

# i cut i

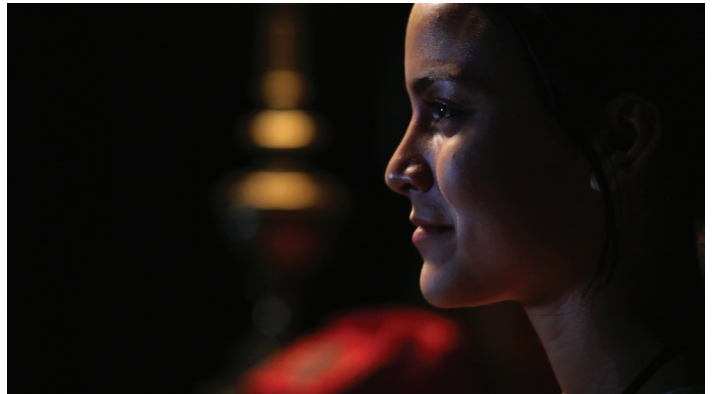


an intimate exploration of a young woman's desire to cut herself for pleasure.

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# synopsis

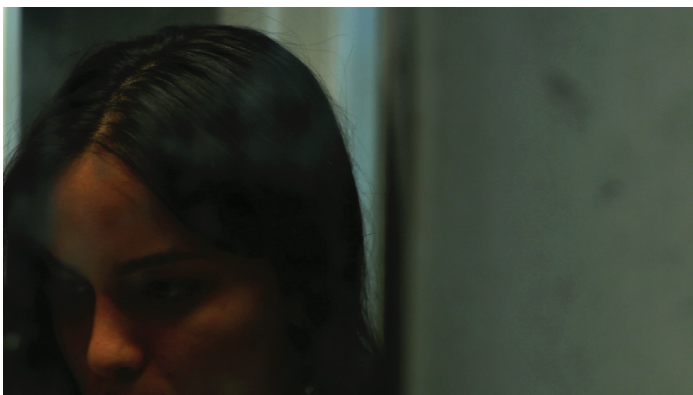
I Cut I explores a night in the life of a cutter. Although, this is no ordinary night of self-harm. What Isabelle experiences this particular evening is a newfound, heightened level of pleasure through cutting that changes her life.



# director's statement

I Cut I is an adaptation of a blog entry from an old schoolmate of mine. It is autobiographical and thus, quite real. I tried to stay true to what she wrote, but also tried to convey a visually compelling story since there is no dialog or interaction with other characters.

While preparing the project, I researched self-harm and self-mutilation. Although I was aware that people do this regularly, I just didn't know that it was more common than I had first thought.





## production notes

The cutting scenes had to feel real so I spent some time researching how to achieve effective looking shots with blood. I also wanted to experiment with the visuals during the cutting scene for a heightened sense of euphoria. For that, we used an Arri 16s, which is a regular 16mm film format camera with a variable motor. The grainy look along with the fluctuating speed helped us get images that would contrast against the smooth, digital feel of the rest of the film.





## maya stojan - isabelle tesla

Maya Stojan was born and raised in Geneva, Switzerland by a Sri Lankan mother and Czech father. She moved to Los Angeles to pursue her acting career in 2008 after receiving a Bachelors degree in Fine Arts in Actor training at the Hartt School of Theatre and Music in Connecticut.

Maya recently starred, as the leading lady, in "Elwood" opposite Ron Pearlman, Bruce Davison, D.B. Sweeney, Michael Rooker and many more. Elwood is a film narrated by Malcolm McDowell and directed by Louis Mandylor. Maya also got the leading role in "The Faithful" (co-directed by Chris Wax and Jason Kropik), which is a film about U.S. marines who find themselves engulfed in the war zone in Fallujah, Iraq.





## dino dumandan - writer/director

Los Angeles native, Dino Dumandan, is a writer, director, and composer. Usually on the post-production side of things, composing film scores, he has recently moved to behind the camera to direct. With a background in photography that started in the high school darkrooms, being behind the camera comes naturally. Dino hopes to share stories with everyone and garner a few fans along the way.

Not only does Dino create for the silver screen, he has also written music for tv, theater, dance, and art galleries. Having a love of music and art in all forms has allowed him to manifest his creativity in a wide range of possibilities. On the photography side of things, he continuously explores the endless ways of capturing light while conveying emotion and meaning through imagery.

## john cruz - producer

A Southern California native, John Cruz graduated from Chapman University in 2002 with a BFA in Film and Television Production. John was accepted to the American Film Institute Conservatory and earned an MFA in Screenwriting in 2005. He has written, directed, and produced several film productions which several have screened at various film festivals.

## pietro villani - director of photography

Pietro is a proud recipient of the 2012 Emerging Cinematographer Award from the ICG Local 600 for "Carjack," which also won the Audience & Grand Jury award for best live action short at the 2011 Cleveland International Film Festival. Previous festival awards won include numerous films along with commercials that have won Addys and Tellys. While at Chapman University, he won the prestigious Einstein Award (top filmmaker) along with the Best Cinematography Award for the film "Papalero."

Pietro began working in the film industry in the late 90's. In addition to his on-set experience, he began his studies at Chapman University where he earned a BFA in Film and Television Production with an emphasis in Cinematography.

In 2002, Pietro was accepted to the American Film Institute Conservatory as a Cinematography Fellow and graduated in June 2004 with his MFA in Cinematography. While at AFI, Pete interned under the great Allen Daviau ASC (E.T., The Color Purple, Empire of the Sun).

## chih-hao chen - production designer

Born and raised in Taipei, Taiwan, Chih-Hao's astute sense of design, form, and function began at a very young age. After studying Advertising at the Chinese Culture University he worked on commercials, music videos, shorts, and features. He continued to broaden his horizons by completing the Production Design MFA program at Dodge College (Chapman University) in Orange, CA. Soon after, Chih-Hao applied his creativity to the entertainment industry and began to work in the art department with Bruce Ryan Production Design. He traveled back and forth to Taiwan and China where he was invited to join features shooting as well as on-going theme park design project from time to time.

## boon sim - composer

Boon is a composer and sound designer and works in the video game and film industries. He is the less talented but better looking half of the electronic music duo Lionswim. He has kids, dogs, a loving wife, and a nice yard. Boon enjoys fan mail and random gifts. One day, when this is all over, he will look back and think to himself that these really were the halcyon days.