

BASED ON A TRUE STORY



A DANIAL DONÁI FILM

JOHN^{THE} REVELATOR

RAIL-MOTOR 1819

COMING SOON

JOHN THE REVELATOR

Australia 1945 - Two young brothers were awarded to the state and placed in a hardened boys' home. Twenty years later, they formed an Outlaw Motorcycle Club in Far North Queensland, known as '**the Revelators**'.

This is their story...

SYNOPSIS

In 1945, John and Elias Schwarz were relinquished to the state and placed in a rigorous boys' home, where they endured a challenging upbringing marked by adversity.

Fourteen years later, during the Vietnam War, the brothers forged an unbreakable bond with their fellow soldiers, creating a lifelong brotherhood. Upon returning to Australia as war veterans, they faced ostracism from society, prompting them to establish an outlaw existence in Far North Queensland.

There, John and Elias founded the motorcycle club known as the Revelators, rallying their wartime comrades to join their ranks. Their territory soon came under threat when a rival motorcycle club, the Mountain Brothers, encroached to expand their illegal drug operations. The Mountain Brothers orchestrated a scheme to frame the Revelators for local robberies they did not perpetrate, igniting a fierce gang war between the two groups.

A consignment of narcotics is deposited into the ocean and subsequently recovered by the Revelators. Their strategy involves transporting the hidden shipment via rail to the rainforest township of Kuranda. Unbeknownst to the Revelators, the selected train, 'Rail Motor 1819,' is transporting the Railway Company's payroll for its employees. The train is ambushed en route to Kuranda, resulting in the disappearance of both the drugs and the payroll.

The 1973 heist of 'Rail Motor 1819' remains an unsolved enigma, shrouded in mystery to this day.

This action-packed heist drama unfolds against the turbulent backdrop of 1970s motorcycle gangs and drug wars, offering a narrative with global resonance that taps into contemporary audiences' growing fascination with the ruthless, competitive biker subculture of that era. This is evidenced by the success of *Sons of Anarchy*, which spanned seven seasons, and its spin-off *Mayans M.C.*, which ran for five seasons.

Additionally, the 2024 feature film *The Bike Riders*, a crime drama released in June and now streaming on Netflix, has garnered an award and three nominations, further highlighting the enduring appeal of this genre.



DANIAL DONAI

WRITER DIRECTOR PRODUCER

I am Danial Donái, a seasoned professional with over four decades of expertise as a writer, film director, second unit director, stunt coordinator, and film producer within the global motion picture industry. My career boasts numerous successes in Hollywood, where I had the privilege of collaborating with some of the world's most prominent stars, including my esteemed colleague, Arnold Schwarzenegger.

Originally from Brisbane, Australia, my cinematic journey began in 1984 in Sydney, where I launched my career as an action actor on the set of *Mad Max Beyond Thunderdome*, starring Mel Gibson and Tina Turner.

After achieving four prosperous years in the Australian film sector, I made a transformative move to Los Angeles in 1988. There, I honed my skills as an action actor while simultaneously developing my writing talents, propelling my career forward both on-screen and behind the camera.

While working on *Batman & Robin*, director Joel Schumacher reviewed my initial feature screenplay, *Indestructible*—an action-driven narrative—and praised my efforts, encouraging me to transition from acting to focus on writing and directing my own projects.

My filmography includes notable titles such as *Die Hard 2*, *Men in Black*, *Swordfish*, *Ultraviolet*, *Matrix Reloaded*, *Gone in Sixty Seconds*, *Eraser*, *Jingle All the Way*, and *Batman & Robin*. Following my Hollywood achievements, I returned to Brisbane, seamlessly shifting to a full-time role in writing, directing, and producing.

To date, I have authored ten feature film screenplays, with three currently in active development. In 2007, I wrote, directed, and produced my debut 90-minute Australian feature, *Like a Bat Outta Hell*, distributed by TriCoast Worldwide, CA, USA.

In 2016, I crafted, directed, and produced my second 94-minute Australian feature, *The Night Flyers*. Toward the end of 2024, I wrote, directed, and produced the 30-minute short film *Deep Red Water*, which earned the Best Short Film accolade at the New York International Film Festival (NYIFF).

In early 2024, I completed the initial draft of *John the Revelator*, a true-story project that has been under development throughout the year and is slated for production in 2026.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT



As the screenwriter and director of '**John the Revelator**', my creative vision draws inspiration from the 1974 Australian cinematic landmark, 'Stone' and the vibrant subculture of 'outlaw' bikers during the 1970s, along with their iconic motorcycles. Many of these bikers were returned Vietnam veterans who, despite their service, found themselves marginalized in the very nation they defended.



This narrative is as much a celebration of the distinctive atmosphere and ethos of that subculture as it is an exploration of what it meant to embody the identity of an Australian 'outlaw' biker during that era - an experience that feels almost foreign to us in 2024. Although I am not a veteran, I rode solo on motorcycles throughout the 1970s and 1980s and remain an enthusiastic rider to this day. This personal journey has given me an intimate understanding of the lifestyle and the profound camaraderie that defined the biker community.



The narrative unfolds against the breathtaking landscapes and lush rainforests of Far North Queensland, where the environment itself emerges as a compelling character, enriched by the extensive use of exterior settings. Even in today's smaller towns, the preserved streets and architecture from that bygone era lend an authentic cinematic texture and a palpable sense of realism to the film.

IMAGE: THE REVELATORS MC & THE MOUNTAIN BROTHERS MC

My vision is to infuse the movie with the genuine spirit and dynamic energy characteristic of that time, while seamlessly blending elements of humour and romance into its core action-drama framework. These scenes will highlight the intense realism that defines the storyline, drawing inspiration from the iconic *The Wild One*, by Marlon Brando and the raw, gritty authenticity of *Sons of Anarchy*.

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY

- a) We cordially invite you to invest in John the Revelator, an exciting film project with a preliminary top-sheet budget of AUD \$5,999,999.00 *(see page 6 for details on top-sheet vs full budget)*. A comprehensive full budget and detailed shooting schedule will be finalised once the majority of funding is secured, ensuring transparency and precision for our valued investors.
- b) Participants will gain a proportional interest in the film as tenants in common alongside other investors.
- c) Should the film fail to secure full funding, all contributed funds will be promptly returned to investors.
- d) Returns for investors will be generated from the film's distribution revenues across Australia and international markets.
- e) Investors will receive their respective share first, augmented by an additional 20%, of the Gross Receipts collected by the production company from the film's global distribution, until each investor's initial investment is fully recouped.
- f) Net Profits from the film's distribution will be evenly split 50/50 with the producers. Investors' entitlement to proceeds will conclude seven years following the film's initial distribution date.
- g) Tax Advantages: This investment involves acquiring Film Copyright, eligible for write-off under the Universal Capital Allowance provisions over a five-year period*.
- h) The film will be co-produced by Danial Donái, with a Producer to be confirmed.

Note: Major investors contributing over \$1,000,000.00 AUD will earn an Executive Producer screen credit in the film's opening credits. All investors will receive invitations to premiere screening events in Australia, access to filming locations to engage with the Director and Actors, and a screen credit in the film's end credits.

LEGAL: Steve Rosser, Entertainment Attorney at Open Legal, Sydney, NSW, Australia. *A comprehensive script and Investor Agreement are available upon request for serious investors.*

KEY INSIGHTS

Why This Matters to You: The top-sheet budget offers a quick overview to evaluate the project's scope and decide on initial investment, while the full budget will provide a precise roadmap, ensuring your investment is allocated efficiently. We're committed to delivering both clarity and accountability as we move forward with John the Revelator.

- This top-sheet is for a mid-tier indie action-drama feature film (90-110 min runtime), emphasising Australian locations for rebates. Assumes local cast/crew to minimise costs, with rebates (Federal Location Offset 30% + Queensland PDV/state incentives up to 15% = 45% effective rebate on qualifying spend). Pre-rebate total ~\$6M AUD; post-rebate effective \$3.7M AUD.
- **Relevance to 2025 Australian Market:** The budget aligns with mid-tier Australian indie films (\$4.53-10.57M AUD pre-rebate for action-dramas). The pre-rebate total (\$6M AUD) is competitive, leveraging Queensland's combined incentives for a lower effective cost.
- **Action Costs:** Reduced stunts/VFX/animals (e.g., croc, motorcycles, train heist) justify increased BTL costs in AUD. Contingency (15%) and insurance (2.5%) remain prudent for risks.
- **Recommendation:** Confirm rebate eligibility with Screen Queensland/federal programs to maximise savings. Further trims possible in post-production if needed. Professional audit advised for precision.

TOP-SHEET BUDGET vs FULL BUDGET

For a film investor, understanding the distinction between a top-sheet budget and a full budget is crucial for assessing the financial scope of a project like John the Revelator. Here is a clear and concise explanation tailored for the investor:

- **Top-Sheet Budget:** This is a high-level summary of the film's estimated costs, providing a snapshot of the major expense categories without granular detail. It typically includes key line items such as pre-production, production (e.g., cast, crew, equipment, locations), post-production (e.g., editing, sound, visual effects), and contingency reserves. For John the Revelator, the preliminary top-sheet budget is AUD \$6,358,305.00, giving you a broad sense of the project's financial scale. It's a starting point to gauge investment needs and attract initial funding, but it's not exhaustive.
- **Full Budget:** A full budget is a comprehensive, detailed breakdown of all anticipated costs, itemising every expense within each category. This includes specific salaries, equipment rentals, location fees, travel, catering, insurance, marketing, distribution, and more. It's developed later, once the majority of funds are secured, to ensure accuracy as production plans solidify (e.g., confirmed cast, crew, and shooting schedule). For John the Revelator, the full budget, along with a detailed shooting schedule, will be prepared after most funding is committed, providing investors with a transparent, line-by-line, financial plan.

GROSS RECEIPTS AND RETURN ON INVESTMENT

Revenue from the sales of the film will be collected and distributed by a traditional and industry-wide accepted practice.

FIRST, to the collection agent or disbursement agent, for its agreed fees and expenses.

SECOND, to the sales agent and/or distributor, in payment of:

(i) any distribution guarantee or advance paid by the sales agent or distributor for the film.

(ii) their commissions, costs and expenses;

THIRD, to pay actors and writers union residuals.

FOURTH, to repay any production cash flow lender.

FIFTH, to the Investor and any other investors on an equal proportionate basis until each Investor has recovered 120 % of its investment.

The distribution as Net Profits. Producers 50%

1. Sales Agent advance, costs & pre-sales recouped, commission 15%.
2. Investor(s) recoup initial \$TBC, and \$TBC pro rata.
3. The Investor and Producer then share the remaining profits.

COMPARABLES

In professional documentation of this nature, it is customary to present a comparative analysis of recent films with similar themes, including their production budgets and global box office performance. While the cinematic landscape has recently seen a surge of successful heist films, often backed by substantial budgets, films centered on biker culture have been notably scarce.

Nevertheless, we assert that the current market is primed for a compelling return to this genre, offering a nostalgic yet fresh experience that will captivate both seasoned viewers and a younger demographic.

John the Revelator is poised to elevate the portrayal of bikers to an iconic status akin to the legendary cowboys of classic Westerns, tapping into the allure of individuality, thrill, and the inherent risk associated with outlaw motorcycle clubs during their heyday; presenting a lucrative opportunity for discerning financial investors seeking high-impact returns.

SALES ESTIMATES

EXAMPLE OF INCOMES DERIVED FROM SIMILAR AUSTRALIAN GENRE MOVIES TO ***‘JOHN THE REVELATOR’***.

The table below illustrates examples of Australian low to mid-budget films (below \$10M AUD). High-quality movies that earned substantially more than their budgets.

Film Title	Budget (AUD)	AUD Return	Worldwide (AUD)
Talk to Me (2022)	\$6,975,000	\$68,975,000	\$141,205,000
Wolf Creek (2005)	\$2,092,500	\$25,088,300	\$288,300,000
Saw (2004)	\$1,860,000	\$111,600,000	\$207,700,000
Open Water (2003)	\$775,000	\$80,755,000	\$277,450,000
Dead Calm (1989)	\$9,300,000	\$49,600,000	\$148,800,000

Conversion Notes

- Figures are rounded to the nearest dollar for simplicity and clarity.

The success of ***‘JOHN THE REVELATOR’*** has been planned on a platform consisting of 4 input factors:

- A quality story.
- An experienced and technically qualified production cast & crew.
- Medium budget as opposed to high budget, but not at the expense of a quality product.
- A marketing strategy to enhance the best sales.

KEY POINTS

OPPORTUNITY: MINIMUM INVESTMENT \$300,000.00 AUD

GENRE: ACTION/DRAMA

SCREENTIME: 110 MIN (Approx)

PITCH: HE WHO DARES, REAPS THE REWARDS

DIRECTOR: DANIAL DONÁI

PRODUCER: DANIAL DONÁI

CO-PRODUCER: TBC

EX PRODUCERS: TBC

LEAD CAST: TBC

BUDGET: \$5,999,999.00 AUD

KEY POINTS

PRODUCTION ENTITY: DANIAL M.A. DONÁI

PRODUCTION COMPANY: LIGHTNIN' PRODUCTIONS PTY LTD

LOCATION: CAIRNS & GOLD COAST, QLD AUSTRALIA

PRINCIPAL PHOTOGRAPHY DAYS: 30 DAYS

PRE-PRODUCTION START APPROX: 2025/26. 12 WEEKS

PRODUCTION & POST-PRODUCTION: 14 WEEKS COMPLETED (more VFX/sound needed)

FEATURE FILM: 28 WEEKS

DISTRIBUTION DELIVERY: TBD

TOP SHEET GRAND TOTAL: AUD \$5,999,999.00

(Full top sheet budget breakdown available upon request)

JOHN THE REVELATOR

Screenwriter and Director

DANIAL DONÁI

THANK YOU
FOR READING



LIGHTNIN' PRODUCTIONS ACN: 679572251

For more information please contact:

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