



a film by
RICK ALVERSON

Tye Sheridan Jeff Goldblum
THE MOUNTAIN

VICE
STUDIOS

KINO LORBER



SYNOPSIS

1950s America. Since his mother's confinement to an institution, Andy has lived in the shadow of his stoic father. A family acquaintance, Dr. Wallace Fiennes, employs the introverted young man as a photographer to document an asylum tour advocating for his increasingly controversial lobotomy procedure. As the tour progresses and Andy witnesses the doctor's career and life unravel, he begins to identify with the institutions' patients. Arriving at a California mountain town, a growing center of the New Age movement, they encounter an unconventional French healer who requests a lobotomy for his own daughter, Susan.

A surreal and uncompromising reckoning with the dangers of passivity, representation and utopian thought from the director of ENTERTAINMENT and THE COMEDY.



COMMENTS FROM WRITER-DIRECTOR RICK ALVERSON

AN ANTI-UTOPIAN FILM

In our current socio-political climate in the United States, the 50's are either maligned or celebrated, depending on your political persuasion and demographic. It's the era "Make America Great Again" references implicitly (sometimes explicitly) when gender norms and white male supremacy were the architecture of culture and politics, and unbridled aspiration was the fuel of society. The film looks to disrupt the cinematic-retro-narrative and aesthetic that has helped foster that nostalgia. It attempts to interrupt narrative as an anesthetizing agent and force the viewer to consider the container that carries the story. I like to think of it as a problem film, an anti-utopian film, that reasserts the beauty and necessity of the finite.

PERSPECTIVE AND INTENTIONS

I like to work with context. I like how it informs the audience's experience, whether they are aware of it or not. Emotion and fragility are very accessible to Tye Sheridan as an actor, he is increasingly known for that great ability. The film uses that capacity and intentionally doesn't readily deliver on it. It often renders that potential mute and uses that larger energy as conflict. Jeff Goldblum is a charismatic force of nature that is celebrated cinematically and culturally. While that cult of personality is available to the viewer, the film flattens and upends it to some degree, assigning it to the context of the perpetrator, and forces us to question the nature of the film's perspective and its intentions.



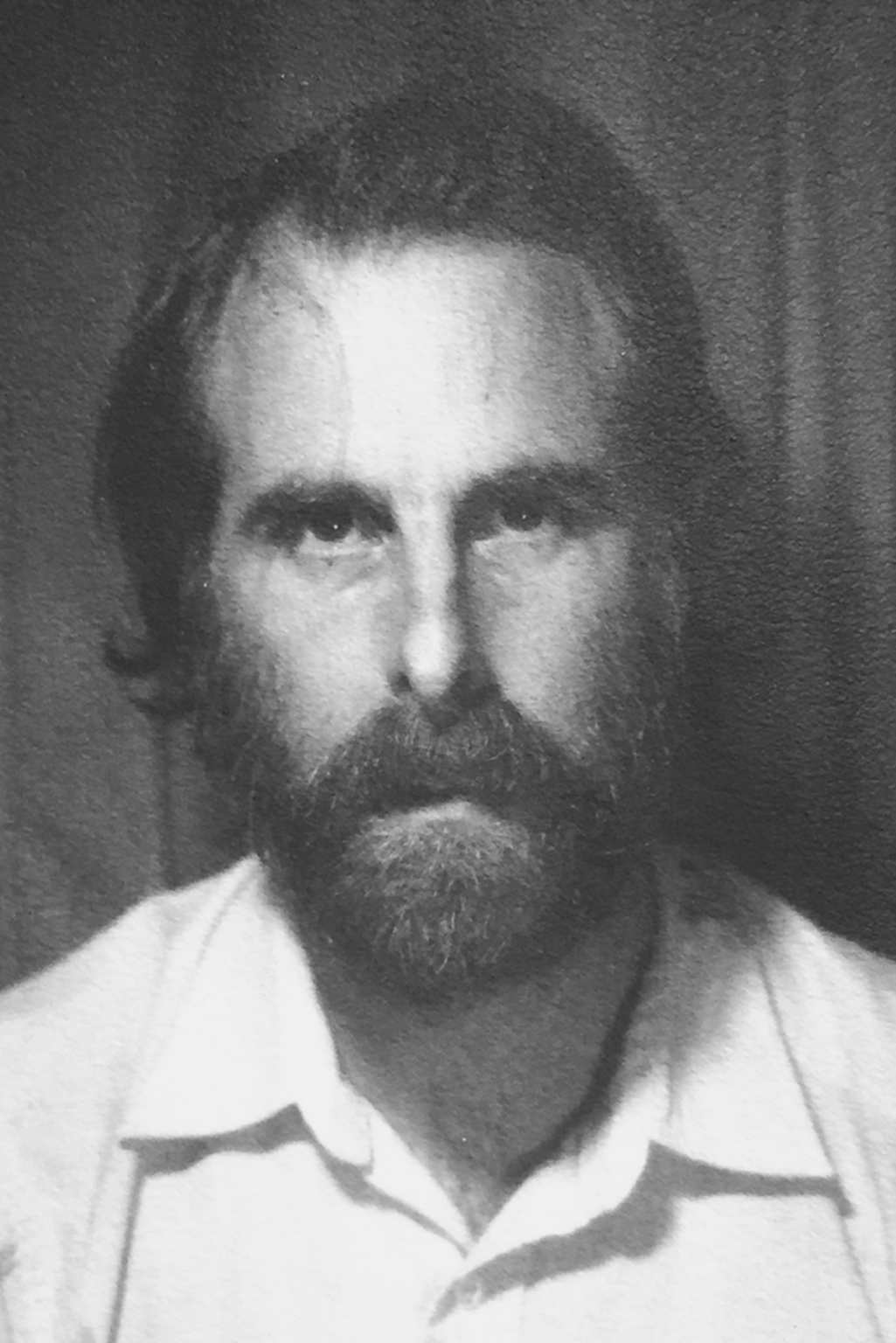
THE LURE OF NOSTALGIA AND BEAUTY

As a problem, the film attempts to use form as a combative force, and nostalgia and beauty as a lure. American popular cinema has always outsourced unattainable commercial utopias and degraded audience's instincts for critical thought. That's part of both the subject matter and form of *The Mountain*.

PASSIVITY IN RESTLESS MINDS

I want the audience to be active, to contend with the film as something outside of themselves. Too often films and episodic television reinforce audience's perspectives and world-views as a kind commercial narcotic. They are manipulated by forms and are taught to be unaware. I want people to struggle with and in the film, not just under the influence of its narrative but with the material of it, to be skeptical of it, to question its use and authority. The lobotomy was a procedure to engineer passivity in restless minds. In a broad sense, the entertainment industry has a similar motivation. I'm at odds with that form of experience, especially in our disproportionately privileged societies.





RICK ALVERSON

(WRITER-DIRECTOR)

RICK ALVERSON (born June 25, 1971, Spokane, Washington) is an American filmmaker and musician living in Richmond, Virginia. His feature films include *THE MOUNTAIN* (2018), *ENTERTAINMENT* (2015) and *THE COMEDY* (2012). His work has screened at Sundance Film Festival, Locarno, New Directors / New Films, International Film Festival Rotterdam, and BAFICI among other festivals. He has directed videos for Oneohtrix Point Never, Sharon Van Etten and Angel Olson, among others.

2018 THE MOUNTAIN
2015 ENTERTAINMENT
2012 THE COMEDY
2011 NEW JERUSALEM
2010 THE BUILDER



INTERVIEWS

Deadline Studio at Sundance with Rick Alverson, Jeff Goldblum, Tye Sheridan

WATCH: <https://youtu.be/u01IMpctqAk>

**IMDB Studio with Kevin Smith interviewing Rick Alverson,
Jeff Goldblum, Tye Sheridan**

WATCH: <https://youtu.be/bwlph2cHIDw>

Associated Press: Rick Alverson & Jeff Goldblum

WATCH: <https://youtu.be/MLEhMDV-9Q4>

The Hollywood Reporter: Rick Alverson, Jeff Goldblum, Tye Sheridan

WATCH: https://youtu.be/j_NpPQZvw-I



VICE STUDIOS PRESENTS A MADE BED / REMERGENCE PRODUCTION

THE MOUNTAIN

A FILM BY RICK ALVERSON

2018, USA, 108 mins, color, ratio 4.3, sound 5.1, in English & French

MAIN CAST

TYE SHERIDAN - Andy

DENIS LAVANT - Jack

UDO KIER - Frederick

HANNAH GROSS - Susan

and JEFF GOLDBLUM as Dr. Wallace Fiennes

MAIN CREW

directed by RICK ALVERSON

written by RICK ALVERSON, DUSTIN GUY DEFA, COLM O'LEARY

director of photography LORENZO HAGERMAN

editor MICHAEL TAYLOR and RICK ALVERSON

production design JACQUELIN ABRAHAMS

musical arrangements DANIEL LOPATIN

sound designer GENE PARK

music supervisor CHRIS SWANSON

casting director AVY KAUFMAN, CSA

costume designer ELIZABETH WARN

produced by SARA MURPHY, RYAN ZACARIAS, ALLISON ROSE CARTER,
EDDY MORETTI

executive producers DANNY GABAI, NATALIE FARREY, VINCENT LANDAY

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