HEM RIDGE

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER JOHN CORSER
SCREENPLAY BY MATT SILVERMAN & SCOTT FLEISHMAN
DIRECTED BY MATT SILVERMAN

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This document outlines an actionable path for the successful development, production, and distribution of the feature film *HEM RIDGE*.

THE FILM

When a pregnant woman is brutally murdered, vengeance is unleashed. She returns through the bodies of the living, moving from host to host as she hunts the family that destroyed her. Flesh is torn and blood is spilled as savage desperation and violent retribution collide, fueling a monstrous transformation into motherhood. Tonal comps include *ROSEMARY'S BABY*, *HEREDITARY*, and *THE WITCH*.

CASTING

The film is being packaged around a small number of high-impact roles, with Letters of Intent pursued for the lead characters. Casting will prioritize actors capable of delivering grounded, fearless performances that anchor the film, while strengthening its market positioning and international sales potential.

FINANCING

The proposed budget for Hem Ridge is $3.5 million, structured to support a complete production + post-production while maintaining disciplined cost control. The financing approach supports market-driven packaging to facilitate presale and acquisition opportunities, while preserving the film's creative intent and production plan.

MARKET POSITION

HEM RIDGE is being positioned within the premium genre space for audiences drawn to character-driven horror with a strong thematic core. Its contained scope, performance-forward approach, and clear genre identity support traditional acquisition pathways as well as select hybrid release strategies across domestic and international markets.

SYNOPSIS

Years ago, on a remote Appalachian tobacco farm, a pregnant woman named FERN is betrayed by her husband, JONAH. She is murdered, her body ravaged, and her blood harvested for its rare medicinal properties. In death, Fern rises as something feral and demonic. Believing her unborn child was left to die, Fern possesses those who betrayed her, moving from body to body as she exacts revenge. Jonah alone escapes the slaughter. With no other choice, he traps Fern beneath the farm in a fallout shelter, sealing the demon away.

Fern was wrong. Her baby survived.

Years later, TESSA, a whip-smart medical technician training to become a surgeon, has built her life around discipline, autonomy, and control. She thrives under pressure but parties hard, a pressure valve of ambition ready to implode. When she discovers she is pregnant, her confidence fractures. Motherhood feels insurmountable, and the question of whether she is capable of becoming a good parent haunts her.

While transporting a donated human heart, Tessa's ambulance is ambushed. Her partner is killed, and Tessa is kidnapped along with the organ. She is taken to a tobacco farm, where she meets Jonah, his new wife, and their three children. Beneath the surface of pastoral normalcy lies a horrifying truth: Fern's surviving child carries the same medicinal blood as her mother. For years, Jonah has kept the girl hidden, harvesting and consuming her blood to preserve the family's unnatural longevity. The abuse has taken its toll. The girl is dying. Her heart is failing, and without a transplant, the family will lose both her life and the very thing that has kept them alive.

As Tessa attempts to escape the family's captivity, she hides in the abandoned fallout shelter, unknowingly releasing the demon imprisoned there. Enraged by betrayal and fueled by vengeance, the farm erupts into chaos as possession spreads and the family's desperation collapses into bloodshed.

Forced into the same brutal reckoning that once created Fern’s demon, Tessa is pushed beyond the pale. By the end, motherhood is revealed not as a choice, but as a transformation forged through violence, loss, and the will to survive.

PRINCIPAL CHARACTERS

TESSA

TESSA is a perfusionist on the path to becoming a surgeon, her intelligence matched only by her confidence. Her doting boyfriend wants to move in together, but she's not ready. She lives in a small, messy apartment, studies after work, and self-medicates with cigarettes, alcohol, and drugs. Waking up hungover, she nervously takes the pregnancy test that has been weighing down her bag. It's positive. For the first time in a long while, she is frozen with overwhelm. What will she do? Will she be a good parent?

Before she can explore those questions, Tessa is violently kidnapped. Fighting to escape a demon and a murderous family, her uncertainty hardens into a brutal transformation, reshaping her mind, body, and will, forging the mother she must become in order to survive.

JONAH

JONAH is a tobacco farmer whose fear and desire curdled into betrayal. When he first falls ill, he turns on his pregnant wife, Fern, committing adultery and conspiring in her murder. He tells himself it was necessary, that survival justifies sacrifice, even as he repeats the same violence on Fern’s surviving child, exploiting her medicinal blood to keep his new family alive.

Now sick again and staring down his own mortality, Jonah’s past crimes metastasize into brazen brutality, rotting his fragile order and driving his family toward the edge, dragging everything toward ruin.

FERN

FERN was pregnant when her love and generosity left her vulnerable to those she trusted. On the tobacco farm she called home, her presence was formidable, a healer whose blood carried rare medicinal properties. Her hemophilia made that gift dangerous, even as she continued to give, risking her own life with each donation. When illness swept through the village, Fern's gift became a target. She was murdered as the sickened villagers, skin peeling and blistered, bathed in her blood.

In death, Fern rises as a demon, moving from body to body, driven by vengeance. Believing her unborn child was left to die, her fury spirals into a violent massacre. But beneath the bloodshed is a single, insidious glimmer: motherhood is still within reach, and she’ll stop at nothing to attain it.

LOCATIONS

HEM RIDGE is set almost entirely on an isolated Appalachian tobacco farm at peak season. Towering stalks rise in deep, claustrophobic rows, surrounding weathered curing barns and a farmhouse overlooking a small lake bordered by wildflowers. A rusted VW Beetle sits abandoned nearby, swallowed by weeds and flowering growth. The farmhouse reflects traditional Appalachian vernacular architecture, blending Folk and High Victorian elements, its age and wear etched into its weathered face.

Adjacent to the home stands a historic tobacco curing barn, its dark interior concealing a hidden hatch that leads to an underground fallout shelter: windowless, cavernous, and sealed off from the world above. Nearby, a glass greenhouse filled with tobacco plants and wild growth hides a subterranean medical lab, bleached, fluorescent, and unforgiving.

The film's locations present stark contrasts, shifting from living, overgrown landscapes to oppressive interiors shaped by fear, violence, control, and isolation.

HEM RIDGE

(PRINCIPAL PHOTOGRAPHY • AUGUST 2026)

PRODUCTION TIMELINE

The production timeline for *HEM RIDGE* follows a disciplined, phase-driven structure designed to move efficiently from packaging through delivery.

Development and casting attachments lead into pre-production, where locations, department heads, and final logistics are locked. Principal Photography is scheduled for *August 2026,* followed by a focused post-production, encompassing editorial, sound, score, and finishing.

This timeline supports sales positioning, with flexibility for festival exposure if advantageous.

DEVELOPMENT

Finalization of script, packaging, and financing strategy, including casting outreach, key creative attachments, and early sales positioning.

PRE-PRODUCTION

4-WEEKS

Department heads are hired, locations secured, schedules locked, and all logistical and creative planning completed in preparation for filming.

PRINCIPAL PHOTOGRAPHY

5-WEEKS

Production enters prinicipal photography, capturing all scripted material on location under an efficiency-driven shoot schedule.

POST-PRODUCTION

12-WEEKS

Editorial, sound design, score, VFX, and color finishing are completed, bringing the film through final cut to delivery masters.

MARKETING & DISTRIBUTION

Festival strategy, sales outreach, and distribution partnerships are activated to position the film for acquisition and global release.

FINANCIAL STRATEGY

This financial plan outlines the capital structure supporting *HEM RIDGE*. The $3.5M budget is financed through a balanced mix of equity, rebate financing, presales, and gap funding, structured to limit investor exposure while preserving equity recoupment priority.

Capital Stack

$3.5M budget | 50% equity base

Private Equity
$1.75M — 50%

Tax Credit Loan
$787.5K — 22.5%

International Pre-Sales
$437.5K — 12.5%

Gap Financing
$525K — 15%

Waterfall

Recoupment & Profit Participation

1. *Sales Agent Commission*
   - 10–15% international
   - 5–10% domestic, off the top
2. *Distribution Expenses*
   - Capped & pre-approved delivery costs
3. *Tax Credit Loan*
   - Repaid from government rebate (secured)
4. *Gap Financing*
   - Principal + 12–18% interest from territory revenues
5. Equity Investors
   - 125% of capital before any profit split

- Pre-sale assumptions are conservative and structured to scale upward with cast attachment.
- After full recoupment of all parties, net profits are split: 60% to equity investors and 40% to the production team.
- Upon a mutually agreed performance milestone (to be set with the investors), equity investors receive an additional 10% of net profits beyond the base split.
- If one equity investor: they receive a first-look option on the next project. If multiple: all equity investors have proportional first-participation rights in the next project.

BUDGET SUMMARY

The following topsheet reflects a $3.5M production budget, inclusive of insurance, and delivery costs.

- Above-the-line structured to support targeted cast packaging
- Contained primary-location supports cost discipline
- Deliverables and insurance fully budgeted

"HEM RIDGE"

LOCKED BUGBET — March 29, 2016

Account	Description	Total
600	PRODUCER UNIT	$261,906
610	STORY COSTS	$51,260
620	DIRECTION	$62,075
630	CAST	$342,875
635	MUSIC	$0
640	CAST - OTHER	$500
645	EXTRAS	$0
660	STUNTS	$33,205
665	CLIP COSTS	$0
670	CASTING & OTHER STAFF	$55,880
675	PRODUCTION STAFF - TAPE	$0
680	ATL TRAVEL & LIVING	$42,222
685	SHOW TESTS	$7,500
690	ABOVE THE LINE FRINGE	$0
69001	**Total Fringes**	**$123,960**
	ABOVE THE LINE TOTAL	**$981,383**
700	EXTRA TALENT	$30,237
705	PRODUCTION STAFF	$367,176
710	CAMERA	$295,523
715	ART DIRECTION	$91,643
720	SET CONSTRUCTION	$186,139
721	SET STRIKE	$0
725	SET OPERATIONS	$214,685
730	ELECTRICAL	$160,404
735	SPECIAL EFFECTS	$62,154
740	OTHER SHOOTING UNITS	$45,020
745	SET DRESSING	$253,294
750	PROPS	$88,150
755	WARDROBE	$176,458
760	MAKEUP & HAIRDRESSING	$99,854
765	PRODUCTION SOUND	$44,900
766	PRODUCTUON VIDEO	$0
770	TRANSPORTATION	$388,849
775	LOCATION	$320,028
776	TAPE REMOTES	$0
780	SPECIAL PHOTOGRAPHY	$50,000
790	GUEST RELATIONS/AUDIENCES	$0
796	STAGE	$0
797	DAYS AHEAD/BEHIND	$0
798	NBC COSTS	$0
799	PRODUCTION DAILIES	$26,680
795	**Total Fringes**	**$697,056**
	BELOW THE LINE TOTAL	**$3,598,250**
801	EDITING	$120,813
802	MUSIC	$750
803	POST PRODUCTION SOUND	$20,000
804	STOCK SHOTS	$0
805	TITLES	$3,500
806	OPTICALS	$0
807	IMAGING MASTERING	$11,500
808	COMPLETION DELIVERABLES	$11,950
810	POST TBD	$0

TEMP

BUDGET TOPSHEET

DISTRIBUTION PLAN

Hem Ridge integrates early sales alignment with a targeted pre-sale strategy that supports financing while preserving key rights for downstream acquisition.

SALES STRATEGY

HEM RIDGE is positioned as a contained, performance-driven heist-horror with strong international market appeal. Sales representation will be engaged during development to support cast packaging, territory strategy, and buyer positioning from an early stage, in coordination with sales agency input. This integration allows market considerations to inform packaging decisions while maintaining creative alignment through production.

PRESALES & TERRITORY FINANCING

Select international territories will be pre-sold in coordination with cast attachment and sales strategy. Minimum guarantees generated through these presales support the financing plan while reducing capital exposure. Territory allocations are calibrated to meet early financing needs while preserving high-value rights in key markets.

RELEASE & ACQUISITION PATHWAYS

Upon completion, Hem Ridge will be positioned for acquisition across multiple distribution pathways, including platform licensing, territorial distribution agreements, and distributor-driven theatrical engagements where appropriate. Rights not committed through presales will be leveraged to secure the strongest post-delivery outcome based on market response.

SIMILAR FILMS

PRODUCTION BUDGET
$10M

WORLDWIDE BOX OFFICE
$127.9M

SIMILARITIES
Demonstrates the breakout potential of auteur-driven horror built on atmosphere, mythology, and dread. Its success confirms market demand for original prestige genre rooted in psychological and occult terror.

PRODUCTION BUDGET
$9.9M

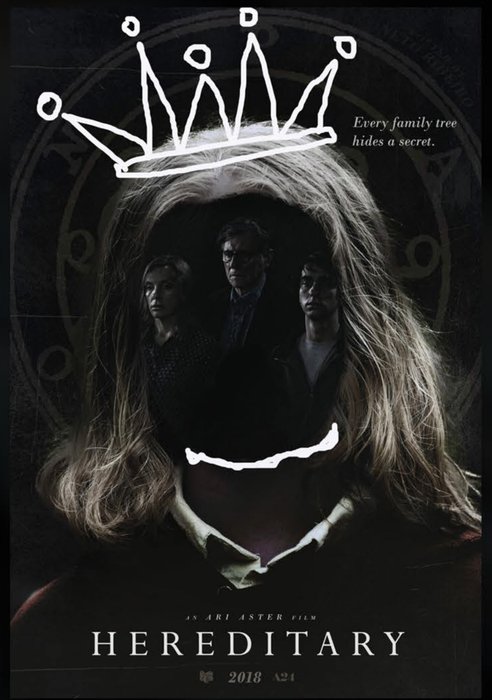
WORLDWIDE BOX OFFICE
$157M

SIMILARITIES
Validates the commercial strength of crime-driven horror. Its contained geography and relentless escalation mirror *HEM RIDGE'S* collision of criminality, isolation, and inescapable

PRODUCTION BUDGET
$4.5M

WORLDWIDE BOX OFFICE
$94M

SIMILARITIES
Proves that a clean supernatural mechanic, executed with tonal severity, can scale globally without IP. Its viral concept and theatrical turnout reinforce the sellability of original possession mythology.



PRODUCTION BUDGET
$10M

WORLDWIDE BOX OFFICE
$90.1M

SIMILARITIES
Confirms the global scalability of original possession horror anchored in a singular supernatural hook. Its success reinforces the market for mythologies that culminate in familial slaughter.

PRODUCTION BUDGET
$9M

WORLDWIDE BOX OFFICE
$35M

SIMILARITIES
Demonstrates the market viability of pregnancy-centered horror rooted in ritualistic dread. Its fusion of body horror and occultism mirrors *HEM RIDGE'S* core thematic framework.

TARGET MARKETS

Territorial demand alignment supporting pre-sales, financing collateralization, and acquisition strategy

HEM RIDGE is positioned for international territories where genre horror consistently performs within the sub-$10M budget range. Its contained production model and performance-driven cast strategy support pre-sale viability, while the film's tone and grounded setting align with buyer demand across both theatrical and platform release pathways. Horror remains one of the most reliable export genres, with strong licensing activity across global markets.

Primary territories include North America, the United Kingdom, Germany, France, Scandinavia, South Korea, Japan, and Latin America. These regions represent a concentration of top global film markets alongside territories with sustained buyer appetite for contained supernatural thrillers, making them central to both financing support and downstream acquisition.

Secondary markets across Eastern Europe, Southeast Asia, and global digital platforms provide incremental licensing reach and long-tail revenue performance. This tiered territorial approach supports early financing mechanics while preserving competitive positioning across global sales outcomes upon delivery.

Territorial focus reflects historical acquisition and licensing performance for independent horror films under $10M, informed by international sales market data and genre performance analyses, including industry research such as the Stephen Follows Horror Report.

PRODUCTION TEAM

JOHN CORSER

Executive Producer

JOHN CORSER is a veteran production executive with over 30 years of experience spanning television, film, and global productions. As Senior Vice President of Production & Production Technology at NBCUniversal's Universal Content Productions, he led large-scale scripted production while advancing data-driven and technology-integrated workflows. His expertise spans physical production, emerging technologies, and complex international production infrastructure.

MATT SILVERMAN

Co-Writer/Director

Matt Silverman is a filmmaker working across directing, producing, and post-production in film, television, and commercial work. He has directed over 100 episodes of an unscripted digital series, developed and produced narrative projects alongside filmmaker Chuck Russell, and collaborated with brands including Netflix, Microsoft, Pepsi, and Spotify. His work centers on character-driven genre storytelling built through immersive craft, technological innovation, and expansive world-building.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

HEM RIDGE takes root in the land. Endless tobacco fields breathe isolation, their curing barns strung with drying leaves like a gallows of corpses. Soil clings to boots, walls, and skin, caking every surface, while bursts of vibrant wildflowers, drifting pollen, and the damp mineral scent of petrichor create a pastoral skin that feels both fertile and foreboding. Beneath it, sealed interiors hum in opposition, fluorescent, antiseptic, surgical, and blood-stained. This visual tension becomes the film's design language, as environments grow swollen with corruption, their surfaces straining to contain what festers beneath.

The horror in *HEM RIDGE* is deeply embodied, expressed through blood, ripped flesh, and the physical cost of survival. Violence mirrors the moral rot of those who exploit life and the reluctant evolution of those forced to protect it. The body becomes the battleground where grief, vengeance, and maternal instinct collide. The result is horror that feels intimate, immersive, and inescapable, where even the most monstrous figures are driven by decisions that remain disturbingly human.

That humanity, anchors the film's emotional core. For me, becoming a parent exposed a new anatomy of fear, protection, and the terrifying instinct to sacrifice anything for what you love. It revealed how the psyche fractures under pressure, hammered into shape, forged into something stronger. Parenthood is one expression of that shift, but the film widens the lens outward, exploring how people are forced to evolve through trauma, violence, grief, and survival.

At its core, *HEM RIDGE* is about transformation, and the brutal, unrelenting moment when who you were must die, so that who you must become, can live.

HEM RIDGE

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