

PERCIVAL'S SUNKEN OBSERVATORY

BY IAN ATKISSON

DRAMA SCI-FI FANTASY

Percival, a young astroengineer displeased with the world and its **fantastical war**, is cursed into **old age** by an elderly man. While continuing to design spacecrafts for the war, his laboratory becomes an **impossible sanctuary** - a living observatory that defies **physics** and **reason**. Within its crystalline walls, staircases spiral into infinity, rooms breathe and metamorphose, and geometry bends to **emotion** rather than logic.

In a bright world filled with buildings of painterly lighting, this surreal **visual poem** blurs the boundary between **architecture** and consciousness. As he dives deeper into its shifting corridors, the observatory becomes a **mirror** of **inner transformation** - a fever dream of liberation rendered in impossible angles, ethereal textures, and **haunting beauty**.

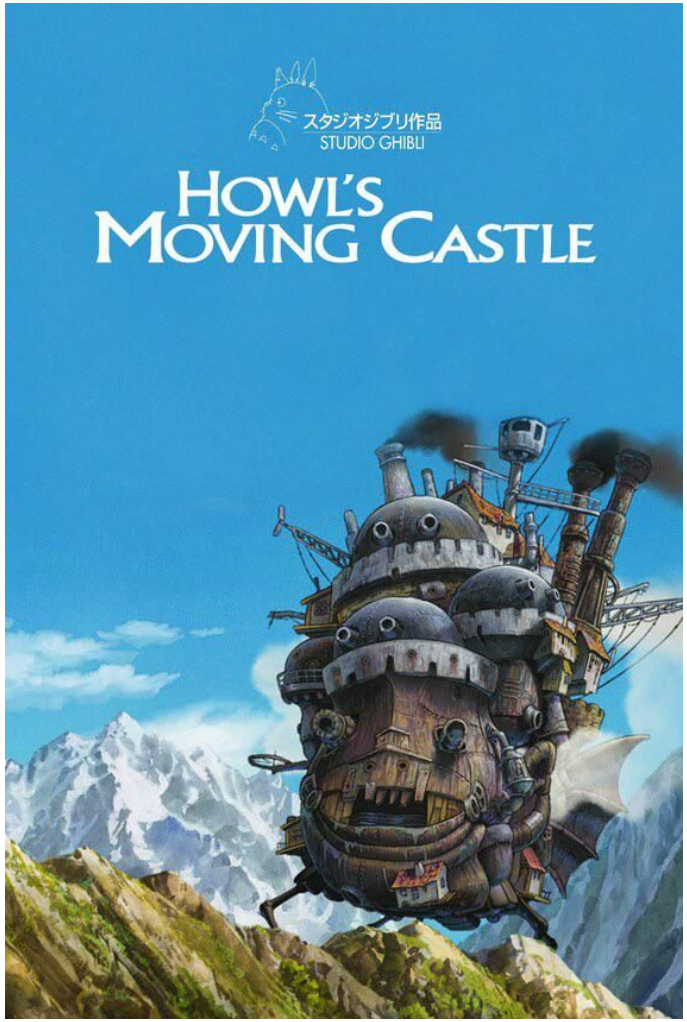
While the observatory clarifies his conscience, the reality of the war too becomes in question.

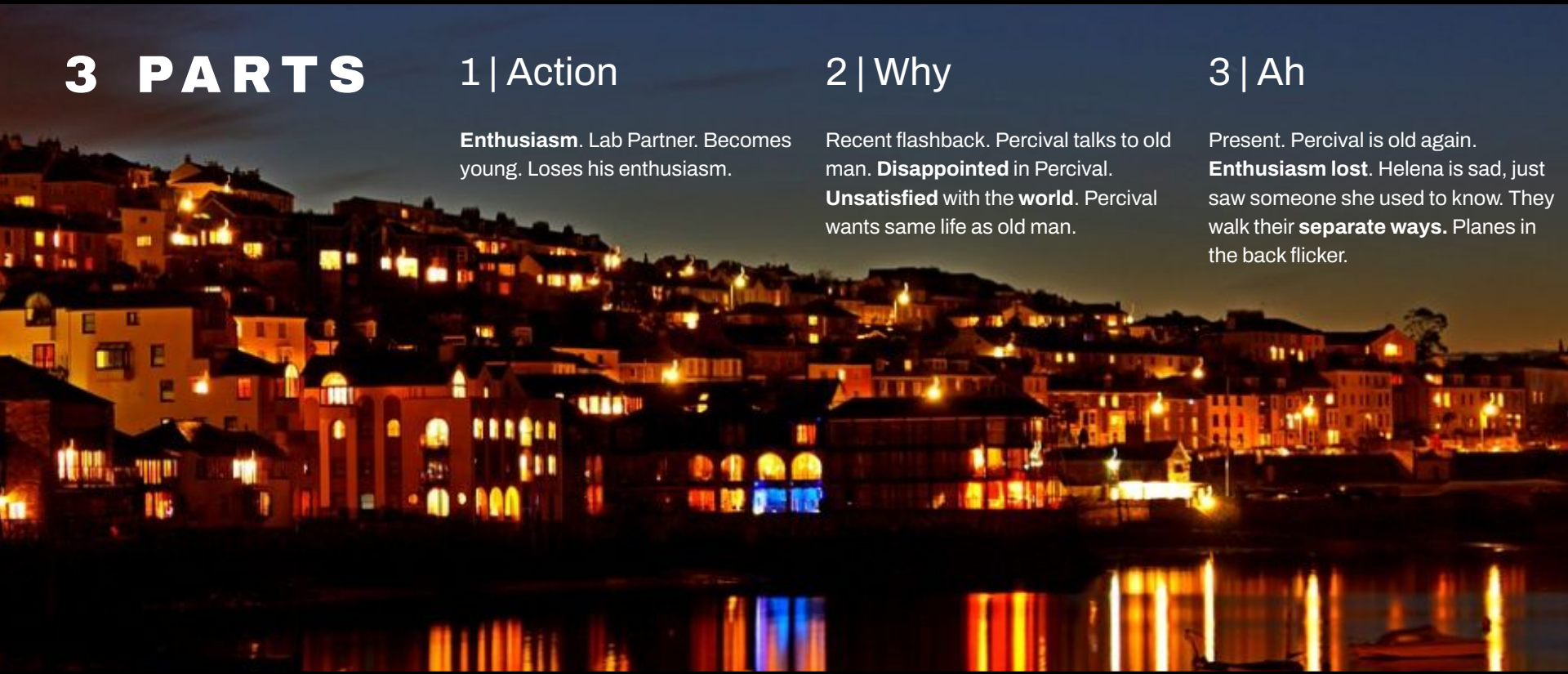







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HOWL'S MOVING CASTLE



3 PARTS

1 | Action

Enthusiasm. Lab Partner. Becomes young. Loses his enthusiasm.

2 | Why

Recent flashback. Percival talks to old man. **Disappointed** in Percival. **Unsatisfied** with the **world**. Percival wants same life as old man.

3 | Ah

Present. Percival is old again. **Enthusiasm lost**. Helena is sad, just saw someone she used to know. They walk their **separate ways.** Planes in the back flicker.



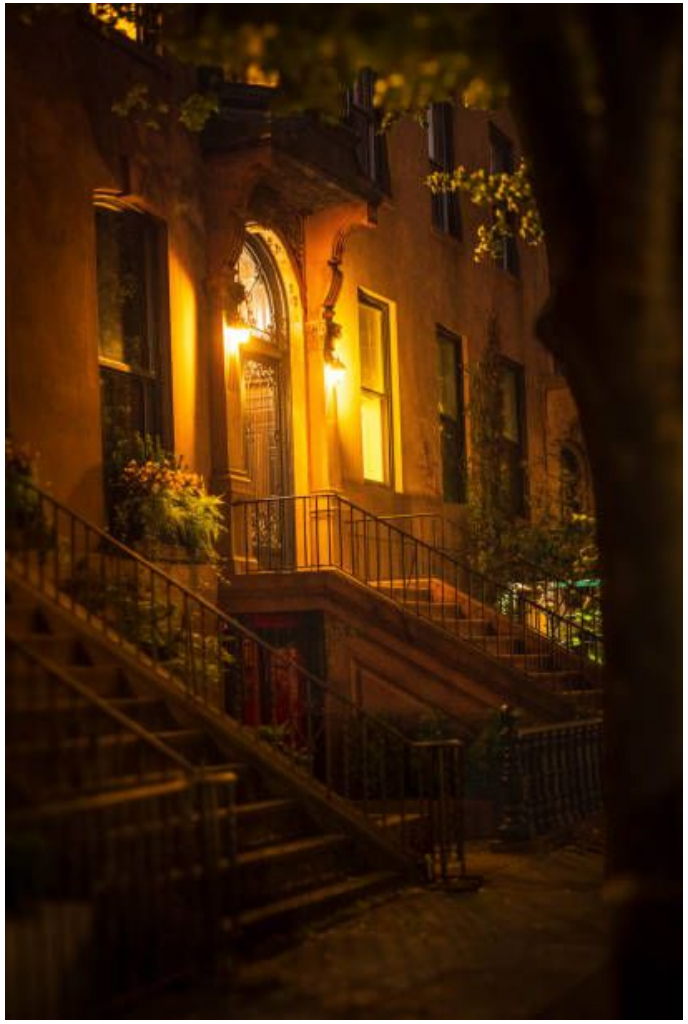
SETTING

Small coastal city in the UK. Dystopian present.



STORY LOCATIONS







Character Profiles

Main Characters

◀Percival (young)

-British, **astronautical engineer**.

-Handsome, **charming**, quiet. **Upset** with the world beyond his own.

-Mid 20's, **healthy build**. Tall, roughly 6’0”. Wears semi-formal clothes.

-Slightly messy hair, **almost** well put-together.

-**Lacking emotion**. Monotone. Under a lot of **pressure** that he’s put on **himself**.

Helena▶

-British, lab partner to Percival

-Pretty, natural beauty, **confident**, high emotion, **enthusiastic**, bubbly.

-Mid 20's, **healthy build**. Tall, roughly 5’8”. semi-formal attire.

-**Clean appearance**, minimal/no makeup, “**professional**” look.

-**Helpful** towards the development of astronautical weapons. Though she does this **blindly** without thinking. **Level-minded** person.





Character Profiles

Supporting Characters

◀Percival (old)

-British, **depressed** astronautical engineer.

-Quiet. **Lacking energy**. Slow. Upset with the world beyond his own.

-**Elderly**, normal build. Tall, roughly 6’0”. Wears semi-formal clothes.

-Slightly messy hair, physically looks beat, **unhealthy** skin. **Tired**.

-**Monotone**. Very **breathy** delivery when speaking. Out of breath. Under a lot of **pressure** that he’s put on himself. **Constant-working** life.

Mysterious Man▶

-British, speaks to young Percival.

-Strong, **direct**, **wise**, smiley initially, positive minded, **disappointed** in Percival.

-**Elderly**, large build. Tall, roughly 5’8”. Casual attire, **booming** voice.

-Thick beard, casual clothing, scarf, flat cap.

-Wants to **help** Percival get out of his hole. He tries speaking **motivationally** but to no avail. Percival must learn from **experience**.







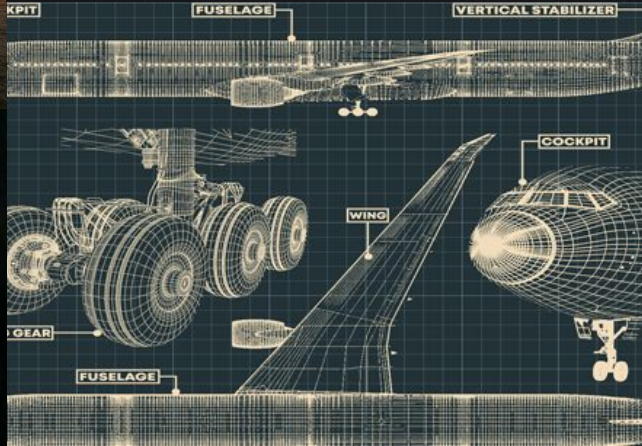


VISUAL STYLE











SCORE & SOUND

Relentless intensity, driving mechanical rhythms, and innovative sonic illusions that amplify the concepts of time and emotion.

Dropping the score entirely during high-stakes moments to ground the audience in stark immersiveness.

FILM FESTIVAL STRATEGY

LEEDS INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

Leeds International Film Festival

Massive, dedicated Fanomenon section which specifically celebrates sci-fi, fantasy, and genre cinema.

HollyShorts FILM FESTIVAL

HollyShorts Film Festival



Palm Springs International ShortFest


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