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Film Review

Reflecting Our Universe: A Review of Cheryl Maeder's Frequency

By [Joshua Williams](#) - November 26, 2019 👁 40 💬 1



Cheryl Maeder's *Frequency* asks if there is indeed other life in our universe. It also uses non-verbal language to question what's beyond our scope of existence. Without using any dialogue, it's able to move and soak us into its mindset. It's a dark, cunning, and at times suspenseful exploration of parallel universes.

Part of what makes the film so suspenseful is the way Maeder uses water to reflect certain images. There's one shot where the camera eyes a figure's reflection from the lake, and yet we're unsure of its look. What does this figure look like beyond its reflection? At times it seems as if the figure is looking up at us from underneath the lake. While this is happening, the camera doesn't move at all. This creates a suspenseful moment where the viewer is waiting for the figure to either jump out from the water and reveal itself, but it never does.

In addition to images and reflection, Maeder uses color to show the contrast of our world and the dark reflection of it. When the color transitions away from black and white, we're finally able to witness the full vividness of our world. We see people rowing boats above the lake. Suddenly everything seems normal, but there's something lurking underneath the water. Like the film *Jaws*, the eerie music alongside each image warns of an impending doom. The difference, however, is that we never see the threat lurking underneath. We aren't sure whether the people rowing in boats will be eaten alive or are just being spied on from below the surface.

And that's the question Cheryl Maeder wants us to ponder about: is there life underneath the surface? Should we be paying more attention to the unusual occurrences in our lives or should we just move on as if nothing happened? These questions and more make up the foundation of *Frequency*. They live underneath each shot and reflect our universe in more ways than we can ever imagine.

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C'ya.