



2023 - NARRATIVE FILMMAKER

# LEVELED-UP

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Comprehensive Guide To Script  
Breakdowns.

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THE JOURNEY FROM INDIE NARRATIVE FILM-MAKER TO

# LEVELED UP FILMMAKERS



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LUKE RIETHER DP

# WHAT WE PROMISE IN THIS COURSE

Are You ready to level up? So are we. This workbook will provide you with the tools needed to prepare for your budget.

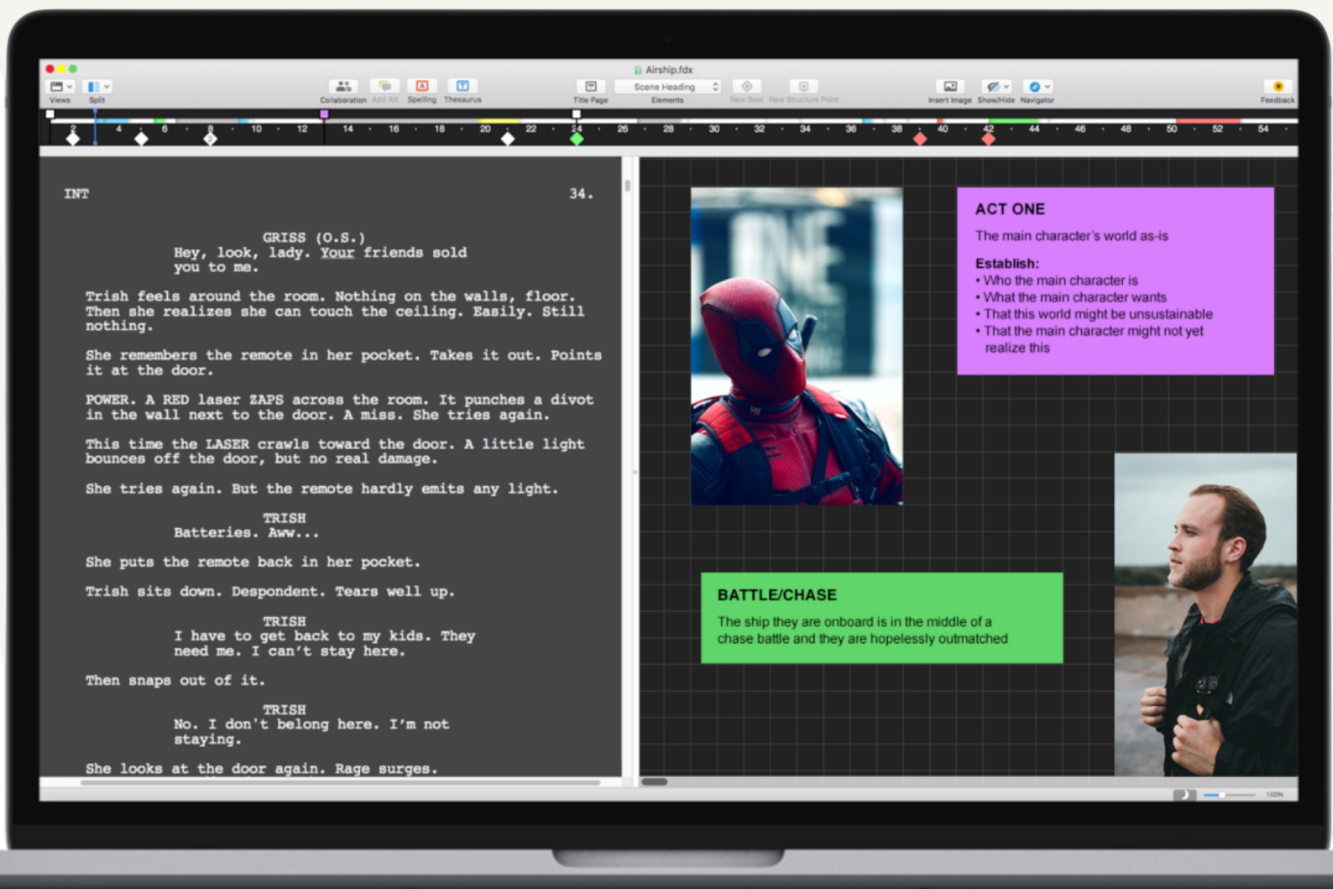


# THE PREPPING

You got a solid business Idea, now it is time to take that idea to the next level by creating the Business Plan. This workbook will guide you through step by step on how to create a solid preliminary plan to help you find your investors. But before we begin, we have some brainstorming to do.

The Prepping requires research, brainstorming, and lots of coffee. Your movie idea is not going to be made for every audience, but rather a targeted audience. Lets start by going through your script to determine your target audience. Let's hop on Final Draft To do so.

## FinalDraft 12





If you are new to script writing, it is okay. We all have to start somewhere. I took a segment out of the script Lone Survivor to show you some of the key elements. This will help bring you to the understanding of what is needed to assess and properly prep for your film budget. The things I want you to look at are;

- Location - Found in scene Heading
- Props and Set Dressing Needed - Found in the Action
- The Number of Actors Needed - Found in the Character Description or just below Dialogue.
- The Number Of Extras Needed - Found In the Action
- Number of Pages the script is - Go to the last page of the script and write down the number of pages the script is.

2

INT. OPERATING ROOM → Scene Heading 2

Clothes cut. Blood soaked Dog Tags cut. "Luttrell" in UA boxer shorts, IVs and fresh blood bags. Multiple Gunshots. Chunk of an ear missing. Heartbeat monitor. Weak pulse. → Action

Character → LUTTRELL → Describing the what

(vo) → Dialogue

An unrelenting desire to push yourself harder and further than anyone could think possible.

Chunks of bullet and shrapnel filling metal bowl. Tears streaming down cheeks, a hand scrawled map on a left thigh, focused eyes of surgeons. Admirals' pace in the hallway.

LUTTRELL (CONT'D)

(vo)

Pushing ourselves into those dark cold corners where the bad things live. Where the bad things fight.

Heart monitor weak. Getting weaker. Compound fracture left shin. Bloody feet rinsed clean. Water flushing out bullet holes. Loose cracked tooth pulled out. Heart monitor getting weaker.

Surgical pack working frantically to save Luttrell.

Tight on HEART MONITOR: FLATLINE

Scene Number

# Locations

The Template below can be used to help assure you got all the expenses marked for that location. Some scripts will require sound stages, some may require exotic places.

These are things you need to determine prior to creating the budget. Every location will have an expense behind it in some form including your Grandma's basement. It can be from obtaining a film permit to paying for the location itself or it might also be as simple as giving them a signed poster in exchange.

To keep things simple, the more exotic the location is, the more money that you will have to spend. If you are a Indie Filmmaker leveling up, you might be in a position where every dollar matters.



## A series of parallel diagonal lines in a light brown color, slanted at approximately 45 degrees, spanning the width of the page.





# Location Expenses

The template shown on the previous page is a multi-function tool. We will use the script that we broke down earlier to help show how to fill this form out.

SCENE	LOCATION	TYPE OF LOCATION	DAYS NEEDED	TOTAL
2	Sound Stage - LA	Hospital	1	\$400 Daily

Based on the script scene Heading, it shows us that we will need a Operating Room.

2	INT. OPERATING ROOM	→	Scene Heading	2
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The Operating Room can be filmed in various locations but to keep it simple, we chose a Studio. Studio Stage LA will run at \$400 per day. The Total amount you write in is just for the location, we will have a separate sheet to use for set design, and props.


























PROPS AND SET DRESSING

Scene: \_\_\_\_\_

Directors Vision: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Total Coast: \_\_\_\_\_

PROPS AND MATERIALS

<i>Props and Building Materials</i>	<i>Cost Per Item</i>
	
	
	
	
	
	
	
	
	
	
	
	
	
	
	
	
	
	
	
	
	
	
	
	
	

# Props and Set Dressing

The template shown on the previous page is also a multi-function tool. It can be used for both budgeting and for Film Scene Set up.

Scene: 2

Directors Vision: Hospital Surgical Room, full surgical team operating on a soldier.

Total Coast: \$992

Okay so the above director's vision wasn't exactly what the director was seeing but it will give you an idea of what to write in there. This is mainly going to help us to either build out the set or find an existing location to match that vision. The total cost will be added up after completion of researching costs for the set build out and props. The more organized you are now, the better and smoother the film set will be.

PROPS AND MATERIALS

Props and Building Materials	Cost Per Item
24 - 16 foot 2x4	\$202.00
3 - 1/4 in. x 4 ft. x 8 ft. Drywall	\$44.00
1 - 5 gallon white matte paint	\$115.00
2 - quarts washable blood	\$13.00
2 - dog tags	\$3.00
Surgical Tools and Supplies	\$400.00
Used Bullet Casings	\$10.00
4 - Surgical Uniforms	\$130.00
1 - Army ACU Uniform/patches	\$75.00



# Days On Set

According to Hollywood standards, they typically focus between 1-3 pages a day. According to the script, There is 124 pages. We want to film about 3 pages a day and with this it will leave us with about a 42 day on set.

Page Number  124.

108 INT. CHOPPPER 108

Flying fast over the Afghan mountains.

Luttrell beaten and broken, but clear-eyed...

...and he's the only one who can lead the team.

Indie Films will try to push about 5 pages a day but let me say that 5 pages is a lot to do and it will make for one incredibly long day on set. Seeing this is a Union Set, we got to adhere to the Union Rules which are 12 hour days anything longer will require overtime pay. Plus, every 6 hours you must provide at least a 30 minute break.

Since we have the number of days needed we can now move onto the final step of Actors and Extras.

SCENE :

DAY :

[illegible]

# Actors and Extras

We don't have any actors or extras hired or reserved at this stage, but we can still get a sense of what is needed by breaking down the scene. The form on the previous page can help keep you organized.

SCENE : 2

DAY : 1 / 42

UNION	CHARACTER NAME	ROLE	RATE
Sag	Luttrell	Actor	\$1,082
None	Surgeon	Extra	\$170

Based on the script below, we know that Luttrell will be an essential character and must be on set for multiple days.

Now, in the actual movie, Mark Wahlberg played this character. Also, judging by the action lines, we will need a few Extras to play surgeons. The Rate is based off of Sag's 2022 guidelines on base rates for theatrical.

1 EXT. BAGRAM AIR BASE, AFGHANISTAN 1

Through massive sun flare, a BLACKHAWK Chopper coming in fast. Landing hard on Bagram Air Base.

LUTTRELL

(vo)

It's something most of us have known all of our lives. What we all wanted. It's in our blood.

A team of medical personal and Navy officers descend on the chopper. An assortment of high-ranking GENERALS and COMMANDING OFFICERS there to meet the chopper. Tight shots. A bloody hand dangles. A tear filled eyeball, sliced feet.



# THANK YOU!

We are all in this industry with a desire and passion for learning and growing. I appreciate your support as we grow this community together. Consider subscribing to my email list for more content.

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