



# THEATER OF THOUGHT

Directed by Werner Herzog

107 Minutes | 2022



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**SYNOPSIS**

Through the lens of legendary filmmaker Werner Herzog, Theater of Thought takes audiences on a provocative journey into the study of the mind and consciousness, daring us to question whether we truly have autonomy over our thoughts, or if our brains will inevitably become infused with mind-controlling technology in the not so distant future. Gathering insight and predictions from some of the world's most influential scientists and innovators, Theater of Thought is an exploration of the ethical, and existential, effects that neurotechnology presents in our rapidly advancing world.

## **DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT**

Much of what's in THEATER OF THOUGHT has been dormant in me for a long time. It all fell in place when I met one of the greatest and foremost scientists in the field of brain research, Rafael Yuste and the film was created with great vehemence as we discussed further.

How can we read thoughts? Can you implant a chip in your brain and in my brain, and see my new film without a camera? Why is it that some young people immerse themselves in video games and become addicted to completely artificial worlds? Sometimes mice even prefer invented cartoon worlds, so who is the ghost writer of our mind, of our reality?

## **CREDITS**

Written, Directed and Narrated By  
Werner Herzog

Chief Scientific Advisor  
Rafael Yuste

Produced By  
Werner Herzog  
Ariel Leon Isacovitch

Executive Producers  
Doron Weber  
Kerstin Emhoff

Director of Photography  
Luke Holwerda

Edited by  
Marco Capalbo  
Original Music By  
Ernst Reijseger

2nd Camera  
Gus Holwerda

Director of Photography (Germany)  
Peter Zeitlinger

Director of Photography (Chile)  
Vicente Rosselot

Still Photographer  
Lena Herzog

Grip  
Jose Cruzat

Electric  
Daniela Donoso

Location Sound  
Gus Holwerda

Location Sound (Chile)  
Juan Verdugo Guzman

Location Sound (Germany)  
Liat Ben Ishai

Sound Edited and Mixed  
By Marco Capalbo

Color Correction  
Giovanni Ombra

Production Coordinator  
Rodrigo Allel

Legal Services  
Golder, Sieburth & Sieburth  
Developed By  
Skellig Rock, Inc.

Additional Footage and Archival Stills By  
Philippe Petit  
Lena Herzog

Additional Footage and Stills Courtesy of  
Senate TV Republic of Chile  
Avatar at Walt Disney Studios  
Jack Gallant Lab at UC Berkeley  
Tom Gruber Underwater Video/Stills  
Hillman Lab: Biomedical Engineering at  
Columbia University  
Luna Ikuta Transparent Garden  
Firefly and Spider Images by Samuel James  
Einstein the Parrot, Zoo Knoxville  
Medtronic medical technology Archive video  
Moonbug, Little Baby Bum  
Earth by Alexander Dovzhenko, Mos Films  
StarCraft II Video Game Trailer  
Yonhap News Agency

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Richard Axel

Ed Boyden  
Cori Bargmann  
Tobias Bonhoeffer  
Edward Chang  
George Church  
Jamie Daves  
Karl Deisseroth  
John Donoghue  
Eberhard Fetz  
Joseph Fins  
Jack Gallant  
Jared Genser  
Dario Gil  
Senator Guido Giardi  
Sara Goering  
Tom Gruber  
Uri Hasson  
Bryan Johnson  
Christof Koch  
Kristin Lauter  
Joseph LeDoux  
Matthew McCann  
Debjami Mukherjee  
Philippe Petit  
President Sebastian Pinera  
Rejesh Rao  
Ken Shepherd  
Rodney Smith  
Juan Walker

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Kernel Company  
Roxie Theater  
SHACK 15  
The Max Planck Institute of Neurobiology  
University of California San Francisco  
University of Washington Center for  
Neurotechnology  
Weill Cornell Medicine

“Thought”  
Composed and Performed by  
Ernst Reijseger

“Empty Screen”  
Composed by  
Performed by  
Ernst Reijseger  
VU Chamber Choir

“Flow”  
Composed and Performed by  
Ernst Reijseger

“Fuzzy Parrot / Elephant”  
Composed and Performed by  
Ernst Reijseger

“Quantum World”  
Composed and Performed  
by Ernst Reijseger

“Map of Your Mind”  
Music & Lyrics by  
Performed by  
Joseph LeDoux

The Amygdaloids  
“Hydra”  
Composed and Performed by  
Mario Forte and Ernst Reijseger

“When the Night is Dark”  
Music & Lyrics by  
Performed by  
Joseph LeDoux  
The Amygdaloids

“Virtual Crickets”  
Composed and Performed by  
Mario Forte and Ernst Reijseger

“School of Fish”  
Composed and Performed by  
Ernst Reijseger

“Notturmo 2.0”  
Composed and Performed by  
Ernst Reijseger

“Dreams of Fish”  
Composed and Performed by  
Mario Forte and Ernst

Reijseger

“Kyrie”

Arranged and Performed by

Ernst Reijseger

“Frame of Comparison”

Composed by

Performed by

Ernst Reijseger

VU Chamber Choir

“Siegfried Idyll”

Richard Wagner

Arranged and Performed by

Ernst Reijseger

“Commands to the Brain”

Composed and Performed by

Mario Forte and Ernst Reijseger

“Harvest of Apples”

Composed and Performed by

Mario Forte and Ernst Reijseger

“Ghostwriter”

Composed and Performed by

Ernst Reijseger

“You Win Again”

Written by

Hank Williams

Performed by

Andy Jones & The Plainsmen

Courtesy of Archive.org

Published by Ara Records

“All in a Nut”

Music & Lyrics by

Performed by

Joseph LeDoux

The Amygdaloids

Ernst Reijseger Cello, Shruti Boxes, Voice

Mario Forte Violin, Viola d’amore

Harmen Fraanje Piano

Jeffrey Bruinsma Violin

Genevieve Verhage Cello

Erik Bosgraaf Recorder

VU Chamber Choir

Tenore e Cuncordu de Orosei  
Piero Pala - mesuvoche  
Tonino Carta - voche  
Gian Nicola Appeddu - Crona  
Massimo Roych - voche  
Mario Siotto - bassu  
The Amygdaloids  
Nina Galbraith Curley  
Colin Dempsey  
Joseph LeDoux  
Gerald McCollam  
Daniela Schiller  
Tyler Volk

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### Quotes from Select Theater of Thought Reviews

- "In one of his best docs yet, Werner Herzog turns his lens on the world of brain computer interfaces, their therapeutic potential and chilling implications." - Sheri Linden, *THR*
- "A quintessentially Herzogian fusion of hope, horror, humor and heart." - Sheri Linden, *THR*
- "Theater of Thought" is something of a trip into Werner Herzog's brain, so stumbling through that fog can be quite entertaining." - Steve Pond, *The Wrap*
- "Theater of Thought" is a movie about exploring the mind – and if the mind we're exploring most of the time is Herzog's, well, there are far worse tour guides through this territory." - Steve Pond, *The Wrap*
- "This is decidedly a talking-heads sort of film, but the talk and the heads are worth listening to and beholding." - Todd McCarthy, *Deadline*







