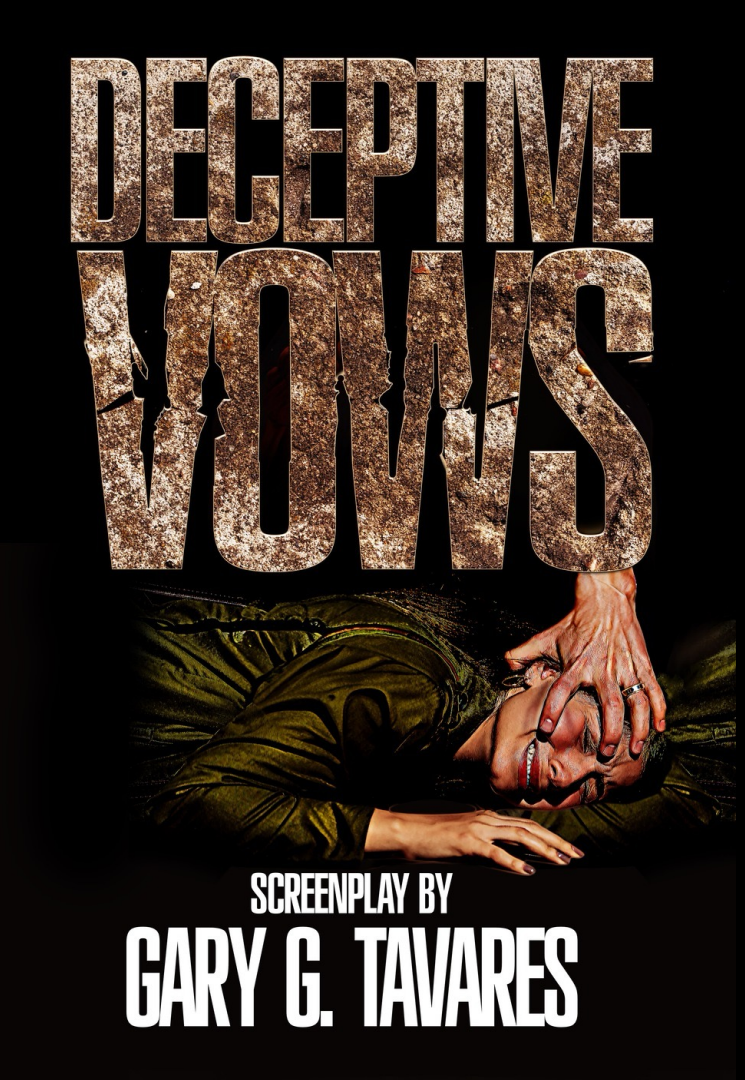

Deceptive Vows

120-min. Feature film production

***Genres*: Drama, Thriller, Psychological thriller**

Anticipated to be Rated "PG-13"

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Logline & Synopsis

LOGLINE: In a women's prison, Patricia, a traumatized inmate resisting state-mandated group therapy, is forced to confront the abuse that led her to kill her husband, revealing how a seemingly romantic relationship devolved into a nightmare of control, violence, and survival.

SYNOPSIS: Imprisoned for killing her abusive husband, **Patricia** is forced to join a state-mandated prison group therapy program she has no interest in. Other women's stories begin to unravel the trauma she has desperately tried to bury. As her resistance gives way to painful memories, the screenplay unspools the haunting story of how a charming, attentive stranger named **Andrew** became the violent man who would destroy her life. What begins as romance spirals into manipulation, isolation, and terror, driving Patricia to a final act of survival that leaves her behind bars. A searing drama about love, control, and the devastating cycle of abuse, this screenplay follows one woman's journey through fear, guilt, and the fragile possibility of healing. Raw, unflinching, and emotionally bruising, this is a story about abuse, trauma, and what's left of a person after they've fought like hell to stay alive.

Lead Character Descriptions

- Patricia: Lead role – Abused woman: Black, 25 -30, somewhat naïve, attractive, kind, submissive
- Andrew: Lead role – Abuser: White, 30-35, abusive, authoritative, mean, hot tempered, unreasonable, aggressive
- Charles: Supporting role – Patricia's Father: Black, 50-55, Strong and overly protective
- Donna: Supporting role – Patricia's mother: Black, 50-55, Easy going but strong, educated
- Yvette: Supporting role – Patricia's friend: Black, 25-30, married and more settled, gives advice
- Vanessa: Supporting role – Patricia's friend: Black, 25-30, strong, funny, outspoken, fighter, protector
- Dr. Morgan: Supporting role – Prison psychiatrist: White, 50-60, Serious, focused

Lead Characters

Patricia-Tika Sumpter

Andrew-Taron Egerton

Charles- Courtney B. Vance

Donna – Viola Davis

Yvette- Keke Palmer

Vanessa- Nafessa Williams

Dr. Morgan- Oliver Platt

Key Crew Bios

Producer: Shonda Rhimes

Shonda Lynn Rhimes is an African-American producer, author and screenwriter. She is known for working on the Britney Spears and Zoe Saldana film Crossroads, Grey's Anatomy, Scandal, Private Practice, the Anne Hathaway and Julie Andrews film The Princess Diaries 2: Royal Engagement and the Halle Berry film Introducing Dorothy Dandridge. She has three children.

Director: Kasi Lemmons

Kasi Lemmons was born on February 24, 1959 in St. Louis, Missouri, USA. She is an actress and director, known for Harriet (2019), The Silence of the Lambs (1991) and Candyman (1992). She has been married to Vondie Curtis-Hall (Director, Writer, and Actor) since August 19, 1995. They have two children.

Screenwriter: Gary Tavares

Gary Tavares was born in Queens, NY. March 9, 1965, and raised in the Bronx. He is a screenwriter known for his two award-winning screenplays, Deceptive Vows and Predator in the Clubhouse: The Boston Red Sox Child Molestation Story. He also just finished writing his screenplay titled Disaster in the Bayou: Katrina's Wrath. Gary is CEO & Founder of Tavares Entertainment, LLC. of Atlanta, which was founded by him in 2005. He has one grown son.

Key Crew Statements

- Shonda Rhimes, Producer:

- Kasi Lemmons, Director:

- Gary Tavares, screenwriter: "Audiences will enjoy this film because it shows what happens when a relationship goes wrong. It will take audiences through the ups and downs of Andrew and PATRICIA'S relationship. When Patricia meets Andrew, her life goes from good to very bad. She marries him after a six-month relationship, despite the abusive signs. Andrew is controlling, jealous, and abusive. Audiences will love how believable and realistic this story is, even though it is fictional. Viewers will go inside the minds of Patricia and Andrew. Patricia continues to go back with Andrew despite the abuse because she believes he will change, and she thinks he does love her. When she becomes pregnant by Andrew, it adds one more reason for her to try to stay and work things out. Patricia, now eight months pregnant, ultimately shoots Andrew to death during an abusive episode. She is arrested and later put in prison. Was this self-defense or outright murder? This eye-opening story will keep audiences on the edge of their seats!"

2025 Industry Market Analysis

Market Share for Each Genre in 2025

Rank	Genre	Movies	2025 Gross	Tickets	Share
1	Action	69	$2,721,047,954	240,587,799	31.28%
2	Adventure	57	$1,914,845,714	169,305,546	22.01%
3	Horror	64	$1,352,945,748	119,623,852	15.55%
4	Musical	21	$797,675,877	70,528,370	9.17%
5	Drama	180	$631,738,362	55,856,610	7.26%
6	Thriller/Suspense	74	$506,873,051	44,816,359	5.83%
7	Comedy	78	$396,979,935	35,099,905	4.56%
8	Black Comedy	18	$230,729,295	20,400,471	2.65%
9	Romantic Comedy	18	$60,516,841	5,350,737	0.70%
10	Documentary	80	$60,391,245	5,339,635	0.69%

Market Share for Each MPAA Rating in 2025

Rank	MPAA Rating	Movies	2025 Gross	Tickets	Share
1	PG	79	$2,979,935,205	263,477,912	34.25%
2	PG-13	91	$2,944,808,638	260,372,119	33.85%
3	R	241	$2,712,460,666	239,828,525	31.18%
4	Not Rated	243	$211,878,467	18,733,729	2.44%
5	G	17	$45,068,112	3,984,803	0.52%

Market Share for Each Type of Source Material in 2025

Rank	Source Material	Movies	2025 Gross	Tickets	Share
1	Original Screenplay	356	$3,970,059,852	351,022,091	45.64%
2	Based on Comic/Graphic Novel	20	$1,278,858,149	113,073,224	14.70%
3	Based on Fiction Book/Short Story	85	$1,121,063,032	99,121,397	12.89%
4	Based on Game	6	$654,859,341	57,900,914	7.53%
5	Based on TV	13	$405,489,331	35,852,283	4.66%
6	Based on Musical or Opera	8	$402,273,261	35,567,927	4.62%
7	Based on Real Life Events	123	$249,787,012	22,085,502	2.87%
8	Based on Religious Text	8	$176,994,363	15,649,370	2.03%
9	Spin-Off	5	$149,548,372	13,222,667	1.72%
10	Based on Folk Tale/Legend/Fairytale	5	$112,375,558	9,935,948	1.29%

Market Share for Each Production Method in 2025

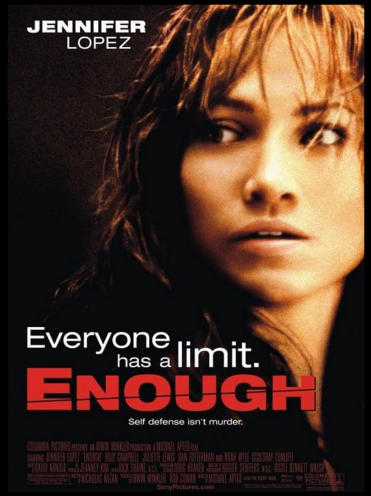
Rank	Production Method	Movies	2025 Gross	Tickets	Share
1	Live Action	588	$6,166,984,091	545,268,261	70.89%
2	Animation/Live Action	21	$1,390,623,853	122,955,249	15.98%
3	Digital Animation	50	$1,108,690,489	98,027,454	12.74%
4	Hand Animation	11	$14,580,885	1,289,202	0.17%
5	Multiple Production Methods	2	$3,379,974	298,848	0.04%
6	Stop-Motion Animation	5	$3,283,016	290,277	0.04%

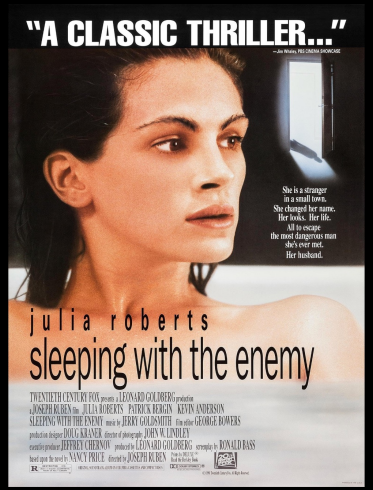
Market Share for Each Creative Type in 2025

Rank	Creative Type	Movies	2025 Gross	Tickets	Share
1	Contemporary Fiction	311	$2,561,343,365	226,467,134	29.44%
2	Kids Fiction	33	$1,913,541,626	169,190,242	22.00%
3	Science Fiction	60	$1,170,390,405	103,482,797	13.45%
4	Super Hero	11	$1,028,531,603	90,940,019	11.82%
5	Fantasy	39	$901,330,349	79,693,224	10.36%
6	Historical Fiction	65	$614,222,700	54,307,930	7.06%
7	Dramatization	66	$429,116,148	37,941,301	4.93%
8	Factual	85	$64,800,339	5,729,476	0.74%
9	Multiple Creative Types	4	$3,782,638	334,450	0.04%

Film Festival Laurels

Films Comparable to Deceptive Vows





Gary G. Tavares, Screenwriter
CEO & Founder of Tavares Entertainment, LLC.
Based near Atlanta, GA.

Phone: 678-437-4496
Gary@tavaresentertainment.com
www.tavaresentertainment.net

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