

"JOURNEY"

By

Sarah Hay

"JOURNEY"

CONTEXT

This short film will be shown at a feast of approximately 200 people as a pre-cursor to a night jousting tournament spectacular. The film will be projected onto the side of a large white marquee, with audience sitting on the ground on individual cushions (story teller style). It will be dark outside when the film is shown, but the marquee will be lit by many candles, providing a soft light.

The film will be silent, but narrated (live) on the night of the showing. The narrator will act as a story teller, engaging the audience in a 'story teller' style.

Live musical effects will be played to accompany key points in the film. This negates possible audio issues. It is intended the film will be brought to life by the live narration.

The film will be interspersed with dream sequences, which will bring a fantasy element to the film.

At the end, when the battle finishes, the heroine will walk into the marquee with the demon's head on a large pole. This is meant to be a seamless transition from the film to reality. The pole will be thrown into the ground in front of the 'King', as evidence that the demon has been slayed.

The audience will then be invited to follow the heroine outside to celebrate with a joust tournament.

The film should be short, but highly engaging. Ultimately, the purpose is to tell a short story and then bring that fantasy into reality...leading the audience from inside the feasting marquee to the outside jousting list in order to end the festivities with a joust tournament spectacular under lights.

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STORYLINE

A peasant woman is chosen by a tribal goddess to go on a quest to save a tribe of women from a demonic goddess. The quest is explained to the peasant woman through a dream sequence. A horse guides the woman on her quest as she finds the sacred sword of truth and then the armour she needs to defeat the demon. The two meet in a forest and a duel is fought to the death. The peasant woman fulfils her destiny by defeating the demon goddess and the women are freed to dance again.

CHARACTERS

PEASANT WOMAN/HEROINE	Sara
GODDESS	Jennifer (represented by the sunrise)
BLACK HORSE	Femke
DEMON HORSE	Kira
DEMON (AS FIGHTER)	Karen
DEMON (AS RIDER)	Sara
GUARDIAN OF THE ARMOUR	Hamish
DANCERS	Sally, Sara
FORGE OPERATOR	Beorgwic participant

(Please note - people playing these characters may change depending on availability for the filming.)

SPECIAL EFFECTS

Smoke machine

Artificial lighting (some)

LOCATIONS

Most of these places are either at home or near where I live.

1. Back of property. Home.
2. Back of property. Home.
3. Maroubra Beach cliffs or Wollongong Cliffs.
4. Mountain ridge, Picton. Razorback. (Maybe Capertree Valley)
5. Yarramundi River crossing, Agnes Banks.
6. Dam wall. Home.
7. Bush setting - Wallacia Park by the river?
8. Mermaid Cave, Blackheath in the Blue Mountains.
9. Megalong Valley, Blue Mountains.
10. Beorgwic, east of Canberra. (Viking camp weekend)

"JOURNEY"

FADE IN:

EXT. LOCATION #1 - LATE AFTERNOON

Peasant woman (blue dress, extra cloak draped over the kindling basket) is collecting firewood out in a field. Placing kindling into a basket. Wipes sweat from brow. Close ups of picking up kindling and placing in basket. Camera to show a quiver of arrows on her back and a bow beside the kindling basket.

Peasant woman sits down, takes a knife from her belt and starts to whittle one of the sticks. Close up of the sun as it starts to set.

Sound is heard in the forest. Woman turns head. Is curious and goes to find out where the noise is coming from / what it is. She places knife back in belt, puts the whittled stick into her pouch and stands. Looks back towards home, then looks towards the bush. Thinks. Woman puts on her cloak, picks up her bow and starts to walk tentatively towards the bush.

Camera follows woman as she walks towards the bush.

EXT. LOCATION #2 - EARLY EVENING INTO FULL DARKNESS

Camera shot looking into the bush; see a fire flickering. Woman moves towards the fire.

Come upon a small fire. (FULL DARKNESS NOW)

A table is fully laden with food, wine and candelabras hanging from the trees.

Camera shot from the fire towards the woman who walks into the area. Puts her bow down.

Walks around looking at the items. Runs hands over some of the items on the table. Picks up a goblet of wine. Smells the wine, then takes a sip. Sits near the fire, looking into the fire. Wraps cloaks around herself.

Camera shot from other side of fire; woman falling into sleep, resting back on a large rock.

Shot of woman asleep by the fire. Close up of ruby goblet fallen just beside woman's hand, contents spilled out onto the table

cloth. Camera blurs as smoke creeps across the grounds and starts to envelope the woman.

SPECIAL EFFECT - smoke machine.

FADE OUT TO WHITE:

FADE IN FROM BRIGHT WHITE: DREAM SEQUENCE

INT. LOCATION #3 - SUNRISE ON CLIFF TOP BESIDE OCEAN

Peasant woman lying on a cliff top on a bed of skins. Now wearing a red gown to indicate dream sequence. Strong light beaming from the sunrise. Camera back from the woman, but taking in the rock formation, the light of the sun and perhaps a flicker of the sea.

Woman stands.

Goddess represented by the light of the sunrise.

Woman standing facing the sunrise, walks towards the edge of the cliff. Stops near the edge.

Camera behind or to side of woman as she brings hand to face to shield from the sun.

Attention to the red ring now on the woman's left hand as she brings the left hand to shield her eyes from the sun.

Goddess conveys to the woman that her sisters are in peril and need help. Sisters (not familial) captured by demon's curse and must be freed. The peasant woman has been chosen to free the women.

EXT. LOCATION #8 - NIGHT

Flash to women dancing (as goddess explains the plight of the women). Woman in tribal costumes dancing. Flashes of costume and movement, flashes of smiling faces. Background lit by many lit torches.

EXT LOCATION #7 - NIGHT

Flash to backlit smoky setting with demon sitting on horse in a heightened position; camera down low, looking up. Horse shown side on with horns, then turns to face camera to see silhouette of the demon headdress. Rider and horse silhouetted by the strong light in the background. Rider takes up a blowing horn and blows to the right side. Show horse breath through nostrils.

EXT. LOCATION #8 - NIGHT

Blurred camera flashes of dancers - representing their capture by the demon. Flashes of the demon as well interspersed with the dancers to show the demon is capturing the dancers.

(At this point a group of dancers will really move into the tent with rope binding them to represent their capture. Dancers will sit in a corner of the marquee and wail.)

EXT. LOCATION #3 - SUNRISE

Back to sunlight shining. Woman facing the sunrise. Goddess compels woman to go on the quest to save the sisters. Woman questions, "How will I know where to go and what to do?"

Goddess advises woman that a black horse will take the woman on the journey and to trust in the horse.

FADE OUT TO DARK:

EXT. LOCATION #2 - NIGHT

Woman lying by fire at the empty feast (blue dress and cloak) is nudged awake by the black horse. Camera at ground level. Fire to the far left of the frame; woman and horse centre / right. Horse nudges woman awake. Woman wakes, sits up and strokes the face/neck of horse. As she strokes the mane, sees the ring on her finger. Close up of the ring and then camera pulls back to include woman's eyes out of focus, looking at the ring...ring stays in focus. She thinks 'So it's true...'. Woman brings other hand over and touches the ring with the pointer finger of the other hand. Face stays in background in blurred, framed by the hood of the cloak and red hair.

Shot of woman astride the horse, next to the fire. Woman has bow in her right hand and reins in the left hand. Try to show gleam of the horse's mane and coat in the firelight.

Shot from behind the horse as they walk into the darkness.

EXT. LOCATION #4 - DAY (EARLY MORNING LIGHT)

Images of the horse and rider galloping over mountain ridge (**to the right!!**). Bow slung on the back at this stage. Camera long shot from below, looking up at the rider and horse travelling across the horizon. Only blue sky in the background. Shot should show movement in the cloak as the horse gallops.

EXT. LOCATION #5 - DAY

Horse and rider crossing the river (Shallow river). Camera on other side of the river as horse comes towards the camera.

Camera shot of horse walking away into the bush.

EXT. LOCATION #5 - DAY

Camera shot as horse walking towards camera, rider pushing vines out of the road to get through. Walking through dense ground coverage. Shot from behind as woman uses bow to shoot into undergrowth at a rabbit (unseen).

EXT. LOCATION #5 - NIGHT

Woman resting next to horse by a fire on a beach. Horse lying down. Saddle off.

Camera shot from far side of fire looking over the fire to the woman and horse.

Spit set up over the fire with a skinned rabbit cooking over the fire.

FADE OUT TO BLACK:

EXT. LOCATION #5 - EARLY MORNING (Misty)

Woman at water's edge washing hands and then looks over to the side. Sees something in the sand (a sword wrapped in an animal skin). Horse in the background.

Woman gets up from water's edge and walks up the sand to the skin. Kneels by the skin, moves sand away with hands. Opens up the skin. A sword in a scabbard is uncovered.

Close up of sword as it is pulled out from the scabbard. Held to the light and turned so sunlight flashes on the steel.

Close up of the sword strapped onto woman's waist. Buckle done up.

Rider on the horse again walking away.

EXT. LOCATION #4 - DAY

Long shot of rider and horse galloping over mountain top to the right (this time with sword at waist on right side).

EXT. LOCATION #9 - DAY (AFTERNOON LIGHT)

Camera in front, with rider and horse riding through close brush towards the camera. Then camera shot of moving away from the camera.

Rider gets off the horse and tethers horse to a tree. Rider gives horse a carrot piece and then walks away from the horse.

Close up of horse looking towards the rider.

Shot of woman's back as she walks away through the bush.

EXT. LOCATION #8 - DAY (AFTERNOON, MOTTLED LIGHT)

Camera in front of woman as she walks along the bush path towards the camera.

Camera half way down the steps into the cave facing up as woman walks down the steps towards the camera.

Shot of woman's face as she peers from behind a tree to look into the cave from a place higher up. (Note, the Waterfall Cave has a collapsed roof, which lets a lot of light in, but it's soft, mottled light. It's called a cave, but it's more of an overhang encircling a small waterfall.)

Shot down into the waterfall cave from the woman's perspective. Looks around the cave in the perspective of the woman's eyes.

Can see a cloaked person sitting, wrapped in their cloak, next to a chest at the bottom of the cave..

Close up of cloaked head as person raises their head at the intrusion.

Cloaked person now standing in clearing with woman standing on opposite side of the clearing. Facing each other. Camera up on a higher level.

Woman offers the hand with the ring. Guard takes her hand and kneels and kisses the ring (it's a sign from the goddess). He draws her close to the chest he has been guarding.

Camera shot from the angle of the chest, looking up at the faces of the two woman and the armour guard.

Chest is opened by the woman. Camera sits behind the lid of the chest as it is opened. Light spills out of the chest and up into the face of the woman.

Woman picks up the breastplate and stands up with it. Turns toward the armour guard and they nod once (to indicate he needs to help her put it on)

Armour guard arms the woman. (MONTAGE? FAST MOTION)

First shot woman already has all armour on up to waist and breastplate. Neck support on as well. Arms are put on by armour guard, then pauldrons. Straps sword belt on.

Armour guard picks helmet and hands to woman. (Woman has cloak on now, but pulled to the back so full armour still seen.)

Camera angle from the side.

Woman offers left hand to guard. He again goes down on one knee and kisses the ring. Then passes a flaming torch to the woman and she starts to walk up the stairs out of the cave. Camera angle from above looking down at the woman in armour with the torch in her hand starting up the steps.

Then camera angle behind the woman as she walks up the steps into the light.

Woman douses fire torch in the earth near the top of the staircase.

Camera in front of woman as she walks towards the camera.

Camera behind woman as she walks to the horse and unties horse.

Next shot side on , woman on the horse in full armour (except helmet). Camera shot behind horse as the rider walks away.

EXT.LOCATION #9 - DAY

Far away shot as woman cantering horse through the bush (preferably with the red Blue Mountains walls in the background).

EXT LOCATION #10 - DAY

Camera in front as woman and horse canter towards camera through forest, bow in hand.

Camera shot as rider rides past camera (to the right!)

Camera in front as rider rides up to camera and pulls to a halt. Rider takes three arrows and knocks one.

Flash to demon running behind tree.

Camera perspective from behind rider, with profile of rider with the drawn bow. Rider has arrow in the bow and moves the bow as she pans across the trees.

Camera shows flash of demon running behind some trees.

Woman looses three arrows. Camera focus on the hand movements around the bow, not the woman.

Camera flash of demon's face running from the trees.

Woman jumps of horse. Camera shows woman on the ground facing horse, throws bow down, ties horse to a tree.

Woman turns away from horse and unsheaths the sword.

Camera behind the woman as she walks through the trees, sword drawn.

Camera from demon's perspective (behind a tree) looking out at the advancing woman.

Camera from behind woman (from demon's perspective). Woman standing next to a tree.

Close up of demon's sword biting hard into the tree and woman turning around and backing away a few steps.

Fight sequence. Blurred camera motion indicating sword movements and body movements of woman and demon.

Final shot is slow motion of woman's sword as it connects with the demon's neck. See head flying through the air (fake head of course).

FADE OUT.

THE END

This is where I walk into the feast tent with the demon's head on a long pole.

At this point I will say something to the dancers to indicate they are released from the demon's curse and they do a short dance to celebrate before all leave the marquee for the jousting tournament outside.

"JOURNEY" SCRIPT

by

Sarah Hay

NARRATED SCRIPT

(I'm neither a writer nor a storyteller, so I hope this text will be vastly improved by others' editing of this work.

The text length will also need to be modified to fit in the length of the sequences in the film - and vice versa.)

Our story begins a very long time ago when goddesses ruled over the Earth, magic flourished and everyone knew that the forests held the terrors of the night time.

It was one warm, easy afternoon when a peasant woman called Sara, of no particular importance, was called upon to fulfil a destiny she could never have dreamed of.

She was out gathering kindling when the Goddess called to this commoner. Sara sensed the call in the deepest part of her being. Confused by this uneasy sense of urgency, Sara allowed herself to be beckoned towards the forest...a place that all commoners knew was fraught with the unknown.

Spurred on with curiosity, Sara left behind her world of old and stepped across the verge into the forest...a decision that would change her life forever.

She could see..what was it? A light? A fire? Not here in this part of the forest...but as she walked closer a dream-like setting appeared before her eyes. Something unbelievable, but very real.

An inviting fire crackled and filled the surrounding air with an inviting warmth against the chills of the night enclosing in. She couldn't understand it, but was so enchanted by the scene she enjoyed to magic of the moment.

She picked up a glass and drank from the sweet wine, settling down in front of the fire...just to relax for a few moments...

One sip and the spell was cast. Sara fell into a deep dream state and the Goddess set to work...her urgency desperate.

Inexplicably Sara awoke to find herself in unknown garb, perched upon a cliff top bathed in the light of a sunrise.

