

Shattered

A Feature Film by Scott Sawitz



Logline & Synopsis

Logline: *Two young filmmakers must escape from a beloved children's show host after they discover he's secretly a notorious serial killer.*

Synopsis: Hillary Drake is in desperate need of money to save her family's home when an opportunity arises: help her ex-boyfriend with a corporate video shoot for kid's show host Frank Blake.

He's a longtime staple of Saturday morning television and on paper is one of the most decent human beings alive. In secret he's the Red-Light Ripper, an active serial killer who's been prowling on prostitutes for over forty years.

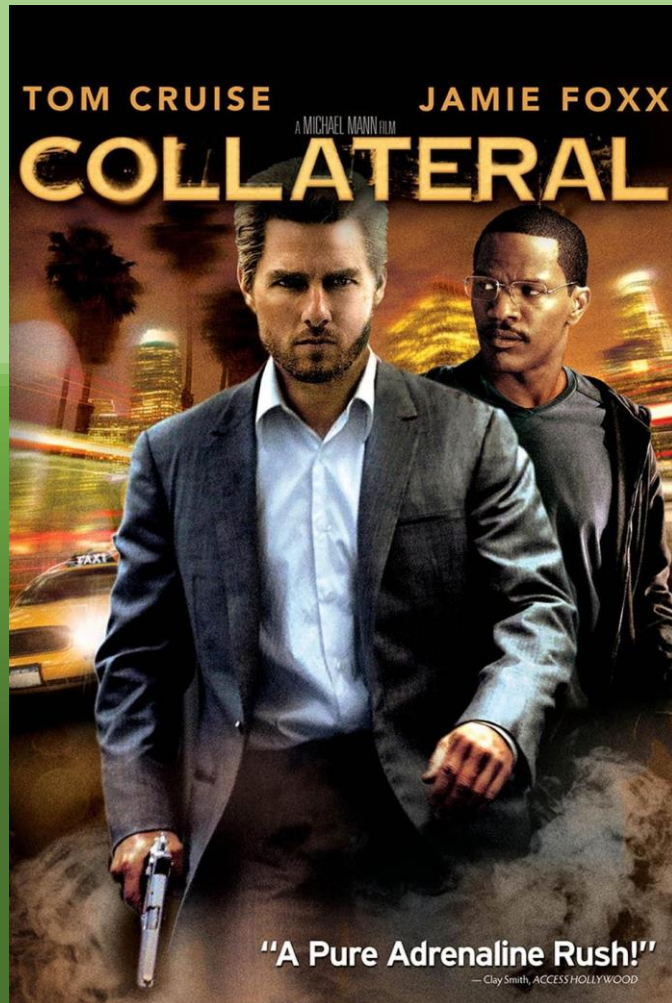


When his compulsion winds up exposing his secret past to Hillary and her ex, and into the cross-hairs of a reporter determined to find out the truth about his past, he'll have to try and keep his secrets hidden when the world seems to want to expose him.

Cue Liz Rodriguez, an investigative reporter working on a feature about the Red Light Ripper. When she's tasked with a fluff piece on Frank, she'll discover that potentially both men are one and the same.

On his tail to try and prove Frank is who he's tried to hide, Liz will use every resource she has available (including her homicide detective brother, who may or may not have a tie to Frank's one slip up) and it'll be a race to see if Frank can keep everything hidden.

Comparable Films



Purpose

There's a cottage industry of videos on YouTube "exposing" celebrities for being awful people in the past to the point where they really have to stretch the definition of being exposed.

We don't live in a world where Vince Neil of Motley Crue can drunkenly kill someone in a car accident and get away with it anymore... at least not without everyone knowing he explicitly got away with it.

Shattered came into existence with the idea of what if a celebrity on the level of Fred Rogers had always been a monster inside.... and we just didn't know it because he was good at covering his tracks?

Think of Bill Cosby, Jimmy Saville, and any number of celebrities who've had their images shattered over the last decade... and the lengths they went to in order to cover them up as long as they did.

Welcome to the Red Light Ripper, a violent serial killer who's famous to true crime fans who speculate on his identity over the years as the longest running serial killer in America history... and the outwardly good man who secretly is this absolute monster.





Hillary

(Casting Idea: A Bella Thorne type)

Hillary Drake is having a bit of a rough spell. Her mother is battling cancer and in danger of losing the family home because of the mounting medical bills... and the gig that she was counting on to cover them has suddenly disappeared.

A film student, and cancer survivor, Hillary is a tough survivor willing to say and do what she has to with Frank in order to walk away from everything.



Frank

(Casting Idea: A Robert Wisdom type)

The host of a TV show that's a staple for young children, to the public Frank Jackson is a stellar human being beyond reproach. He raises money for childhood cancer survivors, among other things, and has never had a controversy in his entire multiple decade TV career.

He just also happens to have been a serial killer the whole time. It's a thing he balances to keep his private life hidden.



Robert

(Casting Idea: A Liam Hemsworth type)

Hillary's ex-boyfriend and video scholar extraordinaire, Robert lucked into a childhood dream of a job: interview Frank Jackson in his final moment in public life.

He's also a bit of a cad, torching his relationship with Hillary in the embrace of another woman.

Losing his backup cameraman, Robert will coax her into the job with the promise of much needed cash.



Liz

(Casting Idea: A Stephanie Beatriz type)

A good investigative reporter is worth their weight in gold and Liz is worth twice that. In a journalism world where clicks count more than coverage, Liz is the last of a dying breed who cares about breaking stories with the truth.

Distribution & Budget

Shattered is a great movie for streaming services such as Hulu and Netflix where the film would be accessible to a range of audiences and take advantage of the long-tail and data-driven recommendations on the platforms.

The production would not like to rule out the possibilities of acquiring international pre-sales. There is potential for a high-concept thriller to bring revenue abroad.

Ideally the goal would be to emulate a film like Edward Burns' "Summer Days, Summer Nights," Isao Yukisada's "River's Edge" and Jason Reitman's "Thank you for Smoking" as a festival favorite that winds up being picked up a larger distributor.

Estimated budget between \$750,000 - \$1,000,000

About The Writer

Scott Sawitz

What began as a deep father/son conversation brought Scott from being a multi-time optioned screenwriter into daring to be one of the few who had embraced the grind of feature film-making as a writer/director with his 2023 film “Save State.”

A romantic comedy in the vein of “Groundhog Day,” “Save State” was inspired by the failings of his own long term romantic relationship and the sage words of his father. Confronted with a son who wanted to go back to the moment of his break up, and find a way to make it work, he asked two profound things that would inspire the film: “What would you have changed?” and “How would it be better?”

Film Threat praised Scott for his “stellar writing” on the film.

A 2001 Saint Norbert College graduate who spent nearly two decades as a freelance journalist (and just as many in the financial services field at all walks of the life insurance industry), Scott’s byline appeared all over the internet and covered a variety of topics, from mixed martial arts (where he covered the second UFC on Fox card live from Chicago’s United Center) to film and television criticism, Scott evolved into a filmmaker when he collaborated on the web series “Confessions of a Web Series” with his producing partner Mike Noyes.



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