



UNBRIDLED COURAGE

WILL ROSS
DIED
A MURDERER
ROSS
1815

IN LOVING MEMORY

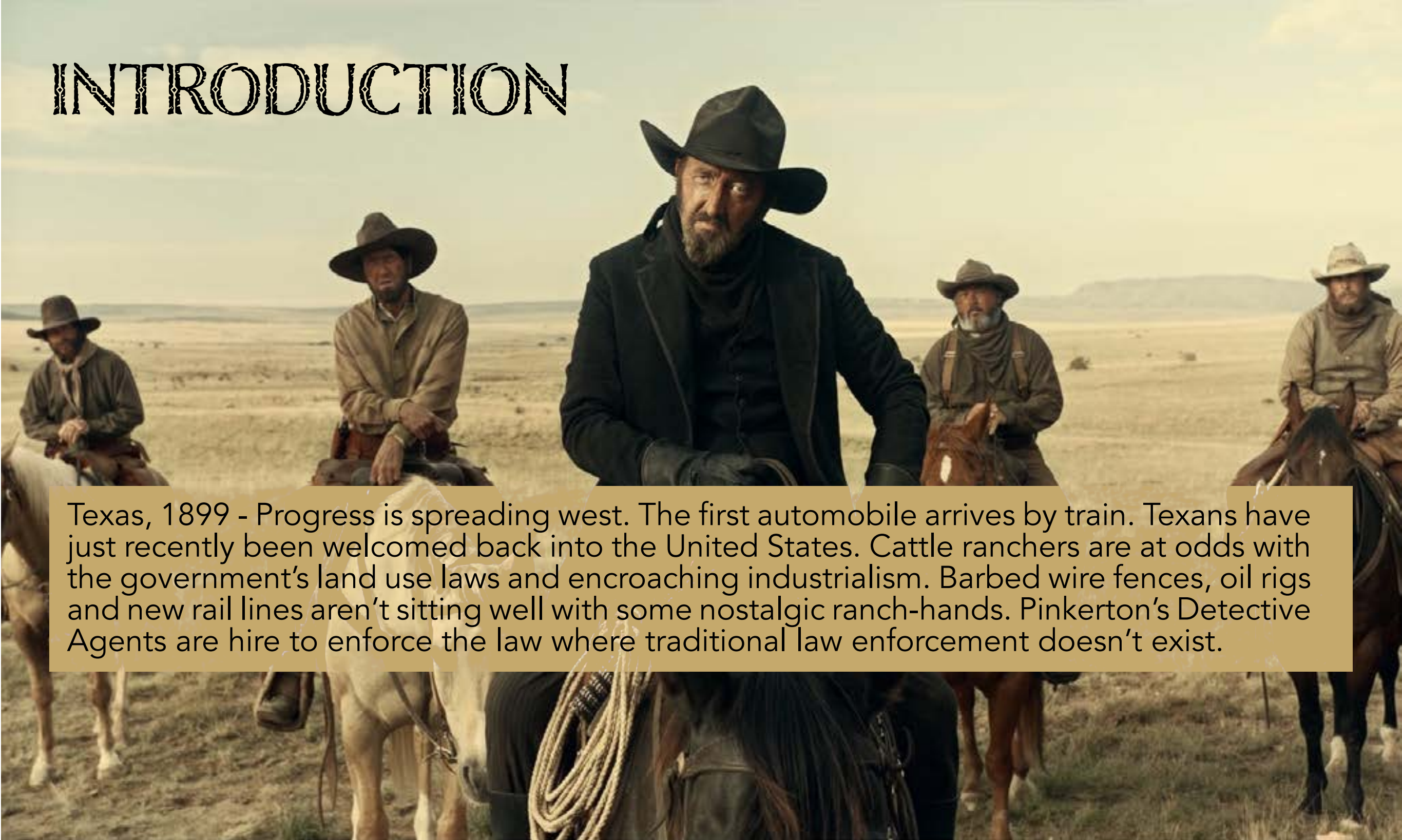


In 1899 Texas, a grieving widow must summon her inner strength to defend her family's legacy against corrupt forces. When Audrey is challenged with the safety of her two children, she forms an uneasy alliance with a rival rancher's son.

UNBRIDLED COURAGE

FEATURE: ACTION ♦ DRAMA ♦ WESTERN

INTRODUCTION



Texas, 1899 - Progress is spreading west. The first automobile arrives by train. Texans have just recently been welcomed back into the United States. Cattle ranchers are at odds with the government's land use laws and encroaching industrialism. Barbed wire fences, oil rigs and new rail lines aren't sitting well with some nostalgic ranch-hands. Pinkerton's Detective Agents are hire to enforce the law where traditional law enforcement doesn't exist.

SYNOPSIS

San Antonio is the closest thing to a city that Audrey Byrne has seen since she left Philadelphia years ago as Rory Byrne's young bride. We meet the Byrnes as they are introducing their children, Emma (15) and Flint (8), to the city - which is about to be their new home.

Back in Marble Creek on the Byrne Ranch, Rory's father Seamus, is murdered to stop him from selling his vast cattle ranch to German millers.

The San Antonio trip is cut short when a telegram arrives for Rory with the news of his father's death. Rory pilots the family carriage home, but the flooded road causes the wheels to stick in the mud. The horses break away, the carriage tumbles, and Rory is thrown to his death. Audrey is left to bury the children's father and grandfather, as well as plan the fate of Byrne Ranch.



Scottish cattle baron, Garrett Knox, is the biggest land owner in the region. He wastes not a second trying to take the ranch off Audrey's hands. But Audrey is street smart before there was such a thing. She keeps the ranch afloat for a year, then realizes it's best for her children if she sells as Seamus had planned.

Garrett and his friend, Irish cattle baron Malcolm Hannigan, founded Marble Creek and are dead-set against progress and Audrey's plan to sell.

Trouble in town brings home Malcolm's son, Beau, a Pinkerton Detective. Beau is at odds with his father; he hasn't been home for 10 years. Beau is taken by Audrey and her independent thinking, but she is convinced he's there to help his father and Garrett get her off her land. Despite his charm, Audrey is focused on keeping her children safe.



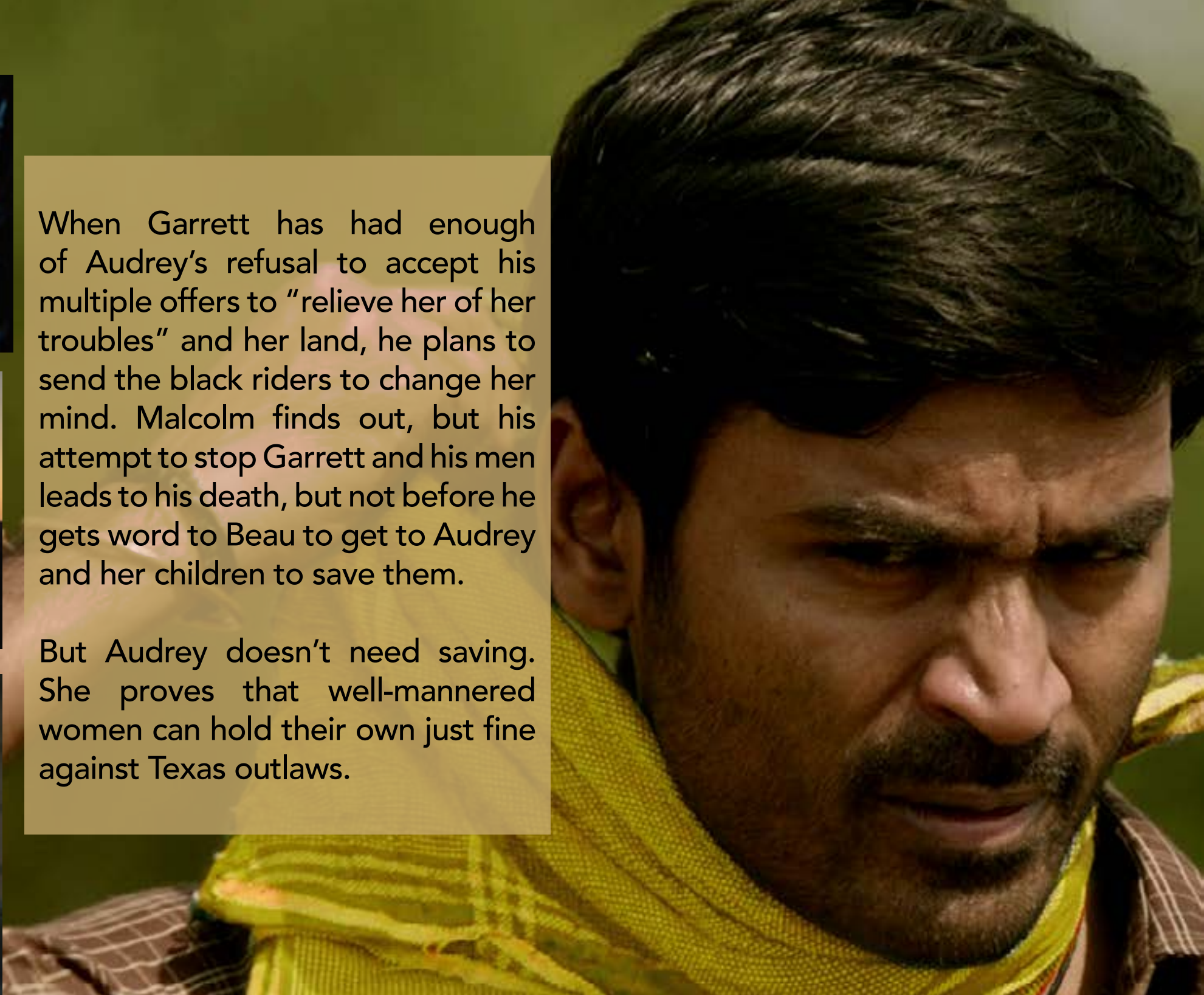


Marble Creek is not the peaceful town it once was, primarily due to the “black riders” - outlaw men in masks who instill their “law” by force. What’s supposed by many but never spoken about is that it’s Garrett who commands their forces. In fact, it was the black riders who killed Seamus.



When Garrett has had enough of Audrey's refusal to accept his multiple offers to "relieve her of her troubles" and her land, he plans to send the black riders to change her mind. Malcolm finds out, but his attempt to stop Garrett and his men leads to his death, but not before he gets word to Beau to get to Audrey and her children to save them.

But Audrey doesn't need saving. She proves that well-mannered women can hold their own just fine against Texas outlaws.





PRIMARY CHARACTERS

AUDREY BYRNE left her sophisticated life in Philadelphia to start a family on her husband's Texas ranch, always believing they would one day settle in San Antonio. But when her husband and father-in-law die suddenly, she and her children become the unexpected heirs to Byrne Ranch. Determined to raise her children with the same standards she knew in the city, Audrey must navigate the harsh realities of ranch life while defending her land from those who want to take it. Torn between accepting help and standing on her own, she walks a tightrope between duty and desire—but when Garrett Knox and his men show no mercy, Audrey proves she was born to fight for her family's legacy.



EMMA BYRNE always expected to leave the ranch for a new life in San Antonio, but fate had other plans. After losing her father and grandfather, she finds herself tied to a land she never intended to inherit. As her mother fights for their future, Emma refuses to be sidelined, determined to carve out her own place in a world that sees her as just a girl. Intelligent and fiercely independent, Emma quickly learns that survival in Marble Creek takes more than book smarts—it demands grit, courage, and a steady aim.



BEAU HANNIGAN is the estranged son of Malcolm Hannigan, one of Marble Creek's founders. Determined to forge his own path, he returns only on official business as a Pinkerton Detective. Drawn to Audrey and her fight for the ranch, he clashes with his father over his ties to Garrett Knox. Their strained relationship, rooted in the loss of Beau's mother, remains unspoken. As Beau pursues justice, he must decide whether to trust his father's claim that he isn't part of Garrett's ruthless scheme.



PRIMARY CHARACTERS

GARRETT KNOX is Marble Creek's largest landowner; once a stalwart in the community as a founder, he's now old and fearful of progress because he doesn't understand it, so now the only thing he knows to do is to take control of his much land as possible and he does this through the veiled threats of his mysterious band of outlaws, The Black Riders.



MALCOLM HANNIGAN is one of the founders of Marble Creek and he has made an art of turning a blind eye to Garrett's increased threats -- especially since the death of his wife. He's Beau's father and it pains him that they have grown apart but he doesn't have the courage to admit it. When he discovers that one of his ranch hands is riding with Garrett's outlaws, he finally stands up for what is right.



STEPHEN WALL is the son of Marble Creek's doctor, and Beau's best friend. Many would confuse them as brothers if it wasn't for the fact that Stephen is Black. But he is his own man, and gives Beau enough room to figure things out on his own. Stephen is also a Pinkerton Detective, but his style of justice is understated and keen -- putting him where he needs to be only when he needs to be there.



WHY

UNBRIDLED COURAGE is very near and dear to my heart. At an early age, my father introduced me to the western novels of Louis L'Amour, and the classic western movies of John Wayne and Clint Eastwood. This time spent together was very special, and The Western quickly became my most beloved genre.

When my father passed away in 2017, I set a goal for myself to either be in a western, or to make one. The first step towards that goal was when I participated in a Western Actors Workshop in Blanco, TX. Bentley Mitchum, and his father Christopher Mitchum, both delivered the workshop. During the workshop, we filmed a short western titled JUDGMENT. From there, I acted in several western shorts, and it was during a subsequent trip to Texas that I came up with the story for UNBRIDLED COURAGE.

I want to make a film that would make my father proud, and one that will make an entirely new generation excited about his favorite kind of picture: The American Western. More than anything, I want to show the untold story of the Old West.

Although classics like "True Grit", "The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly", and "Once Upon a Time in the West" remain some of my favorite films, tales of female heroism often fade into the background of history books and Hollywood films in service of male-centeredness. I want Unbridled Courage to help redefine the genre by exploring the lives of women in the American West.

~ Bruce Miles, Producer/Story by

THEMATIC & TONAL COMPS

There is no doubt that the western genre is in the midst of a resurgence, but what a western needs to do to feel relevant and drive audiences, is more than getting the details of the cowboy life right, a western also needs to make the themes and conflicts feel authentic to today's experiences.

The world-building needs to confront issues like American identity, clashes of will, and survivalist aesthetics from a position of integrity while keeping the drama high. Some of the divisive issues UNBRIDLED COURAGE does not shy away from, are racism, class, greed, womens' equality, and of course family, it just so happens to do so through the lens of the American West.



DIRECTOR



Julie Herlocker

Julie Herlocker grew up in the midwest loving movies and tv, greatly influenced by her father's passion for classic westerns. She made her way to Los Angeles, and learned the craft of filmmaking on set and in post. As a director, her work leans to female led stories that build tension and take unexpected turns.

Prior to directing, Herlocker spent nearly 15 years as a post producer in episodic television, working closely with remarkable EPs, including Mark Gordon, Steven Spielberg, Aaron Sorkin, Jim Kouf and David Greenwalt.

A graduate of the DGA's DDI Mentorship Program, Herlocker was selected for the inaugural 2024 Alliance of Women Directors Rising Director Fellowship for feature film directors. She is currently a director in the Paramount Global Directing Initiative.

Julie Herlocker lives in Venice, CA, where she and her husband are finishing up raising their four kids with the help of their Boston Terrier, Yogi.

TEAM



Andy Orgel, Executive Producer

Andy Orgel, Chairman & CEO of QOL Media, Inc., specializes in launching disruptive global media networks. A founding executive at MTV, Nickelodeon, A&E, and more, he also pioneered the first three digital TV networks. Formerly at CBS, he now advises WeedTV and The Great Disruptors. Recognized by Success Magazine as “an MTV Mastermind,” he has also led university courses on media, sustainability, and social impact.



Carole Joyce, Executive Producer

Carole Joyce is a graduate of the Brooks Institute of Photography and an award-winning documentary film producer. Carole began her entertainment career working in development for Saban/Scherick Entertainment discovering talents such as Dennis Leary and Mario Joiner while developing pilot television series for Joy Behar and Rita Rudner. Carole also developed projects for young filmmakers David Fincher and Jessie Dylan while with the Garamella/Fitzgerald Advertising Agency. As a television producer, Carole oversaw the production of over 150 shows for cable television including “Healthstyles”, which were used as a concept on “Oprah Winfrey.” Guests included Deepak Chopra and Dr. Andrew Weil. She also produced “Filmmakers” which is now in the national archives.

TEAM



Kara Williamson, Producer

Kara is the Founder, CEO, and Producer of US-based Meeting Street Productions located in North Carolina. Kara is a highly regarded film, television and digital media production and distribution executive. She has a rich 20-year history, working in a variety of positions, both above and below the line, in all areas of entertainment. Her passion and creativity stems from her infectious love of life. She desires to create a better life for future generations through her prolific and visionary storytelling created through the lens of the camera. Kara has worked alongside some of the largest music promoters in the industry, including AEG and Live Nation. She has quickly become an irreplaceable asset to the large-scale music festivals she manages by her meticulous command of the production office and distinctive management style.



Bruce Miles, Producer/Story by

Bruce Miles began his acting career as an extra in several independent features, commercials, and short films. Over time, he progressed to landing lead roles in various productions. Some of his notable acting credits include A Still Eye, Final Transit, 15 Killings, and a commercial for the NFL. In addition to his work in front of the camera, Bruce has developed a strong passion for producing. He has produced several short films and is currently working on multiple feature films. With his experience both as an actor and producer, Bruce also brings valuable skills as a project manager, ensuring the seamless execution of any production he is involved with.

TEAM



Chris Debiec, Line Producer/UPM

Chris relocated to Los Angeles in 1995, working on *The Devil's Advocate*, *Mad City*, *The Out of Towners*, and Disney's *Dinosaur*. From 2000-2005, he produced for James Cameron's Earthship Productions, overseeing physical and post-production. Now CEO of Civilized Entertainment, he develops high-quality, character-driven content that sparks thought-provoking conversations and addresses global issues with both drama and comedy.



Julia C. Phillips, Writer

Julia Phillips grew up in Colorado and Texas before studying Biology in Kentucky. During college, she developed a passion for writing, using her research skills to explore history and myth for her stories. She published her first contemporary fantasy novel, *Miranda, Queen of Argyll: Past Sins*, in 2006, followed by *Unlikely Saints* in 2007. Her sci-fi short story *Outpost 6* appeared in the 2009 anthology *Space Sirens* and was reprinted in the 2017 *Maximum Overdrive* anthology. Julia also co-wrote the screenplay for *Unbridled Courage*.

EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS

Buffalo 8 Productions

Founded in 2012 by partners Matthew Helderman & Luke Taylor, Buffalo 8 is a full-service film and media company, focused on production, post-production, and finance based in Santa Monica, California, with films premiering and awarded at Sundance, Berlin, Toronto, and SXSW.

Buffalo 8 is built on the fusion of entrepreneurial ethos and quality filmmaking. The company is also partnered with industry-leader BondIt Media Capital, enabling streamlined production and finance opportunities, and ABS Payroll for payroll accounting services for indie projects of all sizes.



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