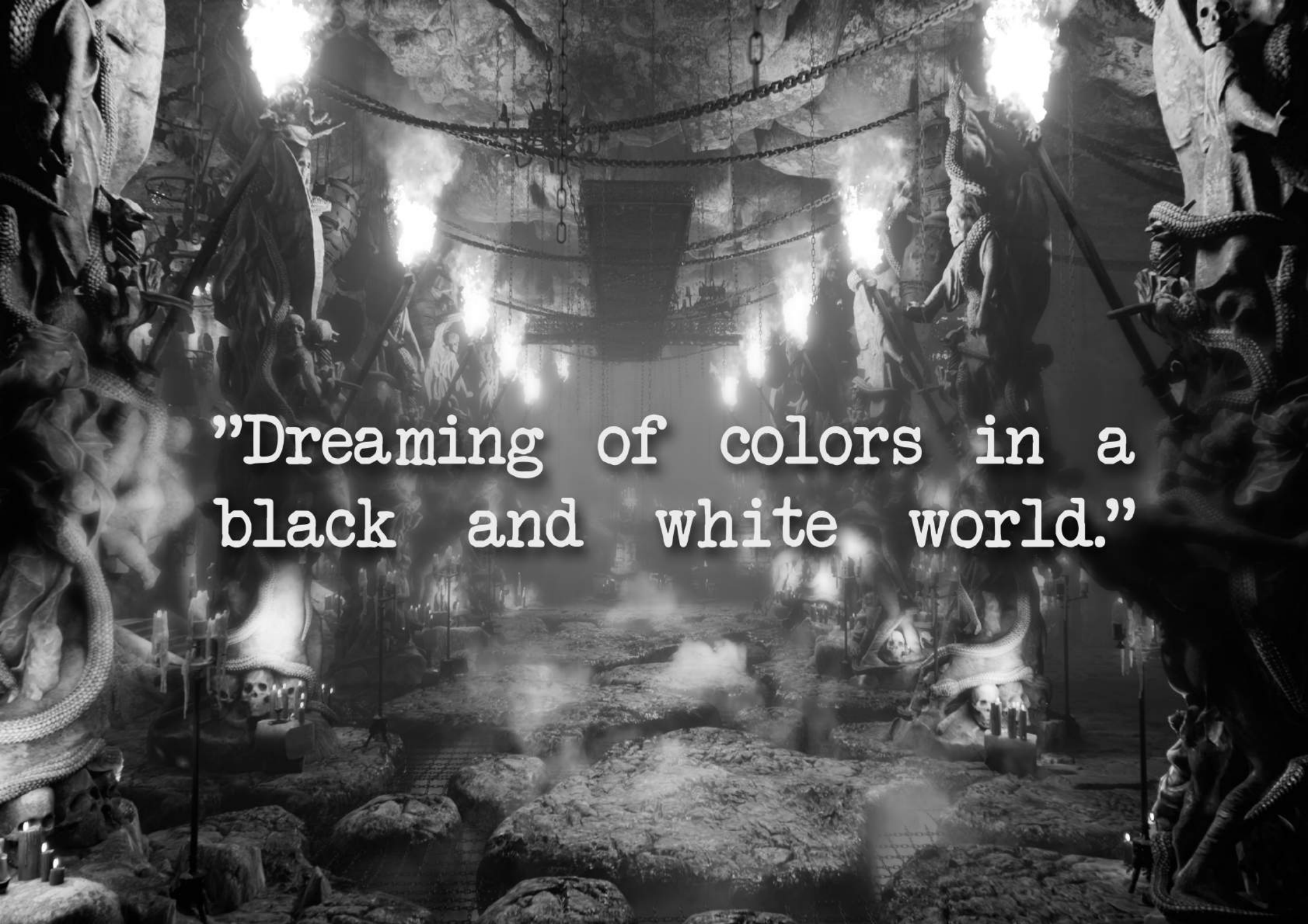
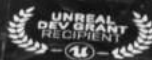




"Dreaming of colors in a
black and white world."



The Host

Written by
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PLOT

"The Chest" is a feature-length animated film-noir, with a strong, mythical storyline. It takes place in the 1960's, but in a post modern scenery: beautiful cars from that era, shiny neon lights, cool fashion, the dawn of modern spy technologies.

"The Chest" is a story about an archaeologist and his workers opening an ancient chest, containing the remains of a witch, as well as an angry cursed soul set on mayhem. Two agents of the new nervous communist government are dispatched to investigate these supernatural events that so obviously threaten the Party's policy of radical materialism.

But soon they find themselves in a middle of a conspiracy, which is out of control.



Executioner

Udine

Inquisitor

Opausky (Whistler)

Ferrrier

Gaby (Varushka)

Webster

Prof. Laszlo Fischer

Synopsis



1732, Budapest

The inquisitor, conducting the witch trial rummages through the belongings of a burnt woman in the dungeon's warehouse. In the meantime, he reminisces about the circumstances of the torture and execution. He is preparing to hold a ritual using the witch accessories. His memories and his attitude toward the objects clearly show that he had serious feelings for the victim, Udine Karas, who makes an appearance at the end of the ritual. A raven watches through the bars of the window. Udine attacks her inquisitor.

1968, somewhere in Transdanubia

A black Tatra 603 (car) approaches on the dirt track. The car stops in front of an abandoned rural mansion. Two detectives (Ferrier and Webster) in leather coats get out of the vehicle. They ring the doorbell. The resident of the mansion, Sandor Opausky answers the door. He is suspected of illegal foreign currency transactions. The detectives of the 2nd Department of Political Investigation order him to produce the objects in his possession obtained through illegal means. The agents find a significant sum of illegal German currency in an envelope. The agents arrest Opausky, and put him into the Tatra. A raven on a tree beside the mansion croaks ominously.

On their way to the Ministry of Interior in Budapest, they cross paths with a Barkas van driven by a man in disguise (archeologist professor Dr Laszlo Fischer), we see the Chest in the cargo area.

At the Headquarters, Sandor Opausky is being dragged off into an interrogation room with a cowl over his head. He is threatened, and it does not take long for Sandor to break, he wishes to right his wrong, and "voluntarily" offers his assistance. The two detectives let him in on a covert investigation, the purpose of which is finding a certain "chest".

They tell him that the Party has a vested interest in finding the "dangerous object" as it has given rise to anti-government activities throughout the villages and towns of the area; it encourages one to perform rebellious and reactionary actions, furthermore, it is also said to have ties to the occult.

It is Sandor Opausky's job to write regular reports on an archeologist professor from Budapest, someone who took part in the excavation of the chest, and is suspected to be withholding information.

In the meantime, the Barkas arrives at the depot of a warehouse in Budapest. Dr Laszlo Fischer removes his wig, false mustache and beret. Workmen are playing a game of cards in the warehouse, some of them are a bit tipsy. They put the Chest in a safe place, but after the professor has left, one of the drunk workers kicks the Chest over for fun. A raven appears out of nowhere, flying at the man, attacking him, the man succeeds in injuring the bird.

The Chest is secured, so he decide to pry it open with a crowbar. The powers are activated, ectoplasm bursts from the box, and the entity is set free: the dark figure of Udine appears, and begins to cast destructive spells. To no avail, it seems, but the warehouse building catches on fire. However, it seems as though the Chest were surrounded by a protective bubble, because things burn down, except within the 10-foot radius of the Chest.

Dr Fischer is working in the library, when an Orthodox iron cross falls off the wall onto the ground; he takes this as a sign, and rushes to the warehouse. The Csepel fire brigade is already on the scene, and one officer reports excitedly on the mysterious fire, and the fact that the Chest was unharmed, but a mysterious man stole it and suddenly dissappeared in the large smoke.

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BREK

(111/11)

"Whistler"

Because he took the deal, Sandor Opausky moves to Budapest, into an apartment building, right in the neighborhood where archaeologist professor Dr Laszlo Fischer resides. As the new maintenance man for Eötvös Loránd University, he keeps Dr Fischer under constant surveillance. He writes his reports under the alias "Whistler". At the university, Whistler befriends Dr Fischer, and gains his trust: the researcher is excited about Sandor's interest in archeology and his tactically disclosed mansion in Transdanubia, which is beside the excavation site.

The case is taken over by the Ministry of Interior in Budapest, agent Varushka is assigned to it: "This heathen, superstitious Chest must be destroyed as soon as possible". She is a beautiful Marxist vamp with curly red locks, her agent name is: "Varushka", she calmly recommends Dr Laszlo Fischer to be interrogated under torture rightaway, but Ferrier and Webster persuade her not to, for tactical considerations.

At the university, Opausky becomes acquainted with assistant professor historian Gaby Tanczos (Varushka in disguise), who seems to show a special interest in medieval witch trials. They begin to like each other. Gaby is surprised by how educated and sensitive the new maintenance man is. Their relationship seems to go beyond simple friendship from the start.

"Whistler" meets up with the two detectives at an apartment. They are preparing to carry out a covert search of Dr Laszlo Fischer's home. During one of his visits to the archeologist professor, Whistler was able to make a print of the key to the apartment of Dr Fischer, and so they start to perform the search. They find substantial material about the Chest, which supports the fact that the professor has been obsessively researching the mystery surrounding it. His notes reveal a dark, medieval secret.

Naturally, the atheist detectives are being disrespectful and skeptical, but they record onto the microfilm the secret map showing the Chest's excavation site. Webster notices a recurring motif among the documents: a pentagram. he is not quite sure what it means, but he sketches it into his notebook. They find a suspicious address: monk Bernard, Buda Castle Cave. During the search, a black raven knocks on the window of the apartment building.

The return of Udine

Darkroom, liquids, red lights, photo paper. Magnifying glasses, thick books, and codices. Webster notices a microfilm, on it an ancient Spanish text. He is so taken by it that he begins to murmur the text, and makes a copy of it for himself.

When Dr Fischer returns home, he notices that the signal hair is out of place, and he realizes that a secret search of his home has been carried out. The professor hastily makes a phone call, all he says into the receiver is: "It's happened."

In the meantime, the ghost of Udine walks the streets of Budapest, looking through shop windows, floating above houses and muttering in alleys. Neon lamps flash, dogs bark wildly, and passersby become suspicious. All this happens somewhere between existence and imperceptibility. Meanwhile, the ghost of the Chest comes to life, and walks the streets of Pest. Hats, shawls, footwear, bags, gloves, stockings, costume jewelry, ready-made articles

János Kádár (the Head of the Party) invites the agents to a game of chess, where he threatens them as he is anything but satisfied with the progress of the investigation. Instead of quietly solving the case, they have caused it to become highly publicized: along with the firemen, the whole town is talking about the miraculous warehouse fire. Varushka enters, it is revealed that she plays the role of Gaby Tanczos in the conspiracy. She says she told them that they should interrogate Dr Fischer. "The existence of the supernatural is incompatible with the materialist ideology," she shouts "we demand other explanations!"

~~REDACTED~~

02/7

A monk is eating his dinner in the Buda Castle Cave (it was his address that the agents found in Dr Fischer's apartment). Suddenly, the entity appears in the place it had been executed, and attacks the monk. To stop Udine, he starts to chant the Lord's Prayer in Cuman, upon which the apparition fades. The doorbell rings, it is the two agents.

The monk reveals the legend: A young woman suspected of witchcraft was tortured in the Buda Castle Cave, and was sentenced to die at the stake. Her ashes and magic devices were locked into a chest, it contains a grimoire (witch's diary containing spells), a broom, a ritual dagger (the so-called athamé), a chalice, religious icons, pentagrams, clothing (black and lacey). Not long after the sentence was carried out, the executioner committed suicide, and his soul possessed one of the caged ravens kept in the cave.

While talking to the monk, the agents find out about the circumstances of the witch's death, and they realize that Opausky has tricked them as he is in league with Dr Fischer behind their backs, and the Chest has been in his possession for a while. Fight fire with fire, beat the agents at their own game. The monk calls their attention to the efficacy of the Cuman Lord's Prayer, which Ferrier jots down in his notepad. The two agents leave in a haste. They head for Opausky's place of employment, the library. After a fight scene they arrest Sandor again, they take him to the torture chamber using electric shock in an effort to get him to talk. It works, he admits that he truly has omitted certain facts, and to save his skin, he tells them that Dr Laszlo Fischer has the Chest.

Meanwhile, the ghost of Udine takes possession of Varushka in the library bathroom. Instead of seeing her own reflection in the mirror, the face of a medieval witch, Udine, appears before her, having found her medieval alter ego in a new body, she is euphoric as she has found her "avatar".

The tormented Opausky is locked into a cell, and the agents rush to the apartment of Dr Fischer, who they find to have hanged himself. According to his suicide note, he was no longer able to bear the pressure, the torture, the show trial awaiting him and the burden of supernatural secrets. The clause at the end of his letter: "Cursed who is followed by a black raven!"

All hell breaks loose

In his cell, Opausky wonders how he could get away, when suddenly, out of nowhere Gaby Tanczos, who can open locks just by looking at them, appears. Her first question is: "where is the Chest?" Obviously Sandor finds this strange, but in his frantic state, all he can think about is escaping. He reveals to Tanczos/Udine that he has taken the Chest back to the mansion.

Gaby takes Sandor by the hand, and they leave the cell, a venomous spider crawls out of the dead guard's mouth. In the Ministry yard, they break into a ZIS-115. The guard at the gate is suspiciously motionless. As the car pulls out of the yard, we can see from behind a viper slither away by his shoe. The ZIS-115 races through the night, Opausky and the woman are in it. Sandor confesses his feelings as he still sees Gaby, but he is also under Udine's spell.



[GLV]

The Chest closes

While at the prime scene in Dr Fischer's apartment, agents Ferrier and Webster receive a phone call telling them Opausky has escaped in a stolen ZIS-115, and is headed for the countryside in the company of a woman. (It is obvious to the agents that they are headed for the mansion.)

The sun is rising. A pair of headlights appear in the distance at the edge of the woods. A black ZIS-115 approaches on the dirt track. Opausky turns too quickly, loses control of the vehicle, and they crash into a tree.

The headlights of the black Tatra 603 appear from the trees. Opausky has lost consciousness, but the woman jumps out of the car, and starts running toward the mansion. The agents start to chase her. Udine can feel the presence of the Chest, she runs into the house, closes the door behind her, and grabs an ax. She is about to strike, when the raven from the film guarding the Chest transforms into the executioner, who once ended her life. He tells Udine that he regrets his act, and hands the woman her witch dagger, so she may free him from his guardianship by killing him.

The agents break the door open with the help of a truck, and when they reach the basement, Ferrier begins chanting the Lord's Prayer in Cuman.



Udine laughs at him. If he is an atheist, why is he saying this prayer? Ferrier fires a shot at Gaby (Udine), but in reality, he shoots himself as the witch confuses his mind.

Ferrier collapses, and Udine attacks Webster, Webster is on the floor, and seeing that he said the prayer in vain, he pulls out the photo paper with the Spanish verse in his pocket (he took it from the darkroom.) When he recites it, the ghost leaves Gaby's body. The Chest closes.

Webster, being the one to have locked the ghost into the Chest, is fated to become the guardian of the Chest, thus, he is transformed into a raven...

One week later... Mental institution. Opausky is restrained to a gurney with strong straps. Varushka is wearing a white doctor's coat. She tells him that "the game is over", the mansion has been demolished (they accidentally destroyed the Chest). She places a muzzle on the man, and calls for her secretary to come and take his typed confession, and mark it as classified for 50 years.

Ministry of Interior. Varushka sits at her desk organizing documents. For a moment she glances up at the stuffed crow on top of the filing cabinet across from her desk. She has a very subtle smile on her face (she is Udine again). After the picture fades to black, we hear the voiceover of Sandor Opausky:

"Now I know what it's like to dreaming of colors in a black and white world..."

B
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copy

g. l. Kuss

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H-75280

PROJECT STATUS

- first version of the screenplay has been completed (english and hungarian language) 2x126 pages + 50 pages documentation
- we have an official soundtrack
- the scenes and models are 60% finished
- Unreal Dev Grant Recipient and Iclone featured project
- some of the scenes are converted into VR (planned AAA game)
- this project has a high franchise potential
- we had a booth at MIFA 2019 and have an invitation to MIPCOM
- we are currently looking for a producer

Do you dare to open it?

