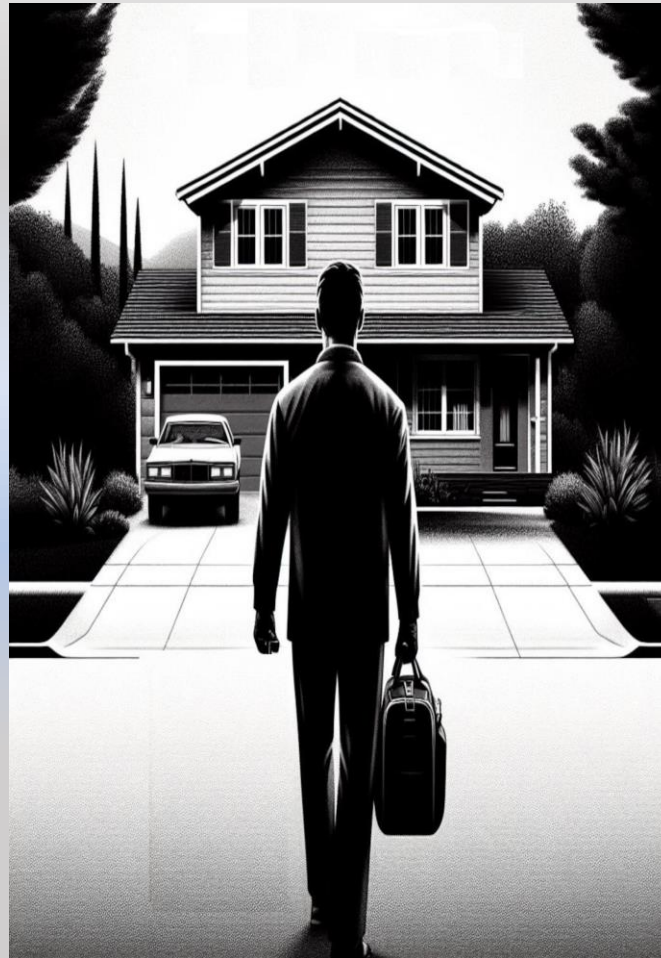


Scalpel. Syringe. Silencer

A Feature Film by Scott Sawitz



Logline & Synopsis

Logline: *After losing his medical license, a plastic surgeon with a criminal past winds up in deep with the Russian mob when his daughter's medical bills threaten to bankrupt his family.*

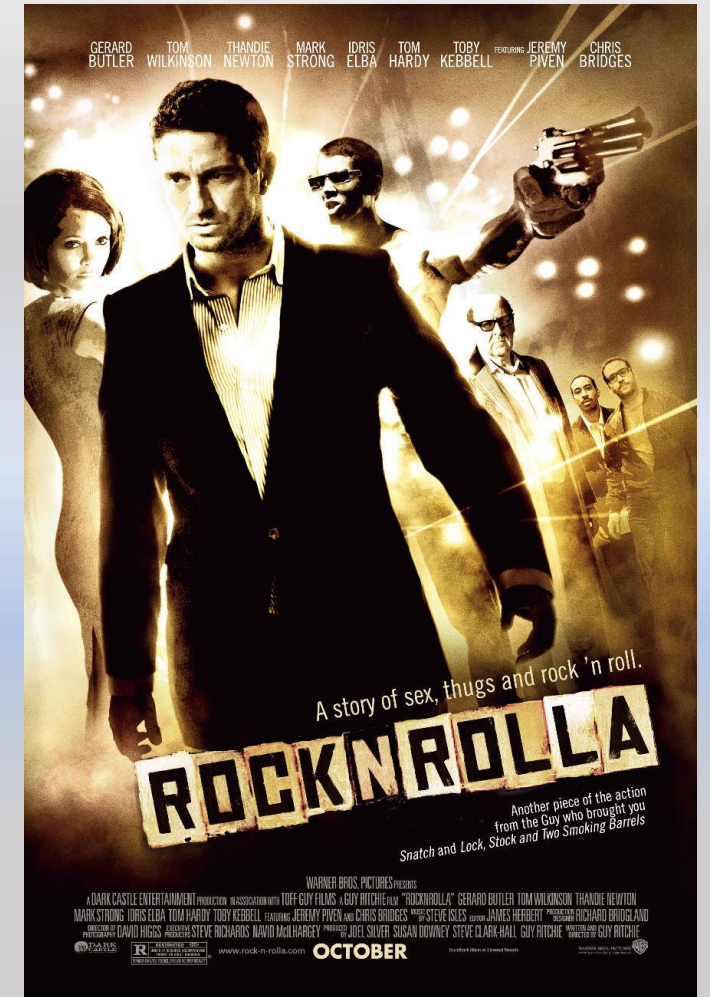
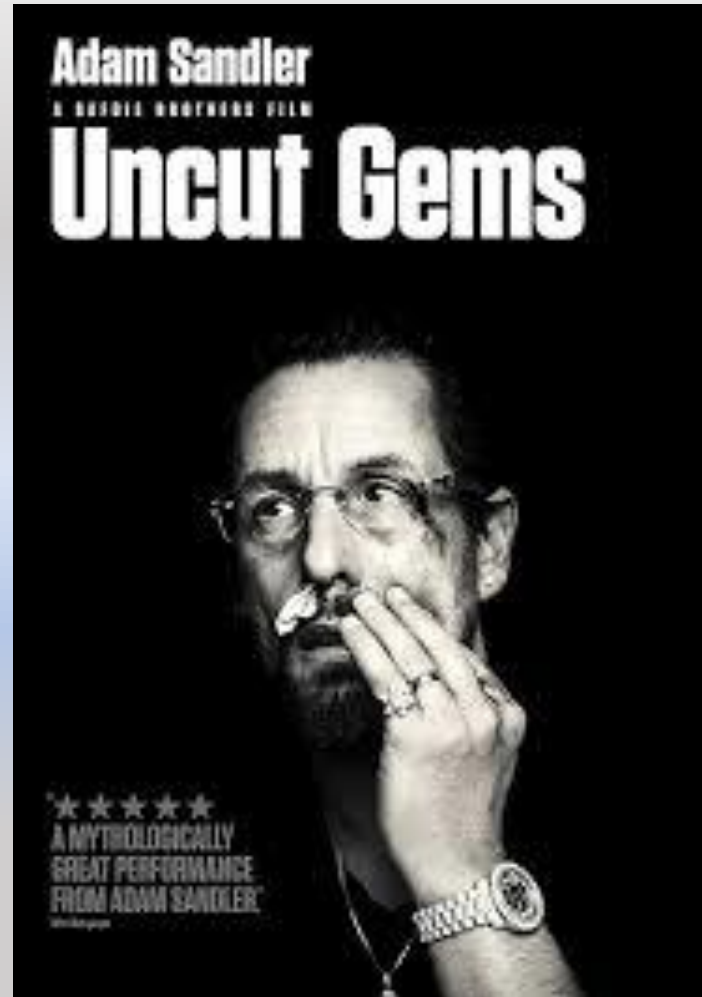
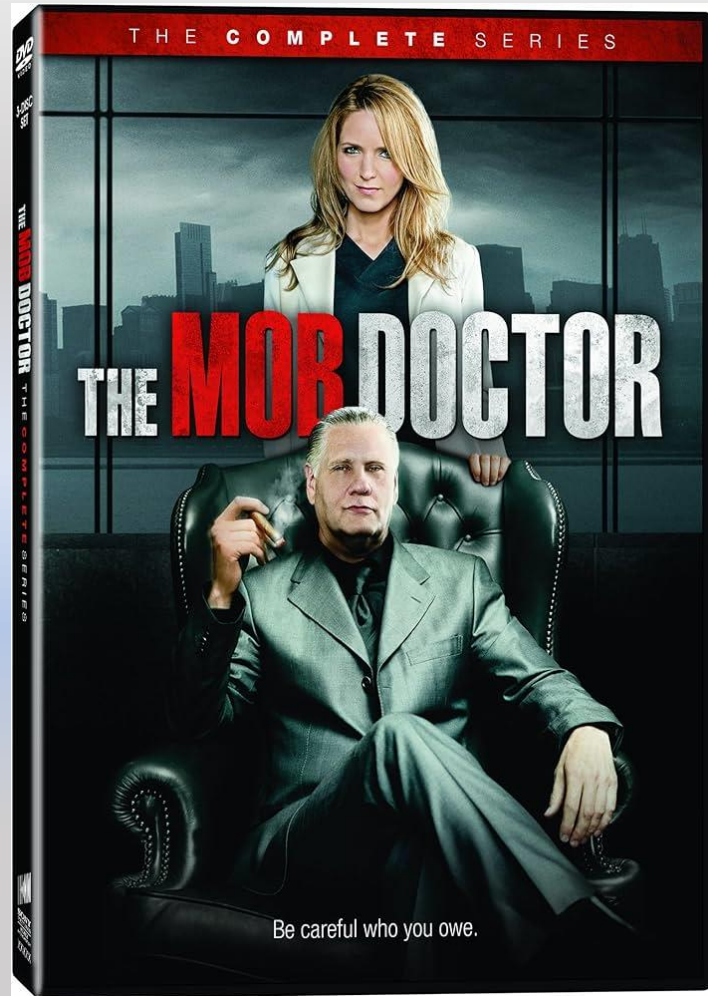


Synopsis: Kyle Jackson had the perfect life on the surface once: he was a genuine war hero with a beautiful wife, a great kid and a booming plastic surgery practice. Underneath the surface was a man with a deep gambling problem... one which led him into jail for a ten-year stretch.

Released early for good behavior, he's intent on getting his life back together when he receives the worst possible news: his daughter has a terminal diagnosis and the only thing that might be able to save her is an unapproved, experimental drug.

Taking a job providing off the books medical care to violent criminals through an old prison pal, a high-ranking Russian mobster, Kyle has to balance his real life with his increasingly criminal behavior in order to correct the errors of his past.

Comparable Films



Purpose



Almost half (44%) of criminals who get released from prison in the United States will return there within the first 12 months of their release.

That's an absurd number when you think about it... half of the people who've served their time for the crimes they've committed are going to return to jail within a year of being released. Why?

There's a lot of reasons and one of them is that being an ex-con in America makes things much more difficult to live a straight life.

That's what inspired *Scalpel. Syringe. Silencer.* to begin with... the idea that trying to be a good person and do the right thing after incarceration is difficult because the system is rigged against you after a certain point, even if you try do the right thing.

Through the lens of someone with extraordinary amounts of privilege, a doctor with his own issues, we can see how hard it is and how someone can do all the right things and still have to resort to criminal activity.



Kyle Jackson

(Casting Idea: A Michael B. Jordan type)

On the surface, Kyle has the most amazing life. A war hero turned plastic surgeon, he has a beautiful wife and daughter to go with a thriving practice.

Underneath is a gambling degenerate always chasing the next high... when it lands him in prison, he'll come out a new ready to be the man he promised his now ex-wife he'd be.

With his license to practice medicine revoked, and a daughter dying of cancer, Kyle will use his special set of skills for the criminal class.



Natasha Jackson

(Casting Idea: An Aja Naomi King type)

A high-profile attorney, Natasha had what she thought was a perfect life. A beautiful daughter, a doctor husband, the perfect home... but below the surface all wasn't right.

Losing everything, Natasha will be the guiding focus for Kyle as he tries to rebuild his life. Why?

Because it's for their daughter.

She'll be the backbone and Kyle's sounding board as he goes deeper into the criminal underworld.



Maya Jackson

(Casting Idea: A Zendaya type)

The downside of being a teenager is that you don't know the real story about things as they unravel around you.

Diagnosed with a rare cancer, she'll take an experimental drug her father's criminal activities are paying for.

Wanting the sort of idealized family life she thinks she remembers as a kid, she'll be the light and focus for Kyle as he rebuilds his life... he may have blown it for Natasha, Maya is what his life revolves around.

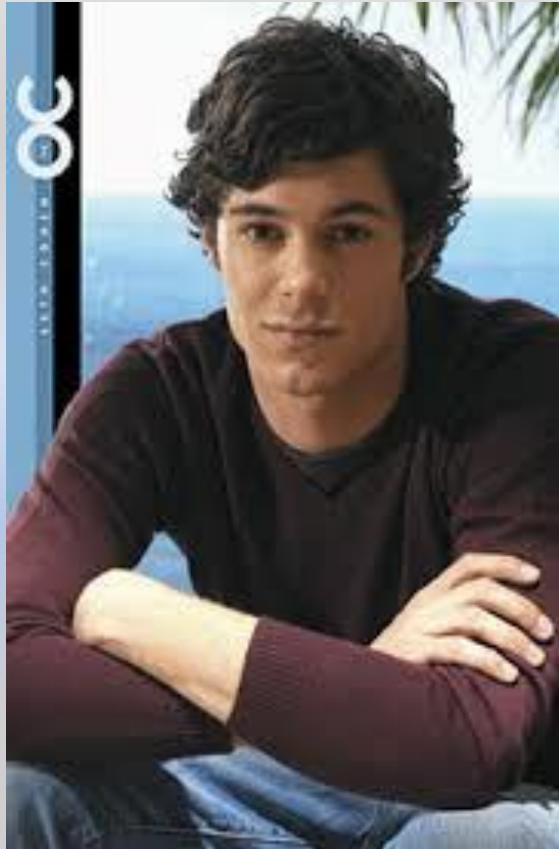


Yuri

(Casting Idea: A Vladimir Mashkov type)

An ex-con with substantial criminal histories in both America and overseas, Yuri is a low level Russian mobster and a legitimately frightening person.

Yuri is a physical presence his own men, and some of his superiors, become instantly scared shitless in his presence.



Aidan

(Casting Idea: An Adam Brody type)

Kyle's sponsor in Gambling Anonymous, Aidan is a bright and motor-mouthed kid who Kyle relies on to help out with some of his criminal activities down the road.

Distribution & Budget

Scalpel. Syringe. Silencer 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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