

A VIRTUAL REALITY FILM

# HOMINIDÆ

## **Hominidae Press Kit**

### **Format & Runtime**

*Hominidae* is a linear 360 film formatted to stereoscopic 6k with a running time of 6 minutes 42 seconds. The story is told in a sequence of vignettes across the life of an Arachnid Hominid.

### **Tag Line**

Survival makes a species. Love makes a family.

### **Log Line**

Against a landscape of X-ray imagery and wild anatomical reimagination, a mother and her children struggle for survival.

### **Synopsis**

*Hominidae* depicts an ecosystem of x-ray visibility. Creatures have evolved in surprising ways, where humans, birds, spiders and frogs share unique anatomies. This experience follows an Arachnid Hominid, an intelligent creature with human and spider physiology, as she struggles to raise her young in a hostile environment. The story is told in five vignettes, from the birth of the children to the death of the mother in the teeth of her prey.

### **Cast**

Mother Arachnid- Phyllis E. Griffin  
Male Adolescent Arachnid - Luis Antonio Mora  
Female Adolescent Arachnid – Emily Weems  
Mother Canine- Kidjie Boyer  
Hippopotamine- Austin Daly & John Ropiha  
Canine Pup- Oliver Sterling Angus

### **Key Crew**

Writer / Director / Producer

Brian Andrews

Composer

Robert Steel

Sound Designer

Kahra-Scott James

Casting Director

JoAnne Zielinski

Animation Supervisor

Brian Ferguson

CG Supervisor

Rodney Brett

**Bios**

Brian Andrews is a storyteller and visual technologist who has produced media for the visual effects, animation, and fine art markets for the past 17 years. His works have been exhibited at Le Marché du Film Festival de Cannes, Hong Kong Exhibitions Centre, the Queens Museum, and the California Academy of Sciences among many others. Currently he serves as the chair of Post-Production at DePaul University's School of Cinematic Arts.

Phyllis E. Griffin has served as vocal coach for The Goodman Theatre, assisting on Gem Of The Ocean, Drowning Crow, King Hedley II, Blues For An Alabama Sky and I Am A Man. She has previously worked for Disney Productions as the vocal coach to prospective actors for The Lion King. She was also a dialect coach for Joan Plowright on the feature film Dennis The Menace and narrated documentaries for PBS and NPR.

Brian Ferguson is a 25-year veteran film animator with many major projects to his credit, including some of the highest grossing films of all time. His filmography includes 15 feature films, several as supervising animator, for Walt Disney Animation Studios, including the critically acclaimed and financially successful Beauty and the Beast, Lion King, Aladdin, Pocahontas, Mulan, Fantasia 2000, and Winnie the Pooh.

Kahra Scott-James is a Sound Designer, Re-recording Mixer and occasional Composer. Commercial experience includes designing soundtracks for 3D interactive movie creators Brilliant Digital Entertainment (USA/Australia – Warner Brothers/DC Comics), and managing an audio post-production studio for several years, working on broadcast, film and animation projects. Her work has been screened in a number of international film festivals, with film and TV awards from Denmark, Singapore, Korea, NZ, Canada, USA, and Germany.

Robert Steel is a composer and sound designer for cinema, theater and interactive media. Recent credits include the films Edge of Alchemy (Sound of Silent Film Festival Chicago), Junk Girl (Sound of Silent Film Festival Chicago and Mexico City), 147 Pianos, Speed Dating, Sleepy Steve, Signals, Ten More, Reunion and The Mom Project. He recently completed the sound design for an installation at Hawaiian Gardens in Long Beach, California.

## **Director's Statement**

Survival makes a species. Love makes a family.

*Hominidae*, a CG animated 360 film, depicts an ecosystem of x-ray visibility. Creatures have evolved in surprising ways, where humans, birds, spiders and frogs share unique anatomies. This experience follows an Arachnid Hominid, an intelligent creature with human and spider physiology, as she struggles to raise her young in a hostile environment. The story is told in five vignettes, from the birth of the children to the death of the mother in the teeth of her prey.

The diverse voice casts' profound performances evoke the film's humanistic themes, led by the celebrated stage performer Phyllis E. Griffin. Conceived and directed by Brian Andrews, animation was supervised by Walt Disney Animation Studios veteran Brian Ferguson with audio by award-winning 360 sound designer Kahra Scott-James and composer Rob Steel.

The creatures of *Hominidae* were first created in 2004 as a series of photo-composites built from human and veterinary x-ray films. Alternative human evolutionary possibilities were explored as radiographs of humanoid anatomies. Compositionally the images address the hominids with scientific lucidity, yet maintain an emotion of vulnerability as the figures betray the contradictions of their physicality. The series was exhibited internationally, including at SIGGRAPH, in the Hong Kong Exhibition Center, and at numerous galleries. Based on the photo-composites, a CG animated short *Hominid* was produced in 2012 telling a story driven by the transparent biology of the hominids. After premiering in the Electronic Theater at SIGGRAPH Asia, the film went viral in online distribution and film festivals, culminating in strong coverage in both the entertainment and scientific press.

Current developments in virtual reality technologies has inspired a return to the world of the hominid. The unique visual environment of *Hominidae* is intrinsically suited to the immersive experience of virtual reality storytelling. As the embodied medium mirrors the visual transparency of the environment, viewers cultivate empathy with the humanity of the hominid's life and struggle for survival.

## **Website & Social Media**

Website: [www.hominidanimation.net](http://www.hominidanimation.net)

Trailer: [vimeo.com/timeart/hominidae](https://vimeo.com/timeart/hominidae)

Facebook: [fb.me/hominidaevr](https://fb.me/hominidaevr)

Instagram: [hominidae\\_vr](https://www.instagram.com/hominidae_vr)

[https://www.instagram.com/hominidae\\_vr](https://www.instagram.com/hominidae_vr)

Twitter: [hominidae\\_vr](https://twitter.com/hominidae_vr)

[https://twitter.com/hominidae\\_vr](https://twitter.com/hominidae_vr)

Hashtag: #HominidaeVR

## Film Stills







