

A man with a concerned expression is looking towards a large, glowing, metallic object on the left side of the frame. The object has a complex, textured surface and is illuminated from below, creating a dramatic, low-key lighting effect. The background is dark, with some faint blue light visible on the right.

THE VOICE
IN THE VESSEL

Runtime: 10 minutes | Aspect: 2.39:1 | Stereo 2.0

Production Company: Art Department Films

In Association with: Elmgrove Films



**THE VOICE
IN THE VESSEL**



LOGLINE

A grieving father discovers a coin-operated automaton capable of channeling otherworldly voices, leading to a tense journey through guilt, redemption, and consequence.



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EARLY PRAISE

"A tight, creepy as eff psychological take with a twist ending that would make O. Henry proud."

- Phil Johnston, Academy Award®-Winning Writer (Zootopia, Wreck-It Ralph)

"A mysterious, surprising, and beautifully shot film that is anchored by a fine lead performance, building to an ending you won't soon forget."

- Tim Bartell, Award winning, Writer/Director (Dirty Beautiful)

"Intriguing and enigmatic film with a solid performance wrapped in exquisite cinematography"

- Antonio Mata, Director of Photography



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EARLY PRAISE

"A haunting, perplexing parable, walking the fine line between life and death decisions and their often parallel consequences."

- Richard Blacke, Actor/Writer/Director

"An intriguing tale to rival any Night Gallery or Twilight Zone. Great performance by Jason Buss. Superb production design and cinematography."

- Michael O. Sajbel - Writer/Director

"Jason Buss walks us through an emotional performance, holding us by the hand as he is forced to make an impossible choice. The best performance of Buss's I've ever seen."

- MIFA Film Review Critic



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SYNOPSIS

Aaron's wife is dead. His son lies in a coma. In the attic of his grandmother's house, he discovers a coin-operated relic: a cast-iron automaton. When he drops in a nickel, the machine stirs to life. From within its torso comes the sound of typewriter keys striking, followed by a card sliding out - then another, and another - each posing strange, intimate questions. Disturbed, Aaron tries to dismiss the final question, but the automaton insists his choice will decide his son's fate. Is the voice in the vessel merciful or malevolent? To learn the truth, Aaron must confront how much of himself he is willing to sacrifice.



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CAST & CREW

CAST:

Jason Buss - *Aaron*

Daniel Wheeler - *The voice of the automaton*

CREW:

Written & Directed by: Daniel Wheeler

Director of Photography: Nathaniel Haban

Additional Cinematography: Daniel Wheeler

Producers: Daniel Wheeler, Grace Park, Jason Buss, Tom Thorne

Film & Sound Editing: Daniel Wheeler

Assistant Camera / Gaffer / Production Assistant: Moriah Koehler

THE VOICE
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ABOUT THE DIRECTOR



Daniel Wheeler is a multidisciplinary artist based in Wisconsin whose career has earned him grants, fellowships, and gallery recognition. This foundation in fine art continues to shape and strengthen his work as a filmmaker. Rooted in the haunting beauty of Wisconsin's forests, his films often explore the tension between belief, doubt, and the unknowable. His recent works, *The Last Witch in Wisconsin* and *The Voice in the Vessel*, showcase his DIY ethos - from writing, directing, and editing to handcrafting the central props that define their worlds. Each project reflects a piece of his own story, abstractly biographical, where personal experiences are transformed into universal ones.

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ABOUT ART DEPARTMENT FILMS



Founded by Daniel Wheeler, Art Department Films LLC creates independent films where craft is as vital as story. Guided by a DIY ethos and an art-first approach, ADF builds worlds from the ground up - designing and handcrafting props, environments, and soundscapes. Every frame is treated as art, and every project is made to endure beyond its runtime, sparking conversation long after the credits fade.

THE VOICE
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BIO - Cast & Producer



Jason Buss is an actor and producer known for his grounded, emotionally resonant performances. He brings a strong presence to roles, often drawing from lived experience and a self-taught foundation in storytelling. With a background in radio and years of behind-the-scenes experience, Jason discovered his "happy place" to be in front of the camera. Jason calls Wisconsin home and is excited that film production tax incentives have returned to the state.

Producer's quote - "I did not know exactly what I was in for when this project came to me, but it provided opportunities to grow and came together in ways that I could not have imagined."

THE VOICE
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BIO - Producer



Grace Park is a producer and a driving force behind Art Department Films. She holds a Master of Fine Arts from Indiana University and has been recognized with multiple grants and fellowships for her work. With her fine arts background, she brings a wealth of creative vision and organizational strength to every project. At Art Department Films, Grace's role as producer extends beyond logistics - her artistic background and leadership help shape projects from concept to completion.

THE VOICE
IN THE VESSEL

BIO - Producer



Thomas Thorne is an established producer, writer, and occasional actor. From early beginnings as a studio camera operator for a nationally broadcast educational program, to working as an extra in the Michael Mann / Universal Pictures movie *Public Enemies*. He was a founding father, board member, and president of the Wildwood Film Festival in Appleton, WI. Tom has recently helped produce the award winning short, *The Last Witch in Wisconsin* as well as the soon to be released short, *The Voice in the Vessel*. He has also been heavily involved in writing assistance and acted in, *Daniel Needs to Leave*, as well as numerous other short films in the last few decades.

THE VOICE
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BIO - Assistant Camera / Gaffer / PA



Moriah Koehler, a filmmaker and video editor in Northeast Wisconsin, is a multi-faceted creator known for elevating projects with a focus on detail and depth of story. Her editing work has been featured at the Door County Short Film Festival, the Chicago Horror Film Festival, and the WAMI Awards.

THE VOICE
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STILLS

[\(HQ image access\)](#)





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CONTACT

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