

A JAMES TWYMAN FILM



# BLACK OUT

If he can't reason with hate, they all die

BLACK CAT  
PRODUCTIONS

# ***FORMAT***

***RUN TIME - 90 MINS***

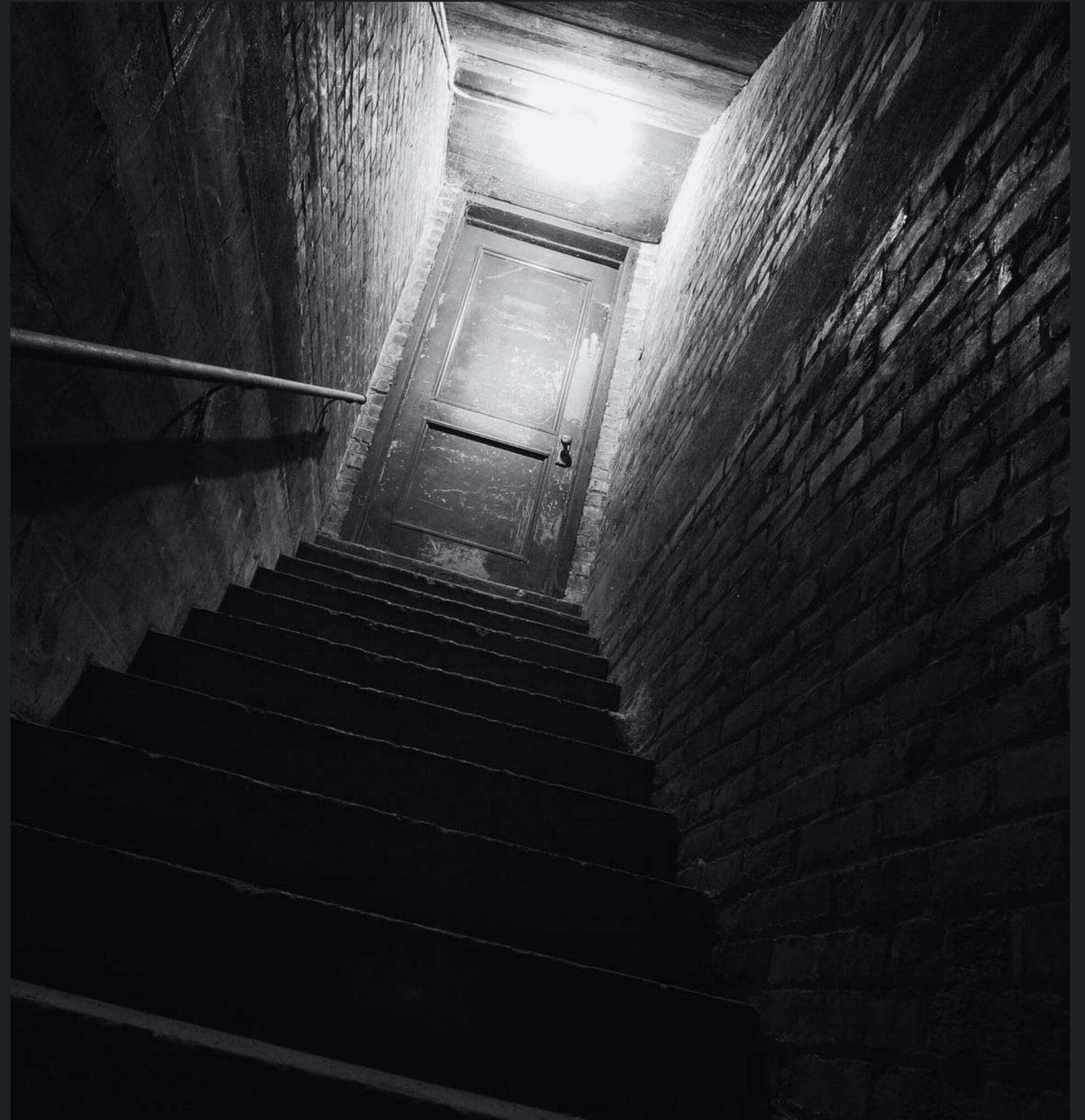
***GENRE - HORROR/SUPERNATURAL CRIME THRILLER.***

***FORMAT - APPLE PRORES, 4K HDR 1:1 AND 2.35:1 ASPECT RATIO.***

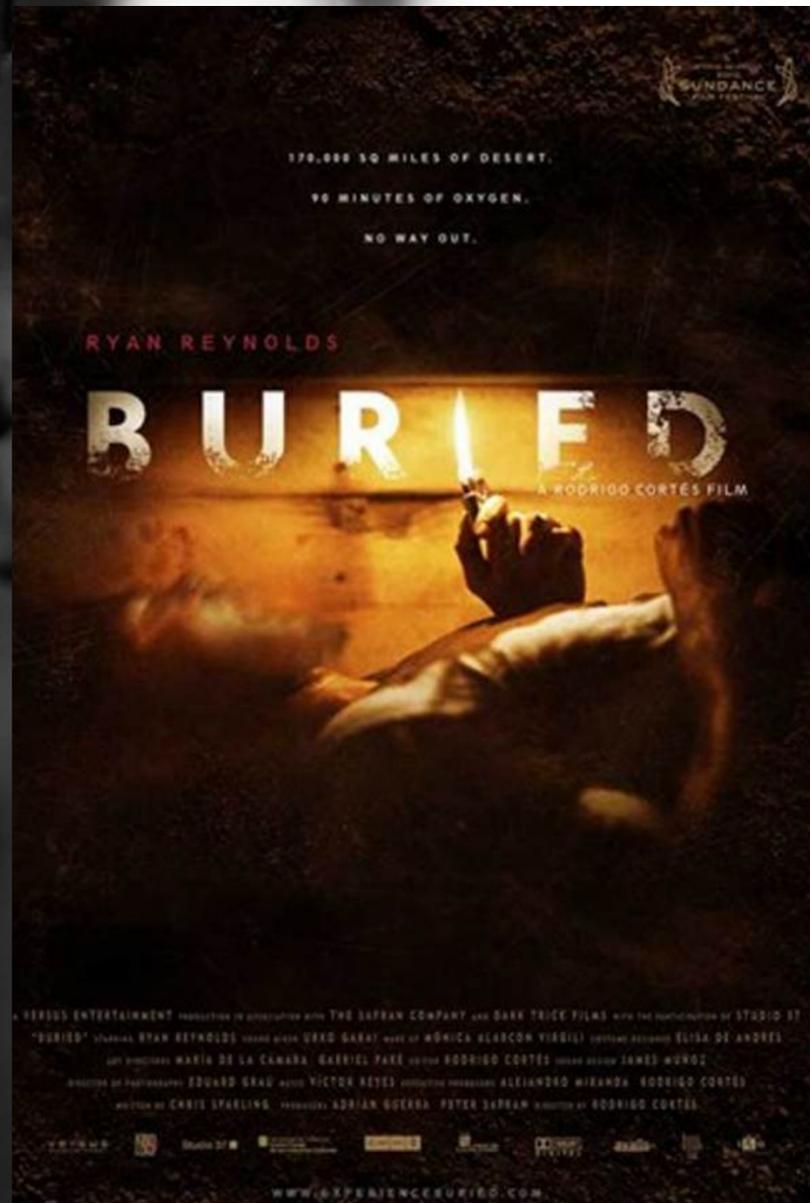
***COMPARABLES - BURIED, THE GAME, PHONEBOOTH, ATM, COLLATORAL SILENCE OF THE LAMBS.***

***LANGUAGE - ENGLISH.***

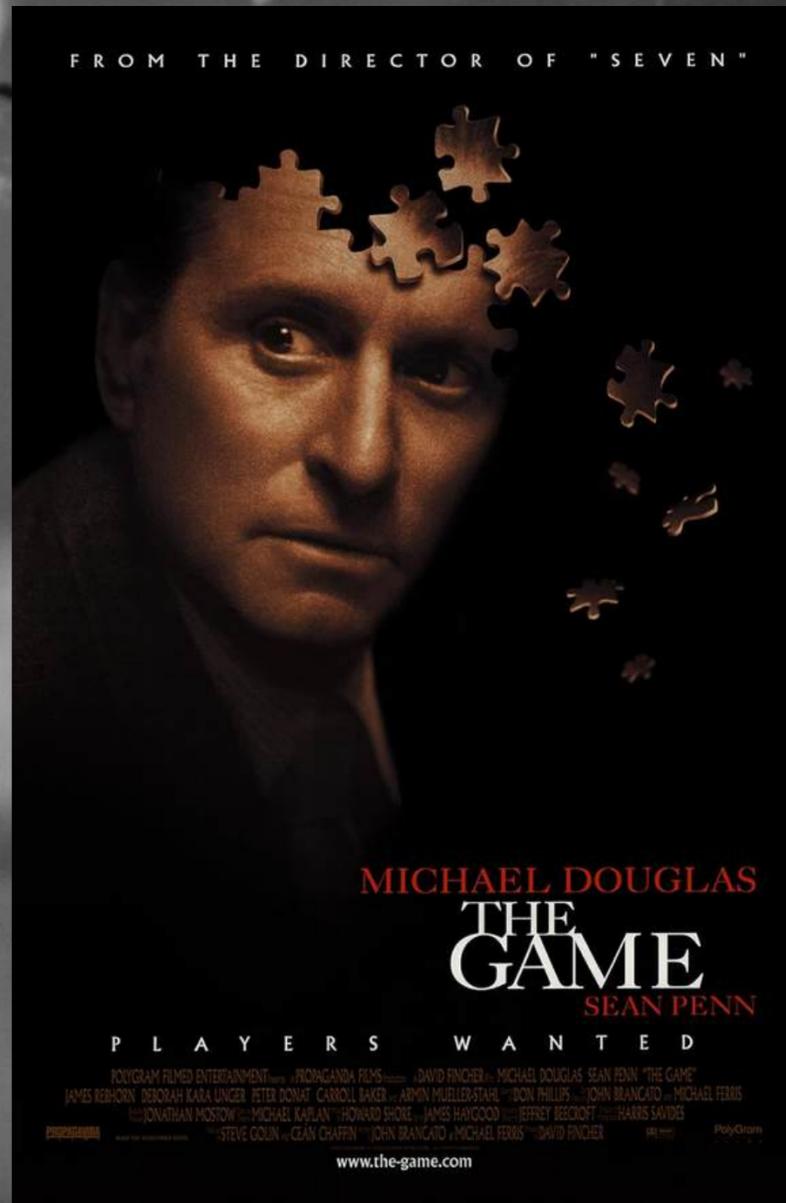
***BUDGET - \$200,000***



# COMPARABLES



**BUDGET: \$2 MILLION  
GROSS: \$21.3 MILLION**



**BUDGET: \$50 MILLION  
GROSS: \$109 MILLION**



**BUDGET: \$19 MILLION  
GROSS: \$272.7 MILLION**

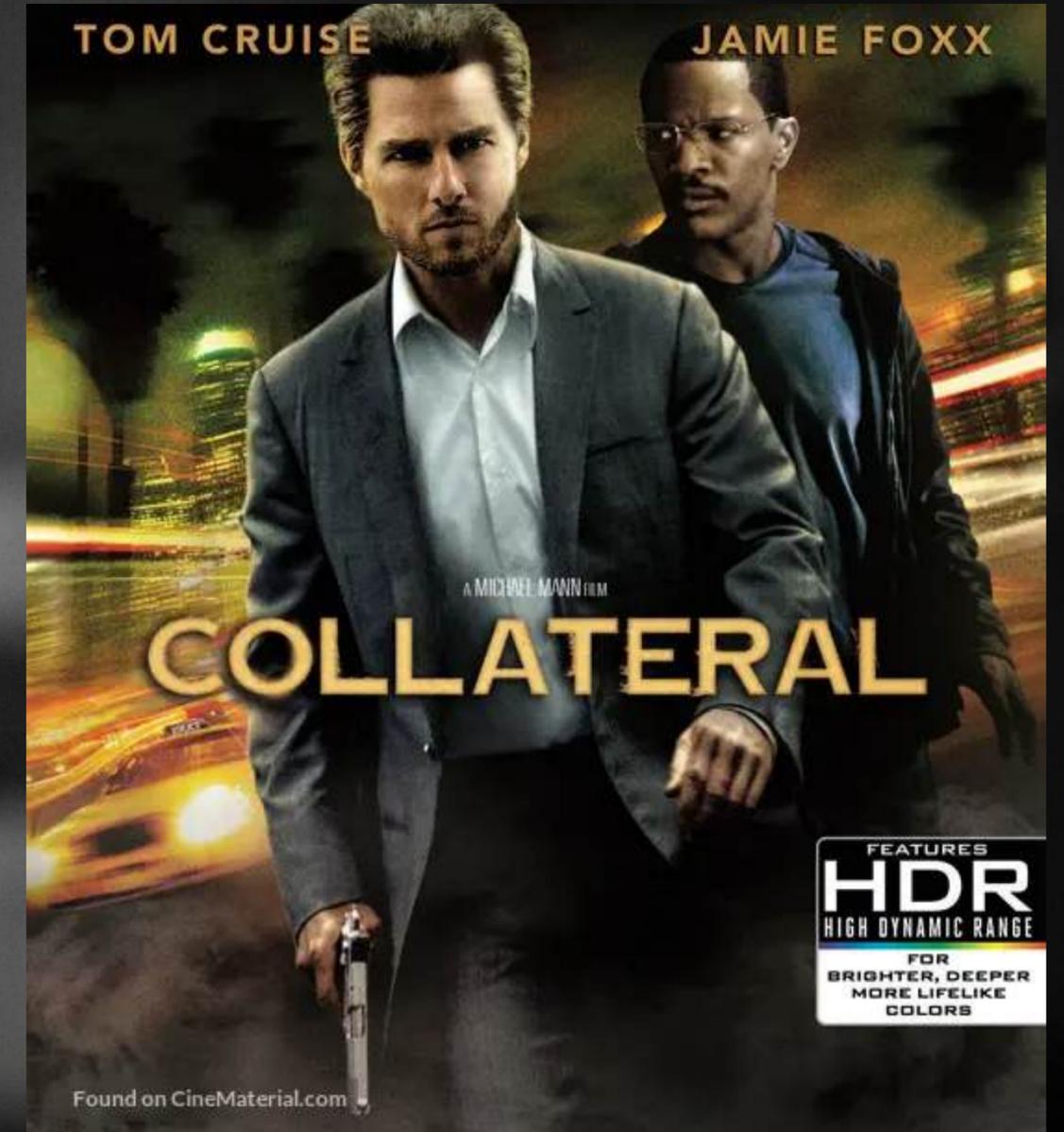
# COMPARABLES



**BUDGET: \$13 MILLION**  
**GROSS: \$98 MILLION**



**BUDGET: \$3 MILLION**



**BUDGET: \$65 MILLION**  
**GROSS: \$202 MILLION**

# SYNOPSIS



Michael, a veteran FBI hostage negotiator on the verge of retirement, is thrust back into the field when a white supremacist kidnaps a group of Black rights activists. It's a horrifying game of cat and mouse, a chilling prelude to a planned assassination attempt on President Barack Obama. Trapped in a confined box, Michael must use his finely honed skills of tactical empathy to de-escalate the situation and save the hostages before it's too late.

But his captor is a formidable opponent, a man fueled by hate and determined to resist any attempt at human connection. In this high-stakes battle of wits and wills, Michael must confront not only the kidnapper's hatred but also his own demons as he fights to save innocent lives and prevent a national tragedy.

Meanwhile, Michael's newfound daughter, Cordellia, and her unborn child are caught in the crossfire, their lives intertwined with the outcome of the hostage situation. And as the clock ticks down, the kidnapper's family, including his young son Jake, are forced to confront the devastating consequences of their patriarch's hate-fueled actions. In the end, "BLACK OUT" is a powerful exploration of the destructive nature of hate and the enduring power of empathy, a reminder that even in the darkest of times, human connection can be a beacon of hope.

# THE CONCEPT

*"BLACK OUT" is a cinematic symphony of tension and raw emotion, a film that delves into the darkest corners of the human psyche to explore the destructive nature of hate and the transformative power of empathy.*

*The box, our protagonist's prison, serves as a metaphor for the marginalization faced by minorities, a suffocating reminder of the invisible walls that confine and oppress. Yet, within this claustrophobic space, a flicker of hope emerges.*

*As Michael, our hero, builds a fragile connection with his captor, Dave, the box undergoes a metamorphosis, evolving from a symbol of confinement to a confessional. It's a testament to the power of dialogue, a reminder that even in the face of abject hatred, empathy can be a weapon, a tool to dismantle the walls of prejudice.*

*The film doesn't shy away from the ugliness of racism. It lays bare the insidious ways in which hate seeps into the soul, poisoning not just the victim but the perpetrator and their loved ones. Dave's rage, fueled by his misguided beliefs, ultimately consumes his own family, leaving a trail of devastation in its wake.*

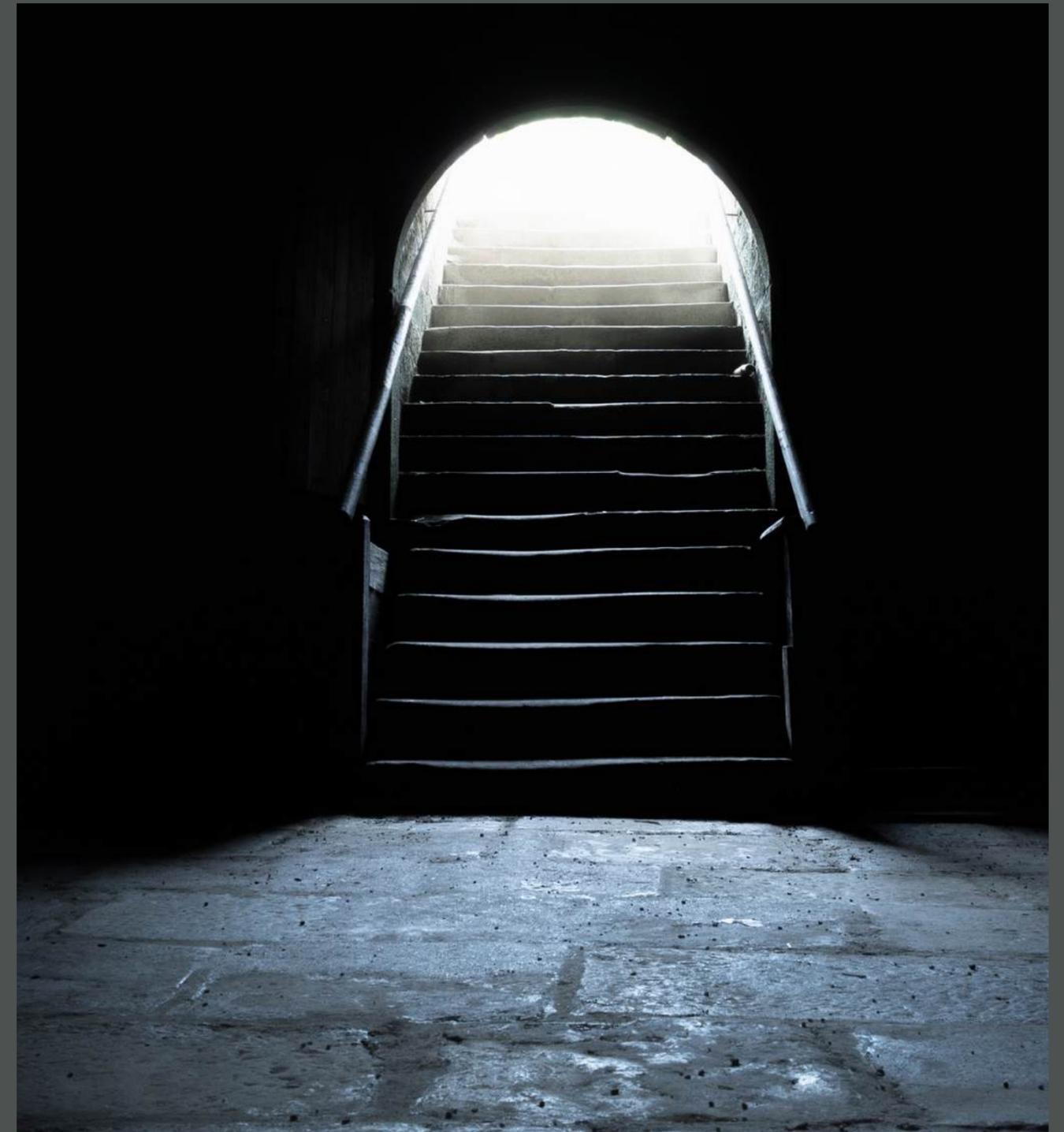


## THE CONCEPT

But amidst the darkness, there's a glimmer of light. Michael's unwavering belief in the power of dialogue, his refusal to succumb to hate, could be the key to their survival. He shows us that even in the face of unimaginable horror, empathy can be a beacon of hope, a bridge across the chasm of racial divide.

However, this journey is fraught with intense horror and action sequences that challenge Michael's ability to focus and rely on his skills. Dave constantly pushes back, desperate to cling to his hate-fueled worldview and refuse to see Michael as a human being.

"BLACK OUT" is a film that stays with you long after the credits roll. It's a stark reminder of the destructive nature of hate, but also a testament to the transformative power of empathy. It's a film that challenges us to confront our own biases, to listen to those we disagree with, and to seek common ground in a world that often seems irrevocably divided.



## DIALOGUE – REAL WORLD HOSTAGE NEGOTIATION

The dialogue in "BLACK OUT" might feel unconventional at times. It's a masterful execution of real tactical empathy techniques, used to de-escalate a volatile hostage situation. The protagonist, Michael, an expert hostage negotiator, isn't just speaking words — he's wielding a psychological arsenal.

**Imagine the scene:** Michael, trapped in a box, his ribs fractured, the stench of death filling the air. His words are measured, deliberate, each one a calculated move to understand and influence his captor, Dave.

He uses labelling, pinpointing Dave's emotions with almost surgical precision. When Dave rants about his son's basketball game, Michael cuts through the rage with a simple observation: **"It sounds like you love your son very much."** It's a lifeline of empathy, a recognition of the human being behind the monster.



# DIALOGUE – REAL WORLD HOSTAGE NEGOTIATION

Michael even employs **accusation audits**, disarming Dave by voicing his suspicions. "I know you probably think I'm here to take your daughter away from you," he says, acknowledging the elephant in the room.

And then there are the "No-oriented questions," subtly guiding Dave's behaviour. "Would you be opposed to checking on Kelsie?" Michael asks, prompting a "no" and paving the way for a small act of compassion.

The tension in the room is palpable. Each line of dialogue is a tightrope walk, a delicate dance between life and death. The audience watches, hearts pounding, as Michael slowly chips away at Dave's defences, using empathy as a tool to save lives. Blackout

Blackout is a gripping portrayal of the power of human connection in the face of unimaginable horror. It's a testament to the resilience of the human spirit, and a reminder that even in the darkest of times, empathy can be a beacon of hope.



# ***CINEMATOGRAPHY*** ***Aspect Ratios***



***Outside the box 2.35:1***



***Inside the box 1:1***

# CINEMATOGRAPHY

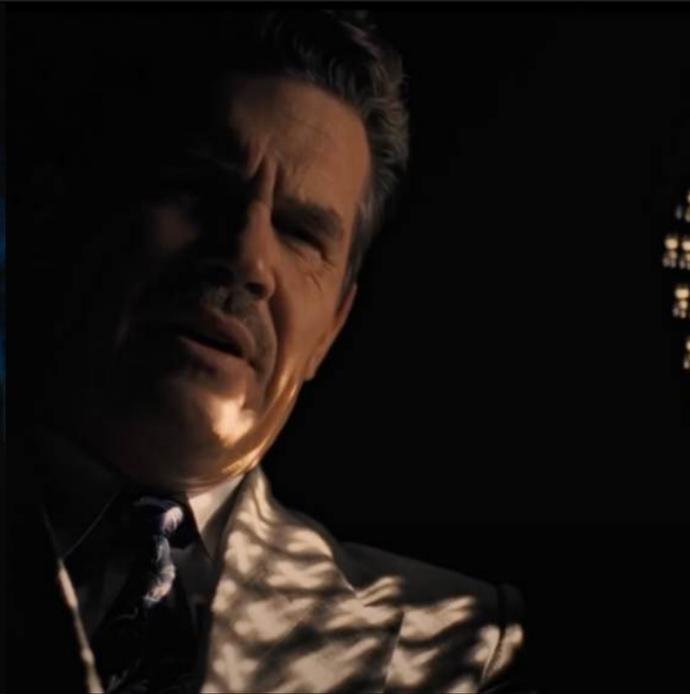
## Shot on iPhone



iPhone 16 pro max not only gives you incredible quality for a fraction of the price, it also allows me as a film maker to get in, close and personal in a way a larger camera simply can't

Utilizing its variety of lenses in combination with the array of REEFLEX additional lenses I can get a unique, claustrophobic look that feels like it belongs on the big screen.

# ***CINEMATOGRAPHY*** ***Lookbook***





# DIRECTOR

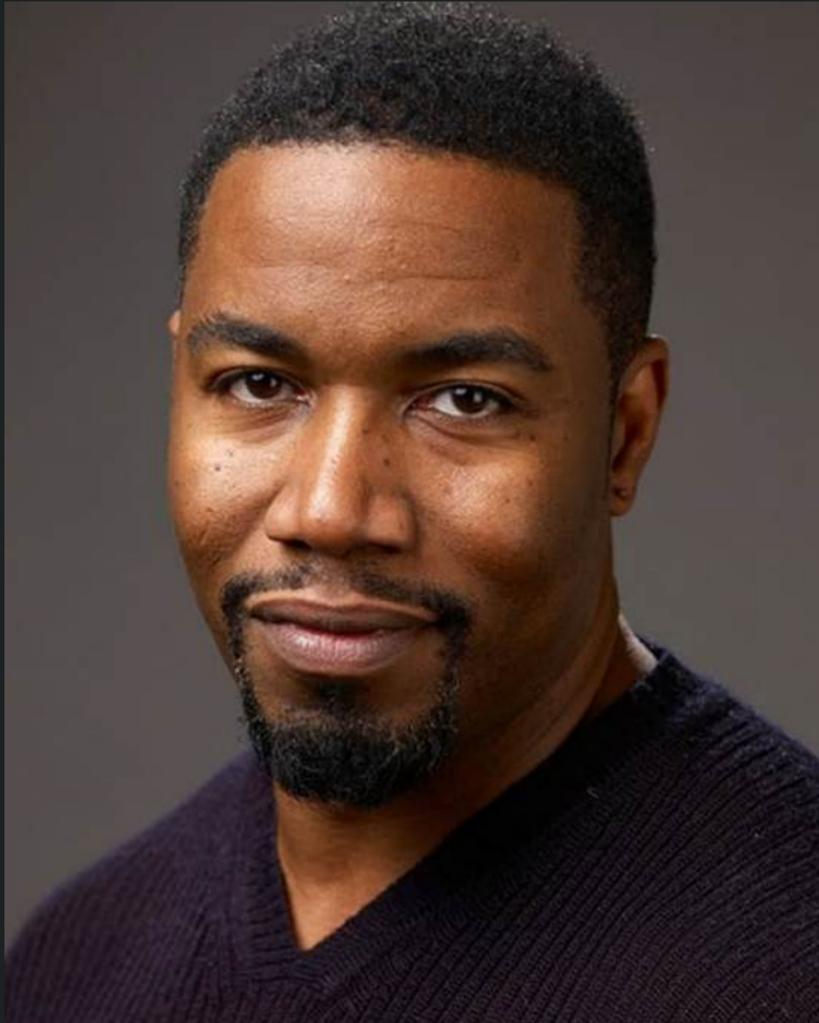
## JAMES TWYMAN

BLACKOUT will mark James' fourth feature film endeavor. He is also the writer, producer, director, and editor of the drama RINGSIDE, which is now available globally on AMAZON PRIME, TUBI, YOUTUBE and more. In 2015, he directed LEAD ME TO THE DARK, served as the Director of Photography for 2016's I AM HOOLIGAN, wrote, directed, and edited INVASION EARTH that same year, and contributed motion graphics to 2019's REDCON-1, which is currently available on NETFLIX.

With extensive experience in storytelling and filmmaking, James can produce visually striking, cinematic films without the exorbitant costs typically associated with such high quality.

This capability enables him, even with a micro-budget project like this one, to create a film that truly looks and feels worthy of the big screen.

# WISHLIST



**MICHAEL JAI WHITE**



**WIL WILSON**



**JAZ SINCLAIR**

# KEY CHARACTERS



**BLACKOUT**

# MICHAEL

Michael, a seasoned FBI hostage negotiator, has always prioritized the lives of others. His tactical empathy and ability to connect with people in crisis have saved countless lives. But his own life has been one of sacrifice and loneliness.

The unexpected arrival of a pregnant daughter he never knew he had forces him to reconsider his priorities. Haunted by his lifelong regret of never having children, this is his chance to finally be a father.

He just has to complete one last mission – infiltrate the lair of a white supremacist who plans to assassinate President Barack Obama.



# DAVE

Dave's childhood was steeped in racism, indoctrinated by an abusive father who instilled in him a hatred for anyone different.

His membership in the declining Ku Klux Klan further cemented these poisonous beliefs, fuelled by years of pain, misinformation, and isolation.

The loss of his job, coupled with the feeling of his family drifting away and a growing sense of fear about the world, has pushed him to a breaking point. He's left the Klan, but his extremist mindset remains, now focused on a new target: Barack Obama.

His chilling statement, "Keeping people in boxes is just practice," reveals a disturbing dehumanization and suggests a calculated approach to violence.



# KELSIE

Imprisoned in a box in an unknown location, prominent Black rights activist KELSIE has already suffered unimaginable torment at the hands of her kidnapper, Dave. Her ordeal continues until Michael arrives.

Now, KELSIE faces a new challenge: can she trust Michael to get home to her son and follow his life-saving instructions to escape, or will the trauma she's endured overwhelm her and sabotage her chances of freedom?



# JACK

Children aren't born racist; they learn it. Dave, under the guise of "protecting" his son Jack, has begun a campaign of indoctrination.

He poisons Jack's worldview, carefully curating his media consumption to exclude people of color, forbidding him from having non-white friends, and subtly normalizing racial hatred.

The result is chilling: a child repeating racist rhetoric, a stark reminder that the indoctrination of a child is even more terrifying than the hateful words of an adult.



# TRISTAN

Tristan's life has imploded. His struggles with alcoholism, gambling, and deteriorating mental health have driven his wife to take their daughter away until he seeks help.

Instead of confronting his demons, Tristan makes a desperate choice: he kidnaps his child, plunging himself into a dangerous downward spiral that threatens both their lives.

Michael must now use all his negotiation skills to bring this volatile situation to a peaceful end, saving both the hostage and the hostage-taker.



# INVESTMENT

Seeking a \$200,000 investment in a compelling new film project with strong commercial potential. This investment offers a unique opportunity for early participation in the film's financial success, amplified by the UK's attractive film tax relief scheme. Should the film achieve profitability, you will receive your initial £100,000 back, plus a 20% return (£20,000), before any other profit participants receive their royalties. This prioritised return structure, combined with the potential benefits of UK film tax incentives, aims to mitigate risk and reward early investment. These incentives can significantly enhance the financial viability of the project and potentially increase returns.

- Investment Amount: \$200,000
- Return: Principal + 20% (\$240,000 total)
- Priority: First recoupment, before other profit participants.
- Oklahoma Film Tax Relief: The production will be structured to maximize the benefits of Oklahoma's film tax relief, which can provide significant financial advantages.

Please be aware that film investment is inherently risky. There is no guarantee of financial return, and it is possible that the film may not be profitable, resulting in a loss of your investment. While the UK film tax relief can mitigate some risk, it does not guarantee profitability. A detailed business plan, including information on the projected use of the tax relief, is available upon request.