

Schizo

20-30 Minute Version

by Roland Michel Tremblay

Idea for a Paranormal Film

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Short Synopsis of Schizo

Thomas is a happy go lucky young man who uses powerful drugs for the first time with his two best girlfriends. When they both die, one of an overdose and the other not long after in a freak car accident, he is left alone to continue his life with his parents. They live in a Hotel as his father is the General Manager. After a few mad and horrible hallucinations in which he is haunted by his two friends, Thomas is diagnosed with Schizophrenia, probably the result of his drug trip. In time he gets to control his hallucinations up to a point where he no longer thinks they are illusions, but perhaps he is reaching out to another realm or reality, the realm of the dead. The psychiatrist hired by his parents does not believe so and she is trying to help Thomas using conventional means. From there on Thomas becomes obsess with communicating with his girlfriends and wish to prove to everyone that he is not hallucinating. He manages to build a little apparatus in order to record the voices and images of his dead friends. His mother is not too happy and ultimately destroys his findings. Once Thomas also dies from drowning in the sea, his mother suddenly understands her son's obsession and finally succeeds in communicating with him using his recording equipment. But does she? The psychiatrist does not believe so.

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General Comments

To give you an idea for the feel of this film and Thomas, you should watch the movie *Donnie Darko* with the actor Jake Gyllenhaal. What I like is the depressing and weird mood of Jake. He looks interesting even when doing nothing, with this mysterious aura surrounding him all the time. Mystery is everywhere.

First of all, this movie needs to be cool and frightening, a bit like the movie *Flatliners* with Julia Roberts and Kevin Bacon, which is also a movie where the characters die in order to experience the after life, or I should say their Judgment Day. That movie truly traumatized me at the time (1990) because it was based on something possible. Not only it could be true, but perhaps there were many accounts of similar stories told by people who came back from the dead. Also, the images were just poignant, the sick dog that Bacon had killed came back to haunt him in an extraordinary way. The tree in the dark night, the atmosphere suddenly changing to a horrible place once they are dead and having their visions, all this is well made. And what to say about the scene in the Subway and the light going off. It is in that spirit that *Schizo* should be made.

There are probably some ways to achieve this atmosphere without inputting millions of pounds in the budget. Good music, perhaps a series of Depeche Mode remixes which are often filled with atmosphere (*Songs of Faith and Devotion*). Very short and quick shots of what is happening instead of longer scenes where nothing happens. This could add more action.

This movie starts with the assumption that not all schizophrenic people are imagining what is going on in their hallucinations. Perhaps some of them really reach out to another realm, and perhaps the realm of the dead. So next time you see a schizophrenic talking with no one, ask yourself, perhaps there is really someone there.

The horrific part of their hallucination might be like the results of poltergeists. A manifestation that wish to be friendly but from one realm to another the results are frightening, light bulbs start exploding and things fly around the room. So when Sheila and Nicole are trying to communicate with Thomas, his brain receives a signal (that he will later record with his equipment) and the way his brain interprets it, or translates it, adds a lot of unwanted frightening things when perhaps there were originally none. All this will be discussed in the film.

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Now, as to talking with ghosts and record images, there are already organized associations everywhere in the world that have a staggering amount of proof to offer. To name only two, here is the American Association of Electronic Voice Phenomena (EVP): <http://aaevp.com> and the Instrumental Transcommunication website (ITC): www.worlditc.org.

This film is also about showing to the world that it is possible to record ghosts talking and living somewhere else and that the universe the mediums are reaching can be recorded on our day to day technology. It is a film that is trying to show that there is a world out there where certain people go when they die and that we can reach out for it.

Schizo

Most of the short movie takes place in a hotel by the seaside with a small ferry nearby (a nice place would be the Haven Hotel in Poole (UK), a seaside town where very small ferries go to Brownsea Island just in front of the hotel: <http://www.havenhotel.co.uk>).

It could be another hotel by the sea, in which case you will have to find a ferry somewhere or change the location where they play Ouija. Originally it was an empty stadium.

EXT. VIEW ON THE SEA WITH THE FERRY AND THE HOTEL IN THE BACKGROUND.

George McNamara is the General Manager of the hotel and lives in a nice suite with his wife Doreen and his son Thomas.

INT. RECEPTION OF THE HOTEL. GEORGE AND HIS WIFE DOREEN ARE FINISHING SERVING A CUSTOMER WHEN THOMAS APPEARS AT THE BACK

GEORGE

Thank you very much Mr. Cartwright, we will be delighted to see you again for your conference next year. I trust everything was to your satisfaction?

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CONTINUED:

Both parents are unaware of what Thomas is doing behind their back.

THOMAS

(He says the same thing as his dad, but no sound comes out. He mimics his dad to show that it is a speech he does all the time.)

Thank you very much Mr. Cartwright, we will be delighted to see you again for your conference next year. I trust everything was to your satisfaction?

MR. CARTWRIGHT

I am so pleased with the facilities and the service, we will come again.

(He leaves, not before noticing the strange faces that Thomas is doing.)

Doreen finishes to smile at Mr. Cartwright then turns around to get her son Thomas by the arm, like if he was sick and she wanted to show some support.

DOREEN

Thomas, now, don't panic. I know you don't like the idea but your father and me thought it would be best... considering the recent events... that you meet with Ms Sabatini.

THOMAS

Oh God, I should have known you would not leave me alone after that. Who is she? Where is she from?

GEORGE

She is one of the best psychiatrists in London and she has dealt with... cases like yours. We have given her a nice room at the hotel for a week for free to see if she could help you... help us.

DOREEN

She is waiting for you in the lobby. Please go and meet with her, even for a few minutes. Everything will be all right.

INT. LOBBY OF THE HOTEL. VIEW ON THE PSYCHIATRIST MS SABATINI SITTING ON A COMFORATBLE CHAIR. WE CAN SEE THOMAS COMING IN THE DISTANCE

Thomas appears to be talking with himself or to someone that is not visible. At one point he appears to be in a heated argument and looks up at the ceiling in despair. He falls on the wall like if he has been hit.

MS SABATINI

(to herself)

This is a serious case of schizophrenia. Here goes my nice holiday by the sea.

Thomas sits in front of Sabatini and pulls a second chair for someone who does not exist.

MS SABATINI (CONT'D)

Who is this chair for? Are your parents coming as well?

THOMAS

No. Listen, I don't want to waste your time, I am fine, really. If you could just tell my parents...

MS SABATINI

Who were you talking to a minute ago?

THOMAS

My friend Sheila.

MS SABATINI

Your friend who just died?

THOMAS

I know how this must look, I assure you I am not crazy. I have read somewhere that schizophrenia might not be what it is.

MS SABATINI

So you believe that your two friends are still alive and perhaps living in another realm or plane of existence. Is that so?

THOMAS

Have you ever heard of anything like that before?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MS SABATINI

Many people who are momentarily sick believe that they are not. They will go to such extremes as to recreate in their minds a great universe to avoid seeing reality.

THOMAS

I can see you won't be able to help me if you don't believe me.

MS SABATINI

This is not a formal session. We are just talking, here, in a lobby. Why don't you start from the beginning? I will make my own judgement and I might be able to help you. You need to trust me.

Thomas looks impassible. He looks at the empty chair and closes his eyes.

THOMAS

It started a week ago in the parking lot of the hotel, just before the ferry stopped for the night...

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. FRONT PARKING LOT OF THE HOTEL, QUAY, NEAR THE FERRY.
ALMOST NIGHT

Thomas has two good friends, Sheila and Nicole, and one night they decide to go to an empty ferry boat after closing time to play with their Ouija Board (we can see them leaving the parking lot of the hotel and waiting for the time when all the employees of the ferry company leave).

THOMAS

(Excited with a Ouija Board under his arm.)

I wonder how long it will be before they shuts everything for the night.

SHEILA

(She has a brown bag with alcohol and drugs in it. She looks at the Ouija Board. She is a bit ironic.)

Is this working, really? I heard bad stories about people playing this game, you know.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SHEILA (CONT'D)

Priests had to get involved to chase away the bad spirits.

NICOLE

(She is looking at the brown bag of Sheila.)

I heard bad stories as well about people taking what you brought tonight.

SHEILA

Don't be ridiculous, a couple of Ecstasy never killed anyone. If anything we will be able to see ghosts without the help of the Ouija Board.

THOMAS

That's it, they are leaving, we can sneak in.

I/E. ON THE MAIN DECK OF THE SMALL FERRY.

All three are around the ouija board, bottles of beers in their hands and ready to take the pills.

THOMAS

Are you sure this is safe? I never took drug before.

SHEILA

Don't be fooled by the government propaganda. It is harmless compared with beers, believe me. Here you are.

She hands over many pills to Sheila and Thomas, they are taking them one after the other with beers. They try to call the spirits from the other side, without really taking this seriously and without success.

SHEILA (CONT'D)

(She puts her hands on the little heart of the game)

Ouija, Ouija, we want to see dead people!

NICOLE

Stop it you old cow. We should not joke with this.

THOMAS

Just put your hands like this over the heart. Close your eyes and concentrate.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

They all do as Thomas asked. Suddenly strong winds appear and the Ouija board flies over on the deck. A thunderstorm starts over their head even though the night sky was clear minutes before and we can see heavy rain falling on them. Nothing paranormal at this stage but they realize that Sheila is unconscious.

THOMAS (CONT'D)

Nicole? Nicole!

SHEILA

Call 999!

We see them panic and Thomas uses his mobile phone to call 999.

THOMAS

I would like to report an emergency...

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. LOBBY OF THE HOTEL. MS SABATINI AND THOMAS

MS SABATINI

And what happened after that?

THOMAS

Nicole was rushed to the hospital and declared dead of an overdose on arrival. The next day or so we attended her funeral.

MS SABATINI

How did this affected you?

THOMAS

I was off my head too. I could listen to whole songs in my head from the beginning to the end, with a melody you would never believe.

Thomas is listening to the song in his head, humming, while his head appears to turn around in many directions.

MS SABATINI

(Unimpressed, clinical.)

I see. I understand. And you can hear the song now?

THOMAS

Music is... power.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MS SABATINI

I'm sure it is. How was the funeral, did you meet Sheila?

THOMAS

I am there now. This is where it all started. I can see Sheila...

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. CEMETERY. DAY.

Sheila and thomas are a bit in the distance looking at the tomb going down the earth.

SHEILA

So, do you think it was the Ouija board or the drugs?

THOMAS

(He is looking at the tomb)

What else could it be?

SHEILA

I don't know, something weird happened that night.

THOMAS

You killed her.

At this sentence Sheila is in shock. She will defend herself but Thomas is not listening. Something weird is happening while he is looking at the tomb.

SHEILA

Listen, millions of people in the world everyday take the same amount of Ecstasy we did. Nobody dies from it. It is not my fault. Thomas? Thomas... what is wrong?

Thomas has a vision in which he sees Nicole telling him that she is not dead. A terrifying vision that started when he was looking at her going down in the Earth. She is walking towards him, dressed in a white big dress like an angel.

NICOLE

I am not dead Thomas. I am not deeeeeaaa...

DISSOLVE TO:

I/E. DECK OF THE FERRY. ALMOST NIGHT.

Nicole is by the side of the boat with her mouth wide open. Pills are falling to the floor from her mouth. It looks like a horror scene and Thomas is there in front of her shouting.

THOMAS
Nicole! Nicole!

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. CEMETARY. DAY.

THOMAS
(Like if Nicole was standing in front
of him in the cemetery but she is
not.)
Nicole! Nicole!

SHEILA
Thomas! What is happening?

He does not dare telling Sheila what happened to him after the vision though he is shaky.

SHEILA (CONT'D)
You look like if you had seen a ghost.

THOMAS
Yeah!

SHEILA
You know, if I were dead while playing Ouija,
I would try to communicate with my friends.
Perhaps we should play again.

THOMAS
(Miles away...)
Yeah. Meet me tonight in the parking lot.

INT. LOBBY OF THE HOTEL. MS SABATINI AND THOMAS

MS SABATINI
You went there the same night? Was it wise?

THOMAS
Well, Nicole said she was not dead, I had to
try something.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MS SABATINI

I see.

THOMAS

Nothing weird in your family ever happened?
Brother or sister receiving the visit of the
dead father, or something?

MS SABATINI

I have an aunt who apparently was saved by
her deceased sister. She was told it was not
her time to die and she immediately got
better.

THOMAS

You see? Perhaps I was not imagining
things.

MS SABATINI

Well... but... she was heavily sedated.
Anyway, continue with the story.

THOMAS

So that night we were both on the deck of
the boat again with our Ouija Board, no
alcohol or drug this time...

DISSOLVE TO:

I/E DECK OF THE FERRY. ALMOST NIGHT.

Sheila and thomas are sitting in front of the game with their hands
on the heart.

THOMAS

Nicole, are you there?

SHEILA

Nicole?

The little Heart of the Ouija board starts moving around to spell the
letters Nicole and they start freaking out and immediately stop
playing.

THOMAS

Oh my God, it spelt the name Nicole!

Suddenly the guardian of the boat appears and start shouting.
Thomas and Sheila leaves precipitately. They are scared.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

GUARDIAN

Hey! What are you doing here? You are not allowed on the boat!

They start running out of the boat.

EXT. CAR PARK JUST OUTSIDE THE BOAT

While running away from the Guardian, Sheila gets run over by a car moving quickly in the car park. Thomas is devastated.

THOMAS

Oh my God! Nooooo!

DRIVER

I am so sorry, I did not see her...

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. LOBBY OF THE HOTEL. MS SABATINI AND THOMAS

THOMAS

(Reliving the accident and acting like if he had been hit by the car himself.)

I was devastated. The guardian, the car, Sheila...

MS SABATINI

This is horrible. Did you also experienced a vision of Sheila after her death?

THOMAS

I did. In my bed the very same night of her death.

MS SABATINI

Though it could have been in your dream.

THOMAS

I was awake. I just went to bed...

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. THOMAS' BEDROOM IN THE HOTEL. NIGHT LIGHT FROM THE WINDOW.

Thomas is in his bed, he hears some noise and he closes his eyes tight. He is afraid. When he hears a whisper he turns his head and sees Sheila standing there in his room all in blood.

SHEILA
(loud breathing)
Thomas...

A light bulb explode.

THOMAS
(shouting)
Leave me alone! Get out!

Thomas pulls the cover over his head. Listening to hear if Sheila is still there, he cannot hear anything. He looks again and she is still there, but without the blood.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. LOBBY OF THE HOTEL. MS SABATINI AND THOMAS

MS SABATINI
I was expecting something more...

THOMAS
More what? I can assure you that I almost died of fright that night. She was there, I am telling you. I saw her standing there as I see you right now.

MS SABATINI
Why do you think she was in blood the first time, but not the second time?

THOMAS
I thought about that. I don't think she wanted to appear to me like that the first time. She does not want to frighten me. I am not certain why those horrible images come to mind. Sometimes I feel I can stop the visions from becoming dark. I can control what I see.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MS SABATINI

Is this not a proof that it is all in your mind?
You can influence the hallucination.

THOMAS

I don't think you understand. When you have a poltergeist, the ghost or the spirit does not necessarily wish to destroy the room or make everything fly around. It is the result of a simple action in one realm, like moving your hand, that becomes a tornado when it reaches our plane of existence. I think Sheila and Nicole speak softly to me, but somehow I hear it all distorted. If I concentrate, I can hear what it is they are trying to tell me. If I am afraid, I can only see the darkness.

At this point Doreen, Thomas' mother, appears.

DOREEN

Is everything OK, darling?

MS SABATINI

If I could have a word, Ms McNamara.

She gets up to speak with Doreen but they are not very far away from Thomas.

MS SABATINI (CONT'D)

I am going to contact his school. I believe he should not be going for a while and it might be good to keep him at the hotel for the time being.

DOREEN

Is it serious Ms Sabatini?

MS SABATINI

I believe Thomas is suffering from a form of psychosis. He has false sensory perceptions. I am going to prescribe him antipsychotic drugs...

Suddenly they hear a big noise. When they turn around to look at Thomas, he has fallen down with his chair.

MS SABATINI (CONT'D)

What happened?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

THOMAS

A kid just pushed me off my chair. Didn't you see him?

Ms Sabatini and Doreen are looking around, there is no kid in sight. They look at each other, thinking he is having another episode.

MS SABATINI

(Looking at Doreen.)

You see what I mean?

Thomas is angry, he looks at Sabatini suspiciously.

THOMAS

Have you not seen him? There he is, behind you!

Surely enough there is a kid behind them.

KID

Hello!

THOMAS

You can hear him, can't you?

MS SABATINI

(All embarrassed.)

Yes, I can see him... and I can hear him.

THOMAS

I should prescribe you some anti-psychiatrist drugs...

Thomas leaves the room, leaving Sabatini and Doreen defeated behind him. He goes back towards Reception.

INT. RECEPTION OF THE HOTEL.

George is behind the counter

THOMAS

(Talking while passing by.)

Dad, I will be using the small conference room for a few days. It has not been booked.

GEORGE

Wait, wait! How was it with Ms Sabatini?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

THOMAS

Perhaps you should talk to her. It will help you cope with your son who is definitely suffering from schizophrenia!

George is embarrassed as some customers were nearby listening to the conversation. They look at him weirdly, like if they were judging him as a failing parent.

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM. DAY.

Thomas is setting up his DV Camera, connecting it to his portable computer. He is reading a web page from the Internet saying:

INTERNET AND THOMAS

(he reads aloud)

Recent work with people diagnosed with schizophrenia-spectrum disorders have revealed that their hallucinations might actually be real. They would be seeing real people and talk with relatives recently dead but living in another realm.

Thomas scrolls down.

INTERNET AND THOMAS (CONT'D)

It was no longer possible to deny when a small group of patients succeeded in recording the voices they were hearing and some images of the recently deceased. This practice is called EVP, or electronic voice phenomena. They apparently used very primitive recording machines and were able to record and play the voices using a simple application downloadable [here](#).

Thomas clicks on download. It is called EVPMaker and can be downloaded here:

http://aaevp.com/techniques/techniques_ev13.htm.

He starts recording with his camera invisible people to whom he talks to.

THOMAS

Sheila, Nicole, are you dead? Where are you then? Why can't anyone else but me can see you? Why can I hear you?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

On reviewing the film and listening to the sound, he clearly has recorded some answers on a very low frequency, and he had to play the sound in reverse.

NICOLE

(Disembodied voice.)

We are not dead!

SHEILA

(Disembodied voice.)

We are here, it is nice here.

NICOLE

(Disembodied voice.)

They could see us if they found the link.

SHEILA

(Disembodied voice.)

You can hear us because you are listening.

Ms Sabatini and Doreen are coming into the room. They heard the last answer.

DOREEN

What are you doing? What was that horrible voice?

She is frightened.

THOMAS

I have recorded my pseudo hallucinations.
Look, I think I even have an image...

Thomas opens another window and we can see a vague image of Sheila and Nicole.

MS SABATINI

Who are they supposed to be?

THOMAS

Sheila and Nicole. I wonder if my schizophrenia could actually be just another way to reach out to my friends that are dead, but living in some other reality.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

MS SABATINI

I heard of people with such powerful visions that they somehow got recorded by ordinary equipment. Though this is rare, it is not unheard of.

THOMAS

No. They are still alive somewhere, not just in my imagination.

DOREEN

Stop saying that! Stop!

Ultimately this is too much for his mother, in a rage she closes the computer lid brutally, unplugs the camera, take the tape and destroys it.

DOREEN (CONT'D)

Go to your room!

Thomas leaves. Doreen is in a bad shape and Sabatini comforts her.

EXT. ON THE SHORE. ALMOST NIGHT. THOMAS IS ALONE.

That night on the shore Thomas can again see his friends and they are inviting him far into the sea.

SHEILA

Thomas, come here.

NICOLE

Thomas, come with us.

He plunges and starts to swim very far in the distance.

EXT. ON THE SHORE. DAY.

The next day his parents find him dead on the shore. Both parents are very depressed. We will see Doreen walking alone on the shore later on.

THOMAS

(Voice only.)

Mom!

Doreen turns around, she does not see anyone.

THOMAS (CONT'D)

Mom!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Doreen turns the other way, no one. She appears to get an idea and starts walking fast.

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM. DOREEN AND GEORGE.

DOREEN

George, can you open the computer?

GEORGE

(Opening the computer's lid.)

The computer is still on.

Doreen is getting a new tape that she puts in the camera and she starts filming.

DOREEN

Thomas, are you here with us? Are you still alive?

GEORGE

Are you mad? Are you also schizophrenic? I thought it might be hereditary...

She stops the camera, rewinds it a bit and gives it to George.

DOREEN

Plug this into the computer and find a way to upload the data into that open application.

GEORGE

(Doing it anyway.)

I don't know how this works!

DOREEN

Just click on help.

GEORGE

Thank God Ms Sabatini is here until the end of the week, enjoying her promised holiday. I can tell we will need her services much more than anticipated.

George clicks some buttons.

GEORGE (CONT'D)

Ok, I think I got the gist of it. Here it goes.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

THOMAS

(Disembodied voice. We hear it in reverse, so we cannot understand what it says.)

Mom, I am here. I am still alive!

DOREEN

Click on play in reverse.

George clicks on play in reverse.

THOMAS

(Disembodied voice.)

Mom, I am here. I am still alive!

DOREEN

Oh baby! My baby!

She runs to the window, looks at the sky and cries.

GEORGE

Amazing. This is incredible.

DOREEN

(Going back to George.)

There might be images.

GEORGE

Ok, I see. Here it is.

An image of Thomas appears, all blurry but still clear. Both Doreen and George are ecstatic. Ms Sabatini gets in at this point and George instinctively closes the lid of the computer.

MS SABATINI

Oh, I am sorry to disturb you. The guy at reception told me you would be here. I just wanted to know how you were holding on.

DOREEN

Well, Ms Sabatini, perhaps Thomas was not crazy. Look, we have recorded his voice and we have an image of him.

MS SABATINI

(With doubts in her voice.)

Really? Well, show me.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

George shows the image. It looks much more blurry than the first time we saw it, but it is the same photo. We see it from the perspective of the psychiatrist this time. It is impossible now to tell if it is a human being on the photo.

MS SABATINI (CONT'D)

Well, this could be anything. You see Thomas in there?

DOREEN

Don't you see? Here is his smile!

We cannot see anything. She appears to be seeing smiles where there are none.

GEORGE

And here is the voice.

THOMAS

(Disembodied voice, inaudible, a lot of static noises.)

Maaa, aye heeere. aye ill aillive!

DOREEN

Did you hear? He said: "Mom, I am here, I am still alive!"

MS SABATINI

(Completely unconvinced.)

OK. I see. Oh well, I am very pleased for you. And now if you don't mind, I think the swimming pool awaits me!

Ms Sabatini leaves, leaving Doreen and George to their devices.

INT. CORRIDOR OF THE HOTEL. OUTSIDE THE CONFERENCE ROOM.

MS SABATINI

(With a smile.)

A whole family suffering from schizophrenia. I think I can get at least a few weeks holiday here for free...

We see her walking away.

The End

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