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There is power...





...in numbers.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. LOGLINE	5
2. STORY.....	6
3. CHARACTERS	7
4. THE UNIVERSAL QUANTUM PARTICLE	10
4.5. FRANCHISE POTENTIAL	11
5. TONE	12
6. WRITER/DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT	14
7. TEAM/CONTACT	15



1. LOGLINE/GENRE/THEME

Logline: After her scientist mother dies in a suspicious accident, a determined teen in a remote mountain town leads her friends on a mission to uncover her mother's revolutionary quantum physics experiment before it falls into the wrong hands.

Genre: Emotional Sci-Fi

Comps: Contact, Super 8, Perks of Being a Wallflower

Theme: Disguised as a fun adventure film the true journey of Five is *belonging*. Discovering connection to our family, community and the universe around us.

*"For small creatures such as we, the vastness is bearable only through love."
- Carl Sagan*

2. STORY

World: Small town 'Merica

The mountain town of Arcane, NY is upstate, really upstate. A town afraid of change found itself at the center of it when MIPHEE, the Mountain Institute of Physics and High Energy Exploration, a fringe quantum lab located itself on the outskirts of town. Syston Energy, the fracking company that keeps everyone employed, is firmly opposed to the science at MIPHEE. The townsfolk are split down the middle. Arcane has a mystery at its core that brings people together and also drives them apart.

Synopsis:

Deep in the Catskill Mountains, in the small town of Arcane...

PARK (16), a queer teen, struggling to bloom in the rocky soil, squeaks by with her friends JASON, a fearless, trans cowboy and HAE-WOO, a deaf, Korean wilderness scout. Since Park's father left when she was four her mother, JUNE (45), has been her anchor in the warm but judgemental town.



June, a brilliant physicist working at MIPHEE, is focused on proving the enigmatic Universal Quantum Particle, the fifth element of physics. Number FIVE is the element that connects all things in the universe and is the physical medium for the transmission of light, electromagnetic waves and energy.

One night while Park is waiting outside the lab for her mother it explodes and...

June is killed.

Struggling with grief and stripped of her final refuge, Park is left untethered. Disconnected from her life, Park is forced to ping pong between the two people left to care for her, CLAY (70), her cantankerous, conservative grandfather on her dad's side, who wants to control her every move and AUNT VEE June's churchy, well meaning, sister.

When Clay's company SYSTON ENERGY decides to destroy the lab, Park in a desperate attempt to save anything left of her mother, drags Jason and Hae-Woo on a quest to figure out and connect to the Universal Quantum Particle before it is destroyed.

On a wild journey that reveals more questions than answers, the friends discover FIVE points in the mountains that connect to a quantum accelerator and set out to activate them. NIA (17) a new cute ATV riding cowgirl, joins the group and a spark ignites between she and Park. As Park get closer to figuring out the particle and closer to Nia, Park's confidence grows and a glimmer emerges that connection might be possible both in science and in her life.

As Clay and Syston race to destroy the experiment, the teens rush to complete it, unearthing a deeper mystery in their rural town and ultimately a fifth element...

the Universal Quantum Particle that connects us all.



3. CHARACTERS



Park (16)

Park is a queer kid who walks a delicate balance in the small town that she both loves but also feels spurned by. She prefers to hide rather than feel the pain of rejection. However, after the death of her mother, her one champion, that method of coping is challenged. She is desperate to connect to others but hiding isn't going to work any longer. Until Park lets people see her true self she will always feel alone.

Park is careful about who she lets into her fragile world. Jason and Hae are the inside crew.



Jason (17)

Jason is Park's best friend. An (almost) fearless trans cowboy. Park idolizes that about him but his bravery is a great way to also keep the world out. He is focused on riding and getting out of Arcane and into the rodeo. Sometimes his bull in a china shop mentality comes with limitations. Not all things can or should be plowed through. Jason has been burned and is protective to a fault. He does things his way or the highway and usually gets away with it due to his charm and good looks.



Hae-Woo (17)

Hae-Woo is deaf but can hear with her cochlear implants in. She masks her feelings with her witty, silly humor. She is the anti-victim. Hae beats people to the punch by getting them to laugh with her and not at her. This masks her fear of rejection. Another way of hiding in a community that she desperately wants to be invited into. She just got her driving permit and has an old Chevy pickup truck. She's more likely to win you over with sugar while Jason doesn't care who likes him. Park falls right in the middle



Nia (16)

Nia is a carefree cowgirl on her fourwheeled horse. She doesn't go anywhere without her "ride". She's new to Arcane. Her free spirited lifestyle challenges Park in the best ways. Their chemistry is fire from the first moment they met. Opposites attract. But nothing is ever easy. Nia struggles with rejection and shutting down. Park has to be careful she doesn't accidentally burn this Gemini and bring out her more assertive, protective side.



June (45)

June is a brilliant physicist in a small town where her wit doesn't land with most locals. She's a great mother and wants to protect Park from the world. But June also has work to do so she falls short on the mothering part from time to time. She's the kind of smart that gets so focused on something that everything else falls apart. She wants to make a big change and that takes sacrifice. She has the aura of knowing something we all wish we knew. Something bigger. She feels she has failed Park at times but doesn't know how to fix it.



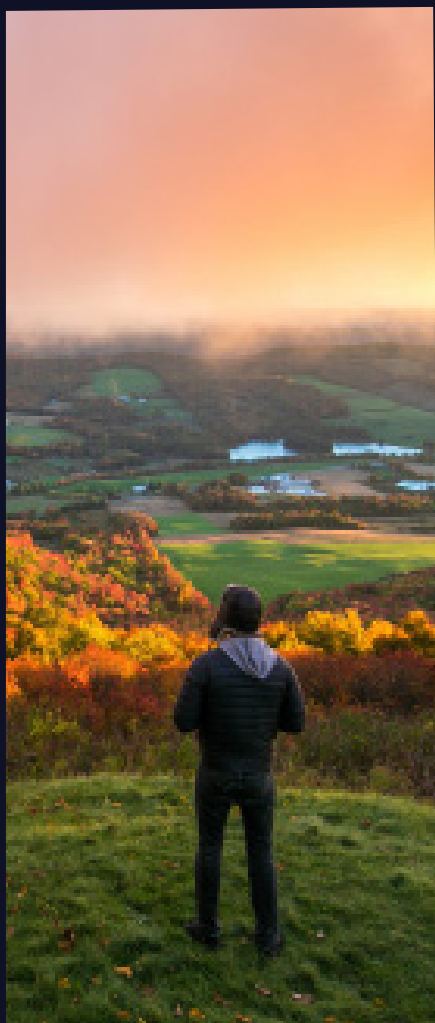
Aunt Vee (50)

June's older sister is a parishoner at the local church. She is the even keeled balancing artist on either side of June and Clay. Vee is salt of the earth, honest and fair. Vee is also known as an unusually long hugger, the kind that makes most people uncomfortable, but she thinks it's good for them. Vee may seem like a simple person, but she has her own secrets just like everyone else in Arcane. She used to work for NASA, but no one knows until the midpoint, so don't tell. She preaches honesty and trust but she could learn from her own lessons. She's hiding in many ways that aren't good for anyone.



Clay (70)

"Pop Pop" Clay was raised in the mountains, and doesn't like change. He holds on tight to the things he loves to a fault. Clay owns Syston Energy, the company currently fracking in the mountains that surround Arcane. Clay loves Park in his own way. Love is complicated. Clay is judgmental but thinks he is doing best by Park. Can Pop Clay change? Can he see Park just for who is really is?



4. THE UNIVERSAL QUANTUM PARTICLE:

SCIENCE FACT:

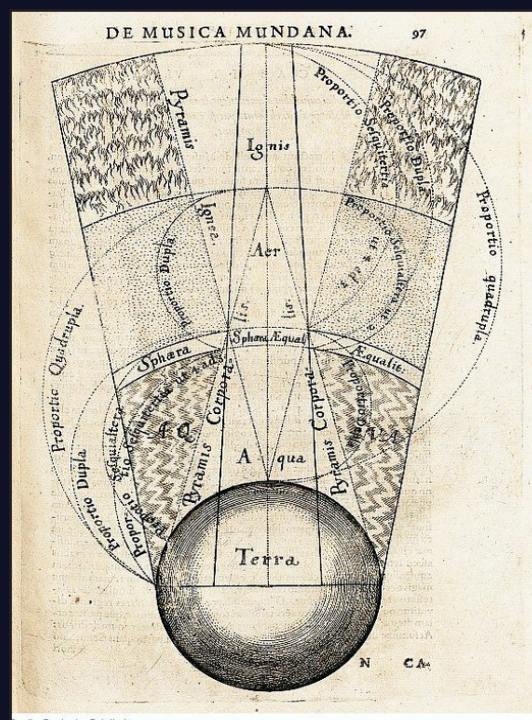
In 374 BC, Aristotle speculated that there is a fifth element called Aether that fills the universe. Physicists since then have evolved that into theories that support the idea of a single universal unified field at the basis of all forms. It has been called Dark Matter or the Energy Wave Theory.

In the 1990s, long before winning the 2020 Nobel Prize in Physics for his prediction of black holes, physicist Roger Penrose teamed up with anesthesiologist Stuart Hameroff to propose an ambitious answer. They claimed that the brain's neural system forms an intricate network and that the consciousness this produces should obey the rules of quantum mechanics – the theory that determines how tiny particles like electrons move around.

The brain is an unknown phenomenon that can engage in non-local communication, but science is just beginning to understand how that works and what that could mean. One of the most important questions in science is how our consciousness is established and how that might be connected to the rest of the particles in the universe.

Currently, billions of dollars are being spent to figure out this question. In 2018 the National Quantum Initiative Act was signed into law establishing the The National Quantum Initiative and Quantum Information Science Research Centers. There is an organization in India lead by Amit Goswami, PHD quantum physicist, called The Center for Quantum Activism dedicated solely to this pursuit. Even the NIH has a research team working on Quantum non-locality.

Right: diagram of classic elements, earth, water, air, fire and aether. (Robert Fludd dated 1617)



THE SCIENCE IN FIVE: The Universal Quantum particle

We jump into the race to connect the quantum dots in this film!

We rely heavily on existing theories of quantum science and creatively fill in the gaps where science has yet to get to. We believe curiosity is the best way to handle incomplete theory.

An excerpt from June's (Park's mom) journal:

"The following details my experiments at the MIPHEE lab in ARCANE, NY, a unique geographical location of high energy polarity for the study of quantum physics.

We seek to establish a connection between THE UNIVERSAL QUANTUM PARTICLE, the source of energy that connects us to the universe around us. Connection to such a particle could feasibly enable non-local communication as well as unparalleled advances in energy and health sciences

Such a particle could feasibly enable non-local communication as well as enable incredible advances in energy science."

SKEPTICS: Let us remember fire was once considered magic. Just because we can't yet explain it doesn't mean it doesn't exist.

FRANCHISE POTENTIAL:

Five total films:

FiVe, IV, III, II, I



The inaugural film delves deep into the genesis of Park and the enigmatic Universal Quantum Particle. In the sequels, the journey will unfurl, drawing upon centuries of research that traces its roots back to the ancient scrolls of Egypt.

The narrative, like an ever-evolving tapestry, weaves together the threads of science, intriguing characters, and closely guarded secrets, shrouding it all in profound mystery.

Hidden truths will be unearthed as Park's quest takes her on a poignant exploration, leading to a reconnection with her estranged father, only to be met with rejection once again. Across the following four films, we follow her unwavering pursuit to comprehend and harness the formidable power of the Universal Quantum Particle (UQP), while simultaneously healing her own wounds and learning to trust those she loves.

5. TONE



"E.T.", directed by Steven Spielberg. 1982.



"Contact", directed by Robert Zemeckis. 1997.



"Annihilation", directed by Alex Garland. 2018.



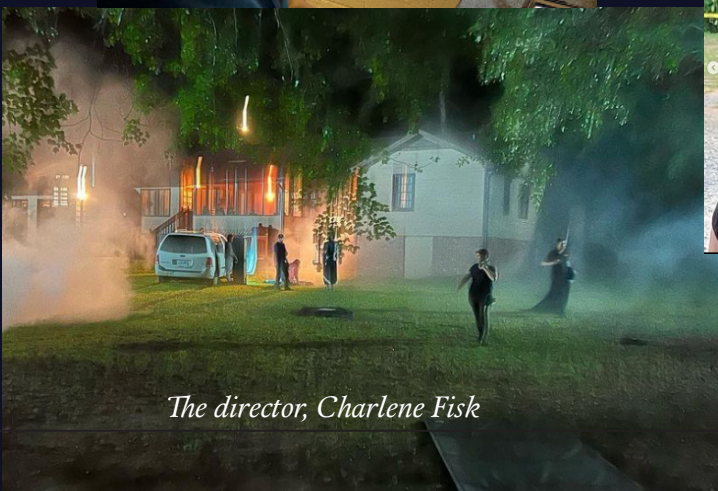
"I Am Not OK With This", directed by Jonathan Entwistle. 2020.

6. WRITER/DIRECTOR - CREATIVE STATEMENT

STATEMENT

Growing up a queer kid in the Catskill mountains, I learned alot about riding four wheelers, baling hay and trying to belong in a home town I adored but that didn't fully accept me. I left. I had to. In order to feel like a whole person and possibly to survive, I had to figure out where I belong. A few years later both my parents died of cancer. I was set afloat in the world with a profound sense of desolation and lost in a liminal space. A nagging question arose in me yet again. Where do I belong?

I dove into meditation and spirituality. I found connections in places I didn't understand. I went looking for answers to unanswerable questions which lead me to quantum physics. I discovered Aristotle's fifth element, quantum energy fields, wave string theory and realized these theories tied closely to religious stories about aether and seraphim as well as spirituality and energy fields. I found physicists who believe in a quantum particle that can create a limitless connection to each other and the universe. This journey into spirituality, religion and science lead me to one conclusion: beneath all the things that make us different we are fundamentally unified and that feeling, that sense of wholeness healed me. What came out of that journey to belong is my film, FIVE.



The director, Charlene Fisk

BIO: WRITER/DIRECTOR

Charlene “Charlie” Fisk Growing up an isolated queer kid in the Catskill mountains, Charlie found solace in her imagination and began storytelling at a young age. An ex-Army sergeant turned Emmy award-winning filmmaker, she won the Audience Award at the ATLFF and Best Doc at LCFF for her documentary, THE FOUNDERS. She followed that film with four award winning short films LIMERENCE, THE LICK, RIDESHARE and THE MOTH. She directed the Emmy winning web series INTERSECTION and most recently she directed network episodes for Discovery and TLC. Her talents aren't confined to the director's chair, she also co-produced and edited MARGARET MITCHELL American Rebel for PBS, the feature film MAN MADE about trans bodybuilders and the short film HOME FIELD which premiered at Tribeca. As a cinematographer she has lensed shows

WHY NOW?

This film is for kids like Nex Benedict who died because they were queer and non-binary. No kid should feel alone. We need visibility and films that lift up the under represented.



8. CONTACT

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