

### **Infinity Pub (feature film concept)**

A five-act time travel film is set in a single pub (and its immediate surrounding areas) in one of the major Lithuanian cities; navigating the pub in a certain way makes one navigate different time periods. Initial main characters are students from the local University, well versed in physics and history. The story starts out jokingly with the students using trial and error examine, how pub-as-a-time-machine works. After the introductory first act (during which the students can only jump a couple of minutes backwards or forwards to ease the audience into the mechanics of the plot) they manage to travel back in time considerably – starting with the relative safety of interwar Lithuania and continuing with two devastating (Nazi and Soviet) occupations.

The crux of the narrative is a love story between two people, who met and fell in love during a dream (later revealed as memory of the future). One is a descendant of a Jew, who was saved by the notable real-world historical figure – Japan’s consular in Lithuania Chiune Sugihara. Another is a descendant of an alternate-reality’s war criminal, who has stopped Sugihara from saving the Jews. During the course of the film it is discovered, that for one to exist, the other must not; it is a binary choice in all the possible worlds. Figuring out the paradox required for the two unlikely lovers to be together is a driving force of the plot. The story examines, what does such a strong connection between two people in the incompatible worlds entails as well as tackles the metaphysical questions of identity. The second storyline is centered on the drive for knowledge; main characters are excited to find out as much about time travel as possible. It is the “science” part of the sci-fi, appealing to audience members craving some intellectual challenge. The third plotline is centered on the uncomfortable historical questions. Characters cannot resist the temptation of messing around with time in hopes to prevent some major 20<sup>th</sup> Century tragedies only to discover, that each altered timeline contains as much suffering as the original. Conflict is in the human nature; the only sensible thing is to accept that the past – good and bad – has shaped us into who we are now. The nationalities of most of the heroes *and* villains are Lithuanian. This is to bring back the missing Lithuanian agency to the historiography of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, usually portraying Lithuanians as helpless victims. The film would suggest that the oppressions could not have been possible without the Lithuanian collaborators and the negligent interwar authorities. Accepting responsibility is necessary for both understanding the past and shaping the future.

The film involves examination of various time travel theories, popularization of Lithuanian history as well as contemplation of the tough historical questions. The main setting being a pub would help to keep the budget tight. It also serves as a thematic juxtaposition – a place, usually utilized to wash the troubles away, now helps to deal with them. The paradoxical love story would underline the pain’s necessity for joy as well as provide a simple to grasp, human reason to continue fighting even while facing the inevitable tragedies.