

# THE ASSASSIN'S SHADOW

# ACCOLADES



Beverly Hills  
SCREENPLAY CONTEST

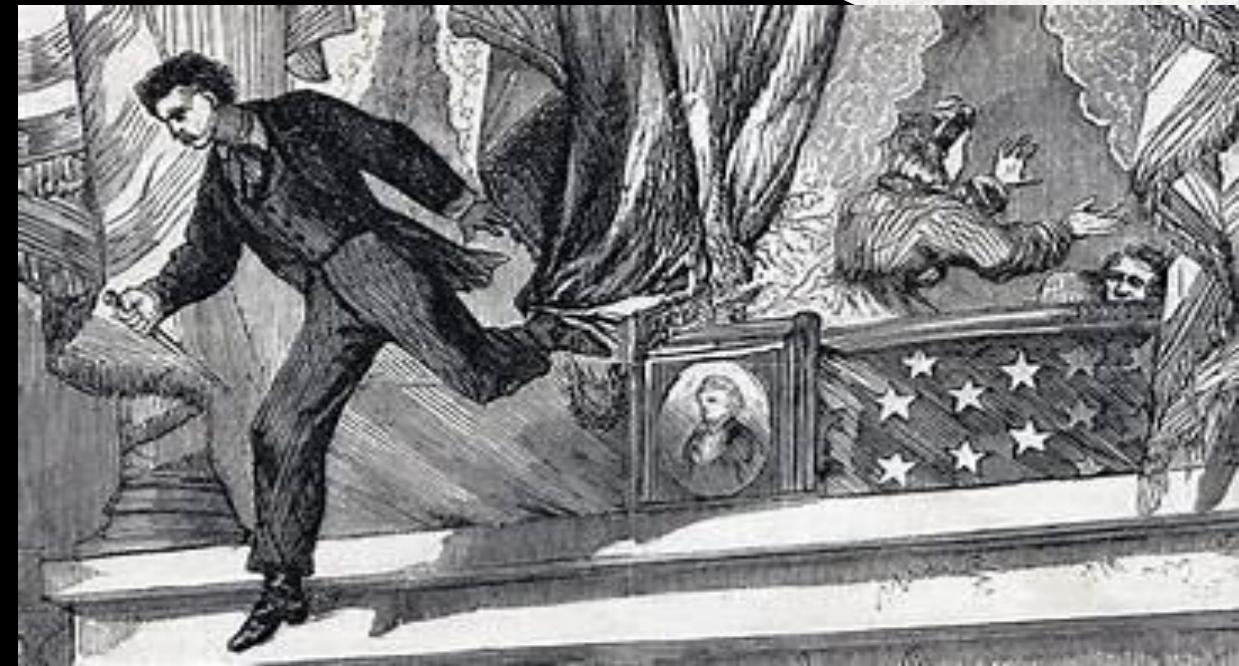


creative  
screenwriting  
UNIQUE VOICES  
SCREENPLAY COMPETITION





# STORY LINE



On the Texas frontier in 1872, a young lawyer befriends John St. Helen, a mysterious merchant who, during an illness, reveals himself to be John Wilkes Booth - the assassin of President Abraham Lincoln.

St. Helen/Booth relates the true story of the assassination and how he eluded capture when Union soldiers reportedly killed him in a burning barn.

St. Helen/Booth disappears one day, and the lawyer goes on to have a prosperous career.

Thirty years later, the lawyer is summoned to Oklahoma to identify the body of a suicide. The deceased is St. Helen/Booth and the lawyer embarks on a quest to identify the man the soldiers killed in the burning barn.

# LOGLINE



In 1872, the mysterious John St. Helen entrusts young attorney Finis L. Bates with the secret of his true identity – John Wilkes Booth, who successfully eluded his pursuers in the aftermath of his assassination of President Lincoln and was a successful businessman until his suicide in 1903.



## SYNOPSIS

The Assassin's Shadow opens in April 1865, just after Lee's surrender at Appomattox.

A Union Cavalry patrol captures a Confederate officer and demands he leads them to the farm where President Lincoln's assassins are hiding. Upon arrival, the Union soldiers surround the barn and kill "Johnny." They bring the dead man's body back to Washington and Lincoln's murder is avenged.

Some years later, John St. Helen, a mysterious merchant living on the Texas frontier befriends a young attorney. When the merchant becomes deathly ill, he reveals himself to be John Wilkes Booth. After recuperating, Booth, in flashback, tells the story of what really happened after Lincoln's assassination.

St.Helen/Booth soon disappears and the attorney moves on with his life.

Thirty years later, the attorney receives word that his business card was found among the effects of a suicide in the Oklahoma Territory. He goes to Oklahoma and retrieves the body he recognizes as that of Booth. He then travels the country seeking to corroborate Booth's story of the assassination with the key players who are still alive - a frustrating and disappointing journey.

The scene then travels back in time, returning to the barn where "Johnny" was killed, and the mystery of John Wilkes Booth is finally revealed.



# CHARACTERS

A sepia-toned portrait of Finis L. Bates, an elderly man with a high forehead, receding hairline, and a serious expression. He is wearing a dark suit jacket over a white collared shirt. The background is dark and indistinct.

## Finis L. Bates

- Ages: 24, 55
- Attorney
- Naïve, Trusting, Incredulous
- Analytical
- Affable
- Is his story believable?

# John St. Helens

- Ages: 27, 35, and 65
- Intense, Brooding, Secretive, and Mysterious
- Is he or isn't he John Wilkes Booth?



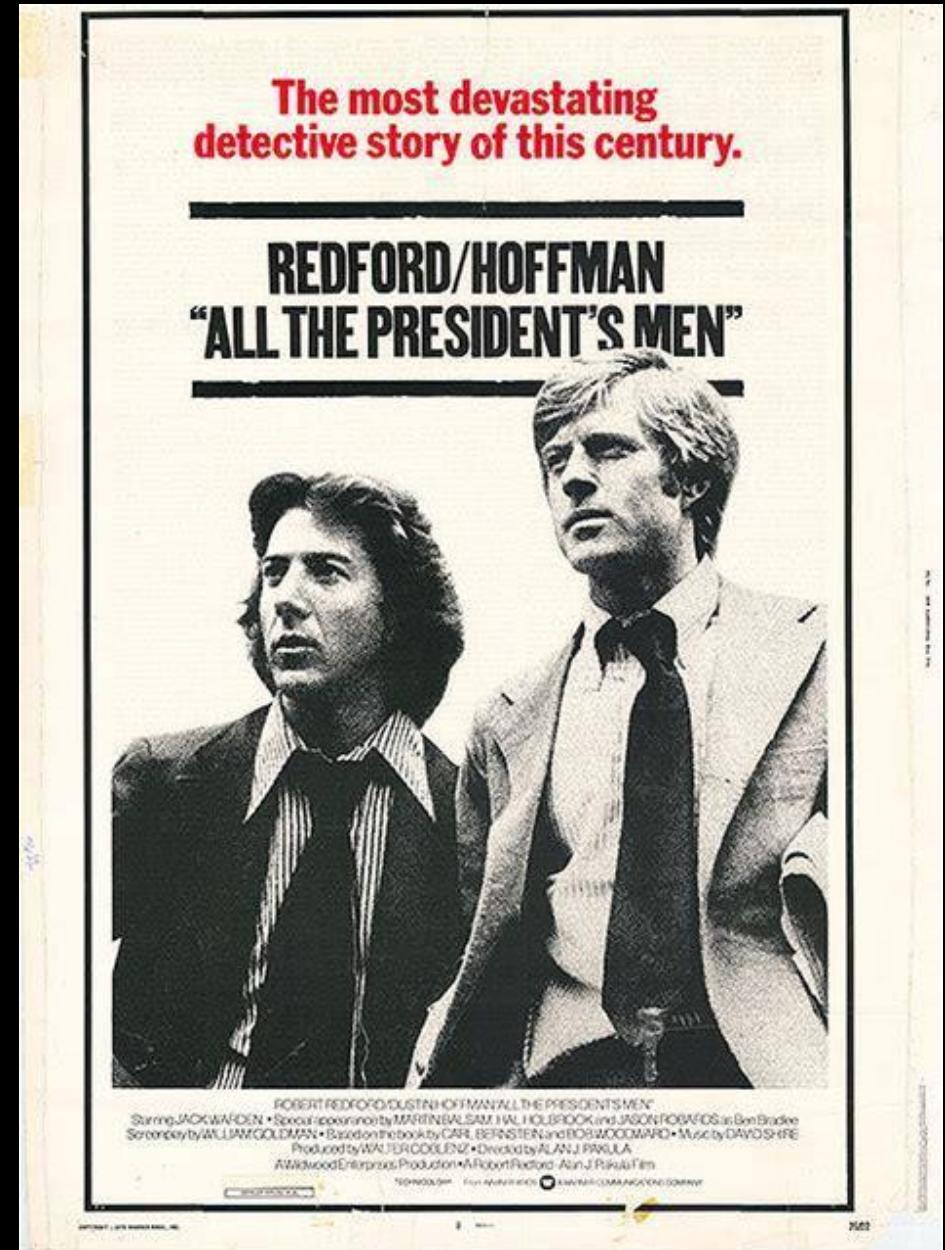


# COMPARABLES

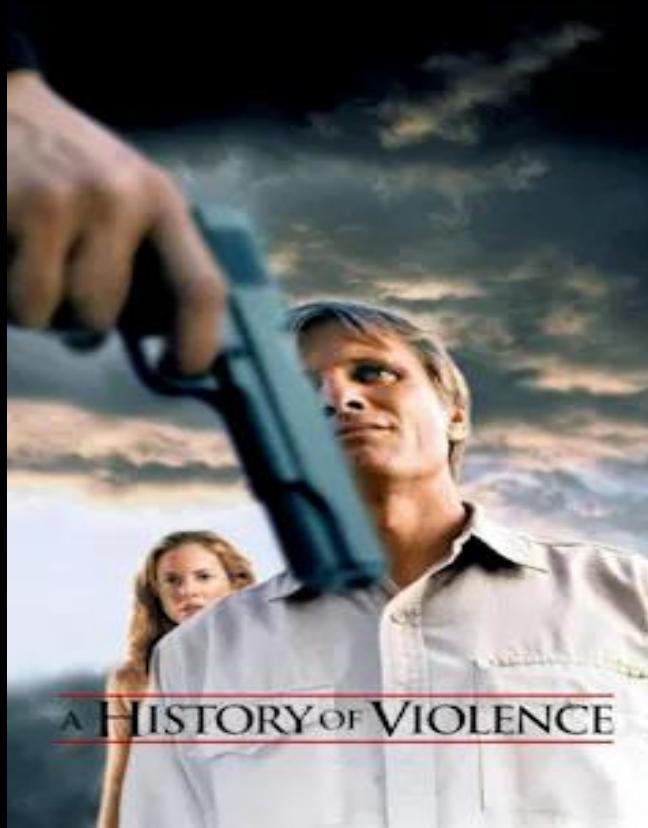


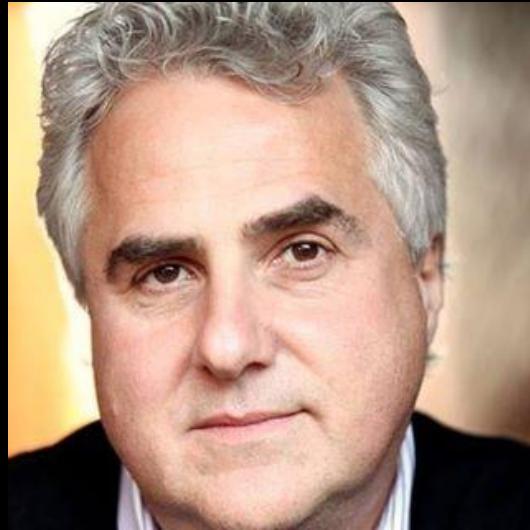
- Budget: \$40,000,000
- Gross: \$210,000,000
- 2 Oscars

- Budget: \$8,500,000
- Gross: \$70,000,000
- 4 Oscars



- Budget: \$32,000,000
- Gross: \$61,000,000
- 2 Oscar Nominations





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“All History is More or Less Bunk”