



CLOSE DISTANCE

A SHORT FILM BY COLLEEN VANDENBERG
MUSICAL SCORE BY RYAN VAN ERT

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SYNOPSIS

"Close Distance" explores the metaphoric connection between black holes in outer space and romantic love. So much is unknown about black holes. Things like how they form and what happens when the threshold of an event horizon is crossed remain a mystery. But we do know that the force, energy, and momentum of black holes are inescapable and transformative. Falling in love has an unavoidable gravity much like that of an event horizon. Unpredictable and powerful, how it changes a person is an enigma.

ABOUT THE FILM

“Close Distance” was created in Chicago, Illinois in the early months of 2023. It is based on a NASA article discussing twin black holes, and their long journey towards one another. This experimental short film aims to personify the black holes through the lens of a happily married couple... but more specifically, through the lens of a widow who lost her husband early in their marriage. A powerful musical score, a simplistic voiceover, historical photographs, and video sequences that mimic scenes from outer space work together to weave a bond between us and celestial bodies.

ABOUT COLLEEN VANDENBERG FILMMAKER



Colleen Vandenberg is an interdisciplinary artist and educator. After earning her MFA from Columbia College Chicago, she began teaching art and photography at underserved schools on Chicago's South Side, suburban art leagues, community colleges, online schools, and universities.

Her experimental filmmaking practice blends simple narrative structures and complex metaphors to create work that is just abstract enough to allow multiple interpretations. Any viewer may find themselves in the story. She combines digital and analog processes to create a visual that is both familiar and otherworldly.

LINKS

Close Distance Trailer

<https://vimeo.com/823421926?share=copy>

Close Distance Website

<https://www.colleenvandenberg.com/film>

Colleen Vandenberg

<https://www.colleenvandenberg.com/>

FAQ

Q: Is the story in the voiceover regarding the black holes true?

A: Yes! I follow multiple NASA accounts on Instagram and one day, I learned about a pair of black holes that are absolutely massive, and will eventually collide in about ten thousand years. It seems like an eternity, but in terms of space, it is a relatively close distance... hence the title of the film.

Q: Is the story in the voiceover about Aunt Rita and Uncle Bill true?

A: Yes! They were my great-great aunt and uncle. From every account of older family members, they were incredibly in love, although I never asked her to go into detail. Uncle Bill died about 20 years into their marriage, and Aunt Rita lived to be over 100 years old and only recently passed away. Their love immediately came to mind when I heard about the black holes. It must have felt like a lifetime apart to her, but 60 years in the grand scheme of human history seems relatively short.

FAQ

Q: Where are the historical photographs from?

A: The historical photos are sourced from our private family archive, Wikimedia Commons, and the Library of Congress. The photo of the middle-aged couple at the beginning is Aunt Rita and Uncle Bill. There are a few others threaded throughout the film. All of the photos included in "Close Distance" are in the public domain.

Q: Where are the images of outer space from?

A: These images were shot in my studio. I used various small-scale pyrotechnic techniques against a black background and shot the real-time unfolding of the light they produced. I also used constant light sources. I captured in color, and shifted to black and white in post-production.

CREDITS & DISTINCTIONS

Written, directed, filmed, and edited by

Colleen Vandenberg

Musical score composed by

Ryan Van Ert

Official Selection of the Brooklyn Film Festival 2023 | Experimental Short

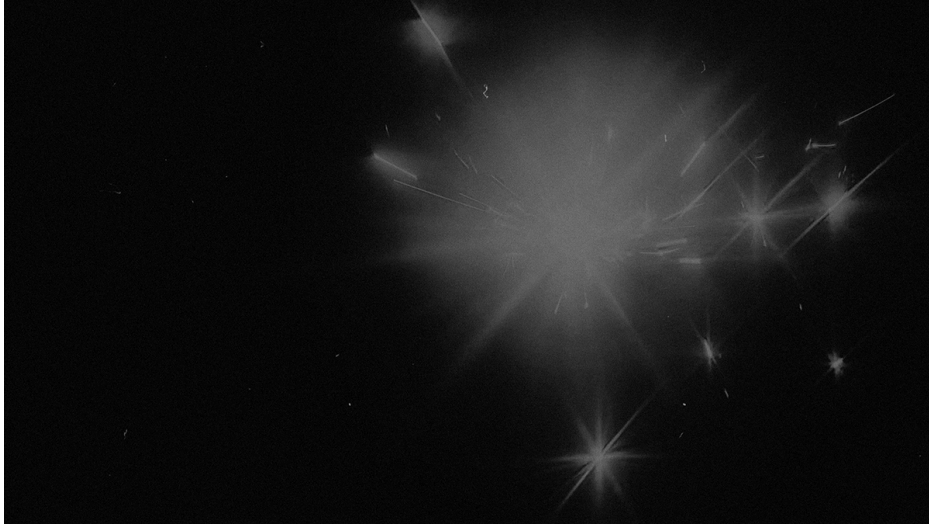
STILLS



Close Distance | Outer Space Scene



Close Distance | Outer Space Scene



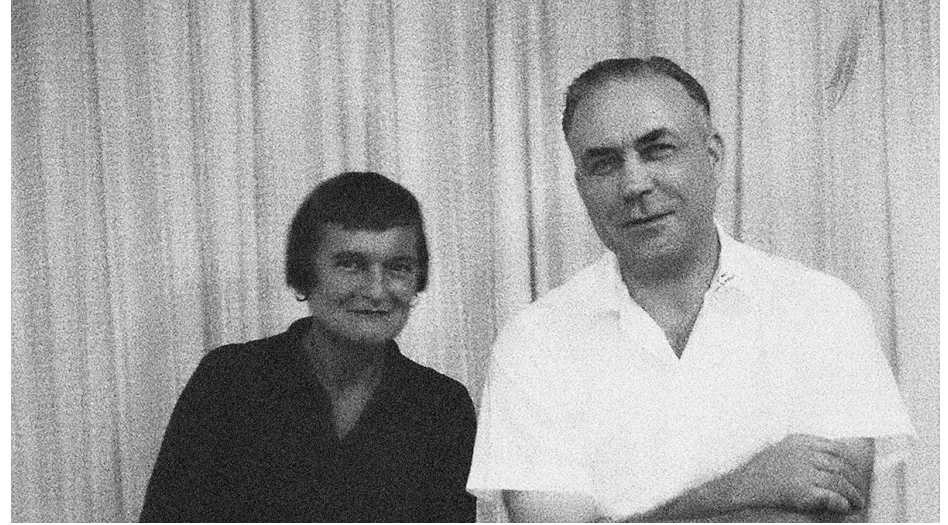
Close Distance | Outer Space Scene



Close Distance | Historical Photograph



Close Distance | Historical Photograph



Close Distance | Historical Photograph