

Marcus Stokes

www.marcusstokes.com

Marcus Stokes is a director whose talent for both innovative storytelling and amazing visuals is truly unique. He entered the world of film production as a computer graphics artist at George Lucas' Industrial Light and Magic (ILM). While at ILM, Marcus created groundbreaking visual effects for blockbuster films including *Star Wars Episode I*, *Minority Report*, *Wild Wild West*, and *Small Soldiers*. He then moved to Los Angeles and supervised visual effects for *The Matrix Reloaded and Revolutions*, *I Robot*, and *Serenity*.

Marcus officially began his directorial career when he joined the Director's Guild of America as a commercial director and created ads for clients including GMC, Nissan, and Walt Disney Pictures. During this time, Marcus also worked on documentaries, music videos, and even as a segment director for the *NAACP Image Awards*. Soon after, Marcus realized his true passion in narrative filmmaking and began creating his own content. His very first film as writer/director, *The Catalyst*, was so successful on the festival circuit that it was acquired by HBO and aired on their networks for two years.

Marcus continued to develop his unique blend of storytelling and visual skills by working closely with veteran directors Tim Story and F. Gary Gray. This combination of talents is most evident in his latest VFX short film, *The Signal*, executive produced by Tim Story and starring Michael Ealy and Grace Phipps.

Today, Marcus is focused on continuing his narrative filmmaking career in the world of episodic television. He is a past recipient of the ABC Directing Fellowship and has shadowed on network shows including *The Ghost Whisperer*, *No Ordinary Family* and *Hawthorne*. In the world of feature films, Marcus has joined forces with veteran genre producer Cody Zweg (*The Lazarus Effect*, *The Hills Have Eyes*). Together, they are working to bring Marcus's latest original screenplay, a post-apocalyptic thriller entitled *O2*, to the big screen.

Before Marcus' life in the film industry, he worked in the field of Architectural design, in which he holds a Master's degree from the University of California, Berkeley. He also spent three years working in rural Japan as a language instructor and translator for the Japanese Ministry of Education.