



CIVILIAN

written
and
directed
by
John J. Budion

SEMI-FINALIST
**Vail Screenplay
Contest**
2022

QUARTER-FINALISTS
SEDONA
INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL
SCREENPLAY COMPETITION

OFFICIAL SELECTION
**Beverly Hills
Film Festival®**
2023

QUARTER FINALIST
**Big Apple Film
Festival Screenplay
Competition**
2022 Fall Edition

FINALIST
**Catalina Film
Festival**
2023

Logline

In a small Southern town, a once-aspiring Broadway dancer, struggles to hold her family together as her emotionally distant veteran husband battles the ghosts of war - forcing her to confront her own buried trauma and rediscover the strength to reclaim her identity before their fractured home fully collapses.



Synopsis



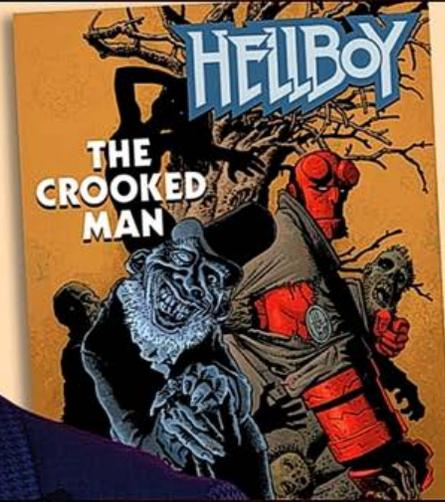
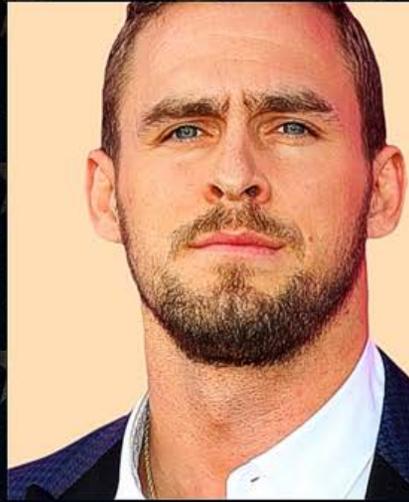
Lieutenant Ryan Cauly, 38, has been discharged from the U.S. Army for almost a year. He is disconnected from society, his wife Vicky, 36, and their young son Matthew, 11. His badge's of honor and service from his tour in Afghanistan have been traded in for a new badge: Security detail at the local Walmart in his quiet North Carolina suburb. This is life now. A civilian.

Meanwhile, Vicky, full of love and quiet resilience, has been holding the family together. Her dreams and sacrifices begin to resurface as she lives an unfulfilled life.

When an Afghan family moves in next door Vicky quickly connects with her new neighbors, finding inspiration, while Ryan is triggered and brought back to the painful memories of his time over seas. Convinced the family is up to something to hurt his country and community, Ryan begins a mission against them; reviving his place and purpose in the civilian world. Could he be wrong though, and what role will Vicky play in this endeavor?



CIVILIAN role of RYAN CAULY Cast: JACK KESY



Jack Kesey is a former marine and actor who played the titular role of "Hellboy" in *HELLBOY: THE CROOKED MAN*, the third film from the Hellboy Franchise for Millenium. The previous two actors to play the role were Ron Perlman, and David Harbour. Other works include *DEADPOOL 2* as "Black Tom Cassidy," Paramount Picture's *BAYWATCH* as "Leon," *HORSE SOLDIERS* for Lionsgate opposite Chris Hemsworth and Michael Shannon, Eli Roth's *DEATHWISH* for MGM opposite Bruce Willis, and the TV series *CLAWS* produced by Rashida Jones, *THE STRAIN* for Guillermo del Toro, and *TASK* for HBO.

He also will be seen in the Paramount feature *SHEROES*, and the Netflix feature *THE KILLER* by David Fincher. Additionally, he recently completed principal photography in a leading role across Anthony Mackie for the Apple TV series *12 12 12*, and as the leading role of "TJ Meadows III" in Sean Penn's *THE GUN ON SECOND STREET*.

CIVILIAN role of VICKY CAULY Cast: THORA BIRCH



Thora Birch has won SAG awards, multiple Young Artist Awards, Nominated for Golden Globe and Emmy Awards with some of her most iconic roles being "Enid" in *GHOSTWORLD*, "Jane" in *AMERICAN BEAUTY*, "Teeny" in *NOW AND THEN*, and "Dani" in *HOCUS POCUS*. Other classic films in which Thora has acted are *MONKEY TROUBLE*, *ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS*, *THE HOLE*, and *ALASKA*.

Thora continues her career as an indie darling with several upcoming features including *THIRSTY*, opposite Kyra Sedgwick, Sung Kang, and Jaime Neumann, and *THE MIDPOINT*, opposite Julie Benz. In addition, she recently starred opposite Samantha Morton, Jeffrey Dean Morgan, and Norman Reedus on AMC's *THE WALKING DEAD*, as well as "Becca" in the critically acclaimed Plan B /A24 Film *THE LAST BLACK MAN IN SAN FRANCISCO*, which won numerous awards at SUNDANCE.

She's appeared in numerous films including playing Emilia Clarke's sister "Jolene" opposite Jack Huston and Johnny Knoxville in Phillip Noyce's *ABOVE SUSPICION* and the *ETRUSCAN SMILE*, starring opposite Brian Cox, Rosanna Arquette, and JJ Field. Birch also recently starred in the Lionsgate thriller *AFFAIRS OF THE STATE*.

Thora will be next seen starring in Kristen Stewart's directorial debut *THE CHRONOLOGY OF WATER*, for which she is receiving glowing reviews and early awards consideration for!

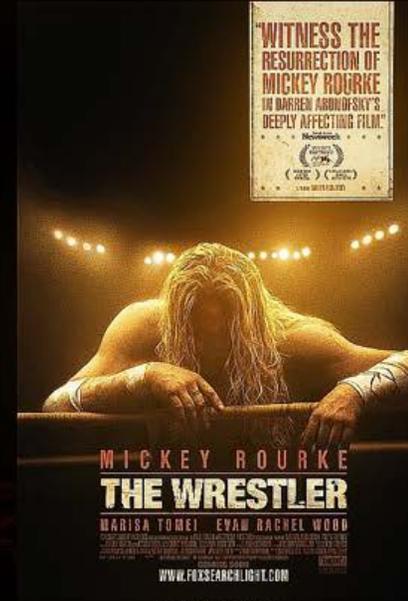
Movie Comparables



Budget: \$6.5 Million
Domestic Gross: \$53.4 Million
WW Gross: \$98.4 Million



Budget: \$33 Million
Domestic Gross: \$214 Million
WW Gross: \$340 Million



Budget: \$6 Million
Domestic Gross: \$40 Million
WW Gross: \$61 Million

Visual Style



Director Statement

Having had many close friends, including my brother, enlist in the military, then to return to civilian life, I've been able to gain insight on the struggles veterans have had in acclimating back into society. There is a comfort these brave men and women have during crisis, and an uneasiness in the monotony of normal life. Quite the opposite of you and me. Their resumes exude skills that do not translate to the working civilian force, so they are often bypassed, even though they have made a sacrifice for us to enjoy the life and liberties we all have. This is where we find Ryan.

Similarly, Vicky has made sacrifices as well. An unfulfilled life to serve the family and pick up the reins while Ryan was deployed, has left her with regret and a wanting for more. She carries around the weight of her decisions, but puts them aside for the good of the family.

These characters are the heart of this film.

Additionally, we will play upon the viewers pre-conceived thoughts on society and other demographics. Everything is not what it seems, and the camera may even be misleading, but it will also be a different experience for each and every viewer. In today's world there are still very much dividers between humans, and with this film, we hope to offer several perspectives in what contributes to this division.

Ultimately, we leave the audience guessing, judging, hypothesizing, and end with the most powerful of all themes - FORGIVENESS.

- John Doe

PRODUCTION

Cory Thompson
Rewind Artists



RE◀IND

Rewind Artists- Cory Thompson

Cory Thompson is a seasoned producer and talent representative with over 15+ years of industry experience. He is the founder of the boutique management, production and consulting firm Rewind Artists, which produces films and television content and represents actors, writers, and directors across the globe. Literary clients include exciting new writers and directors in film and television that have been admitted to incubators at Sundance and SXSW and featured on prestigious industry write-ups such as The Black List and the Nicholls Fellowship.

As a producer, Thompson recently produced the crime thriller *Barron's Cove*, in collaboration with Mandalay Pictures (*Air*, *Sleepy Hollow*, *Enemy at the Gates*). The film features an ensemble including Garrett Hedlund (*Tron: Legacy*, *Mudbound*), Brittany Snow (*Pitch Perfect*, *The Hunting Wives*), Hamish Linklater (*Midnight Mass*), Emmy Winner Tramell Tillman (*Severance*), Raul Castillo (*Task*) and Stephen Lang (*Avatar*). The film premiered at the Hamptons Int. Film Festival in 2024 and released theatrically by Well Go USA. Collider called the film "a truly magnificent piece of cinema," and it will be streaming exclusively on Paramount+ in early 2026. He also produced the coming of age drama *ROCKAWAY*, which was called "sharply moving" by the New Yorker, and received a theatrical and streaming release by Gravitas in 2019. He executive produced the Facebook/Roc Nation unscripted series *Beats for Breakfast*, featuring R&B superstar Miguel and celebrity chef Jeremy Fall. He is in development on a number of projects through his Rewind banner with companies such as Rough House Pictures and Campside Media

Thompson is a BAFTA member and a proud graduate of NYU Tisch School of the Arts, where he often serves as an adjunct lecturer and guest speaker for emerging young professionals. He resides between Los Angeles and New York.

Juan Pablo Reinoso
Lookbook Entertainment



LOOKBOOK
ENTERTAINMENT

Lookbook Ent. - Juan Pablo Reinoso

Juan Pablo Reinoso is an award-winning writer/producer/director whose work has played in festivals across the globe. He studied theatrical performance under Obie-nominated director Larry Sacharow and Tony-nominated director Michael Mayer at Fordham University College at Lincoln Center. Believing that artistic passion and human integrity and generosity should be combined in all works, he began producing and directing small stage projects for other writers, eventually moving into the feature film and commercial world.

Juan has worked in TV, film, stage, commercials, music videos and more as a Writer, Producer, and Director. Co-owner and co-founder of Firebook Entertainment and Lookbook Entertainment, Juan Pablo actively produces original IP as well as acquired IP from multiple countries from various stages of development through final distribution. Recent projects include *Párvulos* (Mexico), *Deathstalker* (Canada), *An Taibhse* (*The Ghost*) (Ireland), *Dirty Boy* (UK), *Broken Bird* (UK), *Tender* (USA), *Mad Props* (USA), *Every Heavy Thing* (USA), *Bloodstained Ivory* (USA).

Upcoming productions include *Carpathia* (Croatia/UK), *Human Remains* (UK), *M16: Fallen Angel* (UK), *Not Bad For a Human* (USA), *In the Flesh* (Spain), *El Muglur* (Mexico), *Junkyard* (USA), *Theirs* (USA), *Tentacles!* (USA), and more.

Anthony Argento
Rollin Studios



Rollin Studios - Anthony Argento

Anthony Argento founder of Rollin Studios, one of New York's most globally recognized full-service film production companies. Anthony is a highly acclaimed producer in New York City. He has produced or supervised numerous films including:

- **Mapplethorpe* (2018), nominated for Best Narrative Feature at the Tribeca Film Festival
- *Chinese blockbuster features *Detective Chinatown 2* (2019) and *The Wandering Earth 2* (2023)
- **The Featherweight* (2023), nominated for Best Film at the Venice International Film Festival
- **Daughter's Daughter* (2024), selected for the Toronto International Film Festival

In the past five years, Rollin Studios has expanded globally, working on projects across the United States, Europe, Japan, and mainland China. Their latest focus has been on Asia, producing projects with a worldwide reach. Rollin Studios is dedicated to pushing boundaries and creating films with a global perspective.

About the Writer/Director

Writer and director John J. Budion is an industry veteran with over 25 years of experience in the Film/TV industry. He got his start at the age of 17 while concurrently earning his degree from NYU. His VFX credits include: *The Grand Budapest Hotel*, *Midsommar*, *Marriage Story*, *Red Rocket*, *Smile*, *No Sudden Move*, and many more.

A visual storyteller, John's directing style has taken on great influence from his close work with director's Steven Soderbergh, Sean Baker, Cary Fukunaga, and Jon Watts.

John is a member of the DGA and made his feature film directorial debut with an awarded and acclaimed movie about his childhood titled *ROCKAWAY*. Described as "An agonized and sharply moving film" by *The New Yorker*, the movie received a streaming as well as a theatrical distributor. He also just completed directing, animating, and creating the visual drama *YOU.MATTER*. starring Tony Award winner Laura Benanti and Cody John.

CIVILIAN is a story inspired by John's brother, Anthony, and their good friend Ryan, who enlisted into the U.S. Air Force together in 1998. They served honorably, collectively having tours in Iraq and Afghanistan.



Project Overview



Director: John J. Budion

Writer: John J. Budion

Produced by: Rollin Studios - Anthony Argento
Juan Pablo Reinoso - Lookbook Entertainment
Cory Thompson - Rewind Artists

Budget: 3 million
Equity needed: 2.4 million
Tax incentive 25-35% pending shoot location

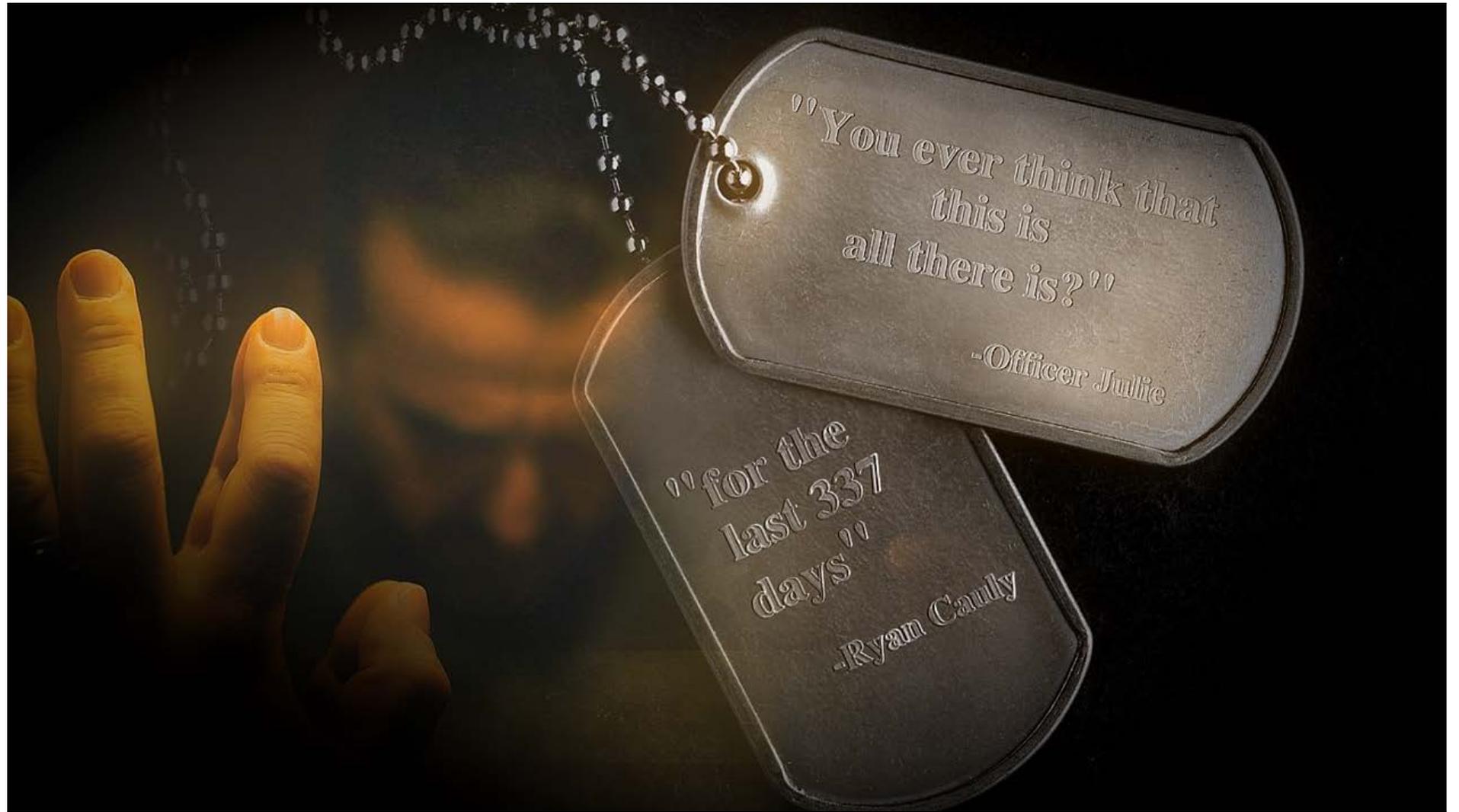
Pre-Production: 6 weeks

Principal Photography: 5 weeks

Contact:

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917.283.2366

Juan Pablo Reinoso / Lookbook Ent.
juan@lookbookentertainment.com



"You ever think that
this is
all there is?"

-Officer Julie

"for the
last 337
days"

-Ryan Cauty