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PUSHING ON
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PREMISE

A dusty suburban dirt road in New Orleans.

A pregnant black woman stands alone in the centre of frame.
Suddenly she is replaced by a baby moving its hands.
Then he is replaced by a toddler moving his hands and feet to the beat.
Then by a young boy doing the same dance move.
Then by a ten year-old boy continuing the dance.
Then by a pubescent teen doing the same dance.
...
Then by an aging man.
Then by a withered old man struggling to do the same dance move.
Then he is replaced by a pile of rubble and a makeshift wooden cross.

I want to create a simple film that chronicles the birth, life and death of one man who spent a lifetime dancing on the spot.



CONCEPT

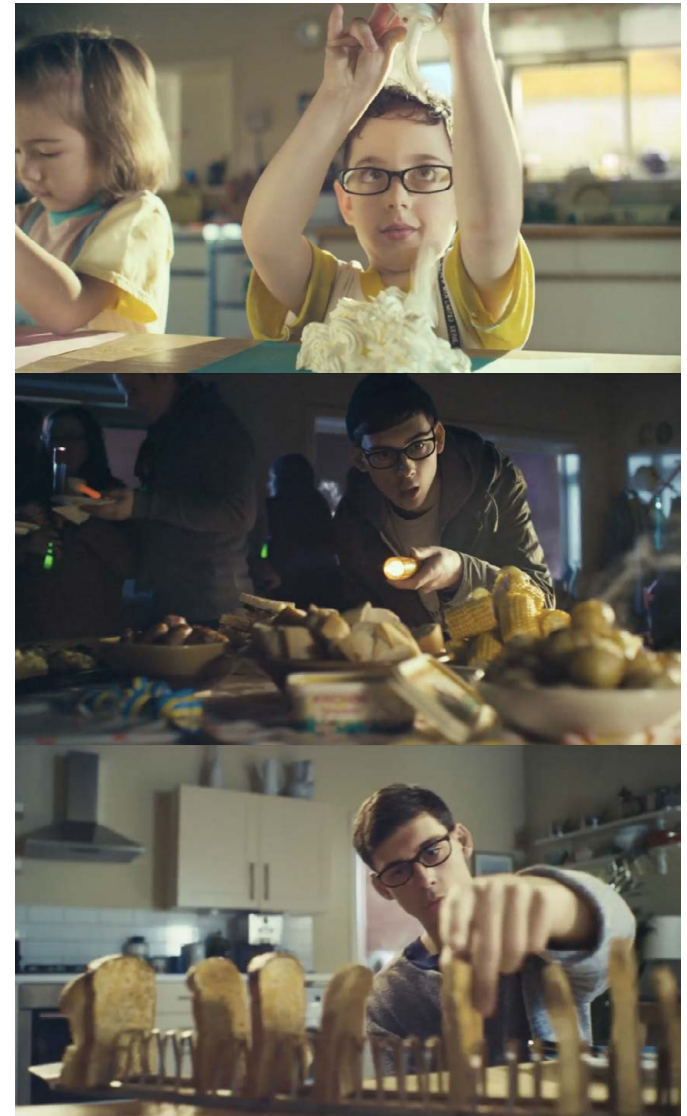
I'm addicted to this track. The repetition in the track is completely mesmerising and repeating a dance move within the cycle of life will be appropriately hypnotising!

Brilliant casting is key to this film. Many films have nailed this including this [Anchor advert](#) (pictured). The character with the glasses works so well for three reasons: he has a similar build (thin), similar hairs (black and flat), and a defining accessory (thick rimmed black glasses).

Our film will consist of about 10-15 different black men aging from one to seventy. They will have a similar build (thin), similar hair (black and short), and the same red and white striped vest...

The red and white striped vest will be a character unto itself! When he's a baby the vest will be used as swaddling, when he's a boy it will be knotted at his midriff to keep it off the ground, when he's 30 it will fit nicely but it'll start looking worn, when he's a skeletal old man it will be baggy and in tatters.

With an idea that centres on repetition the little details become completely gripping. People will be entranced by how the dance move evolves between the ages, how the vest changes slightly, how the actor changes, the amount he sweats, how the camera behaves. We can also add a few other little details in the frame. Maybe a plant near him grows, dies and decomposes. Maybe an animal dies and decays. Maybe the earth beneath him can wear away slightly. Maybe the edge of a building behind him can fall apart and be repaired. Subtle little hints that time is passing.



LOOK

I like the idea of it looking sandy and warm. I want to really feel the heat our dancer is endure.

The frame should be simple. Maybe there's the edge of a house and some scrubland, maybe there's a mountain in the very distance. It needs to feel impoverished and desolate.



STONE

The idea may be surreal but I think there is something oddly profound about seeing an impoverished man born and die on the dirt with nothing but his dance moves and his vest.

The 'oddly profound' is the tone I'm after. There are no jokes or silliness. The man's performance and dancing will be played completely straight.

Dancing

With the help of a choreographer we'd create a simple 7.5-second dance routine that can be performed confidently by non-professional dancers and that looks effortless rather than goofy or awkward.

Performance

I imagine the man to have a focused look on his face. Nothing smiley or goofy. He should appear completely immersed in the music.





The track is infectious and I think this simple concept would make it even more so! Thanks for reading.

- Ian