

THE BLACK HATCHET

A stylized illustration of a character in a black hat and mask, holding a hatchet, standing in a stone-walled room with stairs. The character is wearing a black hat with a white band and a black mask with a red circular emblem featuring a white bird and Chinese characters. The character is holding a hatchet in their right hand. The background shows a stone wall and a set of stairs.

NO MERCY. NO LAW. NO FORGIVENESS.

FEATURE SCREENPLAY BY MICHAEL TRACHIOTIS

ACTION-ADVENTURE-REVENGE-MARTIAL ARTS-HISTORICAL-THRILLER





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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 IS SHIPPED TO SHANGHAI.

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WHY THIS STORY

THIS IS A BIG, PULPY, PERIOD MOVIE WITH A REAL HOOK: A SCARRED BROTHER BECOMES BLACK HATCHET AND CUTS THROUGH SAN FRANCISCO'S CRIMINAL ABYSS TO RESCUE HIS SISTER AS THE CITY ITSELF BURNS. THE CONCEPT IS CLEAR, THE WORLD IS VIVID, AND THE CLIMAX HAS EVENT-MOVIE SCALE. THIS IS THE KIND OF MATERIAL THAT CAN SELL ON PREMISE IF THE BUDGET AND PACKAGE ARE DISCIPLINED.

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TONE

HAUNTING. MYTHIC. EMOTIONALLY CHARGED. OPERATIC. EMANCIPATING. GOTHIC. INTIMATE. WILD WEST. A PRIMITIVE VENDETTA JOURNEY THAT FUSES BRUTAL ACTION WITH EMOTIONAL DEPTH, BALANCING PULPY SPECTACLE, HISTORICAL AUTHENTICITY AND MORAL COMPLEXITY AGAINST A LAWLESS BACKGROUND.





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THEMES

AT ITS HEART, THE STORY IS A POWERFUL EXPLORATION OF JUSTICE VERSUS VENGEANCE, GUILT VERSUS VINDICATION AND FAITH VERSUS FURY. IT EMBODIES THE SACRIFICES THAT SHAPE HEROES AND THE UNBREAKABLE BOND BETWEEN BROTHER AND SISTER, PROVING THAT LEGENDS ARE NOT BORN, BUT FORGED THROUGH SUFFERING - AND THE HUMANITY THAT SURVIVES EVEN IN THE DARKEST TIMES.

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WORLD

SAN FRANCISCO. 1906. THE BARBARY COAST. CHINATOWN. OPIUM DENS. GOLD RUSH TUNNELS. SALOONS. ALLEYS. MT. SHASTA CATTLE RANCH. CITYWIDE QUAKE AND INFERNO. A FEROCIOUS, VISUALLY STRIKING, RARELY EXPLORED PERIOD GLOBAL AUDIENCES HAVE NEVER SEEN BEFORE - SET IN ONE OF AMERICA'S MOST DANGEROUS UNDERWORLDS.





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CREATIVE INTENT

“THE BLACK HATCHET” IS WRITTEN AS A FOUNDATIONAL ORIGIN STORY GROUNDED IN REAL EVENTS, WHERE VIOLENCE, LOVE AND SURVIVAL COLLIDE IN A COLLAPSING 1906 SAN FRANCISCO. IT BLENDS KINETIC ACTION WITH EMOTIONAL TRAGEDY TO EXPLORE HOW GRIEF CAN FORGE AN OUTLAW AND HERO. AT ITS CORE, IT IS ABOUT MERCY VERSUS RETRIBUTION AND WHETHER REDEMPTION CAN EXIST INSIDE A CULTURE SHAPED BY VIOLENCE. THE GOAL IS A CINEMATIC, ENDURING, EXPANSION-READY WORLD THAT FEELS BOTH STEEPED IN HISTORY AND ELEVATED INTO LEGEND.

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VISUAL STYLE

**PAINTERLY YET VIVID, THE FILM
DRAWS ON THE CHIAROSCURO OF
REMBRANDT TO SCULPT FACES, ALLEYS,
STREETS, DENS AND VIOLENCE WITH
DRAMATIC LIGHT AND SHADOW.
NATURALISTIC PERIOD DETAIL, RICH
TEXTURES AND CINEMATIC SCALE
CREATE A TIMELESS ORIGIN MYTH SET
WITHIN THE CRIMINAL UNDERBELLY,
DESTRUCTION, SMOKE, FIRE AND
CHAOS OF OLD SAN FRANCISCO.**

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STORY OVERVIEW

A SCARRED COWBOY IS TRANSFORMED INTO THE BLACK HATCHET AFTER HIS SISTER IS KIDNAPPED BY THE SHANGHAI GREEN DRAGON SYNDICATE IN 1906 SAN FRANCISCO. AS HIS QUEST DESCENDS INTO THE CITY'S MERCILESS UNDERWORLD, HE BECOMES BOTH HUNTER AND HUNTED, CROSSING PATHS WITH TONG HATCHET MEN AND THE GREEN DRAGON ASSASSIN. MEANWHILE, HIS SISTER FIGHTS TO SURVIVE CAPTIVITY AND RESIST HER CAPTORS. THEIR PATHS CONVERGE AS THE CITY ERUPTS INTO THE CHAOS OF THE QUAKE AND FIRESTORM, COLLAPSING THE OLD WORLD INTO ASHES. IN THE AFTERMATH VENGEANCE AND SALVATION COLLIDE IN A FINAL RECKONING THAT FORGES A LEGEND.

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BUILT FOR EXPANSION

“THE BLACK HATCHET” IS AN ORIGIN MYTH WITH A BRAND PRIMED ANTIHERO. A HIGH-STAKES, HIGH-OCTANE, MEDITATION ON GUILT, GRIEF AND DELIVERANCE PURPOSELY WRITTEN AS A NEW IP READY FRANCHISE IN THE MOST LUCRATIVE DOMESTIC AND GLOBAL GENRES - ACTION AND ADVENTURE. THE STORY AND SEQUELS LAUNCH TOWARD SHANGHAI AND A GLOBAL CRIME EMPIRE. PROOF-OF-CONCEPT COMICS SOLD OUT ON AMAZON AND AT COMIC-CONS. PLUS, MULTI-PLATFORM GROWTH AND INCOME POTENTIAL FOR GAMES MERCH, STREAMING AND EPISODIC TV.

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C H A R A C T E R S

MALCOLM HUTCHINS - THE BLACK HATCHET



FORGED BY FRONTIER LIFE, NATIVE AMERICAN HATCHET COMBAT AND WHITE CRANE KUNG FU, MALCOLM HUTCHINS BECOMES THE MYTHIC BLACK HATCHET - A FEARED VIGILANTE WHOSE SEARCH FOR HIS TAKEN SISTER WILL IGNITE A LEGEND AMID THE BARBARY COAST.

ROSE HUTCHINS - SUPPORTING



USING HER WHITE CRANE TRAINING AND RELENTLESS WILL TO SURVIVE, ROSE IS EVERY BIT AS FORMIDABLE AS HER BROTHER - FIGHTING, SCRAPPING AND REFUSING TO GIVE-IN DEFYING HER CAPTORS AT EVERY CHANCE WHILE NEVER LOSING FAITH MALCOLM WILL FIND HER.

NURSE LORNA VAN DEUSEN - SUPPORTING



AN IDEALISTIC NURSE WITH DREAMS OF BECOMING A SURGEON, SHE RISKS EVERYTHING TO SAVE LIVES AND HEAL MALCOLM'S FRACTURED SOUL. SHE BECOMES HIS CONFIDANTE, MORAL ANCHOR, SOURCE OF HOPE AND FINDS LOVE UNDER THE MASK, GRIEF AND CRUSADE.

THE PALE DEVIL - SUPPORTING



HE IS THE RUTHLESS ASSASSIN AND THE SHANGHAI GREEN DRAGON'S ENFORCER WHOSE BRUTAL AMBUSH OF MALCOLM DURING ROSE'S ABDUCTION LEAVES HIM SCARRED AND FORGES THE BLACK HATCHET'S BIRTH AND LIFELONG VENDETTA.



MOOD BOARD



COMPARABLES

THE CROW

A HAUNTED, MYTHIC AVENGER RISES FROM LOSS TO DELIVER RETRIBUTION IN A DECAYING URBAN UNDERWORLD. GOTHIC, ANIMALISTIC AND EMOTIONALLY OPERATIC, DRIVEN BY LOVE, GRIEF AND RELENTLESS VENGEANCE.

GLADIATOR

A BETRAYED WARRIOR BECOMES A FABLED SYMBOL OF JUSTICE WITHIN A COLLAPSING EMPIRE. SWEEPING IN SCALE, UNFILTERED VIOLENCE AND HAUNTED BY THEMES OF HONOR, REVENGE AND REDEMPTION.

JOHN WICK

A STORIED ASSASSIN IS PULLED BACK INTO A HIDDEN UNDERWORLD AFTER PROFOUND PERSONAL LOSS. VISCERAL, OPULANT ACTION FRAMED BY PRECISE WORLDBUILDING, GRIEF-DRIVEN RETRIBUTION AND STYLIZED VIOLENCE.

THE REVENANT

A HAUNTED FRONTIERSMAN SURVIVES THE IMPOSSIBLE IN A BRUTAL, INDIFFERENT WILDERNESS. POTENT, NATURALISTIC AND ICONIC IN TONE, EXPLORING SURVIVAL, ENDURANCE AND THE COST OF VENGEANCE.

GANGS OF NEW YORK

A YOUNG MAN ENTERS A PRIMORDIAL, LAWLESS CITY RULED BY VIOLENT FACTIONS AND CORRUPT POWER. MAJESTIC, HISTORICAL REALISM SHAPED BY VISCERAL BRUTALITY, IDENTITY CONFLICT AND REVENGE-DRIVEN DESTINY.

FIST OF FURY

A DISCIPLINED FIGHTER BECOMES A MYTHIC INSTRUMENT OF VENGEANCE AFTER A BRUTAL INJUSTICE. VISCERAL MARTIAL ARTS INTENSITY WITH OPERATIC EMOTIONAL RAGE AND THEMES OF HONOR, OPPRESSION AND RETRIBUTION.



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MICHAEL TRACHIOTIS - AWARD WINNING SCREENWRITER, FILMMAKER, PRODUCER, DIRECTOR AND EDITOR. COMIC CREATOR, WRITER, ARTIST AND ANIMATOR. HIS SHORT FILMS "DEATH KNOCKED 3 TIMES" AND "INNOCENCE LOST" HAVE RECEIVED MULTIPLE ACCOLADES AND AWARDS. MICHAEL'S SCRIPTS "THE BLACK HATCHET," "BLUE GIRL," AND "THE CHRYSANTHEMUM GARDEN" HAVE ALSO GARNERED VERY POSITIVE REVIEWS AND AWARDS. HIS WRITING AND STORY DEVELOPMENT EXPERIENCE INCLUDES WORKING FOR LEGENDARY DIRECTOR AND PRODUCER PENNY MARSHALL AND PARKWAY PRODUCTIONS IN STORY, SCRIPT AND PROJECT DEVELOPMENT. MICHAEL'S LIMITED EDITION, "THE BLACK HATCHET" ANIMATED PROOF-OF-CONCEPT COMICS, ADAPTED FROM THE SCRIPT SOLD OUT AT COMIC-CONS AND ON AMAZON (NOW AVAILABLE FREE ON THE WEBSITE).

FEATURED INTERVIEW - BLACK HATCHET - CAPITAL FUNDS SCREENWRITING COMPETITION

PBS INTERVIEW - BLACK HATCHET - ADAPTING A SCRIPT INTO A GRAPHIC NOVEL





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THE LEGEND IS READY TO RISE!

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