

HELSINKI INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL 2013 FOR THOSE LOOKING FOR A CHALLENGING CINEMATIC EXPERIENCE.

Upstream Color (2013), 96 min

Written and directed by Shane Carruth, Upstream Color is hard to describe as the film is so non-descript and obscure itself. Upstream Color is a very fragmented visual experience with no linear narrative. It begs the viewer to let go of any preconceptions they may have, there is no synopsis that can do it justice, all we are left with is individual scenes that may or may not be related to previous or further scenes.

The novel by Walden by author Henry David Thoreau, first published in 1854 is featured throughout the film and may be the only constant in the movie. After watching the movie I had to go online to see what this book is about, it is not explained in the film but is given prominence, as much a lead as any of the film's characters. Wikipedia describes Thoreau's Walden as a work in part "personal declaration of independence, social experiment, voyage of spiritual discovery, satire and manual self-reliance." The same could be said as a description for Carruth's film.

If I was to try draw comparisons between this movie and other work out there, it would be similar in part to Terrence Malick's later work in particular To The Wonder (2012), this is however a considerably more challenging movie experience, you have been warned.