

ONCE UPON A TIME **THE** IN SAN FRANCISCO



BLACK HATCHET

VS. THE BOUNTY HUNTERS

BEFORE THE PHANTOM, SUPERMAN & BATMAN,
THERE WAS . . .



TRACHIOTIS | GRAHAM | JEFFERSON

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY & OVERVIEW

THE BLACK HATCHET – PITCH DECK © Michael Trachiotis 2026

GOALS

To option the script, sequels, comics and stories. To be hired to write and rewrite scripts. Producer role.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

TITLE: The Black Hatchet

SCREENPLAY: 96 Pages

PROOF-OF-CONCEPT ANIMATED COMICS: Three Comics (Adapted from the screenplay)

GENRE: Action/Adventure/Revenge/Martial Arts/Thriller/History/Epic

TOPE: Brutal, mythic, operatic

SETTING: San Francisco, 1906 – Barbary Coast, Gold Rush tunnels, opium dens, alleys, citywide inferno

DEMOGRAPHICS: Adult/Female/Male/Asian/Multicultural

BUDGET: TBD **SHOOT:** TBD

FRANCHISE READY IP

Adaptation: Based on real people, true stories and events.

A Never-Before-Seen World: In the spirit of *The Crow*, *Gladiator*, *John Wick*, *The Revenant*, *Gangs of New York* and *Fist of Fury* comes a brutal, mythic action-thriller set against one of America's most dangerous and rarely explored underworlds. San Francisco. 1906. The Barbary Coast.

Signature Action: Spectacular, realistic "Hatchet Fu" White Crane close quarter, martial-arts combat.

International Cast: Diverse men and woman featuring Chinese culture that represent the most profitable global market for action/adventure films.

Epic Spectacle: The 1906 earthquake and firestorm as a third-act apocalypse.

Franchise-Ready Mythology: The story and sequels launch toward Shanghai and a global crime empire.

Origin Myth: A franchise-ready antihero.

Comics as Proof-of-Concept: Free online eComics offer a visual prevision of the hero's journey, allies and enemies, cultures, combat, set pieces, costumes and themes.

CONCLUSION

The Black Hatchet is a high-stakes, high-octane character driven epic that fuses visceral action with moral complexity – justice versus vengeance, faith versus fury and the unbreakable bond between brother and sister.

This is not just another revenge thriller. It is a haunting meditation on guilt, grief and redemption.

A brutal, yet visually striking period that world audiences have never seen before.

The legend is ready to rise.

LOGLINE & SYNOPSIS

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LOGLINE

A ghost vigilante rises from the shadows – twin blades parched for justice, vengeance in his veins. When Hatchet Men sex traffickers abduct his sister, a scarred cowboy reborn as the Black Hatchet carves a savage path, racing against time to save her before she’s shipped to Shanghai – leaving alleys awash in blood and body parts.

THE STORY

San Francisco, 1906. A city rotting beneath its own excess. The Barbary Coast is ruled by opium dens, brothels, underground fight pits, and the iron grip of Chinese Tong syndicates.

When rugged young cowboy Malcolm Hutchins arrives with his fourteen-year-old sister Rose for a cattle auction, they stumble into this criminal abyss. Tong Hatchet Men ambush them in the streets – Malcolm is left for dead with his face slashed open, and Rose vanishes into a trafficking pipeline bound for Shanghai.

Scarred, shattered, and consumed by guilt, Malcolm retreats to his family ranch near Mt. Shasta, seeking help from his blood brother White Crow, chief of the Okwanuchu people and master of obsidian hatchet warfare.

Before they can mount a rescue, Malcolm’s world collapses again: highwaymen burn the ranch to the ground, killing his parents in the flames.

With nothing left to lose, Malcolm uses his recent, brutal training in White Crane Kung Fu under a feral Shaolin exile known as the Werewolf Monk in combination with Okwanuchu hatchet combat – and returns to San Francisco reborn as a myth whispered in alleyways: the Black Hatchet.

Armed with twin obsidian blades, Malcolm unleashes a relentless war through the Barbary Coast – dismantling the Tong empire, liberating captive girls, and leaving a trail of blood through gambling halls, opium dens, and fight pits.

His endgame is the Pale Devil, an albino enforcer of the Shanghai Green Dragon Tong – the sadist who scarred him and stole Rose. Just as Malcolm closes in, the city itself explodes: an 8.3-magnitude earthquake and four-day firestorm turn San Francisco into an apocalyptic hellscape.

In flooded Gold Rush tunnels beneath the burning city, Malcolm confronts the Pale Devil in a final Hatchet-Fu showdown – where Rose must rise, fight back, and save her brother.

In one final act of heroism, Malcolm climbs a flaming church tower to extinguish the fire threatening to reignite the remaining city – then exhausted, he passes out and tumbles from the roof.

He is saved in a dramatic rescue and awakens in Lorna’s arms. Both believed the other dead. Rose close by.

The city survives. So do they. But across the Pacific, the Green Dragon Tong still reigns – and the Black Hatchet’s war has only begun.

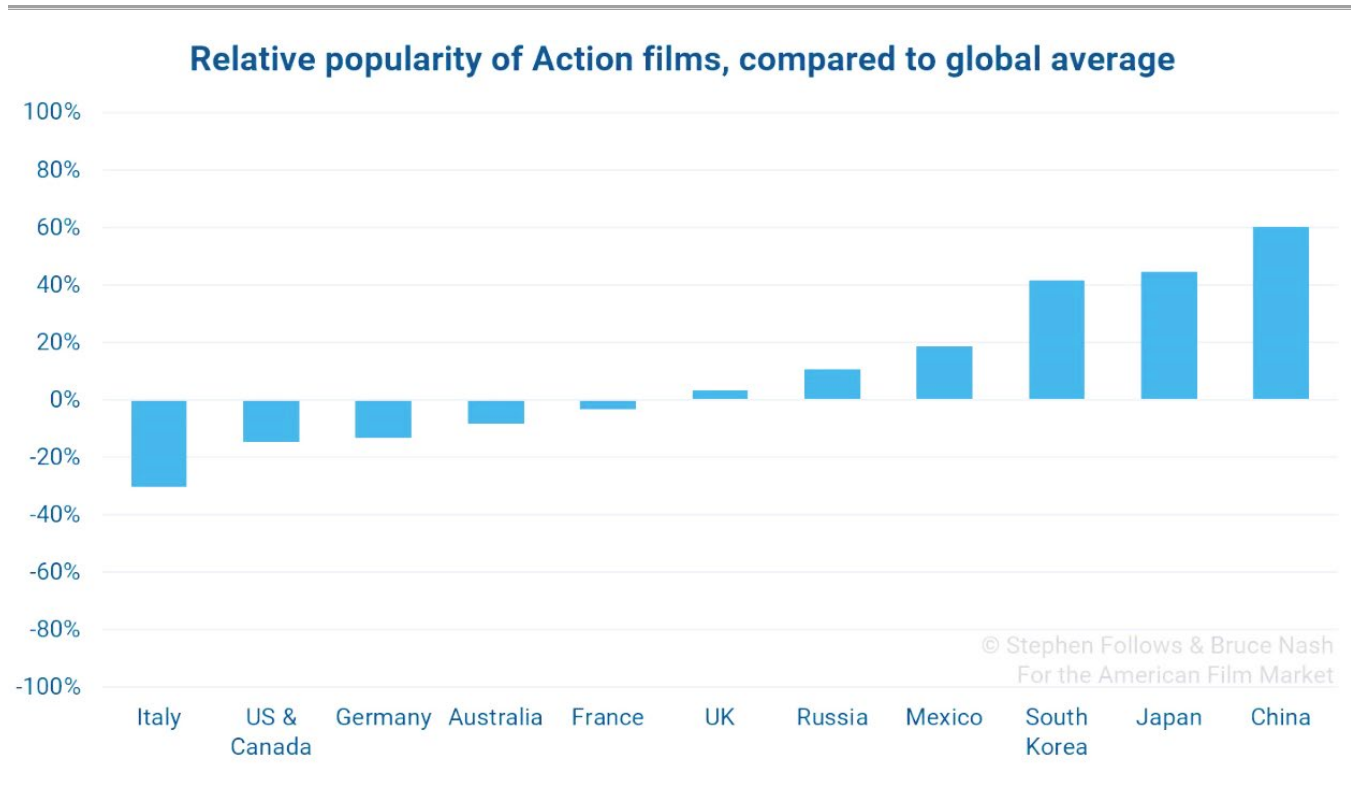
DESIRABLE DEMOGRAPHICS & BOUNDLESS GLOBAL DISTRIBUTION

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The GITNEX Market Data Report 2025 says, “the most popular genre of movies by American audiences for the past 22 years is Action/Adventure (with the “Hero” element) . . . the three highest grossing movies of all time.”

Our cast mirrors the key demos of 18 – 34, including the Black Hatchet, his love interest Lorna and his kidnapped sister Rose. Much of the cast is Chinese, plus Native and African American races and commanding female roles.

According to AMERICAN FILM MARKET “action films . . . perform disproportionality best in Asia.” In their chart (below), zero indicates the global average performance, so a positive score indicates Action films perform disproportionality well in that territory.

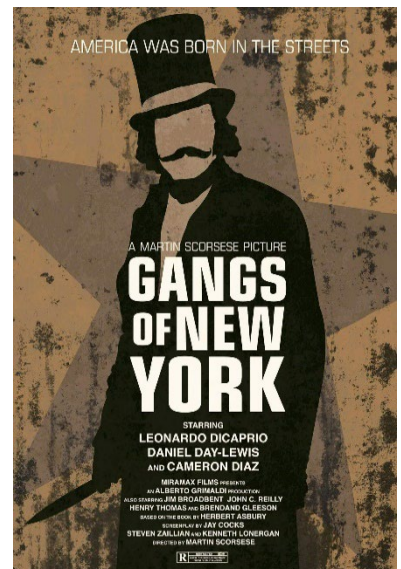
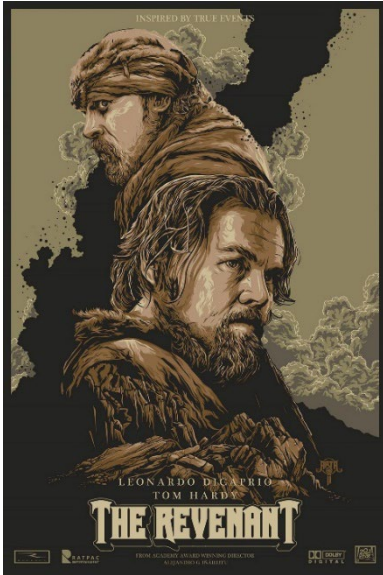


CONCLUSION

Therefore, the Black hatchet with its cross-section of desirable demos will be eye-catching to global, and specifically, Pacific Rim audiences generating boundless distribution channels and revenues.

COMPARABLE ACTION/ADVENTURE REVENGE FILMS

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COMPARABLE ACTION/ADVENTURE REVENGE FILM FINANCIALS

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DOMESTIC MARKET SHARE 2025 & TOP GROSSING COMP FILMS

www.the-numbers.com

ACTION

Total Movies = 49 (January to August)

Revenues = **\$1,964,451,329**

Market Share = 33.83%

THE REVENANT

Domestic Box Office \$183,637,894

International Box Office \$349,300,408

Worldwide Box Office \$532,938,302

Production Budget: \$135,000,000

GANGS OF NEW YORK

Domestic Box Office \$ 77,730,500

International Box Office \$105,394,121

Worldwide Box Office \$183,124,621

Production Budget: \$ 97,000,000

DJANGO UNCHAINED

Domestic Box Office \$162,805,434

International Box Office \$287,036,132

Worldwide Box Office \$449,841,566

Production Budget: \$100,000,000

GLADIATOR

Domestic Box Office \$187,683,805

International Box Office \$263,999,794

Worldwide Box Office \$451,683,599

Production Budget: \$103,000,000

THE PATRIOT

Domestic Box Office \$113,330,342

International Box Office \$101,969,658

Worldwide Box Office \$215,300,000

Production Budget: \$110,000,000

JOHN WICK

Domestic Box Office \$ 43,037,835

International Box Office \$ 32,972,675

Worldwide Box Office \$ 76,010,510

Production Budget: \$ 30,000,000

JOHN WICK CHAPTER 2

Domestic Box Office \$ 92,029,184

International Box Office \$ 79,288,087

Worldwide Box Office \$171,317,271

Production Budget: \$ 40,000,000

ADVENTURE

Total Movies = 25 (January to August)

Revenues = **\$1,488,346,691**

Market Share = 25.63%

JOHN WICK CHAPTER 3 – PARABELLUM

Domestic Box Office \$171,016,727

International Box Office \$156,186,974

Worldwide Box Office \$327,203,701

Production Budget: \$ 75,000,000

JOHN WICK CHAPTER 4

Domestic Box Office \$187,131,806

International Box Office \$260,184,599

Worldwide Box Office \$447,316,405

Production Budget: \$100,000,000

THE EQUALIZER 2

Domestic Box Office \$102,084,362

International Box Office \$ 88,291,819

Worldwide Box Office \$190,376,181

Production Budget: \$ 77,000,000

QUANTUM OF SOLACE

Domestic Box Office \$169,368,427

International Box Office \$422,323,651

Worldwide Box Office \$591,692,078

Production Budget: \$230,000,000

THE PUNISHER

Domestic Box Office \$ 33,664,370

International Box Office \$ 20,869,404

Worldwide Box Office \$ 54,533,774

Production Budget: \$ 33,000,000

THOR: RAGNAROK

Domestic Box Office \$315,058,289

International Box Office \$535,424,489

Worldwide Box Office \$850,482,778

Production Budget: \$180,000,000

V FOR VENDETTA

Domestic Box Office \$ 70,511,035

International Box Office \$ 59,703,127

Worldwide Box Office \$130,214,162

Production Budget: \$ 50,000,000

BRANDING STRATEGIES WITH A DROP KICK

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FREE PROOF-OF-CONCEPT ANIMATED COMICS

The goal is to create brand awareness and build a fan base by using social media campaigns (Over 50,000 interactions a month) to drive people to the website by giving them gratis books and art that project videos.

Interactive pitches at comic-cons boost our grass-roots PR movement by selling limited edition, animated, autographed graphic novels, T-shirts, stickers and posters and push fans to the website for free books and art.

We sold out the graphic novel at both comic-conventions and on Amazon within a month of release!

To attract eyeballs and advance our crusade we use AR (Augmented Reality) apps to project brief animations from covers, pages, panels and art that enhance the story, visuals and characters.

This huge upside is it enlists fans as evangelists who show off the AR films to friends and family! Free, one-on-one, in your face, targeted advertising!

Most importantly this interaction is popular with our key demos – culturally diverse, affluent, comic, movie and cos-play fans with disposable incomes who spend time on social media AND frequent cinema.



GET PDF COMICS & LEARN MORE

**POSTERS, STICKERS & T-SHIRTS
PLAY ANIMATIONS, TOO!**



**GET THE APP, OPEN, AIM &
WATCH ART COME TO LIFE!**

ONCEUPONATIMEINSF.COM

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Don't be shy. If eight-year-old kids can do it, so can you! Scan the QR, get the app, open, aim at any of the cover art in the DECK & watch it come to life!

ONCE UPON A TIME **THE** IN SAN FRANCISCO



BLACK HATCHET

UNMASKED

THE CITY BURNS.
HE BURNS HOTTER.

SPECIAL
RESCUE
EDITION



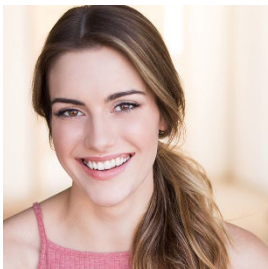
TRACHOTIS | EKEDAL | FRIEDMAN

CHARACTERS/BACKSTORIES/SUGGESTED ACTORS

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Main PERCY HYNES WHITE – Malcom Hutchins Aka the Black Hatchet – in his early 20s, is the son of Robert and Fionnsgoth Hutchins from Scotland who moved to Mt. Shasta and started a cattle ranch in the 1880's. At night as the vengeful, guilt driven and tormented Black Hatchet he hunts the back alleys of the Barbary Coast and Chinatown for his 14 year-old kidnapped sister, Rose, and the Hatchet Men who took her, defending himself with dual, Okwanuchu (Native American), black obsidian hatchets. He acquired superior hatchet warfare skills from the Okwanuchu, including their leader and his blood brother White Crow, whom he grew up with on his ranch. Because of his upbringing near the Siskiyou Trail, Hutchins encounters many drifters seeking work and meets the exiled and outlaw Werewolf Shaolin Monk Grand Master Tai Djin who teaches him the ancient White Crane fighting style.



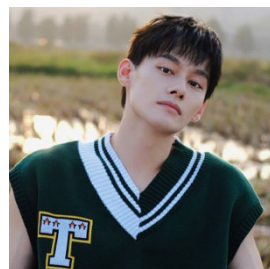
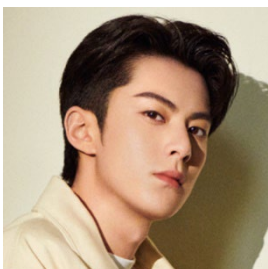
Lead BRIANNA JOY CONNER – Nurse Lorna Van Deusen – is a well-educated trust-funder on the lamb from an arranged marriage in New York to fulfill her dream in San Francisco of becoming doctor. She works at the Harbor Hospital next to Yerba Buena Hotel where the Black Hatchet stays and over three weeks takes care of his wounds. She realizes she's in love with him when she believes he died during the earthquake, and he believes she perished in the fire. They're reunited in the end.



Lead JOHNNY SEQUOYA FRIEDENBERG – Rose Hutchins – is Malcolm's kidnapped 14-year-old sister. The Black Hatchet's widowed father Robert remarried Okwanuchu Little Bird and she had Rose. Rose learned how to shoot and use a bow and arrow by 8 years-old and to hunt and defend herself, Malcolm being her mentor. They have a very strong bond. She also learned White Crane from Werewolf Shaolin Monk Grand Master and causes trouble for her captors. She never gives up hope that Malcolm will rescue her and saves his life during the epic Kug Fu battle when she faces off with the Pale Devil.



PERRY YUNG – Lord Jinrong – is the 100+ year old leader of the Mud Dragon (Gator) Tong in San Francisco who was sent by the Shanghai Green Dragon to oversee the gambling, bribes, extortion, opium and prostitution in Chinatown and Barbary Coast. Under his Green Dragon restaurant is a large opium den with dozens of stalls. His twin mixed race son's Bobby and Charlie are his minions overseeing the opium den and Hatchet Men used to kidnap young white girls for the sex trade including Rose.



DYLAN WANG & MARIUS WANG – Bobby and Charlie – Jinrong's Twin Sons - who run errands, oversee the Hatchet Men to kidnap run away white girls and run the opium den under the Green Dragon restaurant. The Pale Devil enforcer, along with Bobby and Charlie ambushed Malcolm and Rose Hutchins. Rose scratched Bobby's face fighting him. Charlie is an opium fiend and constantly attempts to have his way with Rose.

CHARACTERS/BACKSTORIES/SUGGESTED ACTORS

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ZACH RUNNING COYOTE – Okwanuchu Leader White Crow – is the young chief of the last remaining, small tribe of Okwanuchu Indigenous people living at the base of Mt. Shasta. When Hutchins family settled, they lived in harmony with the Okwanuchu. Malcolm and White Crow were born about the same time and grew up together on the mountain and plains and are blood brothers. They both mastered wilderness living and black hatchet weaponry. The Werewolf Monk Grand Master taught him White Crane Kung Fu and how to use the hatchets as extensions of the wing tips and beaks.



LASHANA LYNCH – Nurse Brenda Smith – is Lorna’s cynical best friend, mentor and confidant. Brenda is suspicious of Malcolm and believes he might be the man-with-no-name vigilante in the papers chopping up the Hatchet Men. Brenda tries to get Lorna to admit she likes him and suggest she goes to the Sweetwater Saloon run by her friend Jill McBain (Claudia Cardinale character from “Once Upon A Time in The West”) who told Brenda a man with a scar on his face comes in nightly to drink whiskey.



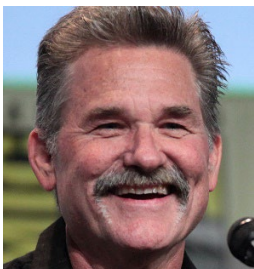
DONNIE YEN - Werewolf Shaolin Monk Grand Master "Su Kong" Tai Djin – is a real person who took refuge on Hutchin’s cattle ranch teaching the Black Hatchet White Crane. As a reward for his mastery, the Monk gave him a black bandana with the White Crane symbol that he wears to hide his face and the ugly scar from the Pale Devil's hatchet. When growing up at the Fukien Temple, because of his animal like hair (Hypertrichosis) sightings stirred rumors he a werewolf resided in the Temple. Djin completed every branch of Shaolin training and became the Grand Master "Su Kong."



MARK DACASCOS – The Pale Devil – is the assassin and enforcer for the Shanghai Green Dragon who controls the San Francisco Tongs. The Pale Devil nearly killed the Black Hatchet when he sliced his face with his hatchet as Bobby and Charlie kidnapped Rose. He is assigned to eliminate the Black Hatchet and return to Shanghai with the first shipment of girls in three weeks and with the captured outlaw the Werewolf Monk. The Pale Devil and Black Hatchet meet in an epic martial arts battle in an underground tunnel hideout with Bobby, Charlie, Rose and Djin.



ERIC BANA – Bohemian Bailey Millard – has a panoramic view of San Francisco from his Russian Hill Spanish Villa terrace. His circle of friends included Jack London and Lionel Barrymore. It is his terrace the Black Hatchet finds solitude after a night of bloody hatchet brawls. Millard at first tries to shoot him, then befriends him and becomes an ally. It is here the Black Hatchet finds refuge after a blood splashing and limb severing hatchet fight with Jinrong and his Hatchet Men after the earthquake.



KURT RUSSEL & SHAMIER ANDERSON – Fire Captain John Dougherty – Fireman John Wickerson – works for Dougherty and when Dougherty enlists the Black Hatchet as a volunteer, Wickerson partners with him to catch children the Black Hatchet throws from a third story window the Black Hatchet free climbed to rescue them. Dougherty is the tough as nails leader who rallies the firemen to save the city.

VARIOUS SET PIECES & LOCATIONS

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BIO & COMIC CREATIVE TEAM

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Michael Trachiotis | Optioned Screenwriter | Producer | Director | Editor | Comic Creator | Writer | Artist | Animator Michael is an award winning short filmmaker for "Death Knocked 3 Times," a black and white horror, heist, revenge movie he wrote, produced, directed and edited. "Innocence Lost" is short crime, drama, revenge, mystery he just finished that he also wrote, produced, directed and edited. Michael worked for Penny Marshall and Parkway Productions in story, script and project development. He has consulted on, strengthened and re-written screenplays. Michael's limited edition, animated graphic novel *Once Upon A Time in San Francisco – The Black Hatchet* (a compendium of the three comics) sold out at comic-cons and on Amazon. He taught screenwriting at Academy of Art University. Furthermore, Michael has a BS, Journalism (Cal Poly, SLO – Advertising and PR), BA, Cinema (SFSU – Screenwriting) and MFA, Motion Pictures and Television (AAU, SF – Producing and Directing). He also created a very lucrative AR consulting and

apparel business that produced campaigns including 2D/3D films for Fortune 25 companies.

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COMICS & FILM PROOF-OF-CONCEPT WEBSITE + FILMS ON YOUTUBE + SOCIAL MEDIA



PBS INTERVIEW ADAPTING A SCREENPLAY INTO A GRAPHIC NOVEL & HATCHET PROJECT



ARTISTS

Cover Artist – Moti Friedman

Page Illustrator – Noah Graham

Cover & Page Illustrator – Rahsan Ekedal

Color Modeling – Ann Marcellino

Cover & Page Illustrator – Allan Jefferson

Animators – Julian Meyer, Michael Trachiotis

Creator, Writer, Producer, Design, Color, Lettering, AR Apps – Michael Trachiotis

PUBLISHER: BLACK HATCHET COMICS – Michael Trachiotis

ONCE UPON A TIME **THE** IN SAN FRANCISCO



BLACK HATCHET

SAVIOR

BLACK
HATCHET
COMICS
ISSUE 1

SPECIAL
COMBAT
ISSUE

**FIRE IN HIS HEART!
JUSTICE IN HIS HANDS!
BLOOD ON EVERY STREET!**

TRACHIOTIS | JEFFERSON

