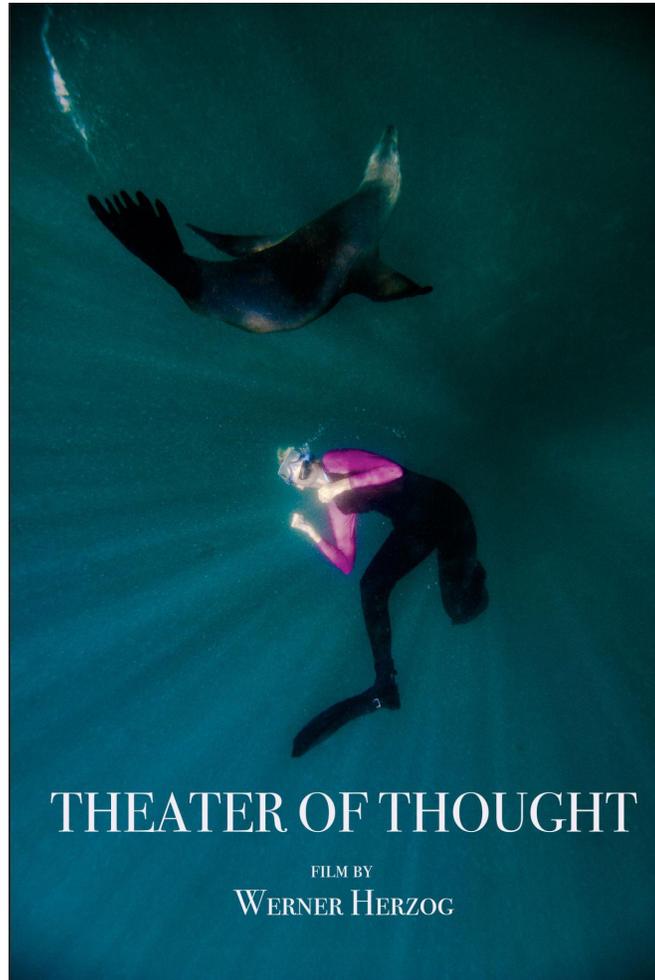




THEATER OF THOUGHT

Directed by Werner Herzog
107 Minutes | 2022



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SYNOPSIS

Through the lens of legendary filmmaker Werner Herzog, Theater of Thought takes audiences on a provocative journey into the study of the mind and consciousness, daring us to question whether we truly have autonomy over our thoughts, or if our brains will inevitably become infused with mind-controlling technology in the not so distant future. Gathering insight and predictions from some of the world's most influential scientists and innovators, Theater of Thought is an exploration of the ethical, and existential, effects that neurotechnology presents in our rapidly advancing world.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Much of what's in THEATER OF THOUGHT has been dormant in me for a long time. It all fell in place when I met one of the greatest and foremost scientists in the field of brain research, Rafael Yuste and the film was created with great vehemence as we discussed further.

How can we read thoughts? Can you implant a chip in your brain and in my brain, and see my new film without a camera? Why is it that some young people immerse themselves in video games and become addicted to completely artificial worlds? Sometimes mice even prefer invented cartoon worlds, so who is the ghost writer of our mind, of our reality?

CREDITS

Written, Directed and Narrated By
Werner Herzog

Chief Scientific Advisor
Rafael Yuste

Produced By
Werner Herzog
Ariel Leon Isacovitch

Executive Producers
Doron Weber
Kerstin Emhoff

Director of Photography
Luke Holwerda

Edited by
Marco Capalbo

Original Music By
Ernst Reijseger

2nd Camera
Gus Holwerda

Director of Photography (Germany)
Peter Zeitlinger

Director of Photography (Chile)
Vicente Rosselot

Still Photographer
Lena Herzog

Grip
Jose Cruzat

Electric
Daniela Donoso

Location Sound
Gus Holwerda

Location Sound (Chile)
Juan Verdugo Guzman

Location Sound (Germany)
Liat Ben Ishai

Sound Edited and Mixed
By Marco Capalbo

Color Correction
Giovanni Ombra

Production Coordinator
Rodrigo Allel

Legal Services
Golder, Sieburth & Sieburth

Developed By
Skellig Rock, Inc.

Additional Footage and Archival Stills By
Philippe Petit
Lena Herzog

Additional Footage and Stills Courtesy of
Senate TV Republic of Chile
Avatar at Walt Disney Studios
Jack Gallant Lab at UC Berkeley
Tom Gruber Underwater Video/Stills
Hillman Lab: Biomedical Engineering at
Columbia University
Luna Ikuta Transparent Garden
Firefly and Spider Images by Samuel James
Einstein the Parrot, Zoo Knoxville
Medtronic medical technology Archive video
Moonbug, Little Baby Bum
Earth by Alexander Dovzhenko, Mos Films
StarCraft II Video Game Trailer
Yonhap News Agency

Special Thanks to
Polina Anikeeva
Richard Axel
Ed Boyden
Cori Bargmann
Tobias Bonhoeffer
Edward Chang
George Church
Jamie Daves
Karl Deisseroth
John Donoghue
Eberhard Fetz
Joseph Fins
Jack Gallant
Jared Genser
Dario Gil
Senator Guido Giardi
Sara Goering
Tom Gruber

Uri Hasson
Bryan Johnson
Christof Koch
Kristin Lauter
Joseph LeDoux
Matthew McCann
Debjami Mukherjee
Philippe Petit
President Sebastian Pinera
Rejesh Rao
Ken Shepherd
Rodney Smith
Juan Walker

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Bill & Melinda Gates Center for Computer
Science & Engineering
IBM
Kernel Company
Roxie Theater
SHACK 15
The Max Planck Institute of Neurobiology
University of California San Francisco
University of Washington Center for
Neurotechnology
Weill Cornell Medicine

“Thought”
Composed and Performed by
Ernst Reijseger

“Empty Screen”
Composed by
Performed by
Ernst Reijseger
VU Chamber Choir

“Flow”

Composed and Performed by
Ernst Reijseger

“Fuzzy Parrot / Elephant”
Composed and Performed by
Ernst Reijseger

“Quantum World”
Composed and Performed
by Ernst Reijseger

“Map of Your Mind”
Music & Lyrics by
Performed by
Joseph LeDoux

The Amygdaloids
“Hydra”
Composed and Performed by
Mario Forte and Ernst Reijseger

“When the Night is Dark”
Music & Lyrics by
Performed by
Joseph LeDoux
The Amygdaloids

“Virtual Crickets”
Composed and Performed by
Mario Forte and Ernst Reijseger

“School of Fish”
Composed and Performed by
Ernst Reijseger

“Notturmo 2.0”
Composed and Performed by
Ernst Reijseger

“Dreams of Fish”
Composed and Performed by
Mario Forte and Ernst Reijseger

“Kyrie”
Arranged and Performed by
Ernst Reijseger

“Frame of Comparison”
Composed by
Performed by
Ernst Reijseger
VU Chamber Choir

“Siegfried Idyll”
Richard Wagner

Arranged and Performed by
Ernst Reijseger

“Commands to the Brain”
Composed and Performed by
Mario Forte and Ernst Reijseger

“Harvest of Apples”
Composed and Performed by
Mario Forte and Ernst Reijseger

“Ghostwriter”
Composed and Performed by
Ernst Reijseger

“You Win Again”
Written by
Hank Williams
Performed by
Andy Jones & The Plainsmen
Courtesy of Archive.org
Published by Ara Records

“All in a Nut”
Music & Lyrics by
Performed by
Joseph LeDoux
The Amygdaloids

Ernst Reijseger Cello, Shruti Boxes, Voice
Mario Forte Violin, Viola d'amore
Harmen Fraanje Piano
Jeffrey Bruinsma Violin
Genevieve Verhage Cello
Erik Bosgraaf Recorder

VU Chamber Choir
Tenore e Cuncordu de Orosei
Piero Pala - mesuvoche
Tonino Carta - voche
Gian Nicola Appeddu - Cronta
Massimo Roych - voche
Mario Siotto - bassu
The Amygdaloids
Nina Galbraith Curley
Colin Dempsey
Joseph LeDoux
Gerald McCollam
Daniela Schiller
Tyler Volk

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Ventureland

Quotes from Select Theater of Thought Reviews

- "In one of his best docs yet, Werner Herzog turns his lens on the world of brain-computer interfaces, their therapeutic potential and chilling implications." - Sheri Linden, *THR*
- "A quintessentially Herzogian fusion of hope, horror, humor and heart." - Sheri Linden, *THR*
- "Theater of Thought" is something of a trip into Werner Herzog's brain, so stumbling through that fog can be quite entertaining." - Steve Pond, *The Wrap*
- "Theater of Thought" is a movie about exploring the mind - and if the mind we're exploring most of the time is Herzog's, well, there are far worse tour guides through this territory." - Steve Pond, *The Wrap*
- "This is decidedly a talking-heads sort of film, but the talk and the heads are worth listening to and beholding." - Todd McCarthy, *Deadline*





