



# FREEROLLER



WHAT ARE YOU WILLING TO BET?



# CONCEPT

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*Logline: 'A desperate group of people in a dystopian future enter a poker tournament where they are forced to gamble their lives.'*

FREEROLLER follows a POKER TOURNAMENT TO THE DEATH. It aims for a cool, violent-fun, cult-status tone -- a heightened, highly stylised exploitation movie style -- while touching on serious themes including modern slavery, oppression of the poor and the need to crush the patriarchy. The aim is to make a small movie set largely in a single location (around a poker table) to keep the budget low, with the potential to appeal to a wide audience:

- The genre is high-concept Science Fiction, where significant success can be achieved even on a limited budget (e.g. MONSTERS, PRIMER, TIME CRIMES, MOON, THE PLATFORM, ANOTHER EARTH, THE CUBE).
- The movie also fits into the sub-genre of dystopian “death game” movies, such as BATTLE ROYALE, THE RUNNING MAN, THE HUNGER GAMES, DEATH RACE 2000, ROLLERBALL, which often achieve cult status.
- It is also a poker film -- another sub-genre with highly committed fanbases -- e.g. ROUNDERS, HIGH ROLLER, LUCKY YOU.

In style and tone it aims for something akin to a Quentin Tarantino or Guy Ritchie movie, or movies of that type such as BAD TIMES AT THE EL ROYALE or HOTEL ARTEMIS.



# SHORT SYNOPSIS

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*“It is the near future. The world has gone to hell.*

*Wealthy ‘Gangster Warlords’ have set up a series of games which force the desperate to prey on one another, including a poker tournament where each chip represents a week, a month, a year of the players’ lives.*

*Winners become rich. Losers become owned.*

*But at this table one card sharp plays only to immediately murder anyone he wins -- with the full support of the law.*

*This poker game becomes a fight for survival...”*

FREEROLLER has been fully storyboarded / previzualized (below images from pre-viz) - view at:  
[www.outatimefilms.com/previz](http://www.outatimefilms.com/previz)





# LONG SYNOPSIS

A seasoned gambler named DAVISON RAYBURN stares out of a window at the ruined world from the emergency housing dorm he is forced to live in. He bribes a young woman with a drug called BRICK to sign a 'DONOR CONTRACT'. We later understand that he does not have sufficient years left of his life to enter the POKER TOURNAMENT alone...

We follow RAYBURN into the POKER ARENA, which is run by a GANGSTER WARLORD named MR SMOKE and OVERSEER DASS, an antagonistic representative from the newly formed GOVERNMENT OF THE ASHES. RAYBURN quickly sizes up the other players: MADMAN53, JACKIE WU, MILLIE MAGGADOGAN, LEA DU BLEU, ACTION BOB BIXBY and PETE NAZARIAN. It quickly becomes apparent that the players are not gambling money. Instead the chips represent weeks, months and years of their lives. Losers at the table will become owned by the winner. In this dystopian world, money has ceased to have value. People are currency.

As the game begins everyone's reasons for being there are gradually revealed. Some simply need the free food available to players. Others are there to lose because slaves have value and can therefore expect to receive shelter and healthcare. DAVISON RAYBURN however is there to win -- and at a table of desperate people like this, he fully expects to.

But he does not bank on the presence of a true card sharp. RAYBURN bets big, thinking he has MADMAN53 figured out -- and loses his stake, as well as twenty years from his donor -- his daughter, DAISY. RAYBURN is offered a re-buy using the remainder of DAISY's life, but he cannot bring himself to do it and declines. What nobody at the table realises however is that MADMAN53 is not here to get wealthy, nor for food, nor for survival. He is here to murder people, out in the open, legally. The players are forced under ARMED GUARD to watch as RAYBURN is GARROTTED by MADMAN53 -- becoming his 54th victim. DAISY will now be owned by MADMAN54 for the next two decades. The players are truly now playing for their lives...

Perspective shifts to the true protagonist, LEA DU BLEU. Throughout the opening scenes there have been brief dream-like FLASHBACKS of a young woman stuck out on the streets, breathing UNBREATHEABLE AIR, avoiding the FLYING CARS of roving criminal gangs. This is now revealed to be LEA -- who was caught and imprisoned by SEX TRAFFICKERS, before tempting one rapist into playing her at cards for the keys to her CHAINS, which she then uses to strangle him before escaping.

MADMAN continues his killing spree, gradually offing players as they lose to him. Knowing she can't win, PLAYER TWO JACKIE WU uses a loophole by walking away from the table with ONE CHIP remaining, representing a year of her life, despite knowing that MADMAN will kill her when that year is up. However by walking away unbeaten she knows she will survive to the end of the game, in the hope that MADMAN loses to someone else. LEA battles MADMAN, but he tricks her with a fake tell -- and she loses. As she is about to be murdered, JACKIE WU steps in and offers her single remaining year as a re-buy to LEA. With one year left, only able to play one hand, LEA requires luck. MADMAN draws nothing but JACK HIGH, but bets anyway to try to remove LEA once and for all. LEA slowly turns over her cards... and reveals a QUEEN. LEA is back in.

LEA slowly scraps her way back into the contest, and finally finds a way to beat MADMAN, winning the tournament outright. As she prepares to kill MADMAN for what he's done, MR SMOKE, the GANGSTER WARLORD, unexpectedly intervenes. LEA realises that MADMAN is MR SMOKE'S son and that the game has been rigged, which makes OVERSEER DASS from the government take note... With his son's life in the balance, LEA offers to play MR SMOKE to try to win back MADMAN.

It is then revealed that, after escaping the sex traffickers, LEA fell in with a group of REVOLUTIONARIES seeking to overthrow the GANGSTER WARLORDS. Her reason for being at the table is finally revealed -- the revolutionaries want LEA to goad MR SMOKE into playing her, because anyone who becomes a slave cannot own slaves. If MR SMOKE loses to her, tens of thousands of slaves would be released, potentially tipping the balance of power in the revolutionaries' favour.

MR SMOKE has always fancied himself a card player, but Lea goads him by saying that he's never had to play for real stakes, unlike everyone else at the table. Mr SMOKE finally bites and plays -- and LEA beats him... But MR SMOKE does not go quietly. Instead he orders his guards to shoot LEA. But before they can, OVERSEER DASS steps in, dividing MR SMOKE'S GUARDS' loyalties and forcing them to turn on one other. There is a brief GUNFIGHT in which MR SMOKE is killed. LEA then picks up a gun and instantly executes MADMAN.

The game is over. OVERSEER DASS organises the transfer of wealth from MR SMOKE to LEA... And now LEA now has a choice to make. If she chooses to release MR SMOKE'S slaves, she knows she will have to go back to the brutality of the streets destitute. Alternatively she could choose to remain wealthy -- at the expense of thousands of other poor and desperate people... The final shot is of LEA's face as she makes her decision -- and smiles ambiguously.





# DESIGN

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FREEROLLER was designed from the start to be cost-effective and relatively simple to shoot.

Almost the entire movie takes place around a poker table, meaning it will be filmed in one location -- potential locations have already been scouted, including the pub in the below images, which we can use for a very reasonable rate due to knowing the leaseholder personally.

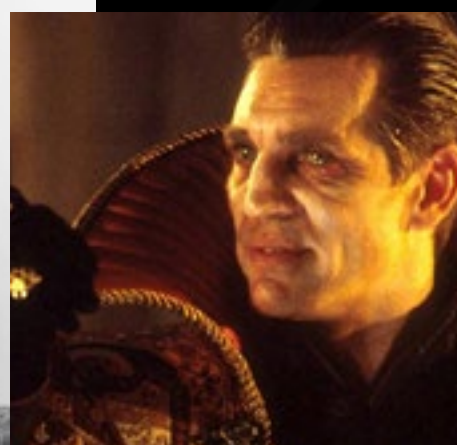
A few scenes are set outdoors -- allowing us to add a limited number of visual effects shots to show the dystopian future world -- which will increase production value and help sell the film in the trailer.

The general look of the movie will be gritty and grimy, dark and smoky -- with a heightened tone and aesthetic inspired by the exploitation films of the 1970s.



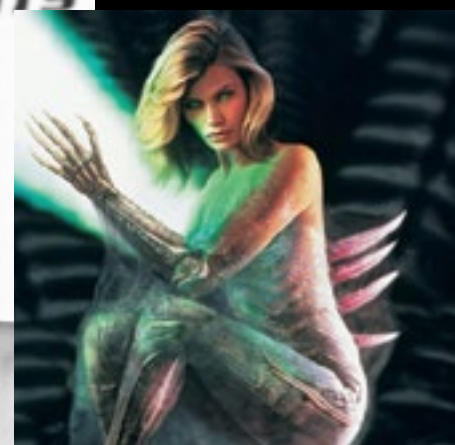


# CASTING



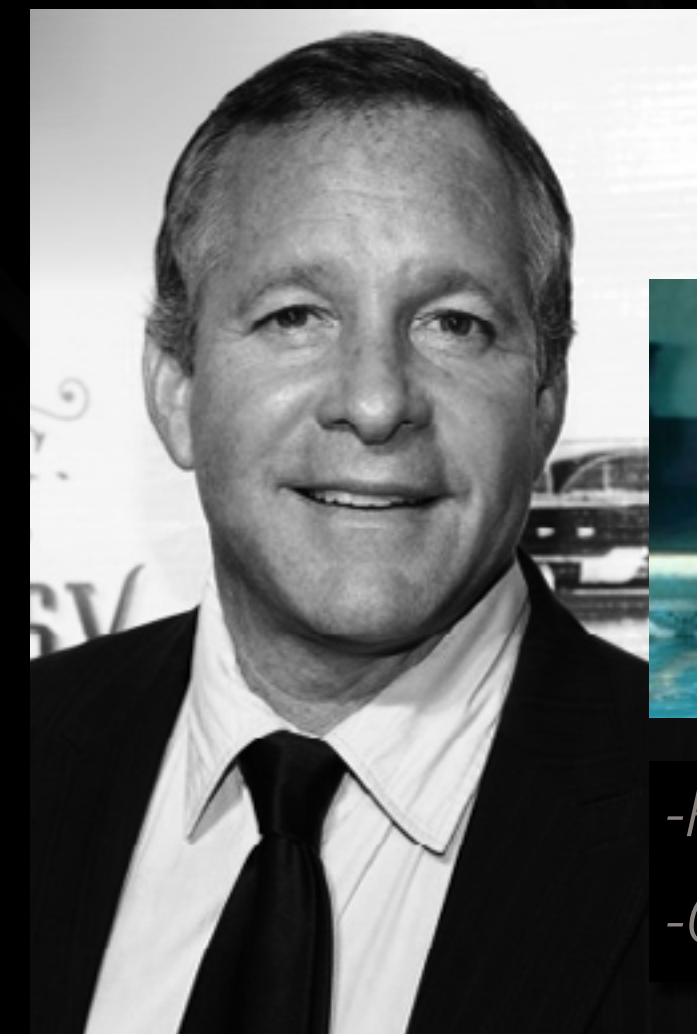
*-The Dark Knight*  
*-Dr Who: The Movie*

**Eric Roberts**



*-Species*  
*-Ghosts of Mars*

**Natasha Henstridge**



*-Police Academy*  
*-Cocoon*

**Steve Guttenberg**

The heightened tone is summed up through the official attachment of some of the key supporting roles: Eric Roberts will play a 'Gangster Warlord' named 'Mr Smoke'; Natasha Henstridge will play 'Overseer Dass', a government representative and rival to Mr Smoke; Steve Guttenberg will play an old time card player named 'Action Bob Bixby'. The aim is to make use of known stars from previous decades to help create a highly specific tone and style.

The script is also written in such a way that a bigger male star can be cast in the apparent lead role of 'Davison Rayburn' -- but this 'lead' is quickly killed off a la PSYCHO. This allows us to put a bigger name on all of the marketing materials, while only needing the actor for a very limited number of filming days. (Note: Role not yet cast and can be up for discussion.)

The real lead, who is revealed as the plot progresses, will be played by a young female actor -- a great opportunity for an up-and-coming future star. (This role has also not yet been cast and can be up for discussion.)



# SKIN IN THE GAME

WHAT ARE YOU WILLING TO BET?



# POSTER CONCEPTS

LEFT: Exploitation movie style, showing a hand tossing in a specially designed Ace of Spades, with paraphernalia on the table including guns, knives and poker chips.

RIGHT: A more futuristic style design (skull will be metallic and stylized) enhancing the sci-fi elements, also showing the players around the poker table.

### Notes:

*Poster concepts were created before major actors were attached and with alternative title. Talent will of course be incorporated into new poster designs.*

*We will have custom card and poker chip designs made for the movie -- with additional sets made for marketing purposes.*

# SKIN IN THE GAME

WHAT ARE YOU WILLING TO BET?



OUTATIME FILMS PRESENTS A FILM BY MATTHEW WOOLLARD 'THE HIKE' PETER RUNDLE ROMINA KATSIKIAN  
MUSIC BY MATTHEW WOOLLARD EDITOR MARIA CARRAS PRODUCED BY MATTHEW WOOLLARD DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY OUTATIME FILMS EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS PREMIUM BEATS

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# KEY CREW

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**Matt Woollard**  
*Writer & Director*



**David Bradley**  
*Producer*



**Jonathan Nicol**  
*Cinematographer*

Between us, we have worked on a variety of short film, feature film and TV projects, in capacities ranging from Background Artist all the way up to Director. We have industry experience and contacts through working with Netflix, Shudder, E4, Channel 4 and STUDIOCANAL.

Through our collaboration with our partner company, Other Finger Films (Jonathan Nicol above), we have years of experience shooting everything from music videos to corporate videos to TV ads for companies including Adidas, Ogilvy and Maserati.

Our first feature film, LIGHT, an ultra low budget Sci-Fi movie, releases in 2023.





# BUDGET

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FREEROLLER requires a minimum budget of £150,000, depending on cost of additional talent.

## **Tax Break Schemes**

Several tax break schemes apply for this project, including the Seed Enterprise Investment Scheme (SEIS) and Enterprise Investment Scheme (EIS), which may grant investors a tax rebate worth up to 50% of their investment. Capital Gains Tax Reinvestment Relief also applies (with the amount dependent on the tax situation of the individual investor). The project should also qualify for UK Film Tax Relief (whereby the production company can claim a payable cash rebate of up to 25% of UK qualifying expenditure). Further information can be provided on request.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** We applied for Advanced Assurance that the project qualifies for S/EIS, but the rules recently changed -- applications are only now processed once the names and addresses of investors are included. Investment can be arranged on condition of S/EIS qualification.



# EXPERIENCE

- OUTATIME FILMS has a proven track record in creating low-budget Sci-Fi movies.
- Our first feature film, LIGHT, is being released in 2023 (screener link on request).
- Key Art -- created by OUTATIME FILMS -- is shown to the right.



*Logline: 'After crash-landing in an escape pod on a dark and misty planet, a woman is hunted by a predator which is drawn to the lights she must use to find her missing son.'*

WATCH THE TRAILER HERE:  
<https://youtu.be/xUBT2iajaf4>



# LIGHT (2023)

- LIGHT was created in a similar way to FREEROLLER, in that it was designed to a very low budget.
- This was achieved through taking on much of the work ourselves (costumes, props, set design, SFX, VFX, editing, music, sound, etc) -- and through careful creation of the script.
- We knew we only had the budget for a single location, with just two main actors, two or three day-players, very limited numbers (and sizes) of props and almost no set design. This was the starting point for LIGHT.
- We then hit on the idea that, by filling a small room with smoke and throwing a few bags of sand on the floor, we could create an entire alien planet -- with the added bonus that this would automatically create a claustrophobic setting with the characters not being able to see more than a few feet in front of them.
- The next stage of development was to realise that we could do for light what A QUIET PLACE did for sound -- i.e. have a dark setting and a creature which attacks any source of light... And then we could find reasons why characters needed to use lights.
- This is OUTATIME FILMS' approach to filmmaking -- we work within strict limits, but find ways to use them to our advantage, making them core components of the final film, stretching the budget to create something of extremely high quality. This will also be the approach with FREEROLLER -- a movie which requires a step up in scale and budget, but which remains a very low budget movie.





# OUTATIME FILMS

“OUTATIME FILMS PRODUCES HIGH QUALITY MOVIES ON LOW BUDGETS, TAKING PROJECTS ALL THE WAY FROM SCRIPT THROUGH TO DISTRIBUTION.”

*- Mission Statement*

Outatime Films Ltd is a London-based film production company. Our aim is to create low-budget films in commercially viable genres (typically sci-fi and horror -- genres in which fans actively seek out smaller films). We are able to work to extremely low budgets due to our ability to write specifically to budgets, and our ability to undertake so much of the filmmaking process in-house (including costume design, prop-making, editing, sound design and mixing, music, visual effects, etc).

Our first feature film ‘LIGHT’ releases in 2023. Our second feature film ‘FREEROLLER’ is currently in development.

*Below images from Outatime Films’ shorts / test footage.*





# FREEROLLER

For more information about this or other projects, contact:  
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[www.outatimefilms.com](http://www.outatimefilms.com)