ULTRASOUND

A film by Rob Schroeder

103 minutes / USA

Starring: Vincent Kartheiser, Chelsea Lopez, Bob Stephenson, Brenda Wool, Tunde Adebimpe, Rainey Qualley

http://www.magnetreleasing.com/ultrasound/

FINAL PRESS NOTES

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SYNOPSIS

Driving home late at night during a heavy rainstorm, Glen experiences car trouble. Near where his car gets stuck, he spots a house, knocks on the door and is greeted by an oddly friendly middle-aged man, Arthur, and his younger wife, Cyndi. The strange couple pours him a drink, and then more drinks, followed by an unexpected offer that Glen can’t refuse. Elsewhere, a young woman, Katie, is feeling emotionally weighed down by a secret romantic arrangement that feels like a textbook case of gaslighting. And at the same time, in a nondescript research facility, medical professional Shannon begins questioning her role in a bizarre experiment, fearing that she’s doing more harm than good.
A FEW WORDS ON THE ULTRASOUND SCORE

The role of sound and music in *Ultrasound* was—for lack of a better word—amplified compared to other film scores. The concepts of auditory manipulation and the physical/mental repercussions of prolonged exposure to sound were both inspiring and slightly terrifying to Zak at the onset of the project. Combining these ideas with the responsibility of capturing the human experience of the film’s characters was the balance he and sound-designer Bobb Barito had to strike.

Zak’s score for *Ultrasound* was created using a heavy combination of analogue and digital synthesizers, as well as some acoustic instrumentation to help round out the human elements in the story. Working primarily with gear from Moog and Dave Smith Instruments, Zak was influenced by more electronic music of the past century like “Vernal Equinox” by Jon Hassell, “Plantasia” by Mort Garson, and Vangelis’ ever-imitated score for “Blade Runner.” More recent scores like Daniel Lopatin’s soundtrack for “Uncut Gems,” Oneohtrix Point Never’s “Good Time” OST, and Disasterpeace’s “Hyper Light Drifter” masterpiece were also huge assets for Zak when exploring how to serve Schroeder’s musical vision for the film. Digital synths like Slate + Ash’s CYCLES and AURAS made big appearances in the score—their software allowing Zak to not only tweak existing sound patches, but to record his own acoustic elements (violin, kalimba, piano, voice) and process them through Slate + Ash’s sequencer and granular synthesis environment.

The soundtrack for the film includes Zak’s full score, as well as a remix of the final track “We Never Left” by Ian Hultquist.
ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS

ROB SCHROEDER - Director/Producer

Rob Schroeder began his film career as a music video director and independent producer. He co-founded Lodger Films in Los Angeles and currently produces and directs the Emmy®-winning PBS series “Variety Studio: Actors On Actors,” now in its 14th season. ULTRASOUND is his feature film directorial debut.

CONOR STECHSCHULTE - Writer

Conor Stechschulte is a cartoonist and screenwriter. He is the author of The Amateurs, published by Fantagraphics in 2014, along with dozens of self-published comics and the Generous Bosom series published by Breakdown Press which he adapted into the screenplay for Ultrasound.

He was raised in rural Pennsylvania and began making comics while attending the Maryland Institute College of Art. After school, he took jobs as a museum guard and cheese monger and spent many years in the Baltimore art and music scene, playing in bands and helping to run an art gallery and performance space in a building shared with an auto body shop.

He lives with his wife, performance artist and educator Máire Witt O’Neill, in Chicago where he teaches courses in comics and self-publishing at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and helps organize the Chicago Art Book Fair.

GEORG KALLERT - Producer

Georg grew up in Miami Beach and started in TV production at the local ABC affiliate. After working at Warner Bros, Georg co-founded Lodger Films in Los Angeles in 2006, producing music videos, commercials, and branded content for major studios, brands, and media partners. He won three Emmys for producing “Variety Studio: Actors on Actors.” Georg prioritizes human interest in storytelling and works to create a strong emotional response in the audience. Next up after ULTRASOUND, is a travel documentary exploring the world of Overlanding. Georg holds a B.S. and B.A. from Wharton and UPenn, and an Executive MBA from UCLA.
ZAK ENGEL - Composer

Zak Engel is a composer and multi-instrumentalist working in film, television, and live performance. [https://www.zakengel.com/contact](https://www.zakengel.com/contact)

Recent film and television projects include an original score for the thriller *Ultrasound* directed by Rob Schroeder and starring Vincent Kartheiser (*Mad Men*) premiering at the 2021 Tribeca Film Festival. Also premiering at Tribeca in 2021 is the documentary feature *Primera*, featuring an original soundtrack by Zak it follows Chile’s recent path toward rewriting their constitution, directed by Vee Bravo. Zak co-scored—alongside Fred Warmsley—*See Know Evil* a biographical documentary detailing the life and legacy of fashion photographer Davide Sorrenti, directed by Charlie Curran. Zak also co-scored—alongside Jay Wadley—the first three episodes of the 2020 Netflix series *The Innocence Files* directed by Academy Award Winner, Roger Ross Williams.

Commercially, Zak’s work has been awarded multiple times by the Clio’s and PromaxBDA for both original music and sound-design.

Zak was commissioned by the Kennedy Center in 2018 to compose an original score for Jared Mezzocchi’s adaptation of *How to Catch a Star*—Oliver Jeffers’ best-selling children’s book.

Zak currently lives and works from his barn/studio in Eliot, Maine. His most recent release Leroy: Figment is recently available through Ambedo Records. [https://www.ambedorecords.com/leroyzakengel](https://www.ambedorecords.com/leroyzakengel)

MATHEW RUDENBERG - Director of Photography

South African-born cinematographer Mathew Rudenberg has lensed over 100 episodes of scripted TV for Comedy Central, MTV, Disney, SpikeTV and VH1, as well as the unscripted Emmy award-winning ACTORS ON ACTORS for PBS. His striking visual aesthetic has elevated art-house horror features such as SUN CHOKE and MR JONES (TriBeCa), star-studded comedies (SEVEN STAGES and BEHAVING BADLY), docs like SXSW 2017 Grand Jury winner THE WORK, and commercials like LINCLONE for WEIDEN+KENNEDY. He lives in east Los Angeles with his wife and daughter.
ABOUT THE CAST

VINCENT KARTHEISER - Glen

Vincent Kartheiser is best known for his portrayal of PETE CAMPBELL in AMC’s critically acclaimed series MAD MEN. Vincent recently starred throughout season two of Hulu’s Golden Globe winning comedy, CASUAL, and just wrapped as the lead villain in Season 3 of HBO Max’s TITANS. Prior to that, he was nominated for a Critics Choice Award in 2016 for his portrayal of William Bradford in National Geographic’s mini-series, SAINTS & STRANGERS. On the film side, he recently starred opposite Patrick Wilson, Haley Bennet and Jessica Biel in A KIND OF MURDER, which premiered at the Tribeca Film Festival in 2016. Additionally, Vincent starred opposite Melissa Leo and Adam Scott in the Netflix Feature THE MOST HATED WOMAN IN AMERICA, which premiered at the South by Southwest Film Festival.

Vincent also starred as the lead villain in Andrew Niccol’s IN TIME opposite Justin Timberlake, Amanda Seyfried, and Cillian Murphy for New Regency. He did memorable work in Zoe Cassavetes’ independent feature, DAY OUT OF DAYS, as well as the independent ELEKTRA LUXX opposite Carla Gugino, Timothy Olyphant and Joseph Gordon-Levitt.

He can be seen in the Lionsgate feature, MOST LIKELY TO MURDER, opposite Rachel Bloom and Adam Pally. Vincent was also recently opposite Geoffrey Rush in the critically acclaimed National Geographic mini-series GENIUS. He recently recurred in Hulu’s series THE PATH, and will also be recurring in the Sky TV Mini-series DAS BOOT. Vincent can currently be seen in the David Elliot FOX series PROVEN INNOCENT opposite Rachel Lefevre and Russel Hornsby.

CHELSEA LOPEZ - Cyndi

Chelsea Lopez is an actress, best known for Novitiate (2017), Phoenix Forgotten (2017) and Are We Not Cats (2016). Additional credits include Chain of Death (2019), T@gged (2018), and most recently Ultrasound - premiering at the 2021 Tribeca Film Festival.

BREEDA WOOL - Shannon

Breeda is most widely known for her role as 'Lou Linklatter' opposite Brendan Gleeson and the all-star cast of the David E. Kelly, Jack Bender & Stephen King series, Mr. Mercedes. Breeda's breakthrough role was on the highly acclaimed series UnReal (Lifetime/Hulu). Her character ‘Faith’ quickly became a standout favorite of the series to both fans and critics alike, leading to a spin-off entitled, The Faith Diaries.
Breeda's other television credits also include her roles on *Room 104* (The Duplass Brothers), recurring on Netflix's *Glow*, HBO's *Vice Principals* opposite Walton Goggins, Showtime's *The Affair*, Amazon Prime's *Betas* with Ed Begley Jr, and the Facebook Watch series *Strangers* opposite Jemaine Clement. She starred as an ass-kicking archangel on NBC's *Midnight Texas* and became a psychedelic animated character on Adult Swim's *Dream Corp LLC*.

An active face in the indie festival world, Breeda starred opposite Lola Kirke in the critically acclaimed feature *AWOL* at the Tribeca Film Festival. IndieWire said Breeda was "a bright flash of lightning on screen; she’s a flame drawing moths, wantonly sensual and sexually uninhibited". She starred, co-wrote, and executive produced the feature *Mother's Little Helpers* that premiered at SXSW 2019 and was released by Gravitas Ventures in 2020. She also appeared as a gruesome monster in the all-female directed horror anthology *XX* at Sundance. Earlier this year, Breeda was part of Sundance 2021 in the feature *Mass* opposite Jason Issacs and Martha Plimpton. She most recently was at SXSW 2021 as star and executive producer of *The Position*.

**RAINEY QUALLEY - Katie**

RAINEY QUALLEY has shown her impressive versatility across a genre of projects rooted in film, television, and music. Multi-hyphenate in every sense, she’s a musician, actress, model, writer and creative director.

Rainey made her acting debut on AMC’s award-winning drama *MAD MEN*, opposite Jon Hamm, in 2015. Upcoming film projects include *THE SHUROO PROJECT*, alongside Fiona Dourif and Tommy Dorfman, *THE DAYLONG BROTHERS*, a Southern Gothic tale where she stars opposite Keith Carradine, and *ULTRASOUND* with Vincent Kartheiser. Most recently, Rainey starred in the Freeform television miniseries *LOVE IN THE TIME OF CORONA* alongside Leslie Odom Jr., Nicolette Robinson and Tommy Dorfman. Out on Freeform, the romantic comedy follows the lives of people who are looking for love, sex and connection during the COVID-19 pandemic while social distancing.

Hailed by Paper Magazine as “the minimalist weirdo-pop star of your dreams,” Rainey has also carved out her own place amongst the musical landscape. Performing under her full name, Rainsford, she has topped a variety of Ones to Watch lists and garnered notice from the likes of Billboard, Complex and Noisy. She released her critically-acclaimed EP “Emotional Support Animal” in 2018 which she then toured behind throughout the US and England, ending with a sold out show in London. Captivating a growing fan base both in the US and overseas, Rainsford earned the endorsement of both press and fans in between her entrancing live shows and must watch music videos, firmly securing her as a unique emerging voice in pop and reaping over five million streams all as an independent artist. Her influences range from indie, pop, R&B and soul and share the qualities that are
most evident in her own material – honesty and authenticity. Rainsford’s latest tracks “Oh My God,” “Crying In The Mirror” and “2 Cents” follow the release of the intimate “Open Open” late last year. Most recently, Rainey released her single “Love Me Like You Hate Me” on October 23rd with a 10-minute short starring sister Margaret Qualley and Shia LaBeouf.
CREDITS

PRODUCED AND DIRECTED BY ROB SCHROEDER

WRITTEN BY CONOR STECHSCHULTE

PRODUCERS GEORGE KALLERT CHARLIE PRINCE

EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS SHAYNA SCHROEDER JUSTIN ALLEN

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY MATHEW RUDENBERG

EDITED BY BROCK BODELL

PRODUCTION DESIGNER ALEXIS ROSE

COSTUME DESIGNER CHELSEA ROBBINS

MUSIC BY ZAK ENGEL

CAST:

VINCENT KARTHEISER – Glen

CHELSEA LOPEZ – Cyndi

BREEDA WOOL – Shannon

TUNDE ADEBIMPE – Dr. Conners

RAINEY QUALLEY - Katie