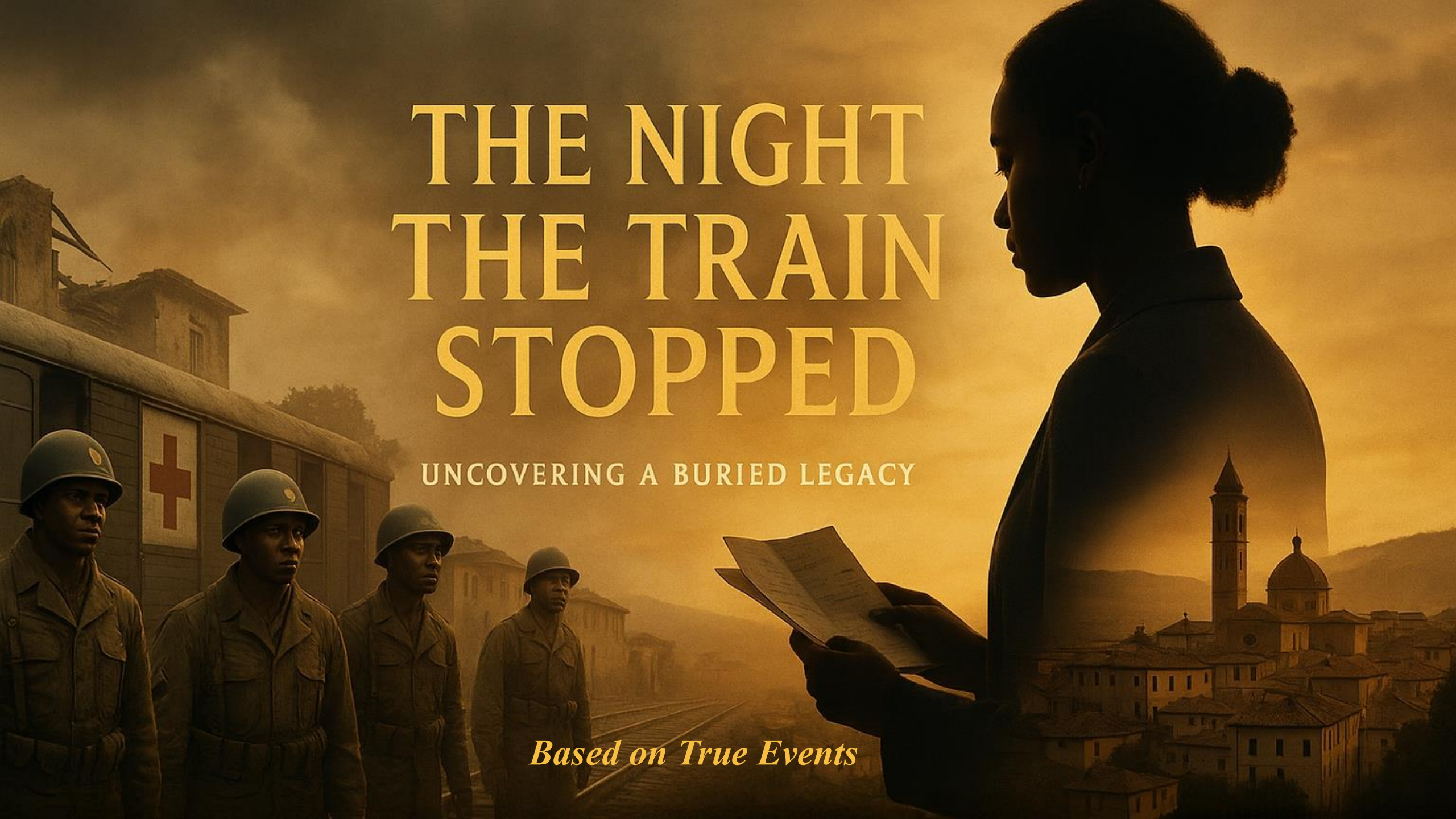


# THE NIGHT THE TRAIN STOPPED

UNCOVERING A BURIED LEGACY

*Based on True Events*



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# THE NIGHT THE TRAIN STOPPED



A past uncovered. A legacy restored.

**TITLE:** *The Night the Train Stopped*

*Based on True Events*

**GENRE:** Historical Drama / Mystery / Dual Timeline

**TOPE:** Reflective, emotional, sweeping, rooted in truth

**BUDGET:** \$4-5M cast dependent

## **LOGLINE**

When a modern-day teacher arrives in a quiet Italian village, she uncovers the buried legacy of the Buffalo Soldiers—an African American WWII unit whose courage and compassion once saved the town—sparking a journey that binds past and present and transforms her understanding of who she is.



## SYNOPSIS

*The Night the Train Stopped* is a sweeping historical drama that connects modern-day America with wartime Italy through a forgotten story of sacrifice.

When Maya Thompson, a Black American teacher seeking renewal, moves to a quiet Italian village, she uncovers the hidden legacy of the 92nd Quartermaster Company (**Buffalo Soldiers**)—an African American unit sent to Foligno during the final days of WWII. Expecting routine burial duty, the soldiers instead found themselves tending to abandoned survivors of Nazi retreat routes, forging deep bonds with the townspeople as they struggled to preserve humanity in the face of atrocity.

As Maya pieces together their story through artifacts, letters, and memories of an aging villager, she discovers her own connection to the Buffalo Soldiers who changed the village's fate, reigniting a light history nearly extinguished.



## MODERN TIMELINE (FRAME STORY)

**Maya Thompson**, a gifted but emotionally drained Black American teacher, accepts a short-term appointment in a small Italian village, hoping distance will provide clarity in her life. Upon arrival, she is fascinated by a local legend: a mysterious train that stopped during the final days of WWII, changing the course of the village forever.

Drawn into the mystery, Maya meets **Giuseppe**, an elderly resident who still remembers that night as he reveals fragments of a story involving **Buffalo Soldiers**—Black American soldiers—whose presence saved the village from being completely lost to the final wave of Nazi brutality.

Maya discovers letters, military tags, and personal effects hidden in an old chest—clues that ignite her search for truth.



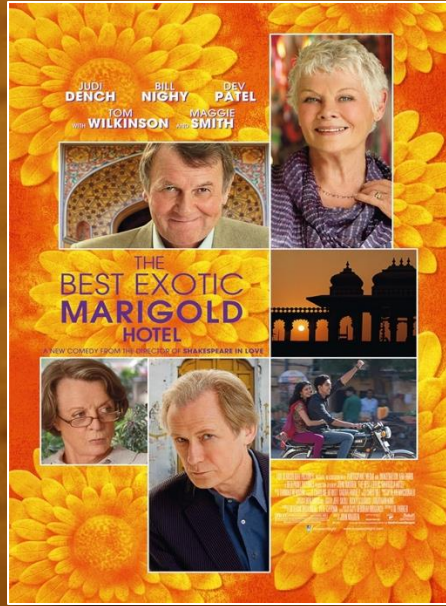
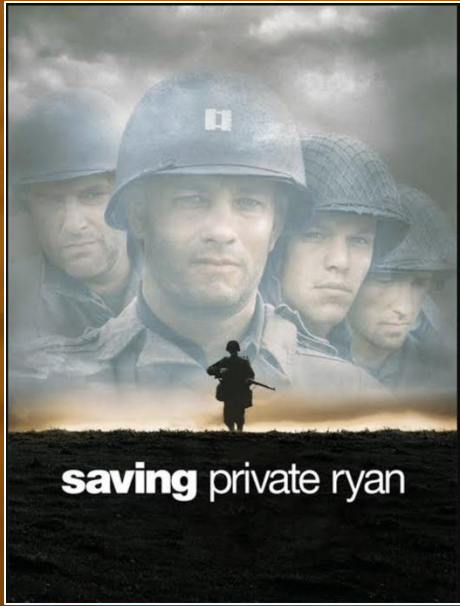
## WARTIME TIMELINE

In 1944, the **92nd Quartermaster Company**, a segregated African American military unit nicknamed the **Buffalo Soldiers**, is dispatched to **Foligno**, a town shattered by the retreating German army. Tasked with burial detail, the soldiers are prepared for grim work—yet nothing in their training anticipates what they find.

Led by a steady, soft-spoken sergeant, the unit discovers survivors—starving, emaciated, abandoned by fleeing Nazis. Against protocol, the soldiers intervene. They care for the sick, rescue the wounded, bury the dead with dignity, and stand guard over the vulnerable.

Working side by side with the villagers, the men forge bonds that transcend language and expectation. They witness the worst of humanity but choose, again and again, to act with compassion. Their presence becomes the thin line between total devastation and survival.





## GENRE, TONE & STYLE

Sweeping and intimate, *The Night the Train Stopped*, blends the historical scope of *Saving Private Ryan* with the emotional discovery of *The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel* and the reflective soul of *The Notebook*. With rich Italian backdrops and a haunting score, the film bridges past and present—exploring race, legacy, and the timeless search for truth buried in history’s shadows.



**THE NIGHT THE TRAIN STOPPED** is a prestige historical drama told in dual timelines, blending the emotional pull of *The English Patient*, the mystery structure of *The Dig*, and the historical reclamation energy of *Hidden Figures*.

COMPS:	Budget	Box office (worldwide)
Last Black Man In San Francisco	3.0M	4.6M
Minari	2.0M	15M
The Farewell	3.0M	23M



Black protagonist, memory, place, and identity



Semi-autobiographical immigrant-family drama



Intimate, emotionally rich family drama about secrets, legacy and cultural memory

**MAYA THOMPSON**



**Regina Hall**

*Cast  
Wish List*

**YOUNG MAYA**



**Leah Sava Jeffries**

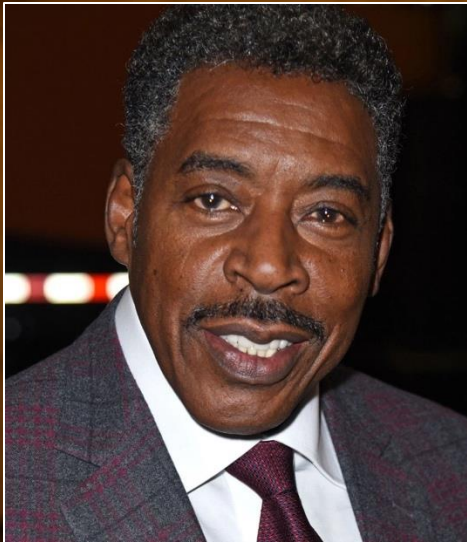
**MARCO**



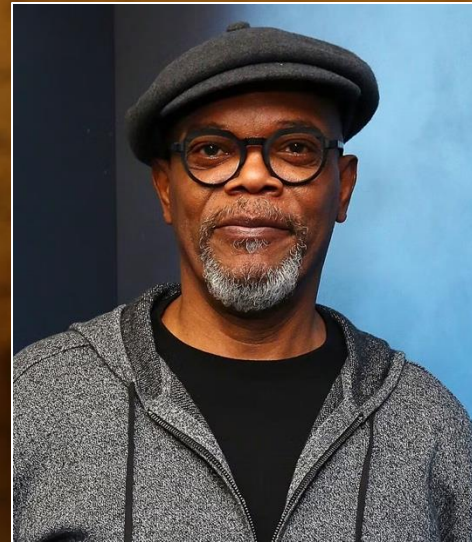
**Justin Baldoni**

**MAYA'S DAD**

**GIUSEPPE**



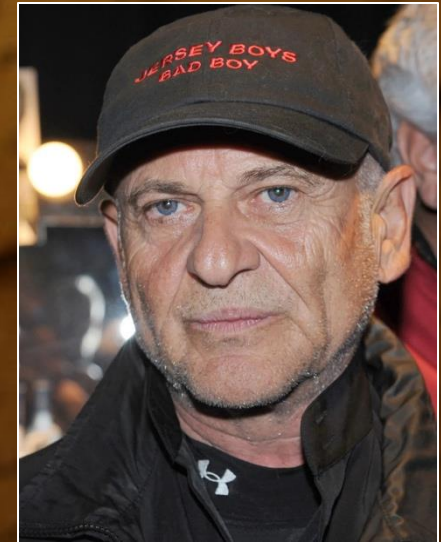
**Ernie Hudson**



**Samuel L. Jackson**



**Chazz Palminteri**



**Joe Pesci**



## HERE'S OUR RECIPE:

“Show business” is a sophisticated business. At Valkary Media we follow straight forward, tried and true business practices based on years of experience.

It all starts with a brilliant script, excellent IP, and a top-notch production. After that, we add in what we call “soft money”, which is a combination of state or regional tax credits, minimum guarantees, foreign pre-sales and sponsor money. Those items will protect 40 - 70% of our proposed budget.

Now sprinkle in the magic of an underused IRS tax code called Section 181 tax deductions, and you have a significantly risk reduced investment vehicle poised for success.



### *The Tax Shelter Details*

Our financial partner has used IRC 181 on almost 100 films in the last decade and a half and has engineered a process to increase an individual investor's write off to 5x the investment. Example: \$250,000 investment can receive a \$1,250,000 write off.

We realize that this tax shelter is not widely known, so of course we do have additional info you can share with your tax professionals to discuss your specific benefit. We are available to meet on a video call or in person in the Las Vegas area.



## ROI STRUCTURE & RISK MITIGATION

- Investors will recoup 115% of their investment in first position
- Then share in 50% of producers equity pari passu.
- Investors will also receive 181 tax deductions
- As well as coverage from all soft monies  
Including:
  - State tax incentives
  - Presales



**Producer  
Deanna Shapiro**



**Producer  
Marc Gold**



**Producer  
Jill Wichert**

**TEAM**



**Executive Producer  
Dale Davidson**



**Executive Producer  
Warren Robold**



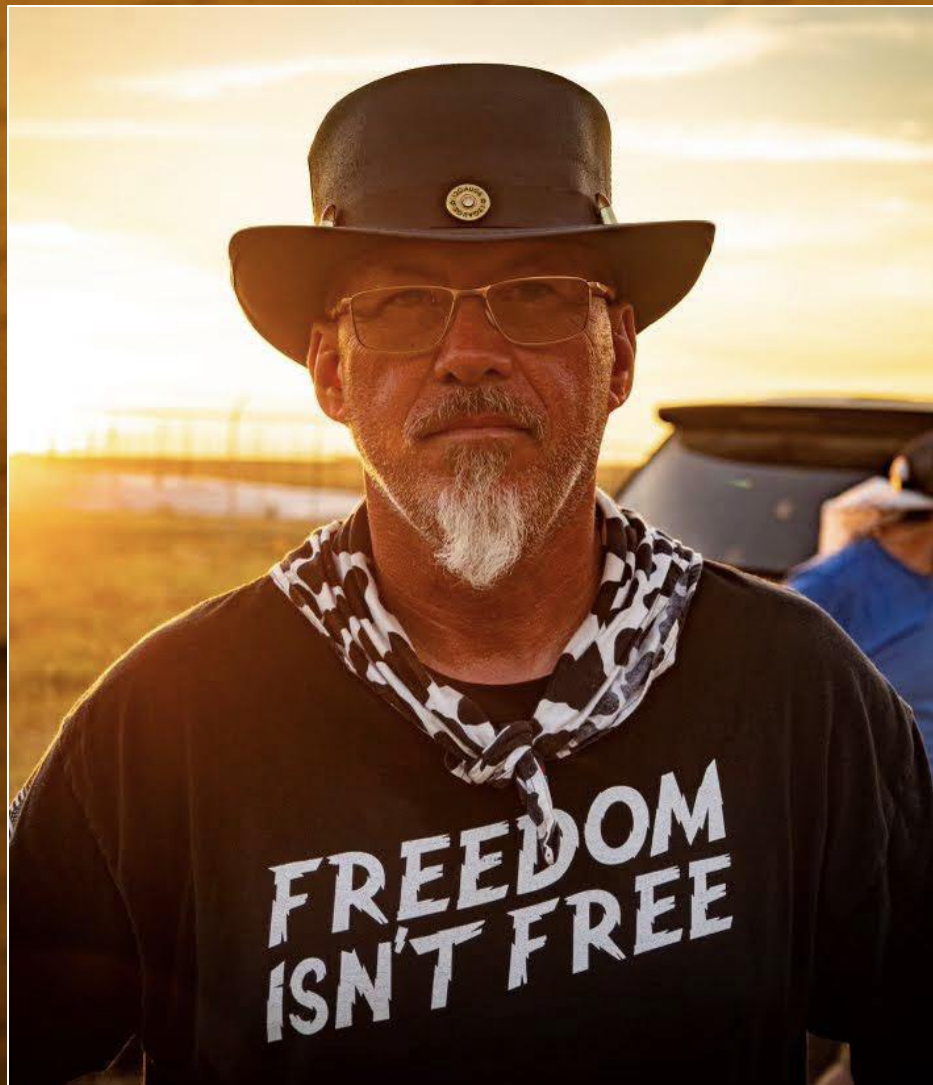
**Storyteller  
Jana Jackson**



## **STATEMENT OF RISK**

Financing feature films is a highly risky endeavor with no guarantees of recoupment or profit. However, no other industry offers the profit potential that this type of financing opportunity offers.

All information, documents and contracts affiliated with this proposal are encouraged to be reviewed by external counsel and accounting professionals.



**Thank you for your  
consideration and we  
look forward to  
discussing this amazing  
film further with you.**

**Contact:  
Marc Gold  
Producer  
949-279-4488  
gold@freshcats.com**