

Tilda Swinton

Jeremy Davies

in

# TEKNOLUST

A film by Lynn Hershman Leeson

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## CAST

Rosetta	Tilda Swinton
Ruby	Tilda Swinton
Marine	Tilda Swinton
Olive	Tilda Swinton
Sandy	Jeremy Davies
Agent Hopper	James Urbaniak
Dirty Dick	Karen Black
Dr. Bea	Al Nazemian
Tim	Josh Kornbluth
Preacher	Thomas Jay Ryan

## FILMMAKERS

Producer, Writer, Director	Lynn Hershman Leeson
Producers	Youssef Vahabzadeh
	John Bradford King
	Oscar Gubernati
Director of Photography	Hiro Narita (A.S.C.)
Editor	Lisa Fruchtman
Co-Producers	Paul Barnett
	Peter Buchanan
	John Nazemian
Executive Producer	Amy Sommer
Costume Designers	Yohji Yamamoto
	Marianna Astrom-DeFina
Production Designer	Chris Farmer

## Synopsis

Anxious to use artificial intelligent robots to improve the world, Rosetta Stone (Tilda Swinton), a bio-geneticist, devises a recipe through which she can download her own DNA into a "live" brew she is growing in her computer. She succeeds in breeding three Self Replicating Automatons – S.R.A.'s that look human, but were bred as intelligent machines. She names them Ruby, Marine and Olive.

In order to survive, the S.R.A.'s need injections of male Y chromo found only in spermatozoa. Rosetta programs Ruby while she sleeps to absorb images and dialogue of classic movie clips of famous seductions. Ruby acts these out in the real world and shares "donations" with her sisters.

Ruby's evolving contact with the real world eventually introduces her to art, spirituality, and ultimately, when she meets Sandy (Jeremy Davies), the capacity to fall in love.

All of the characters struggle to find meaning in a world where love is the only thing that makes things real. In the process they find harmony between the real and the virtual worlds.

### **Innovative Technology**

This film was one of the first films shot with the new 24p digital high definition camera. It contains 20 minutes of high definition graphics, and will feature an artificial intelligent web agent, viewable on an internet portal/site mirrored in the film,

<http://www.agentruby.com>.

<http://www.teknolustthemovie.com>.

## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

When Rosetta Stone, a bio-geneticist, breeds three Self Replicating Automatons (SRA's named Ruby, Marine and Olive) by combining her own DNA with computer software, she also creates a set of unanticipated tribulations. As Rosetta seeks to understand the encrypted language of her SRA progeny, she confronts the reality of her own loneliness and alienation.

The nearly-predatory dependence of Rosetta on her creations and of them on their peculiar life-sustaining diet (male "chromo" filched from unsuspecting seduced "hosts") is supplanted by their all becoming viable, distinct individuals.

After Rosetta is forced to relinquish external control, Ruby, Marine, and Olive gain self-sufficiency and sovereignty. If the characters have lost anything, mostly it is their ignorance or a sort of blind innocence, which is replaced by something far more affirming, their birthright to autonomy.

When Sandy, (who conducts crude mimeograph machines), and Ruby (an advanced form of reproductive technology) become intimate they realize that love makes all things real and possible. This film is a comedy, and ends happily in an optimistic birth of redemption.

Unlike Mary Shelley's monstrous creature in FRANKENSTEIN, or Fritz Lang's conflicted evil robot in METROPOLIS, all the characters in TEKNOLUST thrive on affection, and ultimately, reproduction. The classic movie seduction clips that program Ruby reflect the powerful impact of absorbed images on behavior.

TEKNOLUST is a coming of age story, not only for the characters but also of our society's relationship to technology. The 21<sup>st</sup> centuries technologies – genetics, nanotechnology, and robotics have opened a Pandora's box that will affect the destiny of the entire human race. Our relationship to computer based virtual life forms that are autonomous and self replicating will shape the fate of our species.

In an era of digital and human biological sampling, it seemed natural to use the same actress (Tilda Swinton) to play not only the bio geneticist, Rosetta Stone, but the offspring she breeds. The 24p camera encouraged a hyper real feeling and aided the massive compositing challenges.

Ruby's portal is mirrored on the web (<http://www.agentruby.com>) and extends the relationship of the film beyond the screen into the virtual world of networks.

I have always been attracted to digital tools and cinematic metaphors that reflect our time, such as privacy in an era of surveillance, personal identity in a time of pervasive manipulation, and despite this, the essential quest of all living things for loving interaction.

## ABOUT THE CAST

### **Tilda Swinton**

Tilda Swinton, the acclaimed Scottish actress, reunites with Lynn Hershman Leeson as the star of TEKNOLUST. Ms. Swinton, who also starred in Ms. Hershman's film, *Conceiving Ada*, plays the lead character Rosetta Stone, as well as the three Self-Replicating Automatons, Ruby, Olive and Marine. Tilda is well known for her powerful work in the films of Derek Jarman and for her performances in *Female Perversions*, *Orlando*, and *The Beach*. Swinton's critically acclaimed performance in *The Deep End* recently earned her a Golden Globe nomination for Best Actress, Drama.

### **Selected Filmography**

Thumbsucker (2004)  
The Statement (2003)  
Young Adam (2003)  
Adaptation (2002)  
Vanilla Sky (2001)  
The Deep End (2001)  
Possible Worlds (2000)  
The Beach (2000)  
The War Zone (1999)  
Conceiving Ada (1998)  
Love is the Devil (1997)  
Female Perversions (1996)  
Remembrance of Things Past: True Stories Virtual Lies (1994)  
Glitterbug. The Director's Cut (1994)  
Orlando (1993)  
Blue (1993) -voice-  
Wittgenstein (1993)  
The Party: Nature Morte (1992)  
Edward II (1991)  
The Garden (1990)  
L'Inspirazione (1988)  
War Requiem (1988)  
Aria (1987)  
Caravaggio (1986)

## **Jeremy Davies**

In 1993, Davies was cast in a TV commercial for Subaru in which his character compares the car to punk rock. Davies found himself receiving many feature film scripts. He chose to do *Spanking the Monkey*, written by first-time director, David O. Russell. His remarkable performance launched his young and brilliant acting career.

### **Awards**

1999 Nominated Blockbuster Entertainment Award Favorite Supporting Actor - Drama  
for *Saving Private Ryan* (1998)

1995 Nominated Independent Spirit Award Best Debut Performance  
for *Spanking the Monkey* (1994)

1999 Nominated SAG Award Outstanding Performance by a Cast  
for *Saving Private Ryan* (1998)

### **Selected Filmography**

Dogville (2003)  
Solaris (2002)  
29 Palms (2002)  
Searching for Paradise (2002)  
Secretary (2002)  
The Laramie Project (2001)  
Investigating Sex (2001)  
CQ (2001)  
Up at the Villa (2000)  
The Florentine (1999)  
The Million Dollar Hotel (1999)  
Ravenous (1999)  
Saving Private Ryan (1998)  
Going All the Way (1997)  
The Locusts (1997)  
Nell (1994)  
Spanking the Monkey (1994)

## **Karen Black**

When Karen Black recently appeared on The Roseanne Show, Roseanne called her “One of America’s Greatest Actresses”, and certainly Black’s body of work speaks for itself. With an Oscar nomination and Golden Globe wins already in her collection, Ms. Black has recently received two ‘Best Actress” accolades just in the last year from Independent film festivals, and her starring role in the Southern drama *Red Dirt* was warmly received as official selections to the Los Angeles Independent and the Seattle Film Festivals. Most recently she starred in *House of 1,000 Corpses*, directed by rock legend Rob Zombie.

### **Selected Filmography**

Paris (2003)  
House of 1000 Corpses (2003)  
I Woke Up Early the Day I Died (1998)  
Men (1997)  
Conceiving Ada (1997)  
Homer & Eddie (1989)  
It’s Alive III: Island of the Alive (1987)  
Invaders from Mars (1986)  
Martin’s Day (1984)  
Can She Bake a Cherry Pie? (1983)  
Chanel Solitaire (1981)  
Mr. Horn (1979)  
In Praise of Older Women (1978)  
Capricorn One (1978)  
Burnt Offerings (1976)  
Family Plot (1976)  
Nashville (1975)  
The Day of the Locust (1975)  
Airport (1974)  
The Great Gatsby (1974)  
Rhinoceros (1973)  
Portnoy’s Complaint (1972)  
A Gunfight (1971)  
Drive, He Said (1971)  
Five Easy Pieces (1970)  
Easy Rider (1969)  
You’re a Big Boy Now (1966)

## **Josh Kornbluth**

Josh Kornbluth has performed his distinctive comedy material on radio, on stage, and in film. His one man show "Haiku Tunnel" was turned into a feature film and three of his monologues have been collected in a volume entitled "Red Diaper Baby." His website is at [www.joshkornbluth.com](http://www.joshkornbluth.com).

## **Selected Filmography**

Red Diaper Baby (2003)  
Teknolust (2002)  
Bartleby (2001)  
Haiku Tunnel (2001)  
Jack (1996)  
Searching for Bobby Fischer (1993)

## ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS

### **Lynn Hershman Leeson (Writer/Director/Producer)**

Lynn Hershman-Leeson's first feature film, *Conceiving Ada*, starring Tilda Swinton, Karen Black, and Timothy Leary was shown at the 1998 Sundance Film Festival, The Toronto International Film Festival, The Berlin International Film Festival, Montreal Festival of New Cinema, Riocinne and 35 other festivals worldwide. It received the award of "Outstanding Achievement in Drama" from the Festival of Electronic Cinema in Japan as well as the Iomega Award for Technical Innovation and the National Education Media Festival award for Outstanding Technical Innovation. Pioneering digital processes were used to create virtual sets for this film. *Conceiving Ada* was released by Fox Lorber in February, 1999 and on DVD in February 2000. She was the first woman to receive a tribute and retrospective at the San Francisco International Film Festival (1994) and was awarded the **ZKM/Seimens Media Arts Award** in 1995. In 1998 she was a Sundance Screenwriter Fellow and was also honored with the Flintridge Foundation Award for Lifetime Achievement in the Visual Arts. In 1999 she was nominated for the Independent Spirit Award, and she received the prestigious **Golden Nica Prix Ars Electronica** in Austria. Her artwork is in the collection of the Museum of Modern Art, The National Gallery of Canada, The ZKM Mediamuseum, The Hess Collection and others.

### **Youssef Vahabzadeh (Producer)**

While in Europe until the late 1980s, Youssef Vahabzadeh had a diverse international business career. His business activities have included a position as Director/Administrator for AFIWA S.A., a family-owned import/export finance and management concern previously in business with Caterpillar Tractor Company, Philips N.V. and ABN/Amro Bank. He was a Shareholder/Director of Exaquo S.A., a book publishing and wristwatch manufacturer. He also founded and served as the Administrator of Ecole des Technologies Musicales, the sole Geneva-based Contemporary School of Music. In 1986 he formed Blue Turtle, Inc., a US based film and television company, which became active in 1989 when he moved to Los Angeles. From 1990-5, Blue Turtle was partnered with Robert Schaffel to form *Eclectic Films*, during which time they produced *Diggstown*, starring James Woods and Louis Gosset, Jr., released by MGM in 1992, and *Pontiac Moon*, starring Ted Danson and Mary Steenburgen, released in 1994 by Paramount Pictures. Currently, He has three projects close to production: *The Thought Gang*, to be directed by Richard Loncraine (*Richard III*), *The Red Cross Project* written by Ron Bass and David Field, and *Oil and Water*, a romantic comedy written and to be directed by Terence Gross (*Hotel Splendide*).

### **John Bradford King (Producer)**

Brad King is a seasoned entrepreneur with significant experience in creating and marketing innovative technologies. He has focused his career over the past 12 years on the real-time information business playing an integral role in developing four different companies. King was an early pioneer in the World Wide Web having launched in 1994 one of the first Internet technology companies, Presence Information Design. He was also a founder of the highly successful Net Effect, Inc sold to Ask Jeeves in 1999. Having recently launched Epiphany Entertainment, he is also experienced in producing feature length independent films. His expertise in creating and building innovative concepts in media and technology lends itself to producing such films as TEKNOLUST. As a producer, King provides creative visionary skills, strategic planning skills, and expertise in organizing, leading, and delivering a concept from inception to a finished product. He recently completed the romantic comedy, *Falling For It* starring Sean Barnes and Jennifer Loto.

## Hiro Narita, ASC, Director of Photography

Hiro Narita is an internationally acclaimed cinematographer who has worked on a huge roster of feature films. He is a member of the American Society of Cinematographers and the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts & Sciences. Mr. Narita has been awarded many honors, among them are the (\*) **AGO Award for Best Cinematography**, (\*\*) **the National Society of Film Critics Best Cinematography**, (\*\*\*) **Emmy Nomination Best Cinematography, 1976**, (\*\*\*\*) **Best Movie for Television, 1985**, (+) **Academy Award Live Action Short, 1997**, (++) **Emmy Nomination, Best Cinematography, 1999**.

### Selected Filmography

#### Films

++Dirty Pictures

I'll Be Home for Christmas

Conceiving Ada

Shadrach

+Visas & Virtues

\*Blue Yonder

\*\*Never Cry Wolf

\*\*\*Farewell to Manzanar

\*\*\*\*Go Tell it on the Mountain

The Last Waltz (shared credit)

The Arrival

James and the Giant Peach

White Fang II

Long Shadows

Hocus Pocus

They

Star Trek VI

The Rocketeer

Honey I Shrunk The Kids

No Man's Land

Amerika

Fire With Fire

Sylvester

#### Director/Studio

Frank Pierson

Arlene Sanford

Lynn Hershman

Susanna Styron

Chris Tashima

Mark Rosman

Carroll Ballard

John Korty

Stan Latham

Martin Scorsese

David Twohy

Henry Selick

Ken Olin

Sheldon Larry

Ken Ortega

John Korty

Nick Meyer

Joe Johnston

Joe Johnston

Peter Werner

Donald Wrye

Duncan Gibbons

Tim Hunter

### **Lisa Fruchtman (Editor)**

Lisa Fruchtman is an Academy Award-winning editor, whose work spans the mediums of feature film and television. Among her feature film projects are *Dance with Me* (1998); *My Best Friend's Wedding* (1997); *The Doctor* (1991); *The Godfather, Part III* (1990), for which she was nominated for an Academy Award; *Children of a Lesser God* (1986); *The Right Stuff* (1983), for which she received the Academy Award, and *Apocalypse Now* (1979,) for which she also received an Academy Award nomination.

For television, she has worked on such films as *Witness Protection* (1999); *Nothing Sacred* (1997) and *Truman* (1995.)

## **Klaus Badelt (Composer)**

Composer Klaus Badelt started his musical career writing and producing music for dozens of highly successful movies and commercials in his native Germany. In 1998, Oscar-winning composer Hans Zimmer was impressed enough with Badelt's scores to invite him to Media Ventures, Zimmer's highly regarded film scoring facility in Santa Monica. Since then, he has been working on a number of his own innovative film and television projects, as well as collaborating with Zimmer.

Badelt co-produced the Golden Globe winning, Oscar and Grammy nominated score to *Gladiator*, directed by Ridley Scott, while writing portions of the score with Golden Globe winning singer/co-composer Lisa Gerrard (*The Insider*).

He worked on *X-Men* with composer Michael Kamen (*Brazil*, *Die Hard*, *Lethal Weapon*, *Mr. Holland's Opus*). Prior to that he composed music for *Mission: Impossible 2* with producer Tom Cruise and director John Woo. After finishing the independent feature *Extreme Days*, he co-wrote the score to *The Pledge*, directed by Sean Penn and starring Jack Nicholson.

With *Gladiator*, *Mission: Impossible 2* and *X-Men*, Badelt worked on the music for three of the top ten movies in 2000. The *Gladiator* score album he co-produced and co-wrote recently went gold in the U.S. with over 1.2 million copies sold worldwide. The follow-up album *More Music from Gladiator* is was recently released.

### **Selected Filmography**

Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl (2003)

In-Laws, The (2003/I)

Basic (2003)

Ned Kelly (2003)

Recruit, The (2003)

Equilibrium (2002)

K-19: The Widowmaker (2002)

Time Machine, The (2002)

Equilibrium (2001)

Extreme Days (2001)

Pearl Harbor (2001, additional music)

Hannibal (2001, additional music)

The Pledge (2001)

Mission: Impossible II (2000, additional music)

Gladiator (2000, additional music. Golden Globe winner. Oscar and Grammy nominee)

The Road to El Dorado (2000, additional music)

The Tigger Movie (2000, additional music)