



BIFF

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International Film Festival

S P Y I N G
S T A R S

A FILM BY VIMUKTHI JAYASUNDARA

2025, 100 minutes, France/India/Sri Lanka, 1.85, 5.1 Sound
In English and Sinhala with English subtitles



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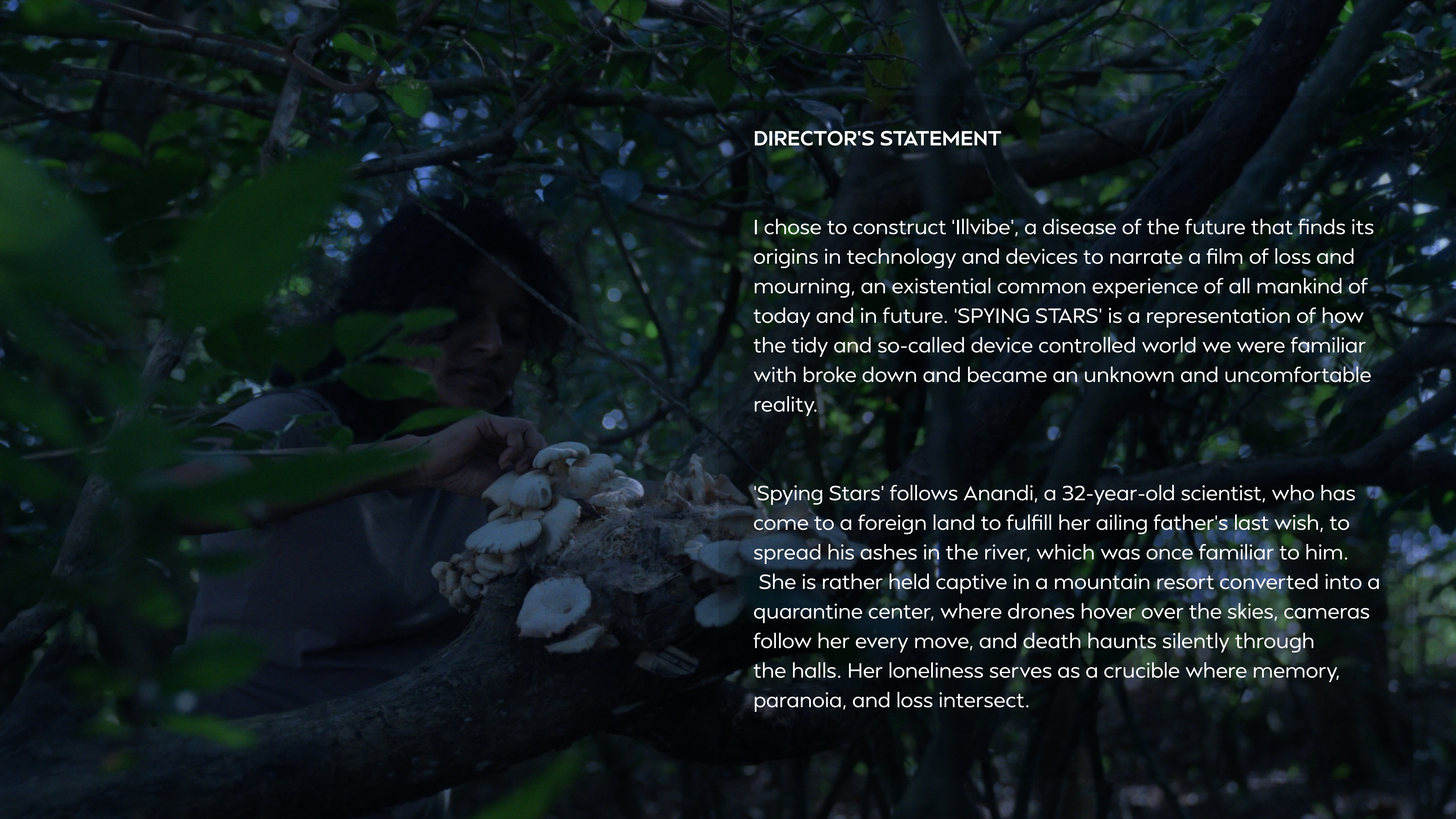
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SYNOPSIS

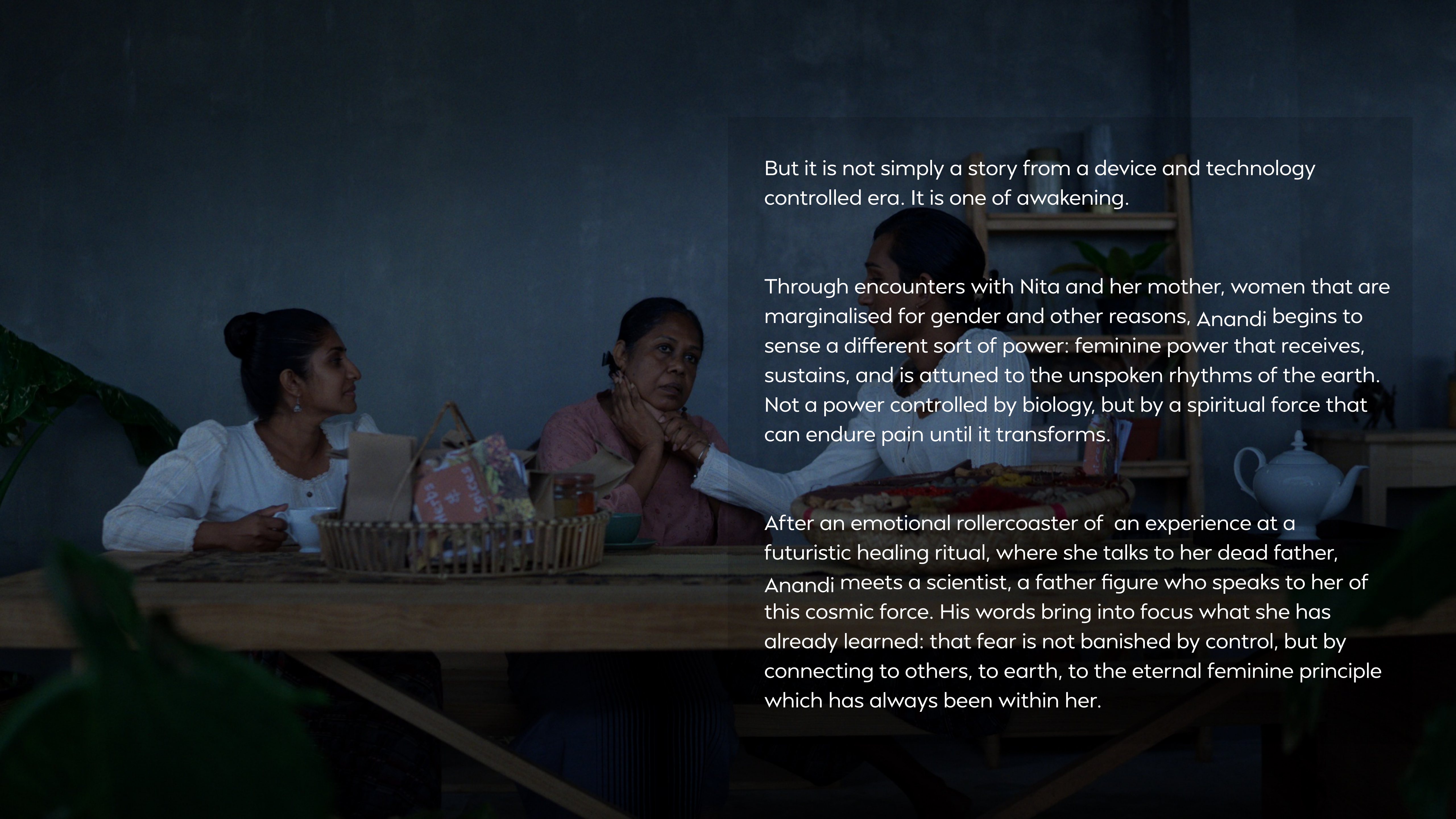
Scientist Anandi visits Hanuman Island to perform the last rites ritual for her father. She is immediately placed in quarantine in a remote hotel due to a pandemic caused by a machine-dominant world. When a mysterious star starts following her, she escapes and seeks refuge with a mother and her transgender daughter.

A person with dark hair, wearing a light-colored shirt, is seen from the chest up, reaching out to place small, white, shell-like objects onto a thick, dark tree branch. The background is a dense forest with green leaves and tree trunks, creating a natural and somewhat somber atmosphere. The lighting is soft, suggesting a shaded forest environment.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

I chose to construct 'Illvibe', a disease of the future that finds its origins in technology and devices to narrate a film of loss and mourning, an existential common experience of all mankind of today and in future. 'SPYING STARS' is a representation of how the tidy and so-called device controlled world we were familiar with broke down and became an unknown and uncomfortable reality.

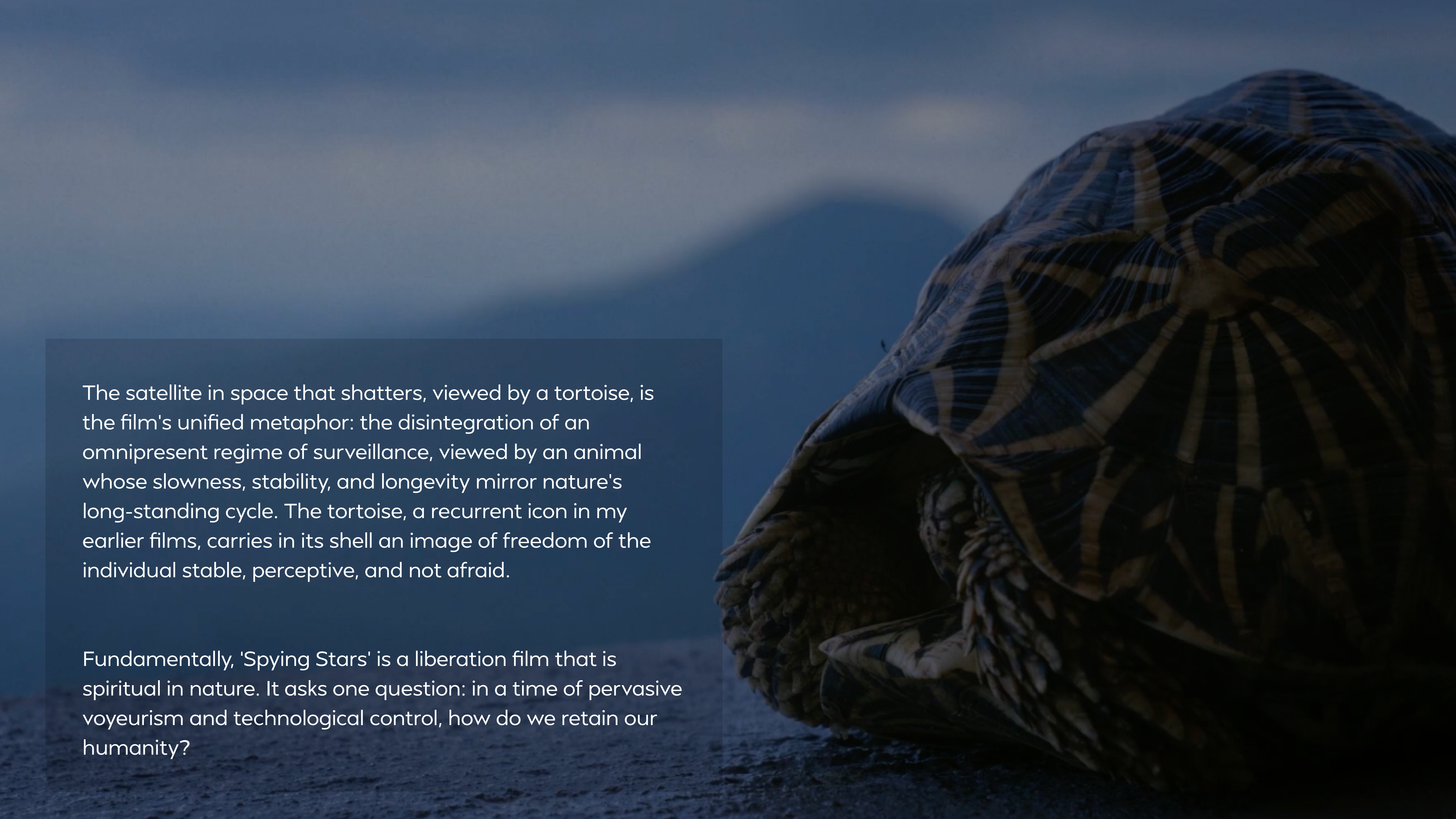
'Spying Stars' follows Anandi, a 32-year-old scientist, who has come to a foreign land to fulfill her ailing father's last wish, to spread his ashes in the river, which was once familiar to him. She is rather held captive in a mountain resort converted into a quarantine center, where drones hover over the skies, cameras follow her every move, and death haunts silently through the halls. Her loneliness serves as a crucible where memory, paranoia, and loss intersect.



But it is not simply a story from a device and technology controlled era. It is one of awakening.

Through encounters with Nita and her mother, women that are marginalised for gender and other reasons, Anandi begins to sense a different sort of power: feminine power that receives, sustains, and is attuned to the unspoken rhythms of the earth. Not a power controlled by biology, but by a spiritual force that can endure pain until it transforms.

After an emotional rollercoaster of an experience at a futuristic healing ritual, where she talks to her dead father, Anandi meets a scientist, a father figure who speaks to her of this cosmic force. His words bring into focus what she has already learned: that fear is not banished by control, but by connecting to others, to earth, to the eternal feminine principle which has always been within her.



The satellite in space that shatters, viewed by a tortoise, is the film's unified metaphor: the disintegration of an omnipresent regime of surveillance, viewed by an animal whose slowness, stability, and longevity mirror nature's long-standing cycle. The tortoise, a recurrent icon in my earlier films, carries in its shell an image of freedom of the individual stable, perceptive, and not afraid.

Fundamentally, 'Spying Stars' is a liberation film that is spiritual in nature. It asks one question: in a time of pervasive voyeurism and technological control, how do we retain our humanity?



DIRECTOR'S BIO

Vimukthi Jayasundara was born in Sri Lanka in 1977. He studied at Mahinda College in Galle, then participated in several political and artistic movements.

He became an author, screenwriter and film critic, and made three short films before the age of 17. He has since made five feature films including *The Forsaken Land* (2004), *Between Two Worlds* (2009) and others, that have all been featured in prestigious film festivals such as Cannes, Venice, Locarno and Toronto.



Presented by

HOUSE ON FIRE
ELEANORA IMAGES
FILM COUNCIL PRODUCTION

Starring

INDIRA TIWARI
HIDAAAYATH HAZEER
SAUMYA LIYANAGE
SAMANALEE FONSEKA
SHREEPURA MITHRA
KAUSHALYA FERNANDO

Director of photography
Sound
Production designer
Editing
Costume designer
Music

EESHIT NARAIN
ROMAN DYMNY
NUWAN SANURANKHA
SAMAN ALVITIGALA
AMA WIJESEKARA
ALOKANANDA DASGUPTA
ROMAN DYMNY

Executive producers

NAYOMI APSARA
ANUJ TYAGI

Co-Producers

MICHEL KLEIN
VIMUKTHI JAYASUNDARA
ARFI LAAMBA
KATHARINA SUCKALE

Producers

VINCENT WANG
NILA MADHAB PANDA

Written and directed by

VIMUKTHI JAYASUNDARA



HOUSE ON FIRE

