

FRANK

*An intimate portrait of a philosopher's lifelong
quest to help us better see ourselves*

FILM TREATMENT

logline

After giving generations of astronauts the language to describe their transformative experiences, the octogenarian philosopher and author of *The Overview Effect* makes his own journey into space, realizing a dream he sparked a lifetime ago.



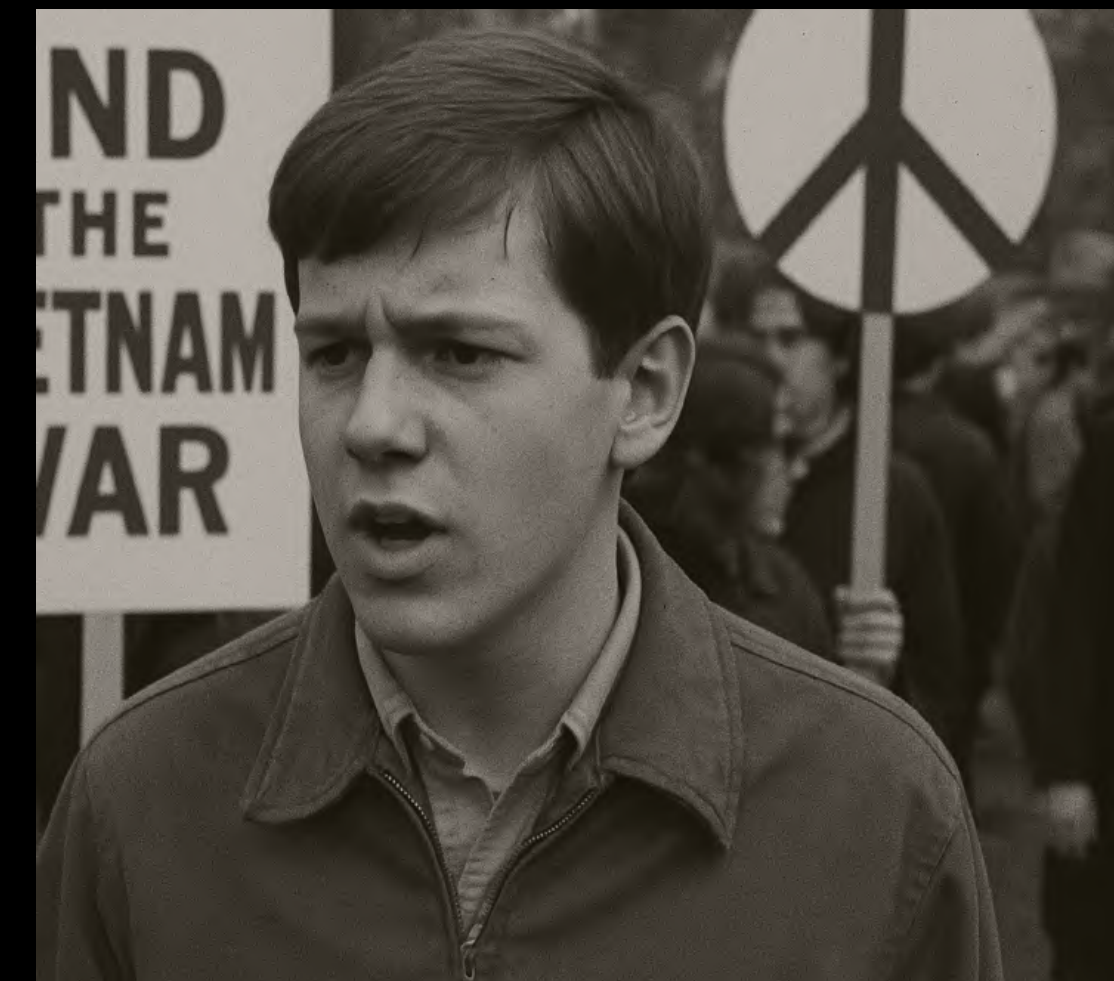
synopsis

This documentary follows philosopher Frank White, who coined The Overview Effect, as he finally experiences the spaceflight that defined his life's work. For over forty years, Frank nurtured a planetary movement, giving astronauts the language to describe the profound sense of unity they felt when viewing Earth from space, while he himself had never seen it firsthand.

Now, in his eighties, he crosses the threshold. Interwoven with voices of astronauts, artists, and visionaries shaped by his ideas, this intimate film captures a full-circle transformation: the birth of an idea meeting the immediacy of lived experience. Through Frank's journey, we are invited to reflect on our interconnected world and what it means to come home changed.



**This is a story of perseverance,
faith, and planetary purpose,
and how one man's vision
helped humanity see itself anew.**



tone & style

Poetic, intimate, and cosmically cinematic. Think *The Tree of Life* meets *Shangri-La* (Rick Rubin docu-series) meets *Won't You Be My Neighbor?* with the tenderness of a personal relationship framing a mythic journey. Archival footage of Frank's early years mixes with stunning cinematic portraits retracing his pivotal steps. Ethereal visuals of Earth and space pair with contemplative vérité footage. Original animations inspired by 1950s space illustrations visualize Frank's inner transformation. We aim to create a lyrical atmosphere where personal memory and planetary perspective blur.

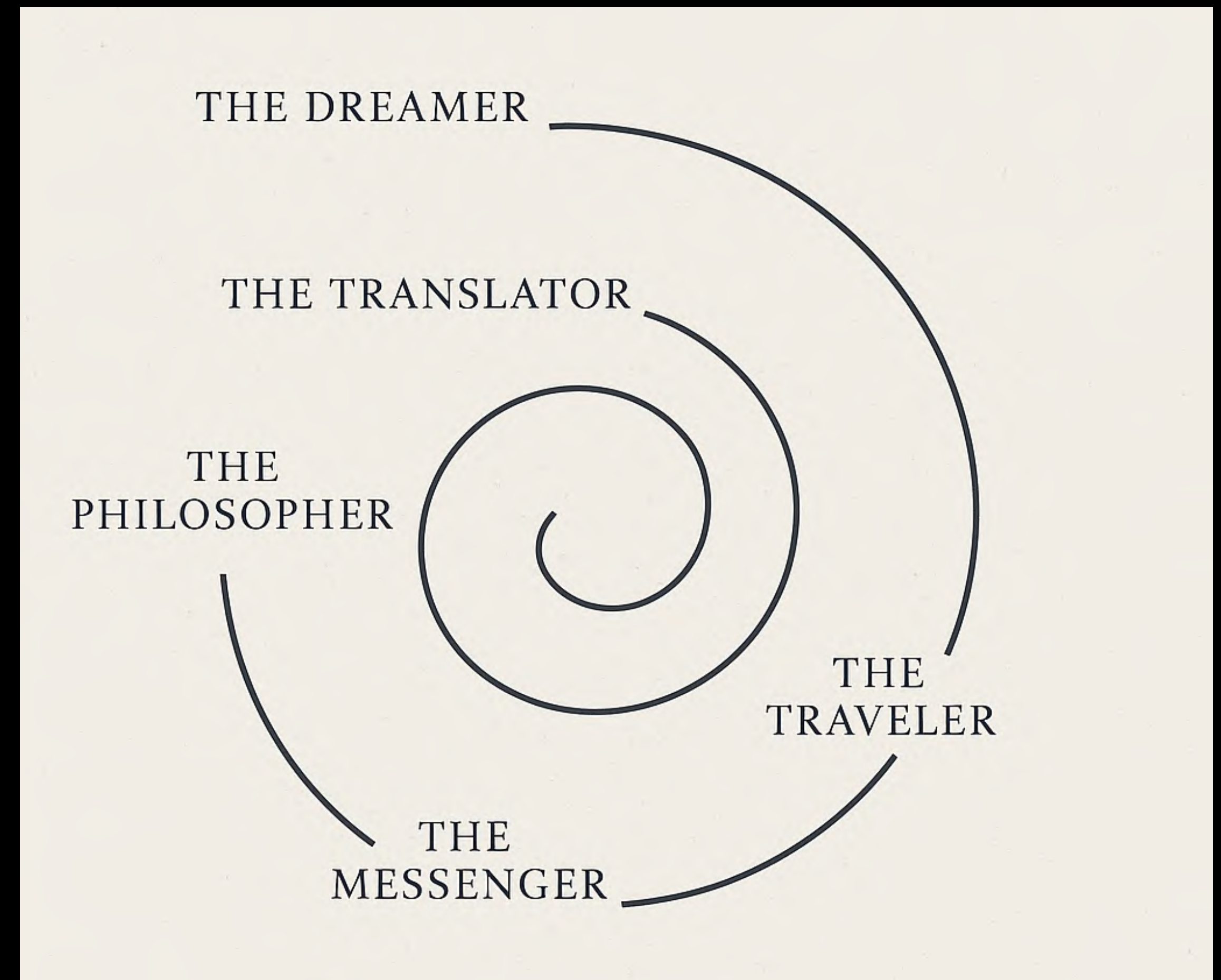


Structure & Emotional Arc

The structure follows the shape of memory or music: circular, poetic, and intimate.

Frank's voyage into space casts light across his lifetime of inquiry, love, and reflection. We follow the ripples of this moment backward and forward in time, ending where we began: *transformed*.

This is not just a journey to space, but a full-circle journey back home.



FORESHADOW OPEN

The rocket rumbles, shakes the viewer. Societal noises mount with accompanying visuals—talking, bleeping, radio signals—akin to the opening of *Contact* with inspiration drawn from *Koyanisqaatsi*. And, in an instant... we are sucked out of the atmosphere and now calmly floating above the Earth, the only sound the sound of breath.

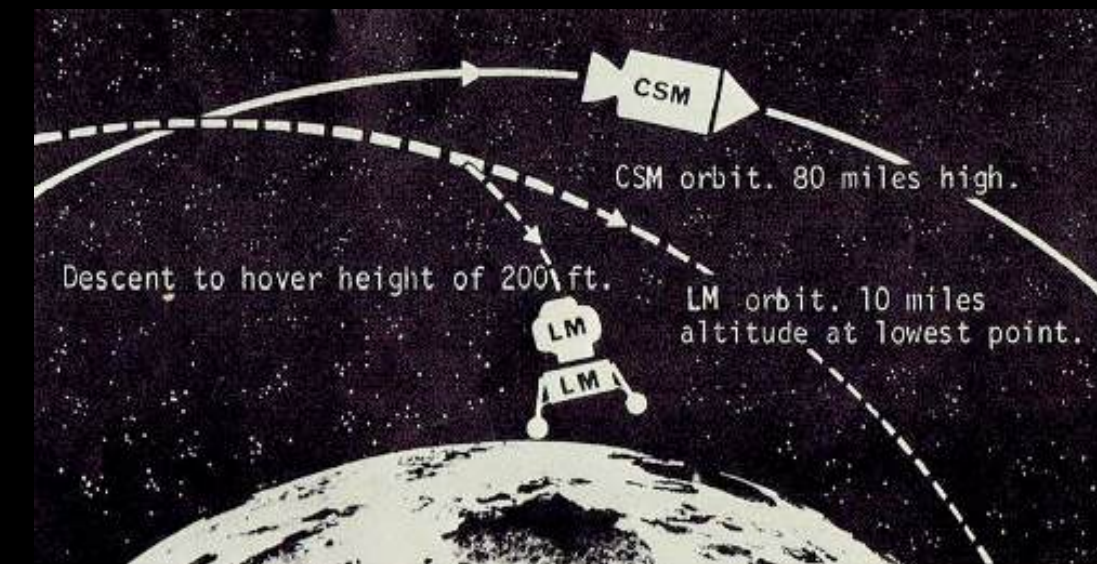
We follow a floating dust particle over to Frank's face in the window of the space capsule. Frank's calm voiceover begins: «I'll never forget that flight... I had just left the political noise of DC... it was a time of societal unrest...»

We play with the viewer's concept of space and time. Briefly unveiling Frank at his climax spaceflight moment, but with the story of his original flight on an airplane, where he first conceived of the idea of *the Overview Effect*, following a meditation retreat.



key visual elements

- Archival footage from Frank's young life, astronaut interviews, and early media appearances (provided by Frank)
- Interviews with astronauts (provided by Frank)
- Pre- and post-flight footage (to be captured)
- Intimate discussions with Frank in his home (to be captured)
- Dramatizations and footage of Frank re-visiting important locations (to be captured)
- Imagery of Earth in space, both awe-inspiring and fragile (provided by NASA, Planet, SEN)



director's statement



I've had the privilege of calling Frank White not only a mentor, but one of my dearest friends. His words changed the course of my life and through our friendship, I've come to see the man behind the philosophy. Not just the thinker, but the tender, curious human who has waited a lifetime for a moment he gave to others first.

This film is Frank's story, but it's also told through the eyes of someone who loves him. My voice will thread gently through the film, not as a narrator above, but as a friend alongside. I aim to hold space for Frank's transformation in a way that invites others into it too.

This film seeks to honor that journey by capturing the vulnerability of a dream deferred, the courage of transformation at any age, and the sacred act of returning with truth. I hope audiences will not just witness Frank's story, but feel themselves within it. It is, at its heart, about bringing the Overview Effect down to Earth.

the production team



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the crew



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We are looking for partners and crew that care about this story and want to help bring the film's full vision to life.
We would love to discuss ways you can support the mission.



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