



QUEEN OF THE SKY

A Demon Ballet

CONCEPTUAL FILM ART BY CRAIG M BAURLEY



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After attempting a world flight, and ditching over the pacific, the lone female pilot finds herself amidst feral beings stalking her in the shadows of Bikini Atoll, a radioactive island. These beings telepathically manipulate her thoughts and movement, generating a deranged dance as she battles to gain control of her wits.

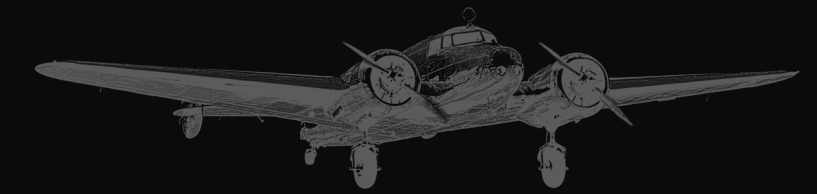
"Queen of the Sky, A Demon Ballet" is a concept for a feature film that combines the beautiful grace of dance with the gut-wrenching terror of horror. The book you hold is a work in process, a sketchbook, of concept imagery and screen tests. "Save Your Self" is a short film, an episode in the series, that was produced to establish a storytelling style, featured in several film festivals.



QUEEN OF THE SKY

A Demon Ballet

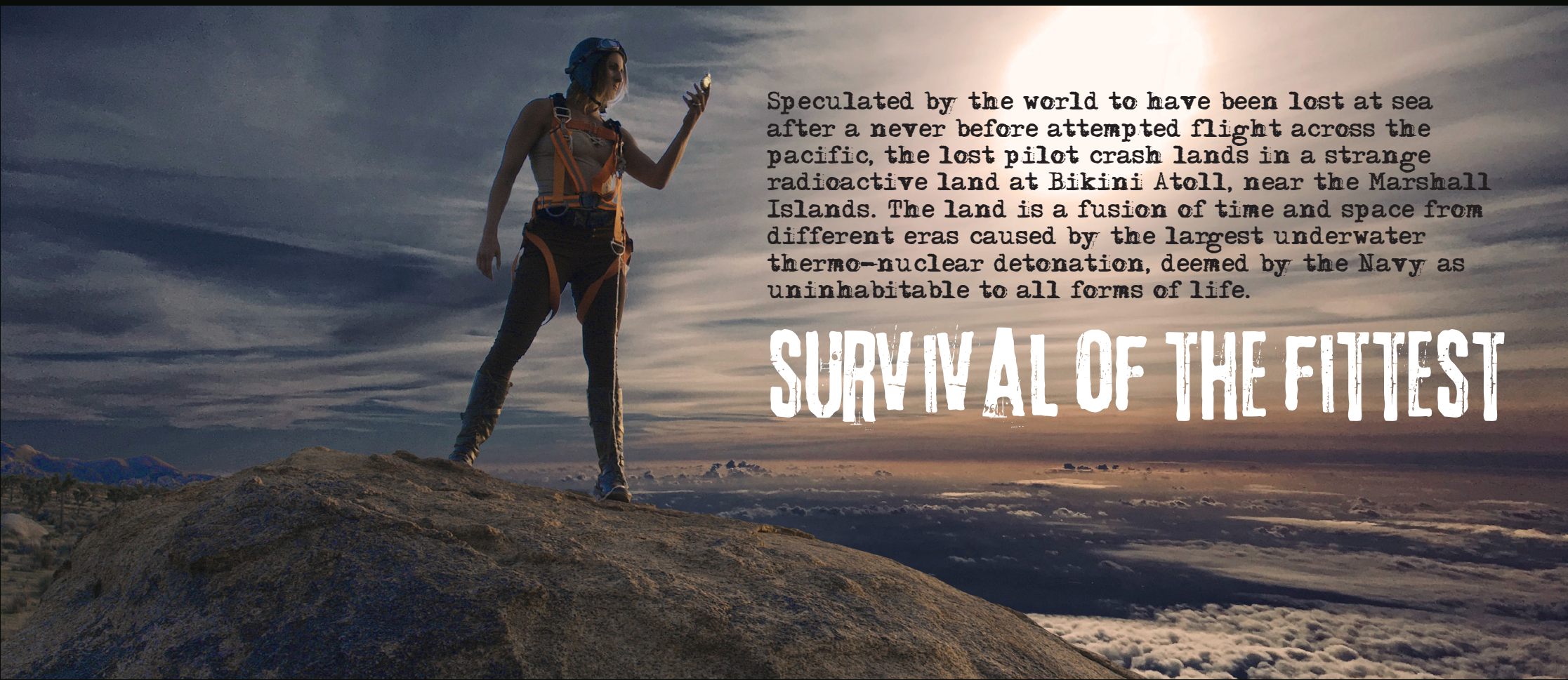
A campfire flickers amidst the rocky slopes revealing the twisted wreckage of a fallen Electra plane. Its pilot is stirring about, struggling to sleep. She is wrapped in a parachute for warmth with her personal belongings tightly guarded. A distant whispering sound causes her to mildly react as if dreaming in a twilight. Quietly and stealthily a pack of humanoid creatures emerge, one by one. They circle closer nudging the sleeping body until she awakens rather explosively with fright. Startled at first, the pilot is choosing between fight or flight, but the pack pays her no mind as they gather and search the terrain with an animalistic behavior. Seeing that the pack is dormant, the pilot moves in for closer inspection. She tries to communicate with them to no effect. She touches one of them, the creature prods back out of curiosity, but moves on. Suddenly the pack starts collecting itself into a unified front. They breath, undulate and shape themselves into a defensive wall.



DEATH BY 1000 NIPS

(Sample Scene)

The Queen of the Sky is caught and loses the torch staff. Resisting and struggling, she slips away. The pack surrounds her in a circle waiting for orders. The alpha leader makes a small gesture and one of the pack makes an aggressive nip at her leg. She turns to fend it off and suddenly a second member of the pack takes a little nip, again from behind. Now she is predicting the next move and quickly turns and mashes down the third pack member with her palm. She is pleased with herself and enjoys the small victory. Emboldened by this she grabs the next pack member by the hair and joyously tosses it aside. Two more pack members pull her legs out from underneath her and she collapses into the splits, caught and dragged along. She punches and kicks at the pack, screaming angrily as the pack completely envelopes her with a heap of bodies.



Speculated by the world to have been lost at sea after a never before attempted flight across the pacific, the lost pilot crash lands in a strange radioactive land at Bikini Atoll, near the Marshall Islands. The land is a fusion of time and space from different eras caused by the largest underwater thermo-nuclear detonation, deemed by the Navy as uninhabitable to all forms of life.

SURVIVAL OF THE FITTEST





THE COCOON REVEAL

(Sample Scene)

The Queen of the Sky is completely covered and pinned down by the pack, waiting for the Alpha to unveil what they've captured. There is a glow coming out of the heap of bodies, and the pack starts to pulsate and move with unison excitement. The Alpha gestures to unveil and release her, then grabs her and cuts her skin on the face. He digs into her temple and she starts to change and react while a small bead of blood drips from her hairline. Her movements start to match the others in pulsation. The creatures in the background move in coordination with the torch glow in hand. She comes to for a moment and notices the warm glow of the torch staff. She grabs it away, breaking free and lunges at the Alpha, burning him. The entire pack reacts in pain and dive in front of the Alpha, pulling him to the back of the pack. The pack dives at her again, but she burns them with the torch staff. Each time she injures one of the pack, they are pulled to the back, and others lunge forward.



Although digitally superimposed, the prosthetic pieces were sculpted by hand to add imperfection and utilize natural textures such as shark teeth and a cast skull.

GRACEFUL TERROR

The guiding principle of both the aesthetic design and movement choreography is to elicit a sense of conflicting emotion of grace and horror. Using this contrast dynamic makes both extremes of the spectrum more powerful. Orchestrated group movement is reminiscent of a circus performance with spectacle and showmanship rather than shock violence. The costumes are not meant to be grotesque, but rather empowered exaggerations of the human form blended with an animalistic features. It's a combination of body-art branding, inter-species anatomy, self-applied warrior makeup and scarring that gives history of a harsh existence.



Dancer: Rissi Zimmerman
Photo: Craig Baurley

3-GILL LIKE DEPRESSIONS IN THIGH WITH SHARK TEETH REVEALS MUSCULATURE.

WEBBED DIGITS FOR DIGGING & BURROWING

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EUSOCIAL HUNTERS

Many animals live in groups, flocks, or colonies but within it each individual functions in a way most beneficial to the individual, rather than the group. Eusociality takes things a step further. In this advanced eusocial species, morphological changes assist them in fulfilling their role in the colony.

Using pack animal movement as a guide, the demon ballet consists of an alpha and an ensemble of followers. In appearance, they are fundamentally human but in behavior they are entirely animalistic, feral and wild. The movement conserves energy where it allows, has outbursts of energy when engaged and is characterized by playfulness within the pack. The ebbs and flows of the movement are very fluid and mesmerizing. There s a sense of holistic body language of a breathing pulsing entity.

INTERLOCKING DERMAL PLATES PROVIDE FALL PROTECTION TO SPINE

BONE AND SOFT-TISSUE CREATURE COMPLEX LAYERING

EXOSKELETON ACCENTUATES HUMAN MUSCULATURE FOLLOWING GRACEFUL

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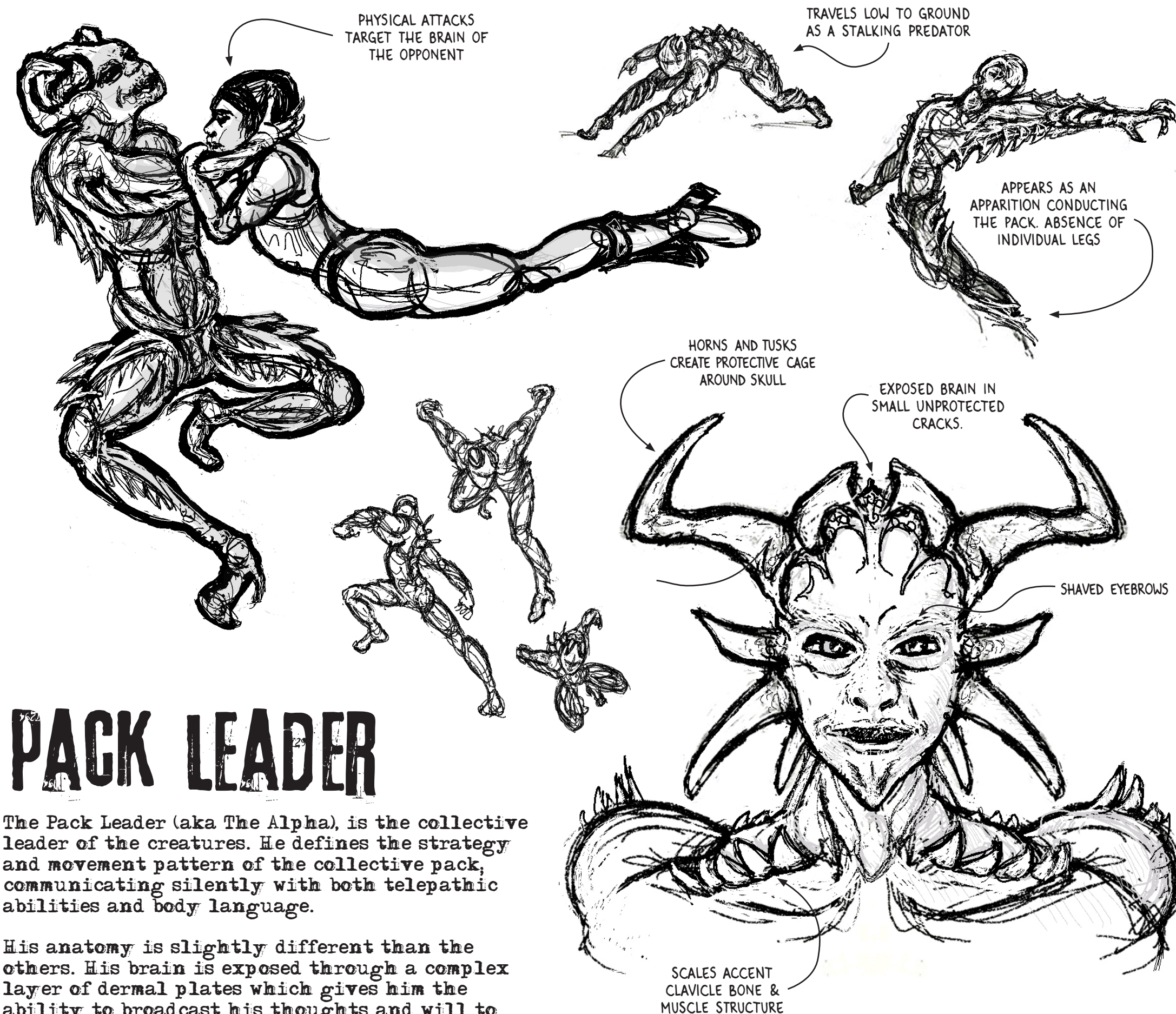
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PACK LEADER

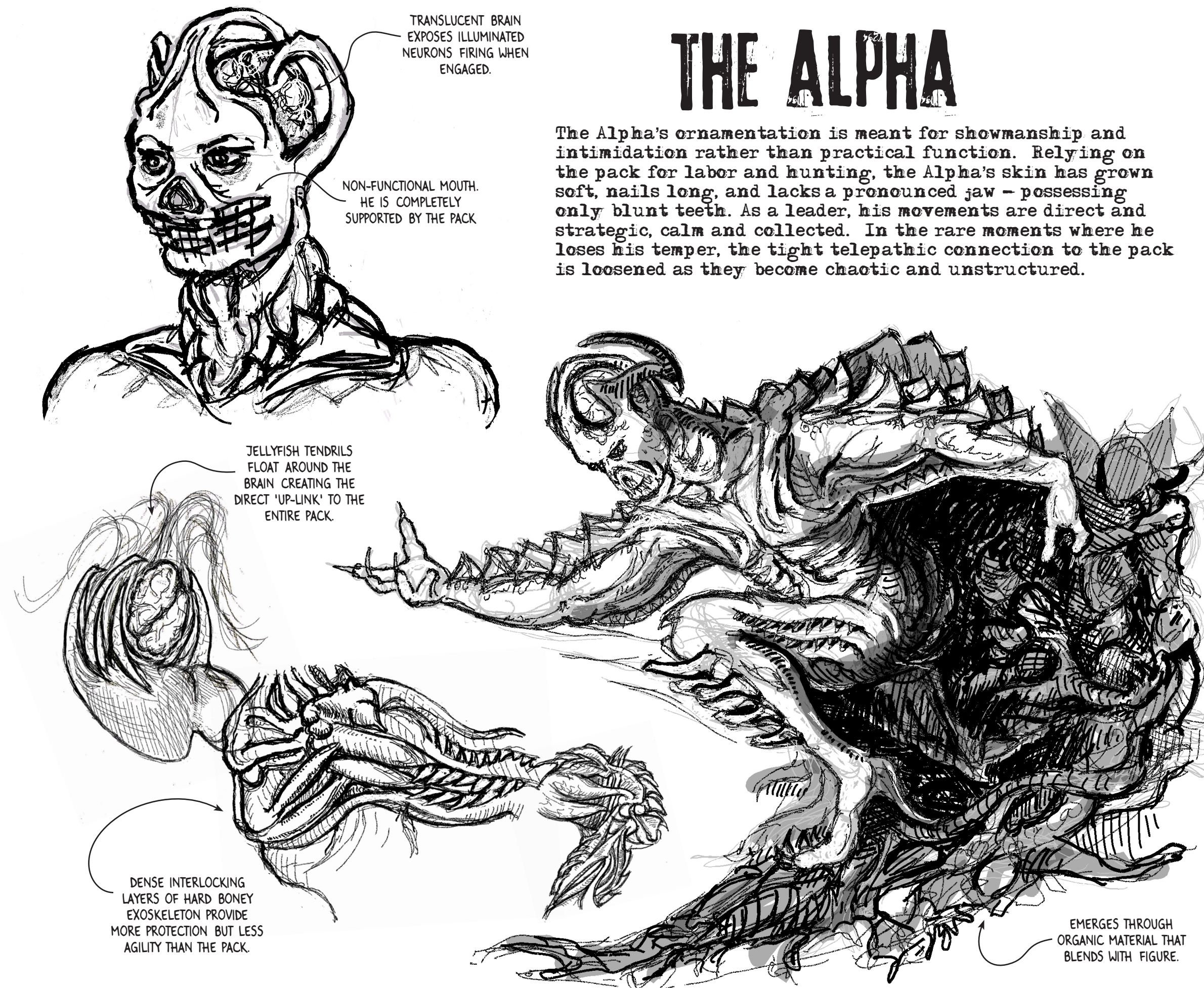
The Pack Leader (aka The Alpha), is the collective leader of the creatures. He defines the strategy and movement pattern of the collective pack, communicating silently with both telepathic abilities and body language.

His anatomy is slightly different than the others. His brain is exposed through a complex layer of dermal plates which gives him the ability to broadcast his thoughts and will to others.



THE ALPHA

The Alpha's ornamentation is meant for showmanship and intimidation rather than practical function. Relying on the pack for labor and hunting, the Alpha's skin has grown soft, nails long, and lacks a pronounced jaw – possessing only blunt teeth. As a leader, his movements are direct and strategic, calm and collected. In the rare moments where he loses his temper, the tight telepathic connection to the pack is loosened as they become chaotic and unstructured.



MAKEUP R+D



Blurring the line between fashion and anatomy, reminiscent of circus theater, the monsters pay homage to their classic b-horror origins.
Dancer: Rissi Zimmerman, Photo: Andrei Andreev, Makeup: Brett Gustafson, Sketches: Craig Baurley

Pictured is a custom sculpted torso by Craig Baurley to be digitally added to photography plates.

RIGHT: Custom sculpted prosthetics to be digitally mapped onto live performances.
BELOW: Makeup application of chroma key paint and digital tracking markers.



Dancer Kira Preston
Photo: Craig Baurley



A SILENT SURREPTITIOUS SLITHER IN THE SHADOWS



WILD+DYNAMIC OUTBURSTS



Dancer: Kristen Holleyman
Photo: Craig Baurley

30 YEARS OF SURVIVAL



ISILLI JHI





WAVE OF BODIES

The Demon Ballet uses synchronized pack movement, flaunting the discipline, the skills and the power of the Alpha. The pack gathers as one body around the Alpha, they pulse on the floor around him in a wave, carrying him towards his prey. They move in tight formation, flowing together, pushing through the bodies and negative space between. Then quickly spreading and flocking with the Alpha's gestures, shadowing his conducting wingspan.



The Queen of the Sky is an anti-hero, determined to survive by any means necessary. Separated from her companion and navigator, she mounts a rescue attempt only to endure immense physical and psychological trauma. Losing most of her humanity, she's driven to violence, desperation and insanity, evolving closer and closer into the Creature Ballet nemesis she despises.

BEASTLY HUMANITY



SCREEN TESTING

Video Screen Test Shoot
Diavolo Dance Studio, Los Angeles, CA

www.youtube.com/c/craigbaurleydancemovementfilms

DIRECTOR/ PRODUCER

Craig Baurley

MOVEMENT DIRECTOR/PRODUCER

Jones (Welsh) Talmadge

STARRING:

Anne-Marie Talmadge

CREATURE CAST:

Jones (Welsh) Talmadge

Rissi Zimmerman

Abbi Samson

Lydia Purves-Ware

Livya Howard-Yashar

Maddy Beadle

Abe Meisel

Jesse Smith

Steven Jasso.

CAMERA OPERATOR

Andrei Andreev

FIRST AD

Mark Freiburger

ON-SET MAKEUP

Ashley Rose Kamali-Jones

SOUND

Joe Kaplan

GRIPS

Raquel Valencia

Tom Barnett

Shenandoah Harris



PREVIOUS WORK

Filmmaker Craig Baurley takes a new approach to visual effects, utilizing the talents of off-screen performers to directly enhance on-screen talent. The movement combines concepts of contact improvisation dance, gymnastics, slapstick, martial arts and partnering to arrive at a unique form of storytelling.

POSTER MODELS
Rissi Zimmerman
Thea Ulrich

PRODUCER/ ART DIRECTOR
Craig Baurley
POSTER PHOTOGRAPHER
Andrei Andreev



A story of two dancers discovering a partnership through space and time results in a wild visually spectacular clash of worlds and wit.

SPECIAL THEORY OF DUET DANCING IN SPACE+TIME

www.youtube.com/c/specialtheoryofduetdancinginspaceandtime

