



# Cocaine Sky

By: D. Nikki Wheeler

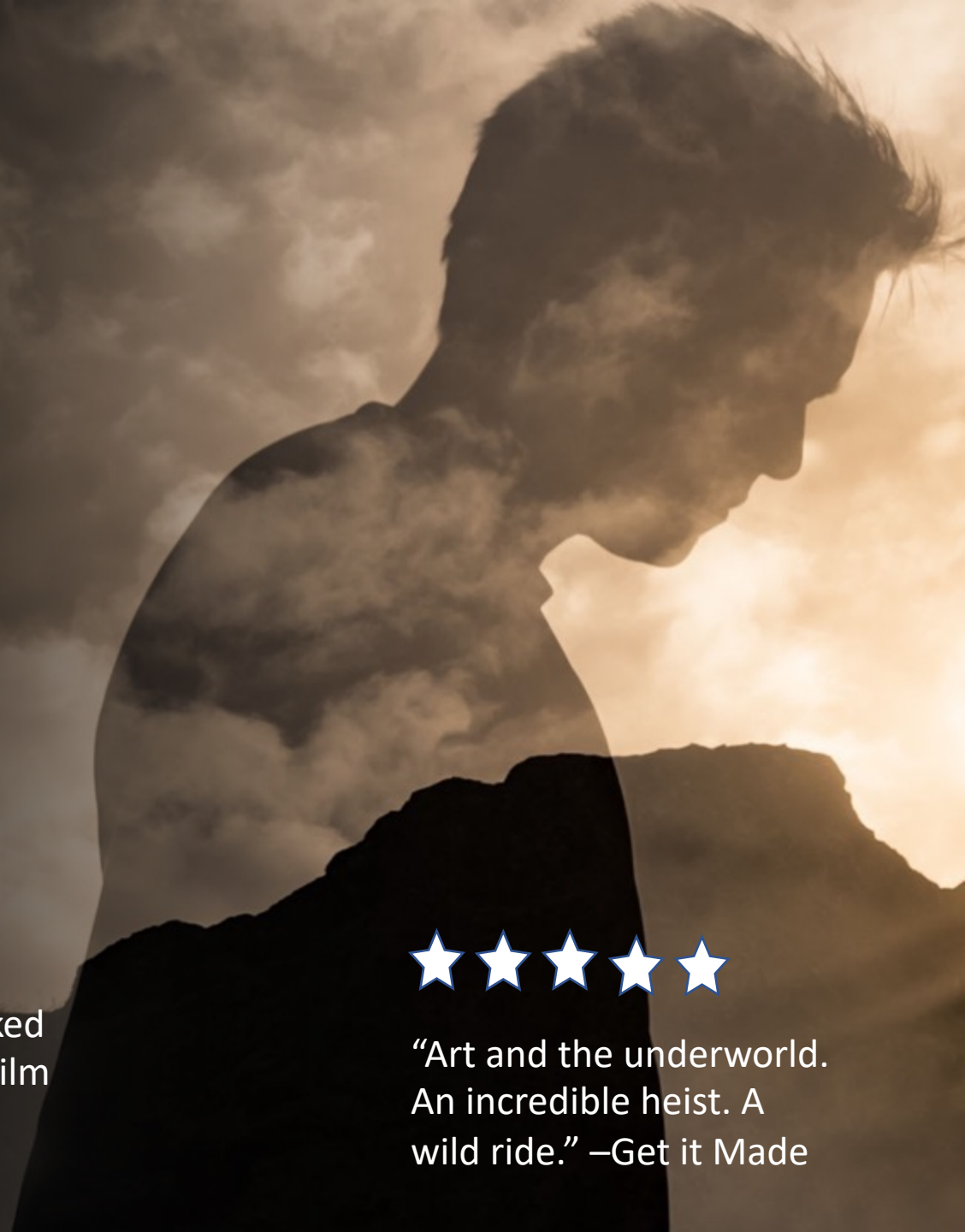
In the world of high-stakes art and underworld intrigue, 'Cocaine Sky' charts the tumultuous journey of a struggling artist. Caught between loyalty, betrayal, and redemption, every decision paints a picture where right and wrong blur, leaving him grappling for salvation amidst chaos and temptation.



"...superb, action-packed thriller with heart." –Film Freeway



"Art and the underworld. An incredible heist. A wild ride." –Get it Made



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# Overview

In the heart of a world where high-stakes art deals intertwine with the gritty underbelly of the criminal underworld, "Cocaine Sky" immerses audiences in a riveting narrative that pulses with tension, suspense, and conflict.

From the outset, the screenplay introduces us to a cast of intriguing characters whose complex relationships and motivations drive the story forward. Against the backdrop of a visually stimulating atmosphere, viewers are drawn into a world where loyalty, betrayal, and redemption collide in unexpected ways.

As we follow protagonists Wyn and Arender into the chaotic realm of a strip club, the screenplay skillfully establishes a sense of unease and danger, setting the stage for the gripping events that follow. From Arender's distraction by Becky to his subsequent confrontation with Dima, each scene crackles with intensity, keeping audiences on the edge of their seats.

Yet, it is the masterful execution of tension and conflict between characters like Maxim and Arender that truly elevates "Cocaine Sky" to cinematic excellence. Against the backdrop of a human caviar bar and the enigmatic painting, "Cocaine Sky," the power dynamics at play are palpable, drawing viewers deeper into the web of intrigue and deception.

As the story unfolds, the conflict between Arender and Becky reaches a boiling point, culminating in a gripping confrontation that lays bare the raw emotions and conflicting desires of the characters. Against the intimate backdrop of Becky's apartment, the stakes are raised, and the true cost of Arender's drug habit becomes painfully clear.

In the final moments of the screenplay, tension reaches a fever pitch as Wyn and Arender find themselves facing off against insurmountable odds. With the fate of their futures hanging in the balance, each decision they make carries weight, propelling the story towards its electrifying conclusion.

In "Cocaine Sky," audiences will find themselves transported to a world where every choice has consequences, and the line between right and wrong blurs beyond recognition.

# Character Profile - Arender

Arender is a tortured soul, haunted by a history of addiction and criminality as he navigates the tumultuous waters of his own psyche. Despite his rebellious and confrontational demeanor, he harbors a vulnerability and regret for past actions, seeking redemption through risky endeavors. His speech is direct and intense, often laced with profanity, mirroring his impulsive and introspective nature as he grapples with his demons.







# Character Profile- Wyn

Wyn is a man of contradictions, embodying both confidence and inner turmoil in equal measure. His exterior exudes authority and ambition, driven by a dark past and a relentless pursuit of success. Despite his manipulative tendencies and involvement in criminal activities, Wyn grapples with loyalty to his loved ones, torn between his family ties and the dangerous world he inhabits. His speech is characterized by persuasiveness and urgency, reflecting his impulsive nature and complex motivations.

# Character Profile- Maxim

Maxim is a formidable presence, commanding respect and instilling fear in equal measure as a ruthless Russian mobster. His every action is calculated, his every word dripping with authority and menace. Loyalty is paramount to Maxim, but betrayal is met with swift and merciless retribution. His speech is authoritative and commanding, tinged with dark humor and sarcasm, reflecting his ironclad grip on the criminal underworld.





# Character Profile- Danyella

Danyella is a woman of many facets, exuding confidence and resilience as she navigates the treacherous world of art and crime. Her knowledge of the world is matched only by her resourcefulness and dedication to her loved ones. From positions of power to vulnerability, she transitions with grace and determination, driven by a thirst for justice and revenge. Her speech is sharp and confident, yet beneath the surface lies a vulnerability and elegance that belies her tough exterior.



# Character Profile- Becky

Becky is a woman of strength and determination, fiercely protective of her child and unwavering in her pursuit of a better life. Her loyalty and compassion shine through in every action, tempered by a practical and resourceful nature. Her speech is direct and assertive, reflecting her no-nonsense approach to life's challenges.







# Character Profile- Monica

Monica is an undercover agent on a mission to wipe out drugs and sex trafficking in the city. She has been living as a homeless woman to infiltrate a notorious gang involved in drug and sex trafficking. With 20 years in law enforcement and extensive training in combat, surveillance, and psychological manipulation, Monica moves, unseen. Despite the mental and physical toll, her resilience, resourcefulness, and determination make her a formidable force.

# Standout Features

- **Unique Hook:** The combination of art world intrigue, crime drama, and character-driven storytelling creates a unique and engaging hook that sets this screenplay apart from other crime dramas.
- **Plot Twist:** The screenplay features several unexpected plot twists and turns that keep the audience guessing and engaged until the very end.
- **Distinctive Settings:** The screenplay's innovative and distinctive settings, including art galleries, warehouses, and a strip club, add to the film's visual appeal and help to create a unique and immersive world.
- **Innovative Ideas:** The screenplay's exploration of addiction, power, and corruption is timely and relevant, and its diverse cast of characters and innovative settings could attract a loyal fanbase.

## Comparable Scripts:

- The Big Night (1996)
- Less Than Zero (1987)
- The Wolf of Wall Street (2013)
- American Gigolo (1980)
- The Sopranos (TV Series)
- Traffic (2000)

# Themes

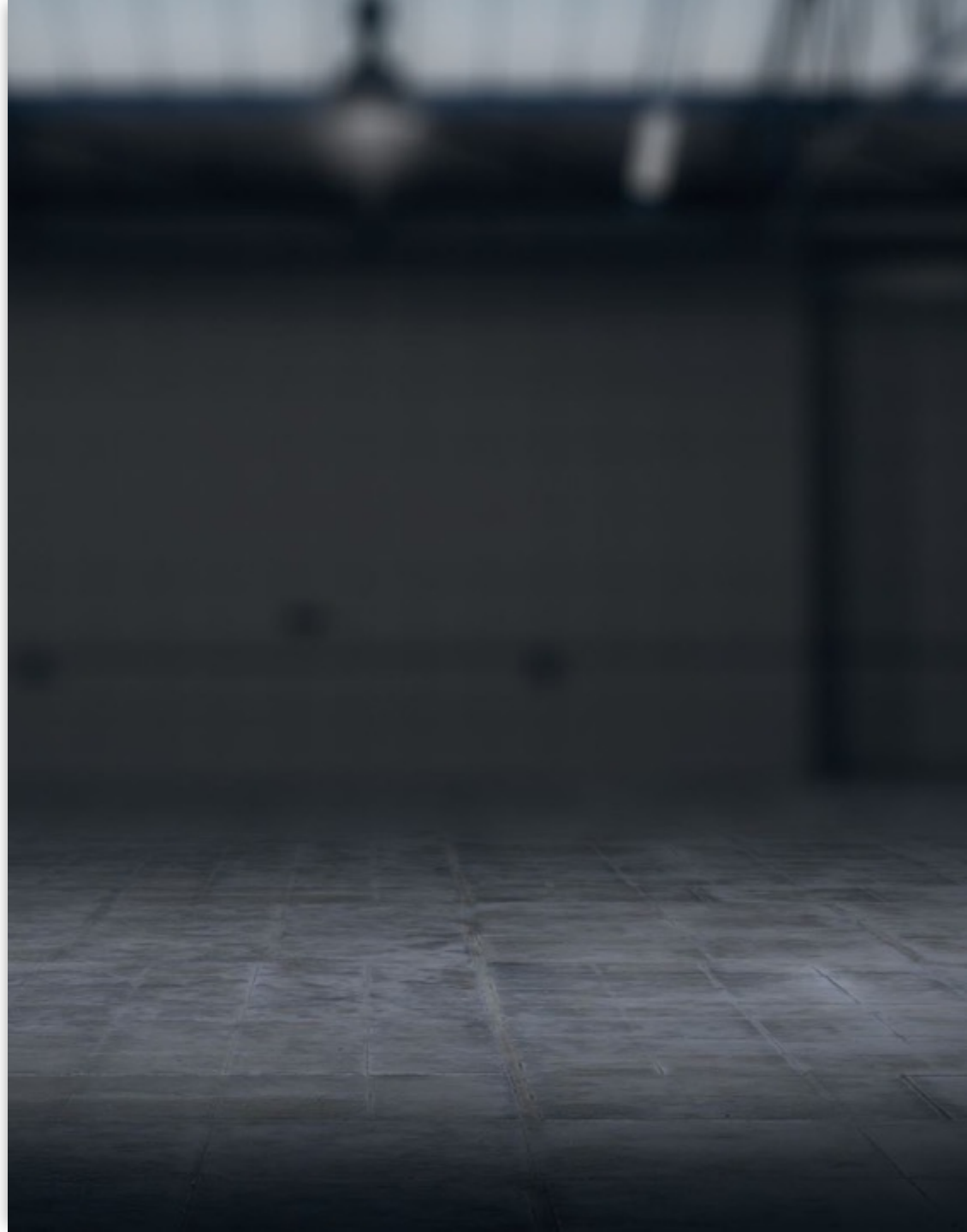
**Genres:** Drama, Thriller, Crime, Romance, Mystery, Character Study, Spiritual

**Setting:** Present day, Art galleries, parking lots, warehouses, a strip club, a church, and various other indoor and outdoor locations in an unspecified city.

**Themes:** Betrayal and Loyalty, Addiction and Recovery, Crime and Punishment

**Conflict and Stakes:** The primary conflicts in this story revolve around Arender's struggle to escape the criminal underworld and overcome his addiction, while also trying to protect those he cares about. Wyn's manipulations and illegal activities put him at odds with Arender, Becky, and Danyella, while Maxim's ruthless pursuit of valuable art pieces threatens to destroy everything in its path. The stakes are high, as the characters' lives and livelihoods are constantly at risk, and the consequences of their actions could be devastating.

**Overall Mood:** Dark and tense, with moments of hope and redemption.



# Market Potential



## Target Audience Demographics:

Adults aged 18-49, fans of crime dramas, thrillers, and art world intrigue.



**Marketability:** This screenplay has a unique blend of art world intrigue, crime drama, and character-driven storytelling, which could appeal to a wide audience. However, the subject matter and graphic content may limit its appeal to more mature audiences. The screenplay's exploration of addiction, power, and corruption is timely and relevant, and its diverse cast of characters and innovative settings could attract a loyal fanbase. While the screenplay's themes and characters are compelling, its graphic content and dark tone may limit its commercial appeal. However, its potential for critical acclaim and award recognition could make it a worthwhile investment for the right studio or distributor.



**Profit Potential:** Moderate to high, depending on the film's marketing and distribution strategy. Its unique blend of genres and timely themes could attract a wide audience, but its graphic content and dark tone may limit its appeal to more mainstream audiences.



# Budget

## I. Pre-Production Costs

Script Development: \$50,000 (includes rights acquisition and writer fees)

Location Scouting: \$20,000 (includes travel and personnel)

Casting: \$30,000 (includes casting director and audition space rental)

## II. Production Costs

Cast Salaries: \$300,000 (principal actors), \$150,000 (secondary characters), \$50,000 (extras)

Crew Wages: \$500,000 (comprehensive for all crew members over shooting days)

Location Fees: \$100,000 (permits and fees for various locations)

Set Design and Construction: \$200,000 (materials and labor for custom sets)

Costume and Wardrobe: \$75,000 (including specialized costumes)

Special Effects: \$100,000 (practical effects and minimal digital work)

Catering and Transportation: \$150,000 (covering all production days)

Insurance and Permits: \$60,000 (comprehensive coverage and all necessary permits)

## III. Post-Production Costs

Editing: \$75,000 (editing suite rental and personnel)

Sound Design: \$50,000 (includes scoring and sound effects)

Visual Effects: \$100,000 (for enhancing specific scenes)

Color Correction: \$30,000 (final visual polish)

Distribution Prep: \$50,000 (creation of marketing materials and distribution setup)

## IV. Miscellaneous Costs

Contingencies: \$100,000 (reserved for unexpected expenses)

Legal Fees: \$30,000 (covering all legal necessities)

**V. Total Estimated Budget: \$2,220,000**

# Writer Bio



D. Nikki Wheeler is a writer, director, producer and actor. A corporate and crisis communications professional by day, Nikki writes at night, following a rigorous and disciplined schedule. Nikki has a passion for travel, a penchant for adventure and a never-ending sense of wonder. She lives in Colorado with, according to her niece, "A lotta pets."

She is in development with SIDEWAY on an original streaming web series, "FABULIST," and has optioned "THE ONE," a sexy thriller with Canadian-based Nasser Entertainment.

## Awards and honors include:

- Semifinalist, Emerging Screenwriters, 2024
- Number 6, on the Capital Fund Hot 100 List, 2021
- Finalists, Wiki: The World's Fastest Screenplay Contest! 2021
- Semifinalist, ISA Genre Busting Screenplay Competition, 2021
- Semifinalist, Los Angeles International Screenplay Awards Spring 2020
- Quarterfinalist, The Script Lab - TSL Free Screenplay Contest 2020
- Quarterfinalist, ScreenCraft Drama Competition 2020
- Quarterfinalist, Emerging Screenwriters - Genre Screenplay Competition 2020
- Quarterfinalist, Willamette Writers - Kay Snow Writing Competition 2020
- Honorable Mention, Barnstorm Fest 2020
- Quarterfinalist, Scriptapalooza Screenplay Competition 2019

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