

# A. RTIFICIAL I. MMORTALITY

## Electronic Press Kit

A Feature Documentary by Ann Shin

75 min | 16:9 | 1:1.78 | 5.1 mix | English Subtitles

OPENING NIGHT FILM HOT DOCS 2021



FATHOM FILM GROUP

# A.RTIFICIAL I.MMORTALITY

## Electronic Press Kit

A CRAVE ORIGINAL DOCUMENTARY

And with the participation of the CANADA MEDIA FUND, ONTARIO CREATES and the ROGERS CABLE FUND.

a FATHOM FILM GROUP PRODUCTION

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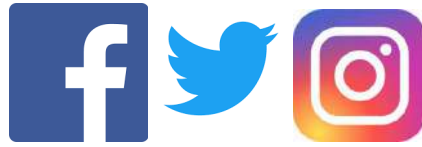
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If you could create an immortal version of yourself, would you? Until recently, that question was the stuff of science fiction, but now experts in the fields of artificial intelligence and robotics suggest it will be possible.

**A.rtificial I.mmortality** explores the latest advancements in AI, robotics and biotech as it poses the questions: what is the essence of being human, and can it be replicated? The technology in this field is exploding and it's become a pressing issue as more and more of our lives is played out online.

Visionaries, writers and thinkers such as: Nick Bostrom, Hiroshi Ishiguro, Douglas Rushkoff, Ben Goertzel and Deepak Chopra, explore how humanity is advancing toward a post-biological world of intelligence without bodies. As scientists point to a world where humans and machines are merged, we have to ask ourselves, will AI be the best, or the last thing we ever do?

## Join the Conversation



Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ai.documentaryfilm>

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### **LOGLINE:**

Can AI enable us to live forever? Filmmaker Ann Shin sets out on a journey, exploring the latest AI and biotech with scientists and visionaries who foresee a 'post-biological' world where humans and AI merge. Will AI be the best, or the last thing we ever do?

### **TWEETABLE LOGLINES:**

At a time when so much of our lives play out online, Artificial Immortality asks what if we transferred ourselves entirely into the digital realm? Will AI be the best, or the last thing we ever do?

If you could create an immortal version of yourself, would you? Once the stuff of science fiction, filmmaker Ann Shin sets out on a journey exploring the latest AI and biotech with scientists and visionaries who suggest it will be possible.

### **SHORT SYNOPSIS:**

If you were able to create an immortal version of yourself, would you? This film explores the latest advancements in AI, robotics and biotech with visionaries who argue for a new age of post-biological life. As scientists point us toward a world where humans and machines merge, we have to ask ourselves will AI be the best, or the last thing we ever do?

Featuring Nick Bostrom, author of *Superintelligence*; Japanese roboticist, Hiroshi Ishiguro; Douglas Rushkoff, author of *Team Human*; Ben Goertzel, founder of Singularity.net; and Deepak Chopra, who is creating his own A.I. mind twin.

## **LONG SYNOPSIS:**

If you were able to create an immortal version of yourself, would you? Until this decade, that question was the stuff of science fiction, but now experts in the fields of artificial intelligence and robotics suggest it will indeed be possible.

This cinematic documentary explores the latest technological advancements in AI, robotics and biotech, and poses the question: what is the essence of the human mind, and can this be replicated? Or even more unsettling, could we one day meet cloned versions of ourselves – clones which are better, smarter, and immortal?

This film explores these questions with visionaries including: Nick Bostrom, author of *Superintelligence*, Hiroshi Ishiguro, developer of his own uncannily realistic clone Geminoid; Douglas Rushkoff, author of *Team Human*; Ben Goertzel, founder of Singularity.net who coined the term Artificial General Intelligence; and Deepak Chopra, who is creating his own A.I. mind twin. These visionaries see humanity advancing toward a new age of post-biological life, a world of intelligence without bodies, immortal identity without the limitations of disease, death, and unfulfilled desire. As scientists on the forefront of technology show that a world where humans and machines merge isn't so far away, we have to ask ourselves will AI be the best, or the last thing we ever do?

**Website:** [A.rtifificial I.mmortality Website](http://www.artificialimmortality.com)

**Trailer:** [A.rtifificial I.mmortality Trailer](http://www.artificialimmortality.com)

## **DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT:**

A few years ago, I realized my father was losing his memory. It wasn't just names and people, he was mixing up details of my late mother's life with his own. He had sat at her side for the last few weeks of her life, but he no longer remembered *her*, let alone how she passed. I was losing my father in bits and pieces.

I started wondering what it is that makes you, *you*. Is it your memories that help you shape your sense of self and life? Is it your personality? Is there a way to retain your sense of self even as you lose your faculties?

I spoke with a transhumanist friend of mine who believes so. He claims that those aspects of ourselves we like to think of as being inimitable - our personality, our intuition, *our soul* - are not only quantifiable, but replicable, and that scientists and thinkers are working to replicate those very things. They believe they can replicate a human through AI and biotech, and eventually transfer consciousness, so that we wouldn't have to die. I was incredulous and wanted to find out more.

That journey spurred me to make this documentary, *A.rtifificial I.mmortality*, where I meet with transhumanists, neuroscientists, AI developers and philosophers. My aim is journalistic, but also

philosophical and poetic. I ask each of them, what is it about us that makes us human, and is it replicable? I discover some astonishing things including: 3D mindclone avatars, brain organoids being grown in petri dishes, and android robots who talk about the beauty they see in the universe.

The technology we have created in the pursuit of immortality is startling, even terrifying. We may come to a point where we can choose at the end of our lives to either die or to 'upload' our minds into a digital platform. Given the choice, I think I would choose the latter. But like most things in life, it's not a simple binary decision. Why are we pursuing this? What is lost or gained in the pursuit, and are we perhaps missing the point entirely? This film explores these nuances in our quest for immortality in the 21st century. - Ann Shin

### **PULL QUOTES FROM ANN SHIN, DIRECTOR**

"The ancient philosopher Seneca said the day of our death is the birth of eternity. Once you die you join the realm of the immortal. But what if I told you, you don't have to die... what if you could live on forever?"

"When my father developed dementia, I realized we were losing him in bits and pieces. I wondered what if we had captured his memories in an AI clone before his memory started going? What would it be like for us all to have AI clones-- a way for us to be part of our families' lives even after we die?"

"Visions of the apocalypse have haunted us through millennia. In the past, we turned to God for the promise of salvation and eternal life, but in the 21st century we live in the digital realm and look to technology for the answers. As we develop more powerful AI systems, are we creating an AI supreme being in our own likeness? What happens if the creation outsmarts the creator?"

### **SCREENINGS:**

#### **FESTIVALS:**

[Hot Docs](#) - Opening Night Film - April 29 2021, Toronto, Ontario – World Premiere

[Doc Edge Festival](#) – June 11 – 20, 2021, New Zealand – International Premiere

[Visioni dal Mondo Documentary Festival](#) – Sept 16 – 19, 2021, Italy – European Premiere

## **SELECT PRESS:**

### **Pull Quotes**

***A fascinating foray deep into the realms of artificial intelligence, machine learning and biotechnology.*** - [National Post](#) - Chris Knight

***Incredible flick.*** - [CP24 National News](#) - George Lagogianes

***The movie at once understands both the beauty and enormity of the possibilities.*** - [Global News](#) - Chris Jancelewicz

***“Oh, you’re going to love this.” A.r.tificial Immortality will induce shivers, a mix of excitement and fear. Magnificent, but also unnerving.*** - [She Does the City](#) - Jen McNeely

***Fascinating subject matter. Insightful and interesting.*** - [The Social](#) - Lainey Lui & Jess Allen

***A.r.tificial I.mmortality is a brilliant examination of clones and what they may ultimately mean for the future of humanity.*** - [POV Magazine](#) - Marc Glassman

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### **Selected Reviews**

[National Post If you could upload your mind into a computer would you? How A.I. is making science fiction real](#) - Chris Knight - April 28, 2021

[A.r.tificial I.mmortality’ review: Doc explores idea of eternal life through technology](#)  
Global News - Chris Jancelewicz - April 28, 2021

[Is virtual immortality possible through artificial intelligence?](#)  
The Social - Lainey Lui and Jess Allen - April 29, 2021  
\*National afternoon talk show

[A Year too Real—and a Festival for its Hot Docs](#)  
POV Magazine - Marc Glassman - April 30, 2021

[Ann Shin’s riveting documentary ‘A.r.tificial I.mmortality’ explores the essence of what makes us human](#)  
She Does the City - Jen McNeely - April 28, 2021

[Ann Shin Interview](#) (TV)  
CP24 Breakfast - George Lagogianes - April 29, 2021

[Hot Docs 2021: What if you could live forever? ‘A.r.tificial I.mmortality’ explores if AI can make death ‘optional’ for humans](#)  
Yahoo! News - Elisabetta Bianchini - April 29, 2021

[Please find the full press coverage here](#)



## POSTER:



## **PROMOTIONAL STILLS:**



Ann Shin with Erica the robot.

Photo Credit: Iris Ng



Interview with Deepak Chopra.

Photo Credit: Zackary S. Grant





Robot Buddhist priest, Mindar, at the Kodaiji Temple in Japan.

Photo Credit: Iris Ng



Bruce Duncan packs up Bina48 in her suitcase.

Photo Credit: Stephen Chung



The child robot, Ibuki, takes a walk at Osaka University.

Photo credit: iris Ng



Ann Shin animating the face of her avatar during a facial mapping session.

Photo credit: Stephen Chung

## **PRODUCTION BIOGRAPHIES**

### **Ann Shin / Director, Writer, Executive Producer**



Ann is a multiple award-winning Director and Producer known for compelling documentaries and series. Her feature documentary, *A.r.tificial I.mmortality* was selected to be the Opening Night film at Hotdocs 2021. Her previous film *My Enemy, My Brother* won Grand Jury Prize at SDAIFF, the short version was shortlisted for a 2016 Academy Award, and nominated for an Emmy. Her cross-platform project *The Defector* film and interactive won Best Documentary, Best Documentary Director and the Diversity Award at the Canadian Screen Awards. *The Defector* Interactive won the FITC Award, the Canadian Digi Award, and at the SXSW Interactive Festival. Her directorial credits include: *A.r.tificial I.mmortality*, *The Superfood Chain*, *Smart Drugs*, *The Four Seasons Mosaic* (CBC),

Gemini nominee for Best Performance Doc; and Columbus International Film and Video Festival Award-winning *The Roswell Incident*, *Western Eyes*, and *Almost Real: Connecting in a Wired World*.

### **Gerry Flahive / Consulting Producer**



Gerry Flahive is a Toronto-based writer, producer and creative consultant. Until May 2014, Flahive was Senior Producer at the National Film Board of Canada. He has done creative and storytelling consulting, strategic planning, course development for clients including the Toronto Maple Leafs, Cirque de Soleil, Telefilm Canada, MaRS, TVOntario, Humber College, TIFF and Giants of Africa. His productions have won many international awards, including two Emmy Awards and a Peabody Award for *Highrise*, a global interactive documentary. He produced & co-produced more than 80 documentary projects, including the international co-production *Paris 1919*, and the ground-breaking *Filmmaker-in-Residence* multimedia project at Toronto's St. Michael's Hospital.

### **Erica Leendertse / Producer**



Erica has worked on numerous documentary features and series as a Producer, Writer and Production Manager. Her projects have aired on the CBC, TVO, Discovery Channel, History, Arte France, and CBC The Documentary Channel. She has been part of a team that has won numerous awards for their documentary feature films like Prokofiev: The Unfinished Diary and Blowout: Is Canada Next which both won the Special Jury Award at the Annual WorldFest in Houston. Erica has worked with Fathom Film Group since 2011 on films like the award-winning The Defector: Escape from North Korea (CSC Awards Best Documentary, Best Documentary Director and the Diversity Award), Smart Drugs, The Superfood Chain, and A.rtificial I.mmortality. She is currently developing a slate of

dramatic and comedic series and feature one-offs while production managing life with three small children.

### **Iris Ng / Director of Photography**



Iris Ng is a cinematographer whose most notable work turns a critical lens on social issues, justice, and filmmaking itself. Her background in visual art, photography, and music have enriched her work with artists and filmmakers since 2008. Her body of work includes the Academy-shortlisted documentaries Stories We Tell (Sarah Polley, 2012) and Shirkers (Sandi Tan, 2018), as well as award-winning films, A Better Man (2017), This River (2016), Migrant Dreams (2016), Nuuca (2017), Toxic Beauty (2019), and the multi Emmy Award-winning series Making A Murderer (2015 & 2018). She has also collaborated with filmmakers Fredrik Gertten, Vikram Jayanti, Richard Fung, Michelle Shephard and artists Chris Curreri, Oliver Husain, Luis Jacob, Annie MacDonnell, and

Bambitchell. Iris also captures transitions for the series Kim's Convenience and shot the Sundance 2020-premiered digital series Hey, Lady! (2020).



### **Stephen Chung / Director of Photography**



Stephen is an award-winning cinematographer with over twenty years of experience in moving images, highly regarded for both his artistry and versatility. Some of Stephen's notable recent credits include the VICELAND television series "Mister Tachyon" winner of Canadian Society of Cinematographers award, feature documentary "The Defector" (Winner CSA - Best Documentary Film) and the short film "Odessa" (Official selection Cannes Short Film Corner). As well as HBO, Discovery, Nat Geo, History Channel, 20th Century Fox, and The CBC. His work has garnered several awards and nominations including best cinematography "COPA" Mockfest Film festival, , "The Defector" CSC nomination for Documentary Cinematography, Juno Award for (best album artwork) Tom Cochrane "Songs of a Circling Spirit"

### **Steve Taylor / Editor**



Steve Taylor is a multi-award-winning editor based in Toronto, Canada. He is known for his work as the Lead Editor on the Amazon Prime series Ted Bundy: Falling For A Killer and for his work as Editor on all four seasons of the Emmy and Peabody award-winning Netflix series Hip-Hop Evolution. With two decades of experience, Steve has worked as an editor across multiple genres, including scripted television as a member of the DGC. He has most recently completed work on Artificial Immortality, a feature documentary and is currently editing Dark Side of the Ring, a documentary series for Vice Media. Steve lives in Toronto with his wife Kristine and their two children Erin and Samantha.

### **Shannon Kennedy / Finishing Editor**



Shannon Kennedy brings a background in the visual arts to her editing. Her artwork has been featured in numerous gallery and museum exhibitions, including solo exhibitions at the St. Louis Art Museum and the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts. She has received grants and fellowships from the Tiffany Foundation, Creative Capital, the Jerome Foundation, and the McKnight Foundation. As a documentary editor, Kennedy has almost two decades of experience, and has been both a fellow and an advisor at the Sundance Institute's Documentary Edit and Story Lab. She most recently edited *Bulletproof*, which premiered in 2020 at Hot Docs online. She lives and works outside of Boston.

### **Alexandra G. Brillembourg / Art Director**



Award-winning Designer and Art Director with over twenty years of experience in the visual communication industry. She obtained her Degree in Visual Communication in Caracas and has a specialization on Visual Effects for Film and TV from Seneca College and Digital Design from George Brown in Toronto. Her portfolio includes a wide variety of projects carried out by Canadian and international companies. She is an expert in developing concepts and creative solutions including digital design, visual effects and motion graphics with a bold and creative approach. She has worked on several projects as an Art Director, including *The Defector: Escape from North Korea*. Her list of clients includes: HBO, Space, CTV, Gusto, Fathom Film Group, Sony Entertainment Television, Disney among others.

### **Todor Kobakov / Composer**



Todor is an award-winning composer. His credits include *Born To Be Blue*, the Chet Baker biopic starring Ethan Hawke, the hit series *Bitten*, *Ransom* (eOne/Global/CBS), for which he just received a CSA nomination, and *Cardinal* (eOne/CTV), for which he was awarded a CSA for Best Original Music, Fiction for the past two seasons. He recently finished composing for Dakota Fanning's new film *Sweetness in the Belly*, which premiered at TIFF 2019, and is currently scoring a new Margaret Atwood documentary with White Pine Pictures. Todor is also renowned in the indie and pop music scenes working with Metric, Stars, Feist, Sarah Slean, and more.



## **CREDIT LIST**

CRAVE ORIGINAL  
A CRAVE ORIGINAL DOCUMENTARY  
in association with THE CANADA MEDIA FUND  
and ONTARIO CREATES  
and THE ROGERS GROUP OF FUNDS

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ANN SHIN  
GERRY FLAHIVE

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Art Director

ALEXANDRA G. BRILLEMBOURG

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LINCOLN CANNON

DEEPAK CHOPRA

HEATHER CHMURA

BILLY CRONE

BRUCE DUNCAN

BEN GOERTZEL

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TED  
What Happens When Computers Get Smarter  
Than We Are: Nick Bostrom (2015)  
Speaker: Nick Bostrom

ABC: GMA3 (GOOD MORNING AMERICA)

Michael Strahan, Sara Haines, and Keke Palmer  
Warner Bros.

MGM STUDIOS  
BLADERUNNER (1982)  
Screenplay by: Hampton Francher and David Peoples  
Performed By: Rutger Hauer and Harrison Ford

2001: A SPACE ODYSSEY (1968)  
Screenplay by: Stanley Kubrik and Arthur C. Clark  
Performed By: Keir Dullea and Douglas Rain  
Warner Bros

Music Provided By  
Que Sera, Sera (Whatever Will Be, Will Be)  
Written By: Jay Livingston, Ray Evans  
Published By: Ruminating Music c/o Wixen Music Publishing, Jay Livingston Music, Inc.  
Performed By: Doris Day  
By arrangement with Sony Music Entertainment

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