

The Forest in Me

Directed by Rebecca E. Marshall

Co-produced by The Derek Jarman Lab

Currently in post-production

Three parallel stories: a seventy-one-year-old woman survives in remote seclusion in the vast Siberian forest, a crew of astronauts lives isolated in a hi-tech pod on a Hawaiian volcano, archive footage of a mother's life from the last twenty years shows strange and familiar moments of everyday events.

The three strands weave together forming a filmic letter to the future from a mother to her son as he turns eighteen in 2033. In a direct personal tone, the letter expresses the mother's own thoughts about the human experience of time and timelessness in a world that is vastly changing its perception of time through constant advances in technology and communication.



The Forest In Me addresses the universal fascination with the experience of time. Forming the film as a conversation from a parent to a child using everyday language about specific experiences provides an inclusive and clarifying backbone to the film from the outset. Drawing together three very different stories the intention is to reveal shared human moments.

Our strategy in the film is to allow one strand to inform the other as new information emerges, and so carefully shaping a sense of timeless human desires that can echo between the three stories. Past, present and future can co-exist as everyday moments of life continue, underlined by the archive footage jumping through years of time like memories.

The film offers a glimpse at the communality of humans: moving from film of Agayfa's nightly fire to the brightly twinkling stars, we consider the somehow heartening and astonishing idea that a group of astronaut avatars, on the first manned journey into the heart of deep space, could be gathering around a virtual fire like the first humans did on Earth 400,000 years ago.



Rebecca E Marshall is an artist filmmaker whose working process includes the use and reuse of her personal film archive; an expanding reservoir of vibrant moments from everyday life. Past work has included a series of moving-image works funded by The Arts Council exploring the everyday experience of time, drawing from the essays of Michel De Montaigne, who tried to create an honest self-portrait including all the strengths, weaknesses, fears and joys of his daily life experiences. This work was presented at a number of venues including The Hastings Jerwood Gallery, The Electric Palace Cinema and Hastings Museum and Art Gallery. She has since been given a full scholarship to continue this project as a practice based PhD by The London Film School and Exeter University.

Her previous short documentaries include *Bee Fever*, a carefully observed character study of woman with cancer and how she uses her love of bee keeping as a metaphor to understand death and the cycle of life. *Glitter and Storm* offered an immersive plunge into the experience of swimmers in the English Channel by night and by day; portraits in water of a diverse range of characters from artists to bankers including filmmaker Andrew Köttling. The swimmers discuss time and death, balanced within both calm and stormy seas, drenching the viewer into a horizontally banded joyful world. *The Forest In Me* develops in long-form the recurring themes of her work.

www.rebeccaemmarshall.com

