live performance, animation and multiplayer interactive experiences. With each new challenge we have synthesized knowledge from a vast and ever-expanding variety of production environments into a modular and adaptable methodology.

Atlas V' s collective continues to bridge the gaps between a multitude of crafts to reinvent curiosity and creates immersive worlds and their stories with AR/VR real time technologies. The company is behind some of the most awarded pieces in the field of New Media, with projects shown at A-List festivals such as Venice Mostra (Gold Lion 2018), Sundance (5 selections), Peabody (Future of Media award 2019), Tribeca, SXSW (Storytelling Award 2019), Sheffield, Telluride, Cannes, Busan, Sitges...In 2020, AtlasV has launched a full capacity servicing company named Albyon, with a team of real time technology specialists, who operate at the frontier of video game and movie production. Finally, a dedicated team is now focusing on distribution strategies for immersive contents.

Pressman Film

Founded in 1969, Pressman Film has produced more than 80 world-class motion pictures and helped launch the careers of several of the most prominent figures in the movie industry. Located in Los Angeles, and led by veteran producer Edward R. Pressman, Pressman Film continues a long tradition of developing strong relationships with talented directors, writers, and actors early in their careers and sustaining these relationships as their careers progress. His films have won multiple Academy Awards, Emmy's, Golden Globes, and Independent Spirit Awards.

Years of work has allowed Pressman Film to create lasting relationships based on Mr. Pressman's productions of the early works of directors Oliver Stone, Terrence Malick, Sam Raimi, David Byrne, Kathryn Bigelow, Alex Proyas, Brian De Palma, David Mamet, Charles Burnett, and Alan Rickman, and actors such as Arnold Schwarzenegger, Jon Voight, Meryl Streep, Nick Nolte, Kevin Klein, John Goodman, Alec Baldwin, Sylvester Stallone, Christian Bale, Sir Ben Kingsley, and Reese Witherspoon.

Recent productions include Rupert Sanders' THE CROW, Mary Harron's DALILAND, Charlotte Colbert's SHE WILL, Keith Maitland's DEAR MR BRODY, and Barry Levinson's PATERNO.

About Nicole Shanahan / Bia-Echo Foundation

Bia-Echo foundation, a private foundation founded by Nicole Shanahan, that aims to accelerate social change in order to establish a fair and equitable society for future generations to thrive. Bia-Echo's mission is to create a multiplying effect across new frontiers in reproductive longevity & equality, criminal justice reform and a healthy & livable planet. They believe that the creative spirit and life force behind our human capacity will stimulate long-lasting and sustainable progress within our key areas of investment. Bia Echo invests in changemakers at the forefront of innovation who are tackling some of the world's greatest challenges within our core areas of investment: Reproductive Longevity & Equality, Criminal Justice Reform and a Healthy and Livable Planet.

Creative Collaborators:

About Imaginary Friends

Imaginary Friends is a programming & generative design collective specialising in bespoke software and R&D. Internationally based, part studio, part lab, their work is driven by their belief in the power of imagination and the ability to create and share. They create immersive and interactive experiences, help clients to innovate, and share open source software with the world. They believe that the future is not a place of scarcity, but of abundance.

About James Bulley & Henrik Oppermann

James Bulley is a composer, artist and longterm collaborator of MLF, whose practice explores spatial sound and the more-than-human world. Bulley composed and recorded the sound design for EVOLVER as well as supervising the musical score. The sound for EVOLVER has been created in collaboration with technical sound artist Henrik

Oppermann, an expert in his field, who has developed hardware and software audio applications for VR collaboration with leading sound partners, to deliver the best possible immersive sound.

About Daisy Lafarge

Daisy Lafarge (PhD) is the author of *Life Without Air*, a collection of poetry published by Granta Books and shortlisted for the T. S. Eliot Prize 2020. Her debut novel *Paul* received a Betty Trask Award, and was published by Granta in August 2021. Lafarge wrote the poetry for *EVOLVER*, narrated by Cate Blanchett.

Scientific Collaborators:

The Fraunhofer Institute for Digital Medicine MEVIS

Embedded in a worldwide network of clinical and academic partners, the Institute develops real-world software solutions for image-and-data-supported early detection, diagnosis, and therapies for severe diseases. In addition, the Institute's scientists are committed to raising awareness about how digital medicine and related STEM sciences influence healthcare. They develop experiential projects at the intersection of science, art, and technology to reach new audiences, stimulate critical dialog between diverse stakeholders, and foster a diverse R&D landscape. Their data sets were vital to the development of *Evolver*, where they provided a range of custom assets, including full-body MRI scans and MRA exams of a volunteer, alongside blood flow data and consulting for CT scan assets, to form the project's core human body.

Jennifer Garrison, Buck Institute for Research on Aging

Jennifer Garrison, PhD and scientific advisor on *EVOLVER*, is Co-Founder and Director of the Global Consortium for Female Reproductive Longevity & Equality (GCRLE) and an Assistant Professor at the Buck Institute for Research on Aging. She is a passionate advocate for women's health and is pioneering a new movement to advance science focused on female reproductive ageing. Her lab studies the role of inter-tissue communication in systemic ageing, and how changes in the complex interactions between the ovary and brain during middle-age lead to the onset of reproductive decline in females.

The Allen Institute for Cell Science

The Allen Institute for Cell Science, a division of the Allen Institute, uses diverse technologies and approaches at a large scale to study the human cell and its components as an integrated system. They tackle large-scale, ambitious projects that yield incredibly rich, robust data. Their research and repository are inspiring, revealing hidden patterns inside of living cells. As scientific advisors on the project, their knowledge and data sets informed Marshmallow Laser Feast's understanding of cell structures and patterns, which in turn informed the artistic process on *EVOLVER*.

Kinda Studios

Kinda Studios is a female-led studio uniting the realms of immersive arts with physiology and neuroscience, exploring what lies beyond the horizon of the human experience. Kinda translate science into creative applications and everyday understanding to enhance connection. They believe transformation is central to human experience and by providing visceral experiences, we can foster both personal and collective growth. Advising on *Evolver*, they approach wellbeing through this new lens to help advance new modes of thinking, and push the boundaries of our felt experience.



**MARSHMALLOW
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PRESSMAN FILM

