

DIRECTOR
JESSE HUTCHINS

PRODUCTION
SEPTEMBER 2025.

A QUIET TOWN



STATEMENT FROM THE DIRECTOR!

Some stories refuse to let go. A Quiet Town is one of them. Over a decade ago, the seed of this film was planted-an idea born from my love of tightly wound thrillers, morally complex characters, and the quiet tension that builds before everything detonates. What started as a rough concept evolved through countless drafts, late-night rewrites, and the endless reimagining. But no matter how much time passed, this story never left me.

Crime thrillers, at their best aren't just about the crime. They're about the people caught in the storm-those making desperate choices, those clinging to their last shred of loyalty, those running out of time. This film is a study of pressure, survival, of how far we're willing to go when the walls close in. It's raw, it's relentless, and at its core, it's deeply human.

Bringing this film to life has been a test of patience, passion, and perseverance. Every frame, every performance, every moment on screen will be the result of years of dedication-not just from me, but from the team of artists who believe in this story as much as I do. Now finally, it's time for A Quiet Town to take place on the screen.

I invite you to step onto this world, to feel the tension, the stakes, the heartaches. This isn't just a thriller-it's a story that's been waiting to be told for over ten years. And now, the wait is over.



BROCKWAY, PENNSYLVANIA

THE APPROACH

From the beginning, I knew this film couldn't just be another crime story-it had to be lived-in, layered, and unpredictable. Crime thrillers thrive on tension, but the best ones are built on character. My approach was simple: create flawed, desperate people, put them in impossible situations, and let the story unfold organically.

I started with the heart of the film-it's characters. Every choice, every betrayal, every moment of hesitation had to feel the weight of every decision, to understand why these characters do what they do, even when their actions are unforgivable. The key was making them human, not just players in a plot.

Structure was another challenge. I played with pacing, letting slow burns build into explosive moments. I made sure every scene had a ticking clock, whether literal or emotional. Dialogue had to be sharp, serving both as a weapon and a shield, revealing just enough but never too much. The best crime films don't handhold-they let the audience lean in, piece things together, and feel the unraveling in real-time.

And then there was tone. I wanted a world that felt real-gritty but not forced, stylish but not hollow. The setting became a character itself, shaping the choices these people make. It had to feel like the kind of place where bad decisions don't just happen; they're inevitable. It had to feel like my hometown.

Writing this thriller was an exercise in patience and precision. Every rewrite brought new angles and new layers. And after years of crafting and refining, I finally reached a version that felt right-not just as a crime thriller, but as a story that lingers long after the credits roll: just like *"No Country for Old Men."*

THE CHARACTERS

MEET ZEKE

Brian Ceponis

The mastermind, the eldest brother, the one who keeps the others in line-but also the one dragging them down. He is a small time hustler, aspiring kingpin, or someone always chasing the next big score.

Commanding and charismatic: He's the kind of guy who walks into a room and owns it. His brothers listen because they've always listened-he's the one who raised them, protected them, and manipulated them when necessary.

Desperate & Calculated: He hides it well, but he's drowning. Owing money to a mob enforcer isn't just a debt-it's a death sentence. He's running out of time, and every decision is becoming more reckless.

Loyalty as a weapon: He plays the "we're family" card like a seasoned con artist. He makes his brothers feel like they owe him, twisting their emotions to keep them under his control.

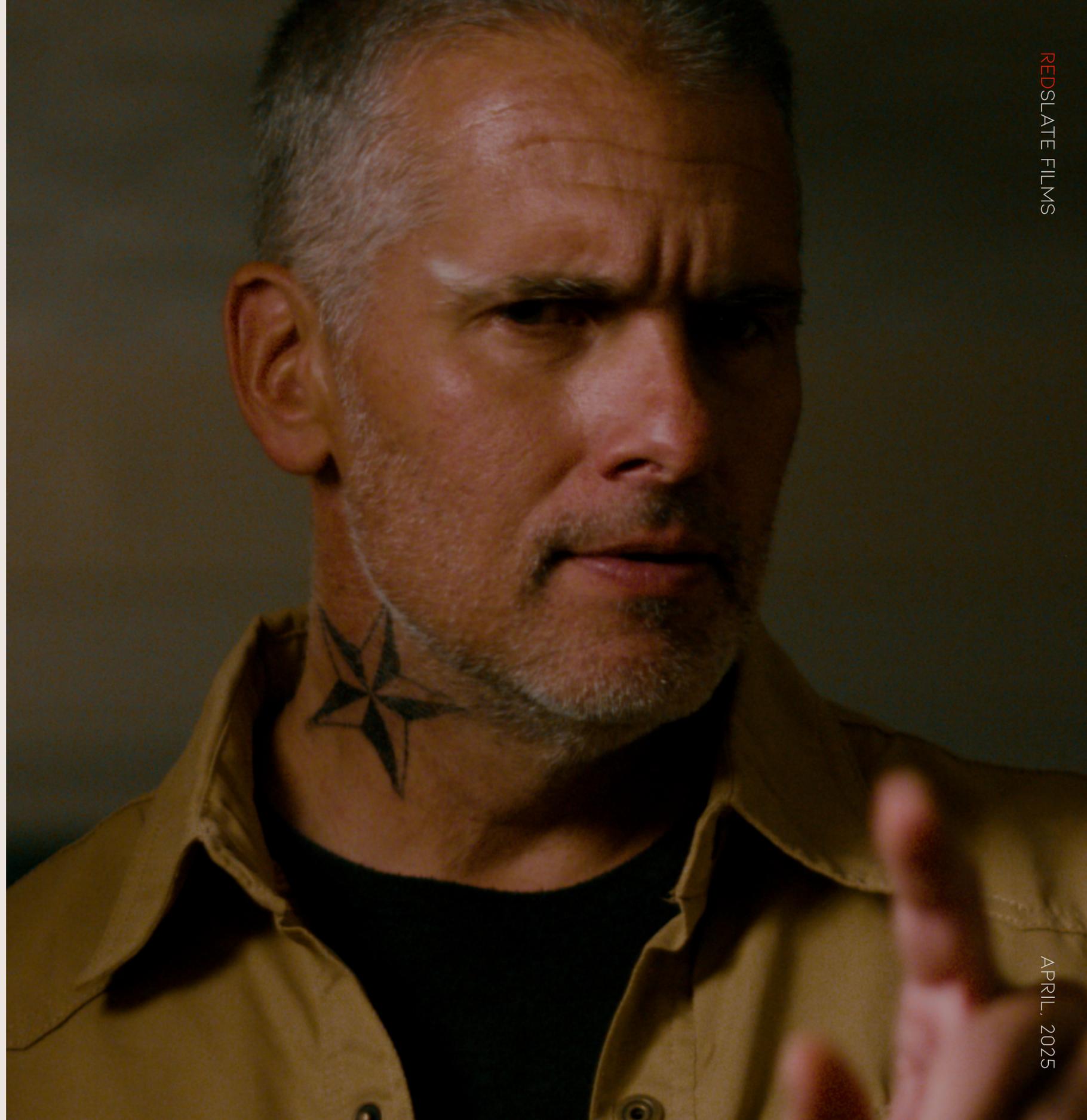
Short-fused & Violent: When things don't go his way, the charm peels off fast. He's a man who isn't afraid to get his hands dirty-but lately, he's been forced to. And he hates feeling like he's losing control.

Backstory: He's been the head of the family since their father got himself killed. He raised his younger brothers, teaching them survival over morality. He's always been one step ahead-until now. A bad deal, a risky investment, or a job gone wrong has left him in deep with a dangerous mob enforcer. The debt isn't just money-It's a power play; the enforcer doesn't want repayment; he wants control. And the antagonist knows that once you're owned, you're never free.

Motivations & Goals: His immediate goal is survival-he needs a *way out* before Vito collects. But long-term? He sees his brothers as assets, not just family. They're his backups, his insurance, the muscle to pull off whatever desperate scheme he's planning next. Deep down, he fears losing his grip on them. If they stop following his lead, he's just another desperate man with no way out.

Weaknesses & Flaws: Underestimates his brothers. He thinks he knows them inside and out, but people change-especially under pressure. He's too proud to ask for help. He'd rather go down swinging than admit he's losing. Paranoia is setting in. He's spent years controlling the game, but now that he's losing, he sees betrayal around every corner, even from his own blood.

Arc & Role in the story: He's the force that drives his brothers into the central conflict-whether it's a heist, a job, or one last desperate play. As the film progresses, cracks begin to show. Maybe his brothers start questioning him. Maybe they become defiant.





THIS IS DICKIE

Wes Robinson

The enforcer, the fixer, the brother who keeps the machine running-even when he knows it's doomed. Ex-con, muscle for hire, or the guy who's always been just outside the law but never fully in control of his own fate.

Personality & Traits: *Loyal to a fault.* He's spent his whole life backing his older brother's play, even when he knew it was a bad call. That loyalty is ingrained-he's the soldier, not the strategist. *Brutal but calculated:* He's not reckless with violence, but when he has to do something ugly, he does it quick and clean. No hesitation. No second chance. Pragmatic but worn down: He sees the cracks forming. He knows they're circling the drain, But breaking away? That's not who he is-or at least, that's what he tells himself. *Silent type, but when he's speaks, people listen:* He doesn't waste words. When he talks, it's direct, cutting, and to the point. He lets his presence do most of the talking.

Backstory: He took the fall for something years ago-a job gone sideways, something his brother couldn't afford to wear. He did his time, kept his mouth shut, and came back expecting things to be different. They weren't. He's always been second-in-command, and that dynamic hasn't changed since childhood. The older brother was the mastermind; he was the muscle. He never questioned it-until now. There was a time he thought he could get out, build something of his own. Maybe a woman, maybe a kid, maybe just the dream of something better. But that window closed. Now, he tells himself this life is all he's got.

Motivations & Goals: His short-term goal is survival-just like his older brother. But unlike him, he's realistic about their chances. He knows they're running out of time. Deep down, he wants clarity. If this is all coming to an end, he wants to know whether he's going down fighting for something worth it-or if he's just been a pawn all along. He still has one line he won't cross-something personal, something tied to his past. But as walls close in, that line is getting blurred.

Weaknesses & Flaws: *Blind loyalty*-no matter how bad things get, it's hard for him to turn his back on his older brother. Even when he should. *Repressed rage*-He's spent years swallowing anger, following orders, keeping the machine moving. But there's a breaking point, and it's coming. *Doesn't believe in redemption*-he tells himself there's now way out, no fresh start. That mindset keeps him trapped-even when there *might* still be a way forward.

Arc & Role in the story: He's the glue holding the crew together. The younger brother still trusts him, even as he starts to question the older brother. As tensions rise, he's forced to make a choice: stay loyal to the man who's always called the shots, or finally step up and decide for himself what's worth fighting for. In the final stretch, he either becomes the last true believer-or the one who sees the inevitable and makes the hard choice to trust his brother.

THE DREAMER: BEN

Curtis Caldwell

The dreamer, the moral compass, the brother yearning to escape the criminal underworld and build a legitimate, peaceful life. He is a mechanic holding a modest job that keeps himself connected to the community but away from the family illicit activities.

Personality & Traits:

Idealistic and hopeful. Unlike his older brothers, he envisions a future beyond crime—a life of stability, love, and normalcy. **Empathetic and Gentle**—He possesses a kindness that sets him apart from his siblings, often showing compassion to those around him. **Conflicted and torn**—loyalty to his family clashes with his desire for a better life, creating internal turmoil. **Cautious but determined**—While he treads carefully to avoid conflict, his resolve to leave the criminal life strengthens as the stakes rise.

Backstory: Growing up under the influence of his domineering eldest brother, he was often shielded from the harshest aspects of their operations, allowing him to see the possibility of a different path. A significant event—perhaps a brush with the law or witnessing a violent act—served as a catalyst for his desire to change. He has formed a meaningful relationship outside the criminal world: Frankie Kessler, a romantic partner who represents the life he yearns for.

Motivations & Goals:

His **primary goal** is to extricate himself from the family's criminal activities and establish a lawful, peaceful existence. His **secondary goal** is to persuade his brothers, especially Dickie who has been his protector, to consider leaving the life as well. **Emotional Drive**—to find redemption and prove to himself that he is not bound by his family's legacy.

Weakness & Flaws:

His idealism may blind him to the complexities and dangers of leaving the criminal world. **Internal Conflict**—struggles with the guilt over abandoning his family and the fear of repercussions from both his brothers and their criminal associates. **Lack of experience**—His limited involvement in the family's operations may leave him unprepared for the challenges of breaking free.

Arc & Role in the Story:

His journey represents the struggle between family loyalty and personal morality. As tensions escalate, he becomes a pivotal figure, embodying the possibility of change and the cost of pursuing it. His decisions and their consequences serve as a catalyst for the climax, forcing all characters to confront their choices and paths taken.





THE FIANCÉ: FRANKIE

Julia Zoratto

The bridge between two conflicting worlds—the law-abiding community and the criminal underworld.

Personality & Traits:

Principled and Compassionate: She possesses a strong moral compass and genuinely cares for others, often putting their needs before her own. **Resilient & Determined:** facing the challenges of her fiancé's background and her father's expectations, she remains steadfast in her convictions. **Independent & Assertive:** While deeply in love, she maintains her individuality and isn't afraid to voice her options or stand up for what she believes is right.

Backstory:

Raised in a household where law and order were paramount, she grew up with a deep respect for justice and integrity. Her relationship with her father, the Chief of Police, has been loving but occasionally strained due to his demanding job and alcoholism. Meeting Ben was unexpected; their connection was immediate, built on mutual respect and shared dreams of a better future. She was initially unaware of the full extent of his family's criminal activities but chose to stand by him upon learning the truth, believing in his desire to change.

Motivation & Goals:

To maintain a harmonious relationship with her father while planning to leave his side for Ben. To prove that love and understanding can overcome past mistakes and societal judgements.

Weaknesses & Flaws:

Caught between loyalties: struggles with emotional turmoil of being torn between her father's expectations and her commitment to her fiancé. Her belief in the inherent good in people may make her susceptible to disappointment or manipulation.

Arc & Role in the Story:

Serves as a catalyst for Ben's transformation, embodying the life he aspires to achieve. Her relationship with her father adds tension and complexity, highlighting themes of loyalty, trust, and the gray areas between right and wrong. Faces critical decisions that test her convictions, ultimately influencing the paths of both her fiancé and her father. Her journey underscores the personal costs of love and redemption amidst a backdrop of crime and justice.

THE COP: JOHN KESSLER

Stanton Rutledge

Veteran law enforcement, father of Frankie, grappling with a personal loss and past struggle with alcoholism.

Personality & Traits:

Dedicated & Principled -Upholds the law with unwavering commitment, believing in justice and community service. **Stoic & Reserved** -Maintains a calm and composed exterior, often masking his inner emotional struggles. **Protective & Paternal** -Deeply cares for his daughter, sometimes leading to overprotectiveness, especially concerning her relationships. **Disciplined yet vulnerable** -While he projects strengths, he battles with vulnerabilities stemming from personal loss and past addiction.

Backstory:

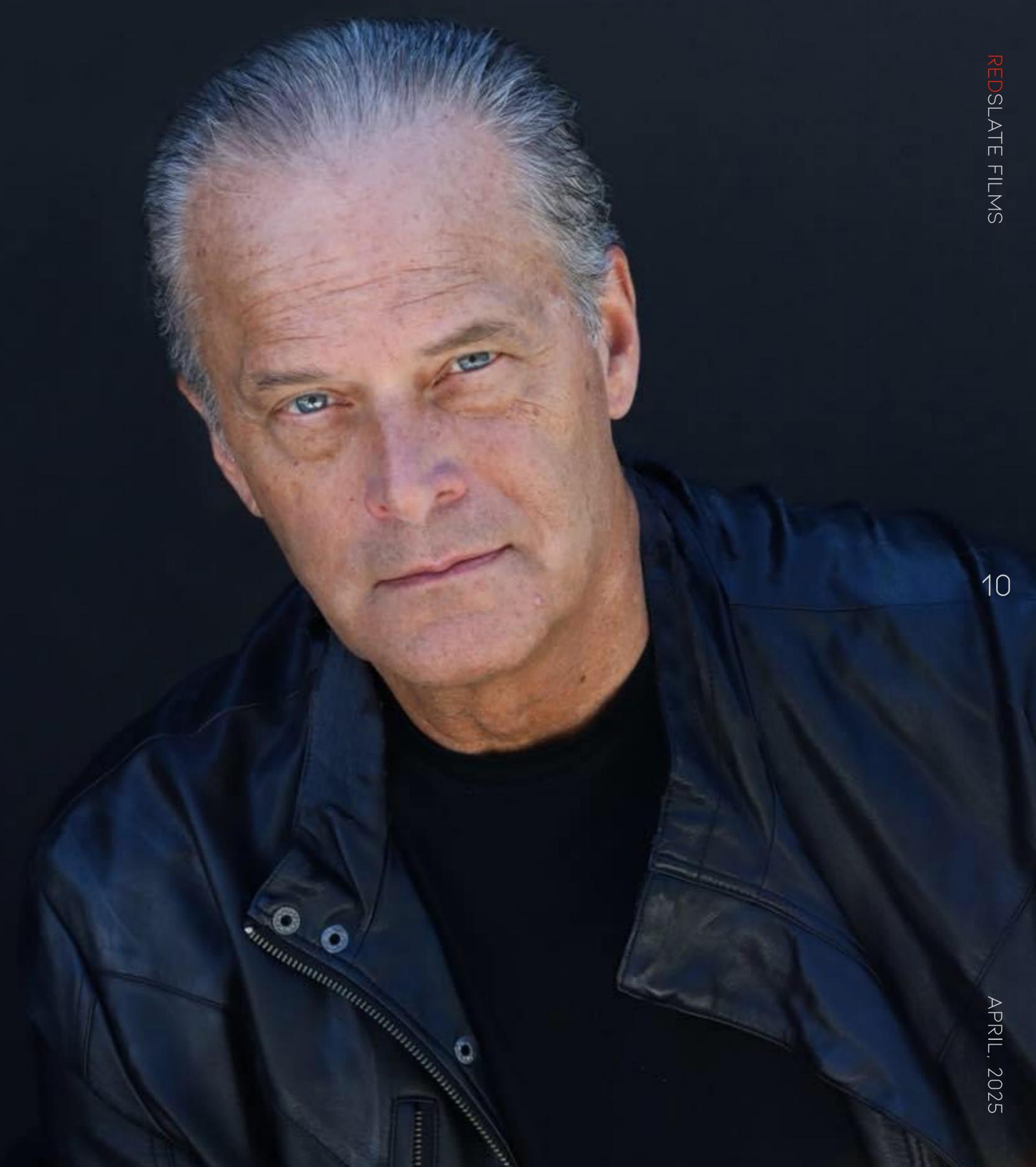
Lost his wife to a terminal illness, a pivotal event that profoundly affected him and his relationship with Frankie. He turned to alcohol as a coping mechanism after his wife's death, leading to a period where his professional life was at a risk. Recognized his problem and sought help, managing to regain control over his life and career.

Weaknesses & Flaws:

Overprotectiveness -His desire to protect his daughter can lead to controlling behavior, potentially straining their relationship. **Haunted by the Past** -Past traumas and his struggle with alcoholism occasionally resurfaces, affecting his judgement and interactions. **Stubbornness** -Resistant to change and new ideas, often relying solely on his experience, which can hinder adaptability.

Arc & Role in the Story:

Willing to do anything for his daughter and to see her happy. Encounters situations that test his commitment to justice, especially when personal and professional boundaries blur.



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LOOK & FEEL

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LOOK & FEEL

The visual and atmospheric design of this film can significantly enhance its narrative depth and audience engagement. Where this story takes place I want to use vivid colors to showcase the beautiful town with bad things happening around it.

Visual Style:

- **Neo-Noir Aesthetics:** Embracing the stylistic elements of neo-noir cinema, characterized by high contrast lighting, deep shadows, and saturated colors. This approach modernizes classic film noir visuals, creating a moody and immersive atmosphere.
- **Cinematic Inspirations:** Films like the Coen brothers "No Country for Old Men" exemplify modern noir with their use of expressive lighting and color palettes to convey tension and moral ambiguity.

Setting and Location:

- **Rural Landscapes:** Set this story in a town that reflects the characters' internal struggles-gritty households, and dimly lit bars, can symbolize the pervasive sense of danger and moral complexity.
- **Contrast Environments:** Utilize contrasting settings, such as the stark differences between the criminal underworld and the domestic spaces Ben aspires to, highlighting his internal conflict.

Cinematography:

- **Dynamic Camera Work:** Employ techniques like Dutch Angles and tight-close-ups to intensify feelings of unease and suspense, drawing viewers deeper into the narrative.
- **Lighting Techniques:** Use chiaroscuro lighting to create dramatic contrasts between light and shadow, emphasizing the duality of characters and the moral gray areas they navigate.

Sound Design and Music:

- **Ambient Soundscapes:** Incorporate subtle environmental sounds-distant sirens, to build tension and immerse the audience in the setting.
- **Moody soundtrack:** A soundtrack featuring brooding, atmospheric music can underscore the film's tone, much like evocative scores found in classic thrillers.



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INSPIRATION

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INSPIRATION

1

https://youtu.be/Gw0qH34cbRE?si=kdIIC50Lt_zxm_9C

Out of the Furnace: When Rodney Baze mysteriously disappears and law enforcement doesn't follow through fast enough, his older brother Russell takes matters into his own hands to find justice.

2

https://youtu.be/38A__WT3-o0?si=3QMU-hAGYigiyIf4

No Country for Old Men: Violence and mayhem ensue after a hunter stumbles upon the aftermath of a drug deal gone wrong and over two million dollars in cash near the Rio Grande.

3

[Hell or High Water](#)

Hell or High Water: Toby is a divorced father who's trying to make a better life. His brother is an ex-con with a short temper and a loose trigger finger. Together, they plan a series of heists against the bank that's about to foreclose on their family ranch.

LOCATIONS & PRODUCTION DESIGN



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LOCATIONS & PRODUCTION DESIGN

The setting for this story takes place in Brockway, Pennsylvania; with a classic small-town America aesthetic. The town's tight-knit community lends an atmosphere where outsiders aren't welcome, or where everyone knows a truth they won't share.

Brockway's mix of history, isolation, and industry makes it a versatile setting.

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THE STORY

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ABOUT THE SCRIPT

"INT: ZEKE'S BAR - NIGHT" :60

A Quiet Town

LOGLINE: A TRIO OF BROTHERS UNITE FOR A LAST DITCH BANK HEIST IN THEIR QUIET TOWN. TIME IS RUNNING OUT AND WHEN THINGS GO AWRY THEIR PLANS TURN INTO A DEADLY GAME OF SURVIVAL FORCING THEM TO CONFRONT BURIED SECRETS AND THEIR OWN FRACTURED BOND.

A Quiet Town has been a story that's been waiting to be told for over a decade. In film it tells the story about loyalty and brotherhood. The script was started in 2013 and was based on Ben finding a stash of money that he stole and then he had to run from the owner, a ruthless man that ran a drug-ring in town. After struggling with the story it was put aside. Years later it was brought back out knowing this story needed to be told and this was going to be RedSlate Films first feature film, we sat down and hashed out new ideas that brought everything together.

Opening sequence "A Quiet Town"

- Visuals: Autumn air brushing against the painted leaves. A quiet but uneasy town.
- Slow, creeping dolly shots to establish unease, photograph a High School homecoming parade.
- The distant hum of a train, cheering from the packed streets.
- The calm before the storm.

Throughout each act, the tension grows heavier between the brothers, secrets are revealed and everyone's intentions are showcased.

On this project I will be incorporating camera movements to relay the tone and action in each scene.

- Dollie shots
- Crane shots
- Tight-emotional angles.
- Give the film that spiciness of a Hollywood studio movie

FINAL STATEMENT

A Quiet Town is more than a crime thriller-it's a story about the weight of choices, the ties that bind us, and the realization that, actions have consequences. This isn't about heroes or villains, but about everyone trapped by their past, by their blood, and by a town that never really lets anyone leave.

The film will grip the audience with tension so thick it feels suffocating, pulling them deeper into a world where every decision inches the characters closer to inevitable ruin. It's about the slow burn of fate, the quiet dread of knowing you've already gone too far, and the gut-punch moment when you realize not everyone makes it out alive.

With raw performances, stark visuals, and an unrelenting atmosphere, A Quiet Town won't just be a film you watch-it'll be one you feel in your bones long after the credits roll.

PRODUCTION

HOME COMING

THANK YOU

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DIRECTOR
NAME

DATE YEAR