

Artist
Track

Gray Hulbert
Where Waking Thought Sleep

ToothGrinder Films

Introduction

For 'Where Waking Thought Sleep' we will follow a guy searching for something on a bleak deserted beach with a metal detector. Through his relentless and tiresome search we reveal that he is not out hunting for treasure as we initially think, but searching for his lost phone with which lies the hope of making contact with the girl he had met and fell for on the same beach weeks ago, and for who's call he has been waiting for since that day.

The promo will be split between a HD filmic look with bleak cold tones to match the lonely isolated feel of our lead character, intercut with warm, vibrant nostalgic super 8 flashbacks of the happier memories of spending time with the girl on this beach. The visual imagery of the metal detector will hopefully match the tone of the music, with the idea of a relentless search, filled with the hope of finding treasure and the disappointment of it being junk and yet picking up and carrying on, complimenting the lyrics and feel of the guitar.

The narrative element will be cut together with abstract performance shots of Graham playing his guitar in an old rowing boat upon the beach, in both HD and super 8, suggesting a presence in both of the stories. We will see parts of him playing and singing, but only in abstract forms, never directly performing to the audience.



Treatment

We open with a performance shot of fingers fretting a guitar, then cut to an extreme wide of a deserted pebbled beach, divided up with groynes. We stay on this empty frame with just the waves lapping at the shore for a few seconds before a solitary figure enters the picture, moving slowly across the frame sweeping a metal detector.

(The following narrative will be intercut with abstract shots of graham playing and singing from inside a row boat moored upon the shore - fingers fretting, mouth singing, silhouette against shoreline etc. From time to time we will pull focus from narrative in foreground to Graham singing in distance behind our guy and vice versa - graham is present to the events unfolding, playing the soundtrack for our characters search.)



We move in closer to see a guy sweeping the beach with a vintage metal detector. He does not look like your normal 'treasure hunter', early 20's in jeans, hoody and jacket. He looks sombre, yet intent in conducting his search. His metal detector sweeps the beach in time with the sway of the music. There is something tragic and isolated about him; the cold bluish tone of the image and 'floatiness' of the music makes us empathise with his cause, whatever this may be.

As the search continues the light on the detector buzzes and he stops. He pulls a trowl out of his pocket and a look of anticipation crosses his face. He drops to his knees and starts to dig, only to lift up a tin can (?) into frame and his look fades to disappointment.

Undeterred, he picks himself up and carries on his search. As he proceeds, certain landmarks trigger memories of a happier time at the beach - shots of groynes or the peer will be triggers to cut to flashbacks of super 8 footage in warm, rich, overblown colours.

These memories will show our guy walking the same stretch of beach and catching the eye of a girl who is approaching him on the shore. She is pretty and has a bright red flower in her hair. She stares at him and smiles. Cut back to present.

Landmarks will continue to trigger the happy memories of the guy and the girl on the beach, which develops into the couple having fun, splashing around in the shore, smiling and laughing and staring at each other - memories of a brief romance unfolding in brief snapshot flashbacks - this warm happy memory is never allowed to fully take hold before we are slammed back into the guy's bleak, monotonous present, where the sand is no longer a glowing yellow, and the sea is a dirty grey...



He encounters another find, this time it will be an item of value, yet our guy acts despondent to it and throws it away as he did the tin can before. We start to realise that he is not searching for treasure, but for something else. The disappointment of this second red herring brings him to the point of giving up, and he sits upon a groyne looking dejected and downtrodden. He takes his headphones off and stares out at the sea for a moment before putting his hand in his pocket and pulling out a polaroid. He stares at it.



We see it is a polaroid of him and the girl before cutting into the super 8 scene of them taking the picture - posing for the photo before laughing and hugging. The girl pulls the polaroid out of the camera and shakes it off before taking a pen out and scribbling something on the back. We are jump cutting this action to keep with the snapshot-esqu memory of it all - never allowing it to fully take hold (or turn cheesy). She gives the guy the polaroid and leaves him alone on the shore, looking back and waving at him as she leaves. The guy turns and walks away, looking at the polaroid as he does. He flips it over, it says, "I'll call you xx" on the back in marker pen. He stares at this for a moment as if to register (and allowing the audience to register). He reaches inside his jacket pocket, then looking confused, starts checking all his other pockets. He starts to look worried and frantically rechecks all his pockets again before arriving back at his jacket pocket, at which his hand goes right through.....we see that there is a giant hole in this pocket. The guy looks behind him to where he last saw the girl but she is gone. He looks horrified and begins a frantic search of the beach.



Fade back to present, a resolve washes over the guys face and he stands determined, detector held like a military musket. He braves the expanse of shingle once again and begins sweeping from side to side.

As the 3rd chorus draws the song draws to its close the guy spots something red on the horizon - as he moves closer he sees that a single red flower is emerging from the beach, the same red flower that the girl wore in her hair. His face lights up, and as he comes closer, curious and hopeful, he bends down in slow motion to pick the flower up, resting his metal detector on the beach as he does. As soon as he touches the flower the metal detector starts vibrating - he looks across before producing his trowel and begins troweling furiously on the spot.

As the song draws to a close his face lights up and we see that he has found what he is looking for, his phone which is ringing - as he pulls it from the sand he answers 'hello' and smiles as we fade to black.



If we go ahead with this idea I will definitely want to use the guy below as our actor, yes its ol Nobhead - he has a great ability to tell a story with his face and just looks great on screen. We might also use his friend, the girl below. These are taken from a short my mate Tim did with them both.

