

THE POACHER

SOMEONE ALWAYS HAS TO PAY

THE POACHER

A feature film by Johnathan Burns © 2019

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OVERVIEW

TITLE: The Poacher

LOGLINE: An African wildlife ranger hires a mercenary with an ulterior motive to save his sanctuary from poachers.

GENRE: Action | Drama

THEME: Conservation

SETTING: Present Day

LOCATIONS: South Africa | Wildlife Park | Town

LEAD: Female and Male



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SYNOPSIS

When poachers gain the upper hand, a desperate wildlife ranger will do the unthinkable to win the war.

'The Poacher' is an action feature film following the journey of a Wildlife Ranger in a South African Wildlife Conservation Park desperate to turn the tide of poaching activity. With the Ranger station and his job under threat, Samson hires a hit man known as 'The Poacher' to rid his park of poachers but his hired gun has an ulterior motive.

The film will be a medium to high budget production with a small cast centred on the dual lead characters of Samson and 'The Poacher'. The unlikely combination sees the Ranger and the hired gun working together to rid the park of the poaching syndicates in an unconventional style.

Set in South Africa, the film has a realistic dirty feel to it of similar vein to 'Blood Diamond'. Green screen scenes and special effects would suffice for some sequences while much of the shooting could be done within one area.



CHARACTERS

BLAKE a.k.a. 'THE POACHER'

Known only as 'The Poacher', Blake is a secretive hit-woman in her late 30's of African decent. Following her escape at a young age from the Chinese syndicate boss, Longwei, Blake is a highly skilled hired gun who purposed to train herself in fighting and shooting while being educated in England. Her personal history and success as a hit-woman makes her a deadly weapon for hire to solve any foreseeable problem.

Operating out of the U.K., Blake has spent years perfecting her trade, even masquerading as a male hit-man to protect her identity. Her skills have served her well over the years, proving lucrative while making her a formidable enemy. Although she works globally, she prefers jobs which benefit her South African homeland.

Stepping out of her regular 'no pay, no play' policy, Blake decides to take advantage of Samson's poaching problem in order to resolve both a personal vendetta and to rescue her sister who is suffering a similar fate as she did years earlier under Longwei's oppressive hand. The Poacher is a refreshing new take on hired gun films bringing a balance of determination, toughness and heart as she takes down the enemy of both the people and nature.

ACTRESSES RECOMMENDED



Dominique Tipper



Danai Gurira



Gugu Mbatha-Raw



Megalyn Echikunwoke

CHARACTER

RANGER SAMSON OKIRO

Samson Okiro joined the Wildlife Reserve as a Ranger as a teenager however, after years of service, Samson is fed up with the poachers winning the war against wildlife conservation. In desperation, Samson learns of a secret gun for hire known as 'The Poacher' who can clear out poaching syndicates for a price. With limited funding, Samson's only option is to join the hit-man in order to reduce the cost, a decision he may live to regret.

Samson's journey with Blake takes him beyond his comfort zone into the world of illegal activity he has been protected from for so long. Eventually understanding Blake's approach, Samson assists her on the deadly task of reducing the smuggling syndicates to ruin. Although not measuring up to Blake's performance, his efforts reveal how far he is willing to go for the welfare of the wildlife and the people.

ACTORS RECOMMENDED



Nate Parker



Momo Dione



Mike Colter



Valence Thomas

CHARACTERS

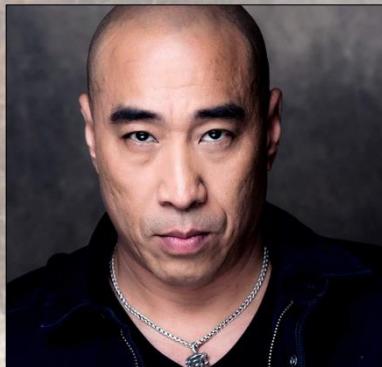
HUAN CHUN

The brutal Chinese man Huan Chun is the leader of one of two poaching syndicates operating out of Mauto, Mozambique. With his established operations, Chun controls poaching territory in the majority of the southern areas of the national parks supplying his upper hands in China through the Maputo Dockyards. Chun is ruthless and powerful however he is a businessman who relies for the most part upon his faithful subordinate henchmen.

LONGWEI

In a similar vein to Chun, Longwei is the second syndicate leader fighting for more poaching territory in South Africa and Mozambique. Operating out of the smaller Maputo Port, Longwei avoids crossing paths with Chun for the most part however he tends to be more cunning and unpredictable. Longwei has a history with Blake, having taken her in off the streets as a young woman only to abuse her just as he continues to do with other women. In this case though, one of his women happens to be Blake's sister, painting him a target for the deadly escapee turned hit-woman.

ACTORS RECOMMENDED



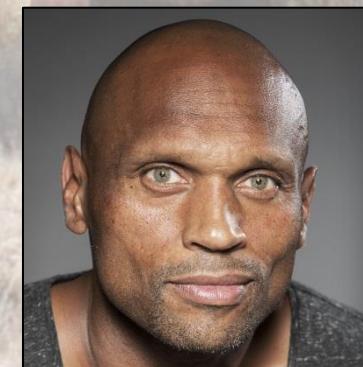
Ron Yuan



Chin Han



Tzi Ma



Mark Rhino Smith

THE POACHER

FILM DISPOSITION

IMPETUS



A short background of Samson Okiro's life as a Wildlife Ranger in the South African Kruger national Park leads quickly into the struggle faced by Samson and the unexpected secret held by his Head Ranger, Uambo. This act pulls the viewer quickly into the disconcerting reality of poaching followed by Samson and Uambo's questionable decision to hire 'The Poacher'.

FLIGHT

Samson's struggle is evident as he attempts to engage in Blake's unforgiving and violent world. The story flows toward a greater purpose however, like Samson, the audience feels as if they never truly know Blake's intent. The action is intense at times as Blake plays the syndicates against each other with perfection.

RESOLVE

As the story unfolds, so too does Blake's true intent to enact revenge upon Longwei and save her sister whilst reducing the two poaching syndicates to ashes. Blake's bitter methodology is surprisingly sweetened through her time with Samson to the point of playing a role in the unexpected revolutionary approach taken by Samson to reform the local people whilst protecting the wildlife reserve.



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FINANCIAL

FORCAST BUDGET

The Action genre tends to provide healthy returns even when the plot and story line are substandard or when relying heavily upon the popularity of star actors. The Poacher however has the potential to provide good returns based upon the unusual combination of action and conservation.

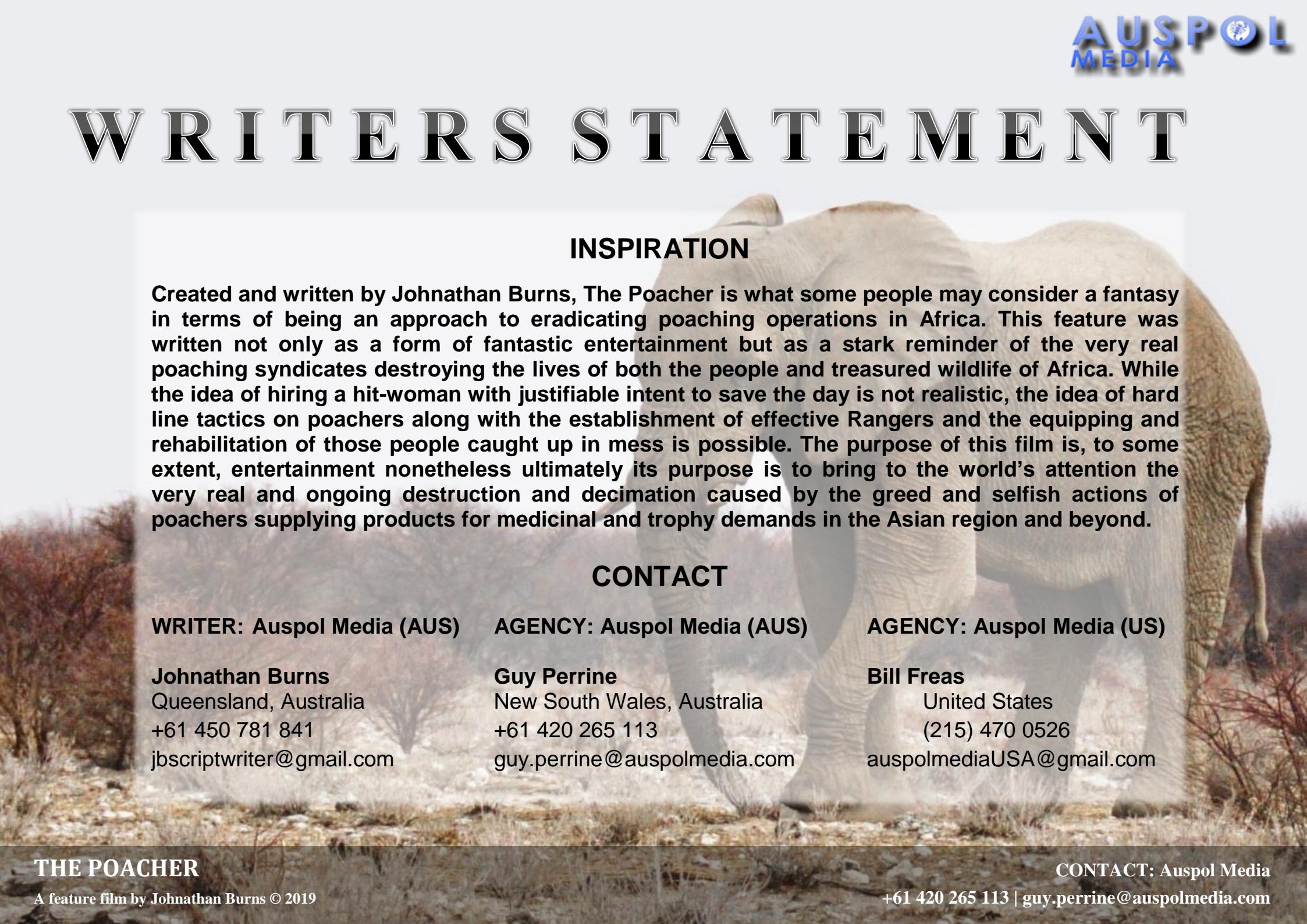
Although ideally the film should be shot in South Africa, the film does not need to be shot in true-to-life locations as landscape and acting resources are plentiful A budget is yet to be decided.

The film capacitates a lower budget compared to other action features through the reuse of several locations throughout the film, rural and savannah settings, limited action sequences and a small cast of two central actors with several supporting roles with limited appearances.

The film may be considered of similar guise to the 2006 thriller 'Blood Diamond' which returned a profit in the region of 171%. It is expected that 'The Poacher' could be produced on a lower budget with preference given to filming in South Africa.

WRITERS STATEMENT

INSPIRATION



Created and written by Johnathan Burns, The Poacher is what some people may consider a fantasy in terms of being an approach to eradicating poaching operations in Africa. This feature was written not only as a form of fantastic entertainment but as a stark reminder of the very real poaching syndicates destroying the lives of both the people and treasured wildlife of Africa. While the idea of hiring a hit-woman with justifiable intent to save the day is not realistic, the idea of hard line tactics on poachers along with the establishment of effective Rangers and the equipping and rehabilitation of those people caught up in mess is possible. The purpose of this film is, to some extent, entertainment nonetheless ultimately its purpose is to bring to the world's attention the very real and ongoing destruction and decimation caused by the greed and selfish actions of poachers supplying products for medicinal and trophy demands in the Asian region and beyond.

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