

The Sky Is Not the Limit...

CALLING ALL EARTHLINGS

A new documentary film by
Jonathan Berman



2018, 77 Minutes, Color and Black and White
Full Press Book, 300 dpi Photos, and More:

www.callingallearthlingsmovie.com

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CALLING ALL EARTHLINGS

One Line

Flying saucers, FBI agents, and a time machine meet up at the Integratron, a mid-century mystery dome in the desert that serves as a touchstone for all things alternative.

Synopsis

Calling All Earthlings explores a mid-century UFO cult led by one-time Howard Hughes confidante, George Van Tassel. Van Tassel claimed to have combined alien guidance with the writings of inventor/physicist Nikola Tesla, and other controversial science, to build an electromagnetic time machine he dubbed "The Integratron." Was he insane? Or could the dome really break through boundaries of space, time, and energy? FBI agents worked against Van Tassel and the alternative community that formed out of his work. Would he finish the Integratron before the government finished him?

Calling All Earthlings looks at all the roots of counterculture, particularly through the lens of the reactions against and inspiration of "Big Science" and "The Bomb." The story portrays the roots of the Peace Movement, Burning Man and even the FBI's notorious COINTELPRO program. The verité tale of Van Tassel and his dome is told by relatives, neighbors, skeptics, believers, scientists, healers, artists and historians. The film features the "stewards" and owners of the Integratron, the Karl sisters; Dr. Kevin Starr, the preeminent historian of California; Eric Burdon, Singer for The Animals and War; and the legendary Drs. J.J. and Desiree Hurtak.

The Story

August 24, 1953: George Van Tassel sleeps under the stars, next to a giant bolder in the remote Mojave. A stout, midwestern engineer, Van Tassel is a former flight inspector for, and alleged confidante of, Howard Hughes. A ship awakes him, he declares, from outer space. Solganda looks human and communicates in perfect English. The being gives Tassel plans for a dome, an Integratron, a machine that will spin, creating a powerful, pulsed electro-magnetic field. The dome would solve a vexing issue: that our time on earth is fleeting, and when we finally find wisdom, it's too late. The dome would solve this through cellular rejuvenation, and its technology would go "light years" beyond that.

Van Tassel sets to work. To support the Integratron, he creates the first alternative desert gatherings: The Interplanetary Spacecraft Conventions, which draw thousands to the desert. The true believers, the curious, and the emerging alternative crowds arrive, alarming the government, which launches a counter-intelligence plan against the peace-loving participants. It turns out that the Integratron dome sits right on the border of the huge Marine Corps Training Center at Twentynine Palms.

Van Tassel doggedly pursues his vision, using funding from his ex-employer Howard Hughes and the popular conventions. It's 1978, and its finally all systems go. But right

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before the dome's activation, en route to a speaking engagement, he dies suddenly, mysteriously. What happened?

It's now the 21st century and the beauty and the mystery of Joshua Tree and the High Desert is "a thing." A new threat, one more devastating than the military's presence has arrived: gentrification. Houses are snatched up for Airbnb rentals, and the vibe of lonesome desert is disappearing into waves of real estate speculators and espresso bars.

On a road far enough outside of the town, the Integratron still stands, a question mark in the sand. It was never turned on, but the people who obsess on it appear to have been activated. The Integratron's current owners have dealt with waves of popularity before: the dome was featured on Huell Howser's PBS show *California Gold*. After being discovered by the New York Times, Rolling Stone and through word of mouth, The Integratron is now booked solid for months.

Calling All Earthlings presents a space where the 1950's meets the modern day. The people who inhabit the film are the de facto heirs -- and doubters -- of Van Tassels wild ideas. They each embody some aspect of the man: homesteaders, astronomers, philosophers, mystics, desert mavericks, and storytellers.

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Filmmaker Statement

As a child in the suburbs, I was certain that our family was from outer space. My friends and I played music, made Super 8 films, and got into trouble. To me, the desert seemed even further away than space— remote, majestic, surreal. At McGill University in Montreal, new possibilities in living emerged, including space visitors: my neighbors, the Raélians, were a crazy UFO cult. Upon graduating I took truly odd jobs, traveled and kept making films. At a life impasse, I browsed the defunct Bodhi Tree bookstore in Los Angeles, and saw a photo of a tattered, goth looking Integratron, with a sign on its edge, suggesting a certain "mad science" vibe: "For Basic Experimentation Into Life Extension." I was hooked.

The square jawed George Van Tassel, via his proffered Venusian connections, offered up possibilities to a midcentury that challenged deep assumptions. He said our cells could be recharged like batteries, allowing a marked increase in our lifespan, in order to truly serve man with the wisdom that comes later in life. He said that energy, like the energy of the Earth's motion, is unlimited. His dome would employ arcane technology to blast through these outmoded suppositions.

Was Van Tassel a sage with a message? A con man with a plan? A backyard scientist who was years ahead of his time? The folks who began gathering in the desert to support Van Tassel's beliefs and work were met by FBI action, and it's here that the anti-communistic alarm of the era solidified into plans of containment and disruption of public protest.

A lot of yesterday's science fiction is today's reality, and yet a full dose of sunlight in the right direction can shrivel the veracity of the sturdiest tale. Was Van Tassel the Father of Modern Conspiracy Theory, or was he on point, that the authorities really are hiding a network of intergalactic intrigue from the common man?

I'm a skeptic who wants to believe in magic. The existence of extraterrestrial overlords is not my beat. My continued obsession with the dome is in its action as a talisman, offering profound questions about our relationship to life and each other. I follow the conversation of a subculture, not with derision or slavish devotion, but with love and possibility.

The story offers one more key idea that was also found in my film *Commune*: no one has to suffer through an urban 9 to 5 life of quiet desperation. One could move to the wilderness and get their piece of, and peace in, the American Dream. A place to think: about Biblical Prophecy, Tesla free energy, Yogananda, communitarianism, eternal youth, and space people, to start. It's a heady brew.

As I was shooting, I briefly left the desert to go to Malibu and show a couple of minutes of the work-in-progress to some folks and raise production funds. This squirrely guy appeared. He claimed intelligence connections, and said, sotto voice, that "they" have built other Integratrons, in the Bahamas and beyond, and this was just one of them. Unlike the Integratron, the other domes had been activated and were working. I wanted to get into it with him, find out more, but I looked up and he was gone. Vanished.

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About The Filmmakers

Jonathan Berman (Producer/Director) has had a longtime obsession with film and filmmaking, beginning as an assistant editor and as a stock footage researcher. His film *Commune* (2006), looked at a seminal commune, the Black Bear Ranch, to explore the wins and excesses of the Sixties and Seventies. His film *My Friend Paul* (2000), about his relationship to his bipolar best friend, was produced with ITVS, a part of the US public broadcasting family. He is director and producer of *The Shvitz* (1994), a film about the last traditional steambaths in New York. His films have been awarded grants from the NEA, NYSCA, The Jerome Foundation and more; broadcasts include the BBC, PBS, Sundance Channel, Discovery, ARTE, and others. Festival screenings include SXSW, Slamdance, Amsterdam Documentary Festival, (IDFA), Karlovy Vary and many others. Berman co-wrote the story for the independent comedy *On The Run*. He was the American producer on Claudia Heuermann's German TV project *Sabbath in Paradise*, which featured Harvey Pekar and John Zorn. Berman helped create *On The Run* for director Bruno De Almeida.

Alan Steinfeld (Executive Producer) is the host and producer of *New Realities*, a production company based out of Youtube's Manhattan offices. Interviews have featured thinkers, scientists, artists, and religious leaders such as Deepak Chopra, John Gray, John Anthony West, and Ram Dass. Steinfeld is a writer, producer, director, photographer and licensed acupuncturist.

Danny Kuchuck (Co-Producer) Danny Kuchuck is known for his work as a writer-director on *Cryptic* (2009), *Blue Vengeance* (1989) and *The First Man* (1996), which features Heather Graham and Lesley Ann Warren. He began his career with Cinema Sciences, a legendary grindhouse company, where he learned every role in filmmaking by doing it quickly and cheaply. He is currently the Supervisor of Special Projects at Protek Vaults, a LAC Company. Protek is the top archive-vault in Los Angeles. Kuchuck's expertise in film ranges from old to new and celluloid to digital. He specializes in nitrate film stock and antique movie production and presentation equipment and techniques.

Iain Kennedy (Editor) is a native of London, He attended the USC School of Cinema/Television MFA where he made *Angel's Trumpet*, which screened at the Tribeca Film Festival. His feature *Palace of Silents*, is a documentary about The Silent Movie Theatre of Los Angeles; it was released by Flicker Alley and shown on TCM. Kennedy received an Emmy nomination in 2004 for his work as editor, writer, and supervising producer. Editing credits include Xan Cassavettes's *Z Channel: A Magnificent Obsession*, (Official selection at Cannes, Toronto, LA Film Festivals, and others); *Bounce: Behind the Velvet Rope* (2000, Best Film, LA Independent Film Festival) and *Tupac Shakur: Thug Angel and The Walk* (Official Selection, Sundance Film Festival).

Elliott Sharp's (Composer) work is a tour de force of the postmodern, mystical, funky and bluesy. He composes starkly modern operas preformed at Brooklyn's BAM and in Cologne and played in punk collaborations in the 1980's. He has worked with John Zorn, Vernon Reid, Shelley Hirsch, and blues guitarist Hubert Sumlin. He wrote the score for the play "Yellowman" and many film and television shows.

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Clive Wright (Additional Music) originally hails from Bath, England. He is a longtime resident of Joshua Tree, where he works with ambient composers like Harold Budd. In an earlier incarnation, he was an "MTV rocker," with the bands Broken English and Cock Robin. Wright has played and recorded at the Integratron and at planetariums and has had experience with UFO contact. He is currently playing music with plants.

Tony Molina (Director of Photography) shoots and directs documentaries (*Kassim the Dream*, DP), music videos and concerts (Michael Jackson, Morrissey, Jennifer Lopez, camera) commercials, and feature films. Additionally, Molina is a famed surf and rock still photographer.

Gregory Wilson (Director of Photography) shoots features, commercials, music videos, art installations and documentaries. He shot the 2018 Sundance selected short documentary "Zion, as well as "Amateur" (2016) for Mandalay Pictures. Wilson has lensed material for concert films with the Black Lips and John Legend. He received an Emmy nom for his commercial "Love Cam" and has also shot spots and shorts for Nissan, Wrangler, and Skyy Vodka.

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More about The Integratron



CABINET MAGAZINE

“MASS EFFECT”

by Sasha Archibald

Full story here: <http://bit.ly/2JH6CD5>

The New York Times

The New York Times

“Welcome to the Integratron”

by Jody Rosen

Full story here: <https://nyti.ms/2JFag0r>

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Key Credits

Carpe Stella Productions and Freestyle Digital Media Present: *Calling All Earthlings*

Featuring THE KARL SISTERS, DR. KEVIN STARR
with ERIC BURDON, JJ and DESIREE HURTAK
and THE PEOPLE of the HIGH DESERT
Producer/Director JONATHAN BERMAN
Editor IAIN KENNEDY

Directors of Photography TONY MOLINA
GREG WILSON
Co-Producers IAIN KENNEDY
DANNY KUCHUCK
Composer ELLIOTT SHARP
Additional Music by CLIVE WRIGHT

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FULL CREDITS

Produced & Directed by Jonathan Berman

Cinematography Tony Molina
Greg Wilson

Editor Iain Kennedy

Music Composed By Elliott Sharp

Additional Music By Clive Wright

Executive Producer Alan Steinfeld

Co-Producers Danny Kuchuck
Iain Kennedy

A Presentation of Carpe Stella Productions

Participants

Art Kunkin
Ashley Smith
Bob Benson
Bob Berman
Brandon Hull
Charlyn
Clive Wright
Daniel Boone
Dr. Desiree Hurtak
Dr. J.J. Hurtak
Dr. Kevin Starr
Dray-Tron Stephenson
Eric Burdon
Ernest Siva
Gary Lovelace
Heather McDonald
Jackson Barlow
Joanne Karl
Karen Tracy
Kaydee Dimes

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Kyle "Caveman" Stratton
Manny O'Rourke
Matthew Boone
Nancy Karl
Renee Hanley
Ted Markland
Ted Quinn
Thomas Valone
Tim Kelly
Valerie Brightheart
Vickie Rose
Victoria Williams

Additional Participants

CA Paranormal Private Investigators
Dr. Brian Herman
Dr. Deborah Windham
Dr. John Burchard
Erik Davis
Gabriel Wendling
Igor Raman Drandic
Jimmy Biggerstaff
Maja D'Aoust
Peaches Veatch
Rhonda Lynn Hayes
The Recyclists
Thomas Fjallstam

Voice of John Malone

Ron Lynch

Voice of Mrs. Reed

Judy Bauerlein

Associate Producers

Derrick Hussey
Paul Rabin

Music Supervisor

Stephen Popkin

Legal Counsel

Frank J. Gruber
Alexandre M. Yousefzadeh, Donaldson + Callif

Advisors

Christopher Munch
Dr. Bonnie Bade
Dr. Clifford Trazer

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	Dr. Darko Suvin
Additional Camera	Amitabh Joshi Aneta Nowicka Jackson Barlow Sam Lipman-Stern Sven Kamm
Production Associates	Jackson Barlow Mike Norman
Interns	Monique Allen Sean Francis
Craft Services	Kali Poulin
Woodstock Unit Producer	Suzy Meszoly
Visual Effects & Motion Graphics	Craig Bassuk
Motion Graphics	Andrew McCormick
Additional Editing	Jane Abramowitz
Assistant Editors	Brandon Weil Temra Pavlovic
Post-Production Associates	Don Bapst Katie Longawa Max Monteil Sean Francis
Re-Recording Mixer	Max Braverman
Colorist	Paul Byrne
Online Editor	Brian F. Gordon
Post House	Grand View Post
Title Treatment & Poster Art	Scrojo
Footage Courtesy of	Andrew Wood Archive.org, in Association with Prelinger Archives Critical Past DanielFry.com

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Defense Video Imagery Distribution System
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Ian Rough
KVOS Channel 12 Film Records
Center for Pacific Northwest Studies,
Western Washington University, Bellingham
Pond5
Steve King

Additional Footage

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Earth Vs. Flying Saucers Trailer
Delbert Newhouse UFO Footage
NASA
NBC Evening News
Star Wars Trailer
The Stranger
Fox Movietone Collection (Yogananda)

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Marianna Proestou Burdon
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Michael Huspek
Michael Uhlenkott
Mimi Riley
Minda Martin
Mitch Reichler
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Peter Katz
Randall Frisch
Randy Dugan
Robert Tucker
Roger Lotchkin
Rosa Ficara
Sara Eden Moss
Sean Donovan
Siona van Dijk
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Love Cat Music
Machine Project
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Other Cinema
Palm Springs Fashion Week
Pro-Tek Vaults

Publicity

Sylvia Desrochers/ Big Time PR

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The Visionary State by Erik Davis & Michael Rauner, from Chronicle Press

Overlords by David Davison from Daves Tree Press

Project Developed At Art Monastery Project, Labro, Italy
California State University San Marcos
Contact in the Desert, Joshua Tree
Fundacion Valparaiso, Mojocar, Spain

Music Composed by Elliott Sharp Courtesy of zOaR

Clive Wright's Album Deluge Courtesy of Darla Records

Other Musical Contributions
Black Mill Videotape Performed By Pye Corner Audio
Written By Martin Jenkins
Courtesy Of Ghost Box Records

Cowboys & Aliens Performed By Gram Rabbit
Written by J. Leischow & J. Rutherford
Courtesy Jesika von Rabbit

Breaking of the Day Performed By Erik Pearson
Written By Erik Pearson
Courtesy Of LoveCat Music

In the Stars Performed By Jordan Halpern Schwartz
Written By Jordan Halpern Schwartz

I Am Manoj Performed By Jordan Halpern Schwartz
Written By Jordan Halpern Schwartz

Absence of Gravity Performed By Twin Peetz & Moolsassa
Written By Patrick Peetz & Frank Gericke
Courtesy Patrick Peetz

Night Crawlers Performed By Twin Peetz
Written By Patrick Peetz
Courtesy Of Hello Strange

Old Ticket Booth Performed By Derek & Brandon Fiechter
Written By Derek & Brandon Fiechter
Courtesy Of Brandon Fiechter

SoundSphere Performed By Wizdom Music
Written By Gerald Peter
Courtesy Of LoveCat Music

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Harmonia/Deluxe (Immer Weiter)

Performed By Harmonia
Written By Harmonia
Courtesy of Groenland Records

Saving Up for My Spaceship/Illuminate

Performed by earthlings?
Written by Dave Catching, Fred Drake, Peter Stahl
Came From Within/ASCAP
Big Plastic Things/ASCAP
Hopscotch/ASCAP

Dedicated to

Daniel Boone
Ted Markland
Kevin Starr

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