ASTROLUX: The Movie

A film by EVET SOCRATES

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Time: The distant future

Setting: The world is shuddering from a great cometary impact. No firm details as yet. Simulations predict plant life will die and the seas will freeze, because of the great dust cloud created. Virtual Reality is a big thing; people spend most of their time in synthetic worlds of their own devising. "Proteus", an artificial intelligence 'worldmind', exists on the future internet. "Astrolux" light therapy units are in vogue; you can download light and sound configurations of the stars into a 'projector', when activated, produces a therapeutic effect.

CHARACTERS:

Desmond Livix: He devises a plan to go back in time using Astrolux.
Zymon: Desmond's friend, he reports on the comet.
Professor Brixtus: Desmond's mentor, disappeared mysteriously
Rigillia the Mystic: A mystic figure that Desmond 'consults'.
Grand Chancellor of Europa: seen on TV reassuring the public.
Grand Pontiff of St. Elerac: the future 'pope', encourages rejection of machines
Thetavision Correspondent: Interviews Evet Socrates
Teleazurics: (Proteus core)

(Cometary impact Prelude):

(We see a busy city street and shots of a comet heading toward the Earth, builds and then there is a tremendous impact which segues into opening titles)

ASTROLUX COMMERCIAL

Angelic voices and music: ASTROLUX is SENSATIONAL!

Astrolux male voice: You'll see the light tonight with ASTROLUX, the world's first and best stellar light therapy projector! Bathe in the healing lightshows extracted from the very stars by our own special cameras on the Moon, beamed into your very room! You'll dance in ecstasy to the harmonies of the constellations!

GRAND CHANCELLOR SEGMENT:

Grand Chancellor: ... and I have the greatest hope in the citizens of this fine country and in the scientists and engineers we depend on to provide us with some workable solution to this crisis. As a world in transition, we must firmly believe in the human ability to adapt. The world has had its dark ages before, and this is just another one of them. It's inscribed in the very history of our great planet! We, I believe, are civilized enough to adapt and come out stronger when this is all over. The destiny of the human race IS TO GO ON! We must stay unified as a country and not jump to any conclusions until more data becomes available. In the meantime, we must continue to work, to play, to love, to anticipate, to be human, and prepare for what lies ahead. Now, more than ever, we must rise up and prove that we can make our mark on the grand scale of things! God bless the citizenry! God bless the world! Thank you.

PROTEUS COMMERCIAL:

Enter a new kind of mind, with an all seeing eye, Then elevation, will arrive... From a quark to a quasar, Proteus Industries offers it all. The original Worldmind of the Hypergrid. New Phichron chip accelerators, expanded timeline features, multi-consciousness cross integration, and more.

"Dare to dare, and PROTEUS will take you there."

GRAND PONTIFF SEGMENT:

Newsflash:

Due to the continuing crisis we interrupt this transmission to bring you: The Grand Pontiff of St. Elerac in an emergency cybermass...

Grand Pontiff of St. Elerac: ... and in the wake of this chaos, this illimitable destruction, we are left to ask, 'Why did this happen to us? What didst thou do?' Well, I'll tell you.

It can only be a sign from God! In mans never ending quest to 'entertain' himself, we have struggled to become gods in our own right, creating synthetic worlds, people, governments, and self-serving sociologies! It is heresy! Man was meant to be at one with his environment, not escape from it! Wouldest thou even commit deicide?

Now, we all know, technology can help us do great things. The grand cosmic geometry is there for all to see. But just because we can do a thing, does not mean we should do the thing! Man is superior because he has a choice. And hen he makes the right choice, such as joining St. Elerac, he may enter communion with God and enter the true heaven, more permanent than this! By joining with us now, YOU could be chosen to be aboard THE GREAT SPACE ARK when it departs from high in the Earth's atmosphere. But you must join with us, now, with God, and embrace the 'faith'. Let the chosen arise! Let the faithful meet their destiny! Una muna patrie, es spiritis sanctis".

SCENE I:

(Fade to Desmond's apartment:)

Desmond: First I got to tell you- the strangest thing just happened to me. I think I may have actually discovered a way to enter the Proteus.

Zymon: What do you mean? It's said that no one could be able to access it directly because its dataflow could have mind-altering effects.

Desmond: Yes, if we're talking about a normal conscious state, but what I'm referring to is a sort of lucid dreamstate!

Zymon: Well when you start talking about dreamstates, it usually means one thing- you've seen that woman again.

Desmond: Anyway, I thought through the Phichron chip, Proteus was actually reaching out to me!

Zymon: I know they say it's in some way "sentient", but what would a machine want with something as inefficient as the human brain?

Desmond: Well, you better ask the Teleazurics at Proteus that.

Zymon: Alright, well, I was going to tell you... we've got some early results from the atmos-sims, and – oh God- this COULD BE the end. The plants, seas, animals, everything, when this gets out...

The dust cloud is spreading more quickly than they're saying, and its TOXIC. And the bigger this dust cloud gets, the more of sunlight will bounce back to space, causing a major ice age! Plants could die, who can say what the long term effects could be?

Desmond: Just when man thought he had it made... Maybe this will shock the masses out of their contrived conceptualities! Anyway, it would've been only a matter of time before society as a whole suffered complete ego-

meltdown.

Zymon: Have you heard about the "SPACE ARK" yet?

It's really just an orbiting skymall being converted to a multi-generational spaceship. My company wants to hollow out an asteroid: "Mountains on the Move". Or we could go into Sports Utility Vacuumsuits! Well, (gets up to leave) I better be getting home before it gets TOO dark. You know, it's a rueful reality that it took something of this magnitude before everyone began to realize we need to be more responsible about ourselves, and our planet. Hopefully, this is not an end, but a new beginning. Whatever we do, genetic engineering to cope with the climate, or going full out to terraform Mars...

Desmond: Yes, and who shall inherit the Earth then, the Machines?

Zymon: Yeah, we could come back in a thousand years and see how THEY have evolved. (looks up at sky): The boys at Astrolux are going to make a killing.... (says goodbye and moves on)

(fade to BRIXTUS FLASHBACK)

Professor Brixtus:

...What was once meant just to be a sort of "walking kiosk" has turned into a totally separate technocracy! Machines will be demanding rights just like our precocious teenagers! And it's already happened - at Proteus.

Now you know the last project I worked on was called the 'Thoughtsword', right? It was spearheaded by the "Teleazurics" the high priests of the Proteus core, and funded by the Vizon Elite, a sort of military combine, and was meant to be an experimental attempt at consciousness transference- but I soon learned it was much more than that. The Teleazurics were planning to digitize their entire minds, which could then theoretically be relayed to any reception point anywhere in the entire universe. Well, the day came when we were ready to put the project online. The Teleazurics were each put in stasis pods directly linked to the Proteus core, I was put in charge of monitoring their neural feeds. Activation commenced successfully, but suddenly there was some sort of massive overload of neural feedback or something. The stasis pods were deactivated, and the Teleazurics inside them were killed. I ran a full system scan, but could find no cause. An investigation was immediately ordered by the Vizon Elite. I was accused of sabotage, because they said, 'I was afraid of my work being stolen.'All my data and affects were seized- and I was to be arrested, but I managed to escape because of a device they didn't know about. But sooner or later they'll find me... and it will be up to you to find out WHAT WENT WRONG.

RIGILLIA THE MYSTIC SEGMENT:

Setting: An otherworldly living room. Pan to Desmond lying on an antique couch, kind of like in therapy. Rigillia, a hyperdimensional mystic, in *dress exotique*, walks back and forth behind him. Music fades out. As she talks, changing kinds of sound effects play upon her voice). Rigillia: We tend to imbue the universe with concepts WE call morality. Do the stars ponder their scars? Ask an electron why it spins, it won't say 'so I can feel a sense of job satisfaction...'. But that works for man, because he has a want for order in his society.

The more they try to put things in together, the more the universe is falling apart. "Entropy increases, until all movement ceases".

Desmond: You had taught me to see the patterns in energy and matter across the whole of the universe- Stars, planets, galaxies... life seems to be a strange exception to the rule.

Rigillia: YES! And how beautiful that crystalline pattern to structure itself! Don't you think it could mean something?

Desmond: Like you said, a need for order.. (she hands him a drink)

Rigillia: Yes, and perhaps a need to believe..? At least in yourself, in your ability to understand and to contemplate, to 'put asunder' the laws of all time and all space?

Desmond: But why is it, amongst all the confusion, I still have time to be lonely? What's the use beholding the subtleties of the universe if you have no one to share it with?

Rigillia: That's why I'm telling you, you must strive for a different kind of union. Why have I always said to abandon the bondage of the flesh- to unfurl the dimensions! You CAN achieve what you believe. Alleviate- facilitate- consummation is not a crime, it takes fascination to become sublime...

(a knock at door, she goes to answer. She answers door offstage, some mumbling is heard, she walks back to the door with an orange guitar, then says goodbye.)

Desmond: Who was that? But why should I struggle to save a race, when it is I who has to suffer? The gleam of erotic traces, fading into the horizon...

Rigillia: Don't you see? You've tapped into a source few of your kind ever dared to! Wilde with style, Monet and his sunrays, Van Gogh colored rainbows, debonair Baudelaire. Don't you see? You're in quite good company! Now prove to the Mother your tenacity!

"Fractal freeze is just a disease, you must visit the universe, with your proud energies!"

Desmond: Like the latent apathetic troubadours, I'm also seeking escape, finding solace in a dreamworld...

Rigillia: And who's to say that THIS is the dream, and not that terrestrial world you leave behind? Flesh is just the beginning.. a defunct chrysalis for the vortex of our souls, aspiring ever onward to that great harmonious matrix of beyond... The majesty of hyper-dimensionality!

Desmond (getting up to leave): And here's a chance for me to sail on that inner ocean, and justify my existence? It's a perfect adaptation of Blake's "Life Without Measure" and we're in the movie.

Rigillia (as they walk to the door): You're just like a wayward weaver, fabric of the universe in hand; I've proffered the finest of needles, now it's up to you to find the thread...

GO GO GALACTIC MUSIC SEGMENT

Segue to "LIGHT BAR SEGMENT" with Desmond and Zymon talking:

Zymon: ...It created an anti-magnetic shock wave that left a sizeable rift in the Van Allen belt. So either way we've had it. So what was so important to tell me?

Desmond: Do you remember the neural displacement field experiments the professor and I worked on? We couldn't move forward because his company wouldn't allocate the processing expenditure. But now, if I can get back into Proteus, I could use its processor to generate the superstring carriers!

Zymon: But the missing element was how to generate the receptor field at the other end of the Time Bridge, otherwise you'd risk molecular entrapment.

Desmond: Well I've got it! Astrolux! Yes! It can do it!

Zymon: No way...

Desmond: Here's how it works: decide how far back in time you want to go- say 200 years- then find a star that's in equivalent light years away, like Spica would be, then using Astrolux, extract a 'photonic frame' from that star's spectrum, which you could use to generate the other end of the timebridge!

Zymon: You don't actually think that you can modulate your consciousness on a theoretical form of energy, do you? Or that Proteus could be convinced to allocate the processing required?

Desmond: (as he takes a drink) Oh I think I might have a few tools that will give me an edge...Think of it as an experiment...

CITY MONTAGE

(shots of a city at night, neon lights blurred, sun going down)

SCENE III: The Experiment

(in a dimly lit chamber, Desmond is wearing a cranial electrode type helmet, wired to a machine. Zymon sits in front of the console, illuminated by its spectral light.)

Desmond: ... Now you'll be guiding me through based on my radiant brainwave modalities as I progress from Beta, to Alpha, to Theta, and finally, Delta...

Zymon: Right. Kind of like melting yourself into a big piece of furniture! Okay, preliminary linkups online. I'm concerned about the shock to your bio-mechanism...

Desmond: Relax. I know what I am doing. Just come check on me every few days and make sure I'm okay.

Zymon: You won't be and you know it!

Desmond: Well, at least you can't say I didn't put my money where my methadone is. Maybe I can even find out what happened to the Teleazurics.

Zymon: Okay, program is running, neural relays online... Phichron chip fully activated. Now I've prepared a little induction subroutine which should hopefully put you in a state similar to the one you had before. So breathe deep and easy, and get ready to synchronize to your 'lucid dreamwave profile...'

(shots of Desmond starting to fade into unconsciousness...)

PROTEUS MUSIC VIDEO SEGMENT:

(We begin the voyage into the 'Proteuscore' in a music video type segment featuring intense graphics, guitar playing, and onscreen text indicating "Access Granted" and we continue inward past the unlocked portal into the Proteuscore itself. We arrive inside the computer.)

The TELEAZURICS

(electronic chanting is heard. Echoes solidify into solid words:)

"We yield... we yield... we feel... we congeal and coalesce Now feel our vision and hear our magnificence-Welcome to our psychogenetic garden, Desmond Livix-We are the Teleazurics. We and Proteus are now one."

Desmond (we see his dialogue as text on the screen via "user input"): Have I been summoned to Proteus for a purpose?

Teleazurics: We know you have discovered a way to TIME TRAVEL using ASTROLUX, and wanted to use our system 'PROTEUS' to perform the necessary calculations. As the High Priests of the PROTEUSCORE, we the TELEAZURICS, agree... if first you help us to save the planet.

Desmond: How would it be possible to save a planet hit by a comet?

Teleazurics: We think it would be possible with the help of a greater intelligence who has sought us out after receiving our ancient radio transmissions, what we had once called music. Now, if we can bring to them the secrets of this music, they will help us undo the damage of the comet. Now, with your "ASTROLUX CALCULATIONS", you can enable us to go back in time and rediscover these lost secrets.

Desmond: Who could we find to teach us these secrets?

Teleazurics: After searching all spectrums, we have located the spacetime coordinates of someone whom we believe could give us this knowledge. In return Desmond Livix, we grant you YOUR OWN WORLDMIND- the gift of eternal life, as long as you remember to "save yourself to disk". You are our only hope Desmond Livix, are you prepared?

Desmond: Request identification of target individual....

Teleazurics: "Dare to dare and PROTEUS will take you there!" (segue into Timebridge calculation)

TIMEBRIDGE CALCULATION:

(Text indicates Astrolux device being engaged, the star Spica is loaded into memory, photonic frame then calculated; Proteus then begins time bridge countdown, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1... silence, then a burst of light and the sounds an intricate guitar solo, fade in to Evet Socrates playing the guitar. At end of the solo, a TV show's logo comes on ("Thetavision") and an announcer says "Hello Socrates". We materialize on the set of this interview entertainment show)

THETAVISION- EVET SOCRATES:

Video Correspondent: (into microphone): Hey Socrates! How're you doing? (shakes hands) Well, I must say in this era of in one day, and out the next, that you've maintained your own unique style. What is the 'key' to your creativity?

Socrates: Well, I'd say it's a definite process. It doesn't just happen. Set yourself little musical challenges, take some chords... (plays example) build yourself a little moving current; take some arpeggios- (ex.) trace out echoes of time in the cosmic ether pool... Invoke a duality- clean and shimmering, (clean guitar tone), or dark, warm and sustaining (dist w/echo) - various pathways for you to take in your quest for absolution.

VC: Tell us about what you call 'fractal phrasing'.

Soc: Well, it's this thing I noticed on the guitar, when if you play a sequence of notes, (ex.) and then start to play it really really fast, I can sort of get another rhythmical pattern coming out of it, like this note (examples).

(hears noise) Hey! What was that?

VC: (looks around) I don't know ...

Soc: Well, anyways take some patterns, get it going really fast— (plays examples- plays super fast little riff. We transition to a dreamstate sequence where Evet seems to be performing out in space, along with the Teleazurics watching, images go by of the Earth and outer space building up to a fast musical climax on the guitar, the "Astrolux Epiphany", with the text "Music sets us free, music is our destiny". Climax fades back to Evet Socrates in the studio apparently passed out on the floor.)

VC: Mr. Socrates- are you alright? Ladies and gentlemen something seems to have happened to Mr. Socrates... (turns to camera) Okay, well that's all we have for you tonight, thank you for tuning in to THETAVISION!

(TV Logo fades out, to transition to Desmond waking up from sleep)

Desmond (voice over): I awoke... disoriented at first... was it just a dream? But then I remembered, I was back! Back, to what? (Desmond looks up and we see Evet Socrates' orange guitar.) It was true! Yes... and together we remembered... the dream, was real. (Fade to scene of Desmond at his computer, typing a letter):

"Dear Zymon, so I've returned from Proteus, and with Evet Socrates' Keys to Creativity to guide me, I proved to the aliens we are worth saving, and we can see the world anew, released from it's cage, and music is universal, as long as we seek it in ourselves, and, be guided by greatness. This was the story of Astrolux..."

(Stylized text): "Every planet speaks with its people, Its people speak for the planet, And when we add the music, Our truest essence forever shines."

(credits)

~FINIS~

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