

Sex Magic

Manifesting Maya

Sur

A ^ Real Love Story

Written, Produced, and Directed by
Jonathan Schell and Eric Liebman
80 minutes, Digibeta, 16:9

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Tagline

Baba Dez is a polyamorous, sacred sexual healer who's made love to over a thousand women. When his primary lover abandons him due to his "poly" lifestyle, he practices Sex Magic with other women to manifest her back.



Synopsis

It's your average "Boy meets Girl, Boy loses Girl, Boy gets Girl back story." But, in this story, the Boy is BABA DEZ, a renowned polyamorous (multiple relationships), sacred sexual healer, and the Girl, MAYA, is a sacred prostitute with a history of sexual abuse. To get her back, Dez must embark on a heroic journey, one that pitches him into a labyrinth of philosophical challenges and contradictions. Sex Magic takes an irreverent look at very reverent people, where devotees and practitioners of the ancient art of Tantra travel down the risky emotional path and attempt to channel their sexual energy toward spiritual growth and manifestation of their desires.

A prominent sacred sexual healer, Baba Dez is a pillar of the Sacred Sexuality practitioner community. His work is doing sexual healing with clients to help them overcome past abuse issues, or just to enrich their sexual and spiritual lives. He also organizes Sex and Consciousness Conferences around the world. His life's

goal is no less than to save the planet by “doing the work.” Of his many apprentices, Dez has chosen Maya (meaning *illusion* in Hinduism), a beautiful aspiring Tantrica to be his queen. Maya is the perfect feminine reflection of himself, albeit much younger and far less experienced. Together they host international conferences, inevitably rendezvousing with a myriad of Dez's lovers, both former and current. But pursuing a life of pleasure turns out to be not so pleasurable for Maya, evoking long-buried issues of jealousy and abandonment. Repulsed by the continual parade of Dez's lovers, Maya can take no more and she leaves him.

She explains the reason she left was that he had been with too many women. When asked, Dez reluctantly admits he's been with 1 to 2 thousand women.

In addition to the devastation of the loss of his queen, a rumor circulates that he's inappropriately using his lingam (penis) in healing work with his clients. This is perpetuated from a dakini he mentored, who also accuses him of inappropriately coming on to her, saying he has an insatiable need.

Dez explains it's dangerous for a man to do this work, suggesting it's the “wounded feminine lashing out.” He turns inward, to a path of celibacy, although he continues to move his energy through his self-pleasuring ritual (non-ejaculatory masturbating).

But celibacy doesn't last long. Dez goes to Hawaii with two lovers; one a raw food chef, the other an accomplished writer and sacred sexual healer. Together, they're writing a book about Sex Magic; the process of creating a god connection through love making to manifest one's dreams and desires.

Married and with a young child of her own, Dez's co-writer claims that by making love with Dez, she's able to “download” all his wisdom given to him by his teachers. And for Dez, she “holds space” for Maya's return. In a fun-filled week's vacation they visit a secret Yoni (vagina) Cave where ancient Hawaiians performed fertility rituals, pick fresh fruits & vegetables to the delight of the raw food chef, work on the book, and frolic in the sun & surf. That is until Maya calls.

While some may see an existential crisis in the clash between a man's belief system and his reality, Dez stays resolutely confident that Sex Magic works and will manifest the return of his beloved Maya.



Directors' Statement:

This film originated as a work for hire when a snowboarding buddy of ours told us that his cousin, a prominent Sacred Sexual Shaman known in the tantric community as Baba Dez, wanted to do a documentary about the healing work that he and other practitioners were doing at his temple in Sedona, AZ.

Our first shoot was a conference Dez hosted for tantric healers. But when one was uncomfortable with the presence of cameras, we were shut down before we started. To earn our stripes, we self-consciously participated in exercises intended to “cultivate and move our orgasmic energy”. While not terribly successful in that effort, we did meet a very colorful group of people who ranged from transcendental journeymen, abused women, to lonely men. But they all shared a goal of using the tantric philosophy to harness sexuality for transformational effect.

The initial intention for the doc was to track a few healers and their clients, but after a many months of shooting, money was starting to run out and the healers and clients remained reluctant to show us what they really do. We heard a lot about “sacred spot massage” and other sacrosanct jargon, but due to shame, legality, and trust issues, no one would go on camera. We were afraid we’d have to change our working title from “Doing The Work”, to “Talking About Doing The Work”.

Simultaneously, there were interesting developments in Dez’s life. We heard a rumor that a female practitioner had said that after working with Dez, she “felt like she had been raped”. The shock waves this sent through the tantric community was enough to convince us that we had a compelling character for a feature doc. We took the project on as our own and shifted the focus from tantric healing to a character piece.

But what happened next in Dez’s personal life was when we really discovered the movie. Repulsed by the continual parade of lovers, Maya, Dez’s primary lover dumped him. Considering that Dez was polyamorous and had “shared love” with more than a thousand women, we were surprised that losing one lover would prove so devastating. But it did, and suddenly the polished sexual guru seemed ever bit the heartbroken teenager. Although, as a studied tantric master with an unshakable belief system that includes manifesting his desires, Dez was determined to reigniting his relationship with Maya.

Dez uses Sex Magic; the ritual of channeling thought, emotions, and physical energy during love making as a prayer to manifest your dreams and desires. Empowered with Sex Magic, Dez set out to manifest Maya’s return by doing the exact thing that had driven her away in the first place; “manifesting” with lots of other women.

Quotes from Characters in the Film:

On Dez's Character

Dez's friend Lawrence, regarding Sedona, "This is the land of Oz! That's what's so beautiful about Sedona. It is the land of Oz. And Dez, this is the wizard."

Client/lover, "I definitely was finding myself becoming more and more orgasmic just by being with him."

How Maya, his primary lover got into this work, "I did not find the tantric path. The tantric path found me, through meeting Baba Dez. He saw the Dakini in me."

From TJ, a male student, "You're Baba Dez. You're who you are and you're sharing it openly, and that can teach other men how to be. And so I say to you, thank you for being you and being an example of what's possible."

Dez, "I have a large sexual appetite. It's larger than most people's. So because I desire sex so much, people wonder if there's addiction going on."

Jaiya on Dez's needs, "I lived at the Sedona temple for a little while. It was very difficult for some reason with Dez to communicate that I was there for business and not about wanting to engage sexually with him... But then he's putting his hands down my pants and things like that. There was definitely a boundary of my space... I don't know what it is, but it came out of like a need."

Kamala Devi, "He's a firestarter. The work that he does really stirs people. Who's to say that's not for the greatest good."

Ariel, "You're going into a pit of demons if you are starting to heal this work with women... Here's the thing, if I were a Daka, I would not use my cock in session work."

Dez's parents, "I don't know an awful a lot about what he does, but I know he's helping people."

On Polyamoury

Dez on his lovers, "How many women have I been with, you know I really don't count, but many years ago I did a reclamation exercise and I had to count... I don't know, somewhere between one thousands and two thousand."

Dez, regarding sharing, "If someone loves me and they want to be my lover, they're going to need to love Maya too."

Kamala Devi in regards to Dez's polyamorous lifestyle, "Here's this guy, he's with these beautiful women, making love,... He has his cake and eats it too. My question is, why not? Who the fuck wants a cake if you're not going to eat it."

From the husband of one of Dez's lovers, "Jealousies do come up, but the benefits of a polyamorous life far outweigh the jealousy."

Dez on his feelings about Maya's new lover, "This is the territory I want to move into, this is where I want to explore, this is where my edge is. The thing that is really different for me is that I've never loved anyone as much as I do now, with Maya. So the stakes are really high."

Baba Dez On Sex Magic

"When I move into sex with someone, I bring in the magic. To me it's like, why make love in any other way. So those individuals I shared with needed to honor my intention to bring my beloved Maya back into my life. She's not in my life right now, and you are, and you're sharing with me intimately. So I'm asking that you hold that prayer and witness me in that desire."

"When we start aligning our passion with our hearts, our bellies, our bodies and our conscious awareness, that power can then be harnessed to actually manifest our dreams and desires."

"Sex Magic is about holding each others desires and dreams as sacred, aligning in my own emotional body, in my heart, in my belly, in my mind,... then you align with your people, beloved, family, community, earth, and divine. And when you've got all that lined up, manifestation just can't help but materialize".

On Tantra

Dez on his work, "The characteristics of the unhealthy masculine are, impatience, anger, rage, lack of communication,... kind of a bully. And his partner is the wounded feminine, and she's hurt, angry, despondent, she's resentful. And so my job as a sacred sexual healer is to create the union, the communion, the sacred union of the masculine and feminine within each being."

Tantric practitioner Steven Jay, "Before I started practicing tantra and my spiritual connection to sexuality, this little sneeze would come out of my penis... Now orgasms radiate thru my body. My whole body charges up with sexual energy, and that energy is the same as spiritual energy, so I feel my whole body filling up with god inside me."

From Raven, a Temple practitioner, “I love helping premature ejaculators. But I’ve never witnessed that being the problem. For me there is no problem. Premature ejaculation is a life force mastery issue”.

From dakini Maya, “All paths in life are opened up through working on sexual issues. It’s the deep down core of where they’re at”.

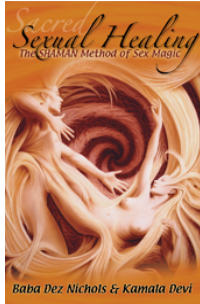
From tantric educator TJ Bartlet, “I imagine that 75% of people that get into tantric healing get into it because of their own healing. Because their brother or their father, or the baby sitter did things to them that they haven’t quite healed from. So they come into the path and heal themselves, and in the process learn about how great this is.”

Dez on tantra’s hands on healing, “The touch aspect gives people a whole other dimension beyond normal psychology work. We give people a bodily and heart and emotion experience”.

Dez as he begins a “sacred spot” healing session with an inorgasmic client, “This is an ancient ritual, it’s been used in temples centuries and centuries ago. It was taught to young men and women coming into their sexual awakening. This ritual is a way to honor the feminine and it’s very powerful because it activates your womb and your yoni. It’s that part of the body carries a lot of wisdom. So we’re honoring your manifestation as this beautiful goddess. And you are beautiful.”

Dez on sexual healing, “There is a lot of stored energy in that womb area. So for most people rather than dealing with all those issues they just shut down and distance themselves from it. The fallout from that is disconnecting from our power to be creators and manifestors.”

Dez in session with a women who’s been abused by her father and is now obese, “And this is a parallel universe that exists right along side your reality, and we’re going to call it your extraordinary reality. And in your extraordinary reality, your father came and he held you, and he didn’t want anything from you, and he didn’t need anything from you. So feel this placed right now, and your four or five years old, and feel your father holding you, feel me holding you, and know that I don’t want anything from you. I want you to know that you are the most precious girl, and if there’s anything you want or need you just let me know, because it’s my job to take care of you and it’s your job to play, and have fun and be a little girl, yeah.”



Character Bio's

BABA DEZ (Sedona, Arizona)



Our main character, Baba Dez, is a Daka and transformational guide, author, and singer/songwriter. He lives in Sedona and Kona, Hawaii, exploring the sacred inner realms and enjoying the many textures of life, love, and humanity. His goal is to inspire and support others in their integration of the divine masculine and feminine (Shiva/Shakti) energies within and thereby heal the world.

He feels his path is to travel worldwide and help others find healing & enjoyment in transformation, and manifest grounded results. He is currently on tour promoting the release of his book *Sacred Sexual Healing: "The Shaman Method of Sex Magic"* and his music CD "Thank the Moon". He is the founder of the Sedona Temple and International School of Temple Arts and Annual Daka-Dakini Conferences for sex and consciousness teachers and practitioners worldwide. Dez has studied with many masters around the world for over 30 years. Baba Dez is the teacher's teacher, a Master Practitioner. A man with several lovers at most times, and a constant flow of apprentices working around his 9-bedroom home and multi-classroom school in Sedona AZ. Known as Sedona Temple, it has been converted to a "Shangri La" of Sacred Celibate, Monogamous, and Polyamorous lifestyles. Home to sexual spirituality seekers, the School of Temple Arts supports practitioners as they spread the message throughout the world.

MAYA YONIKA



MAYA (meaning *illusion* in Hinduism) is Dez's love interest and a Sacred Sexual Healer, Shamaness, and Kundalini Yogini. Unique, individualistic, and deeply devoted to her spirit path, Maya is a true student of life. She is intense and direct, with a lightness and humor. Maya travels worldwide, offering workshops, intensives, and private sessions to those who seek "a higher vibration of being". She jumped into the world of tantra with both feet, blindfolded, completely unaware of what to expect when she moved into Sedona Temple and entered into relationship with Daka Baba Dez. She's become deeply entrenched into tantric philosophies and teachings in the West. After a few months together, they began a worldwide journey presenting workshops, intensives and conferences. From her inside perspective, she observed the Western Tantric community and all its "realities". I contracted, expressed, expanded, and shifted on all levels as I came into my discernment and self-love. I did not seek to become a Dakini. Now, I see the absolute necessity of sacred sexual work from a deeply grounded, sober and disciplined perspective.

Highly educated she holds a B.A. in Anthropology & M.A. in Metaphysics and is trained in Kundalini Yoga and meditation as taught by Yogi Bajan. She graduated Suma Cum Laude with the Award of Academic Distinction in Anthropology.

KAMALA DEVI (San Diego, California)



Kamala Devi, is Baba Dez's co-author of his book and one of his principle lovers. She is a Bliss Coach and Dakini. She has traveled Europe, Asia, India, Bali and the South Pacific studying Tantra. She and Baba Dez collaborate with Sex Magic; Channeling Creativity and Self Promotion for Erotic Professionals. Kamala hosts and leads monthly pujas and playshops in San Diego. Married with a child, Kamala is the author of "Don't Drink the Punch: An Adventure in Teaching Tantra: The Erotic Way", and is currently promoting her book with Dez; "Sacred Sexual Healing: The Shaman Method of Sex Magic." They are writing the book throughout the documentary.

LAWRENCE LANOFF (Sedona, Arizona)



Lawrence is Baba Dez's friend and the principle voice challenging Dez to see through his own filters. Lawrence is an accomplished director, and author who devotes his time to writing, yoga, photography, film, and teaching both groups and individuals the work of "A Course in Freedom", including creativity, healing, and the expansion of consciousness.

He is currently working on a revolutionary new theory of consciousness that includes mythology, evolution, business, money, human awareness, symbolism, metaphor, neurobiology, and their relationship to healing, brain function, human spiritual evolution, and neuro-economics -- the neural pathways that influences our deepest feelings about self-worth and money.

The Filmmakers

Jonathan Schell - Director /DP



Jonathan was born in Queens, NY but grew up in NJ. While enrolled at NYU Grad Film he supported himself by working as a cater waiter which in turn inspired his graduate thesis film, "Picasso Would Have Made A Glorious Waiter". The film premiered at Sundance and went on to win the Student Academy Award, Student Emmy Award and 26 festival honors. From there, Jonathan shot and directed commercials, including a Superbowl pre-game spot for Nike, Diet Coke and Oxy 10 amongst others.

He regained his soul after converting his car to run on waste vegetable oil, which karmically led to a slew of environmental work, including Al Gore's, "An Inconvenient Truth", "The Sierra Club Chronicles", NRDC's "The Folly of Liquid Coal", and a Robert Redford hosted Sundance Summit on global warming.

Currently working as a cinematographer in Los Angeles, his producing partner Eric Liebman came to him with a gig to shoot a piece on a Tantric Sex Guru in Sedona. Discovering a complex character in a fascinating sub-culture, led the two to pursue the project as a feature doc.

"SEX MAGIC, MANIFESTING MAYA" is Jon's first and Eric's second feature documentary.

Eric Liebman - Director /Producer



Producer/Co-director Eric was born in Largo, Florida. He grew up as an Extreme Sports fan, and without any formal film school training he got into film making through making sports films. Eric started in TV production in the 90's as Executive Producer and on air Host of X Sports events & shows for ESPN & ABC. During that time he was also part of the development team for and a producer on X Games. He shot, directed and edited sports documentaries ranging from snowboarding in Alaska to Motocross on the sand dunes of Death Valley. Which led to his first feature doc "It's All Good" for Showtime.

Havana, Cuba, for a series of music videos for international recording artist, X-Alfonso, and acclaimed Afro Cuban Hip Hop Group, Frijoles Negros and the legendary Cuba Disco international music festival, featuring numerous Latin Music Icons.

2002 brought his first feature film project. Eric wrote, "Ani and the Blue Goddess" for ARTISAN ENTERTAINMENT. As director, Eric incorporated top Pro Action Sports athletes in the unique sci-fi fantasy film. Politically shut down a week before principal photography, the avant-garde project provided Eric with invaluable experience through the entire pre production on an ambitious Indy.

Since moving to Los Angeles he has been producing and directing everything from reality television to commercials, to scripted viral comedy shorts, as well as SEX MAGIC a documentary about Tantric sexual healers. He currently works developing and directing reality and dramatic projects.

George Danno – Editor /Co-producer



Since graduating from film school a decade ago, George has worked in both television and film as an award-winning editor and director, producer, screenwriter and actor. His debut feature MARCH was awarded 'Best Drama' at

the 2002 Hollywood Underground Film Festival. In addition to being the lead editor and field director on both seasons of the hit Court TV series, UNDER FIRE, George wrote, produced and edited the 66.6 Film Festival on Comcast's FEARnet, which was written up in Entertainment Weekly's October 2008 issue. In 2010, George collaborated with artist Michelle Castignetti on the short film, I CLOSE MY EYES AND WALK AWAY, which premiered at the 2010 South By Southwest Film and Music Festival. In addition to editing and co-producing SEX MAGIC: MANIFESTING MAYA, George has several film projects in development based on his screenplays, including his adaptation of the novel, KEY WASTE. Famed commercial director Kevin Thomas is slated to direct the film, which is to begin pre-production in the fall of 2010.

Sales Rep

Steven Beer - Entertainment Lawyer

Steven Beer is an entertainment lawyer who established the entertainment and media law firm Rudolph & Beer, LLP alongside Laurence H. Rudolph in 1993. He is a shareholder in the NYC office of Greenberg Traurig. He has served as counsel to a number of award-winning writers, producers, and directors, as well as industry leading film production, distribution and finance companies. Steven also has a passion for the music industry and has worked with high-profile production companies, record label and multi-platinum musical artists, including Britney Spears. Beer is the founder of R&B FM, LLC, a company focused on producing music-oriented films.

Beer is passionate about the indie film industry and serves on the board of the IFP, the organization responsible for the 2005 campaign "Independent Film Week", which encourages people to experience indie film. He is known for his contribution to such films as "Empire", "L.I.E", "Tumbleweeds" and the recent IndiePix acquisition, "Red Without Blue".

