



# *The Battles of* **SARATOGA**

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**THE TURNING POINT OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION**

*Saratoga: The Turning Point is a veteran-owned independent feature film project.*



CELEBRATING THE 250<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLES OF SARATOGA IN 1777.

*An unexpected but truly  
complete and decisive  
victory that forever changed  
the fate of a nation.*



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# *The untold story that* **CHANGED THE HISTORY BOOKS.**

Most Americans simply don't know that it was the decisive victory at Saratoga that enabled Ambassador Benjamin Franklin, after numerous unsuccessful attempts, to convince the French crown to intervene in the American Revolution—thus transforming this colonial conflict from a rebellious insurrection to a wider, world war. Burgoyne's defeat at Saratoga alone made this first American diplomatic triumph possible. **Saratoga was the lynchpin to bringing the French into the fight** and the birth of the Franco-American Alliance.

No film has been made to date that focuses on the singular importance of the Battles of Saratoga to America's successful fight for independence. *Why doesn't this most pivotal of battles enjoy the attention that is given to the other seminal moments in American history? Why is Saratoga given short shrift in history courses and books?* Well, only we can change that.

This veteran-owned project is dedicated to bringing the compelling story of how victories at Bennington and Saratoga kept the sacred flame from being extinguished during one of the darkest hours of the American War for Independence.



# THE STORY

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## THE TURNING POINT OF THE REVOLUTION

**T**he Battles of Saratoga is one of the most important battles ever fought in world history.

In 1777, the American Revolution was on the brink of collapse. The British army delivered crushing defeats to the Continental Army and controlled Canada to the North and New York to the South. They devised a plan to link forces in Albany and crush the rebellion once and for all.

With a renewed vigor, militias from all across New England and New

York converged and poured in to a small town along the Hudson River... Saratoga.

In a miraculous event, the Americans delivered a stunning defeat to the British. For the first time, the mightiest army in the world had surrendered to the newest. Ceremoniously, British General John Burgoyne was forced to hand over his sword to American General Horatio Gates.

The Battles of Saratoga became known as, "*The Turning Point of the American Revolution.*"

### GENERAL BURGOYNE CEREMONIOUSLY SURRENDERING HIS SWORD TO GENERAL GATES

This famous portrait is prominently displayed in the Rotunda of the U.S. Capitol.

*Don't let others rewrite history. This is the real, untold story.*



# THE MASSACRE

## *of Jane McCrea*

Jane McCrea (sometimes spelled McCrae or MacCrae, 1752-1777) was a young woman who was purportedly slain by Native Americans associated with the British army of Lieutenant General John Burgoyne during the American Revolutionary War. Affianced to a Loyalist serving in Burgoyne's army, her slaying led to expressions of outrage and an increase in Patriot military recruiting, especially in the days following her killing.

The propaganda that followed greatly accentuated her beauty, and the fact that she was associated with Loyalists (although her family was primarily active in serving the Patriot cause) undermined British claims of protection for Loyalists. Burgoyne's inability to punish the alleged killers also undermined British assertions that they were more civilized in their conduct of the war; the dissemination of this propaganda contributed to the success of Patriot recruiting drives in New York for several years.





# THE BURIAL OF

*After the Battles of Saratoga, 1777*

During the Seven Years War (1756-1763), Simon Fraser fought at the Siege of Louisbourg and at Quebec under the command of Major-General James Wolfe. A near-relation of a former Jacobite chieftain, he went to North America in 1776, commanding a brigade in the army of Major-General John Burgoyne during the American War of Independence (1775-1783).

The following year, Burgoyne allowed his army to be encircled by superior American forces at Saratoga. During an unsuccessful attempt to break through the American position, Fraser was mortally wounded by a rifle ball on 7, October 1777 on the ground called Bemus Heights. He died at 8 o'clock the following morning and was buried in one of the British redoubts. After this battle, over 5,000 of Burgoyne's troops were subsequently forced to surrender to the Americans, which marked a turning point in the war.





# Colonel Morgan's RIFLEMEN

Morgan's Sharpshooters, also known as Morgan's Riflemen or Morgan's Rifles led by Colonel Daniel Morgan, were a decisive force in the American Revolutionary War. Armed with advanced long rifles, such as the Pennsylvania or Kentucky rifles, they boasted a doubled effective range compared to standard muskets, marking them as elite light infantry.

Diverging from the norm, Morgan's Sharpshooters wore hunting shirts instead of traditional military uniforms, signaling their departure from conventional warfare. Their distinctive appearance foreshadowed their unorthodox hit-and-run guerrilla tactics.

Under Morgan's command, the Provisional Rifle Corps became a formidable entity within the northern army led by Gen. Horatio Gates. Executing rapid and successful attacks on British-aligned Indian allies, these unpredictable skirmishes confounded British intelligence, providing a crucial strategic edge to the American forces.

Morgan's Sharpshooters' impact unfolded in the Battle of Bemis Heights and the Battle of Saratoga. They not only drove back advancing British units but orchestrated a pivotal right flank attack, compelling a decisive British retreat. Their effectiveness in these engagements underscored their pivotal role in the overall success of the American forces during the Revolutionary War.





# THE FRENCH-AMERICAN ALLIANCE



## FRENCH NAVY SHIPS IN ACTION IN THE BATTLE OF THE CHESAPEAKE

A crucial battle that took place near the mouth of Chesapeake Bay on September 5, 1781, just prior to the decisive American victory at Yorktown. This necessary French support - ground & naval - was made possible by the providential victory at Saratoga in October 1777.

The seismic victory at Saratoga proved to be the decisive turning point of the Revolutionary War as it enabled Benjamin Franklin to finally persuade the French crown to militarily support the American cause.

Burgoyne's surrender at Saratoga, coupled with the prior American victories at Fort Stanwix and Bennington, led directly to the alliances between the United States and France as well as with the Netherlands which ultimately financed much of the new nation's debts. On December 6, 1777, Charles Gravier, comte de Vergennes, the French Foreign Minister, agreed to the American

request for a military alliance in the wake of the victory at Saratoga. The Franco-American Treaty of Amity and Commerce and the Treaty of Alliance were signed in Paris on February 6, 1778 by Comte de Vergennes and an American delegation comprised of Benjamin Franklin, Arthur Lee, and Silas Deane. Both treaties were ultimately approved by King Louis XVI in early March 1778.

Most notably, on March 13, 1778, the French minister in London informed King George III that France recognized the United States as an independent and sovereign nation.



# Saratoga & Yorktown

## VICTORIES FOREVER LINKED.

When General Charles Cornwallis surrendered at Yorktown on October 19, 1781, more than half of General George Washington's total force strength was comprised of French ground (led by Marshal Jean-Baptiste Donatien de Vimeur, comte de Rochambeau) and naval support (under the command of François Joseph Paul, comte de Grasse). This strategic support was made possible solely by the decisive victory at Saratoga four years earlier on October 17, 1777. Less than two years later, the American Revolutionary War was formally ended, with the signing of The Treaty of Paris on September 3, 1783.



*"We must never forget our victory at Yorktown, nor the date October 17, 1777 as this earlier triumph brought our courageous and loyal French allies into the war."*  
-General George Washington



# WE NEED YOU

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*Calling cinematic & music legends*  
KELSEY GRAMMER, TOM HANKS, GARY SINISE,  
DENZEL WASHINGTON, *and other icons:*

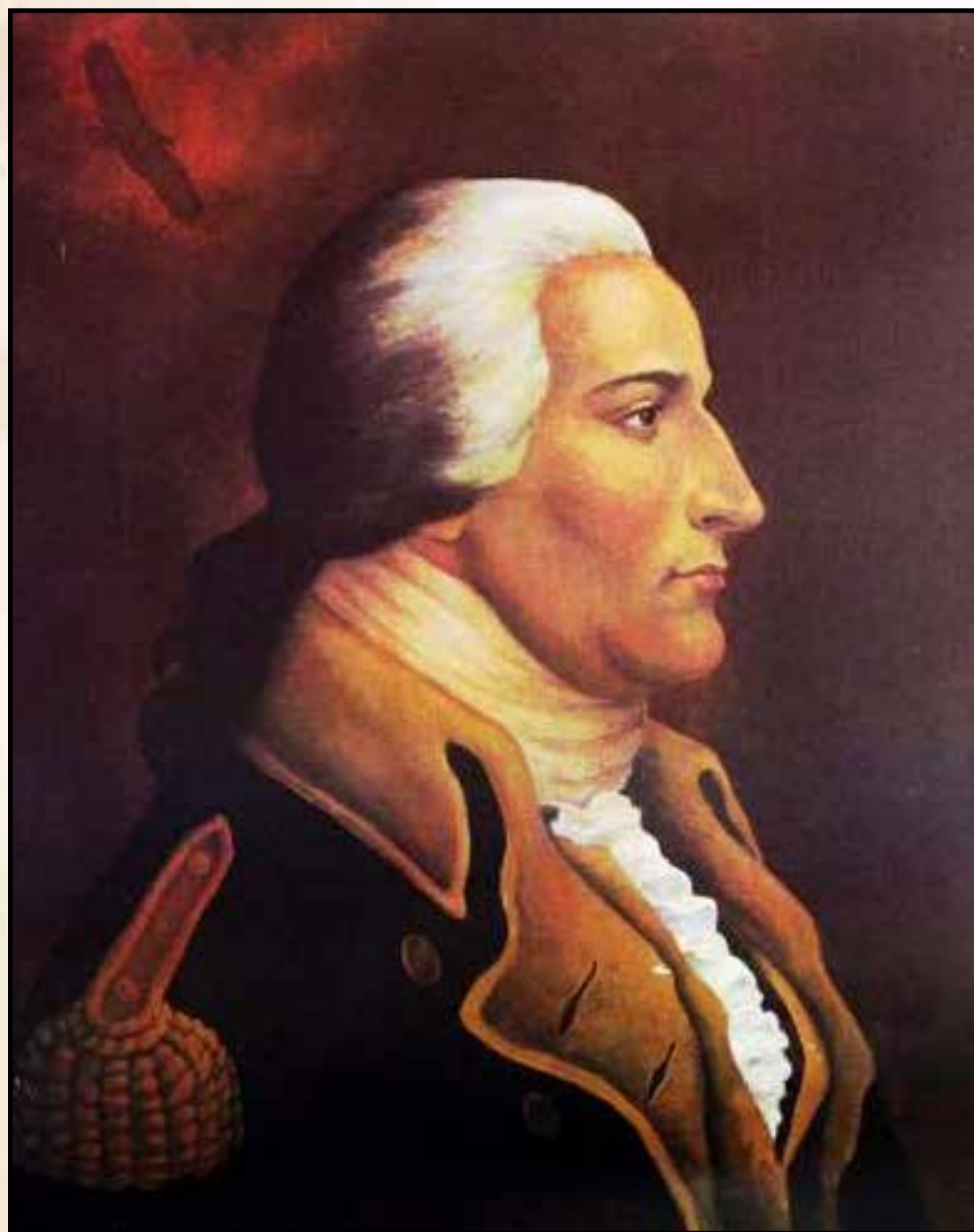
Join America's veterans in the noble effort to make the story of how the America's fight for independence was saved at Saratoga into a motion picture masterpiece and multi-season series, in time for the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution.

*"Many are Called, but few are Chosen..."*



# THE PATRIOTS

*key characters and cast considerations*



## *General Benedict Arnold*

Fiery, fierce commander in battle. A hero at the Battles of Saratoga. Was overlooked by Congress for his heroics and leadership in battle in Canada, bypassed as commander of the Northern Forces. Loved by his troops and at odds with Gates over strategy.

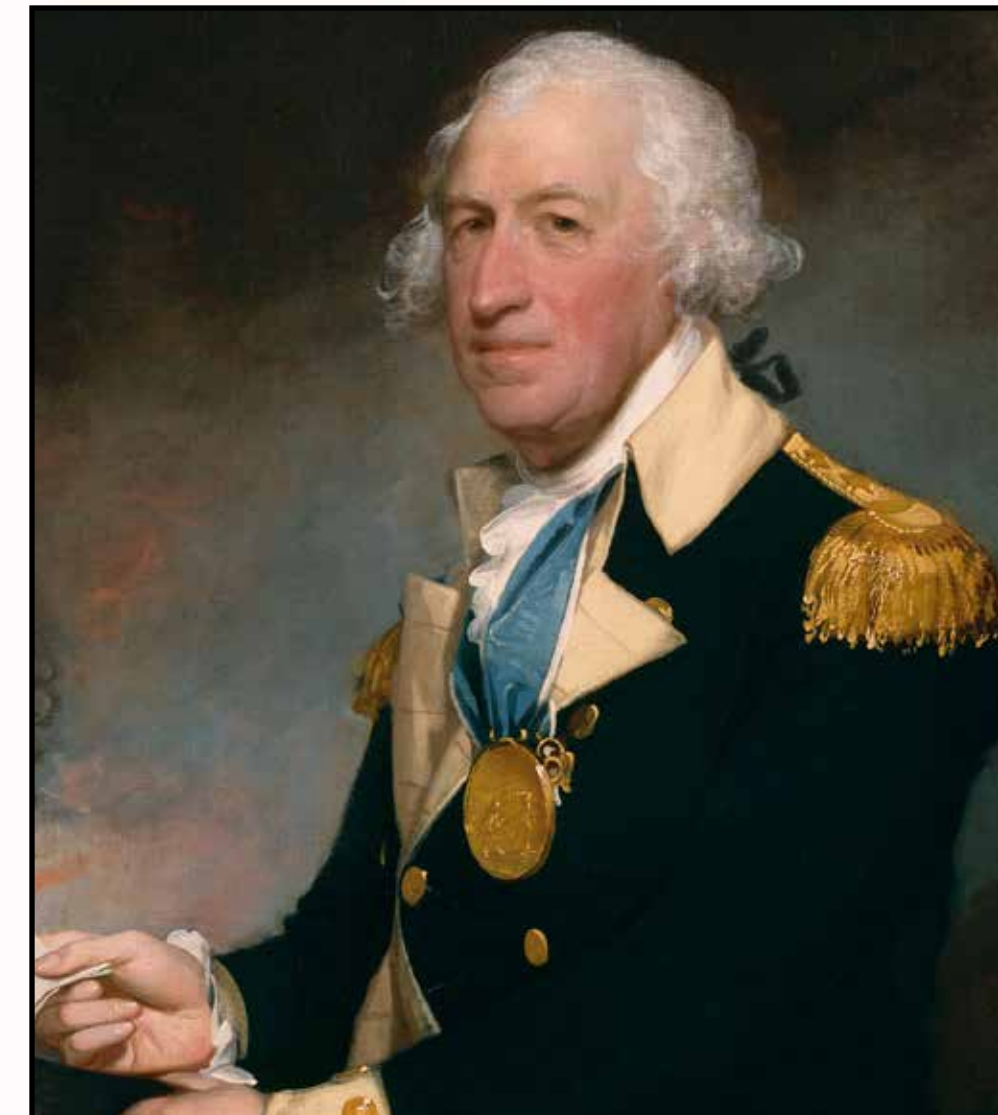
### POTENTIAL CASTING:



Hugh Jackman



Chris Hemsworth



## *General Horatio Gates*

General of the Northern Continental Army. Dubbed "Granny Gates," for having little personal courage when it came to fighting, Portly. Jealous of Benedict Arnold's military prowess and leadership. Served the British Army during the French and Indian War. Now fights for the colonists.

### POTENTIAL CASTING:



Gary Sinise



Tom Hanks





## *Timothy Murphy (sniper)*

At the Battle of Bemus Heights (Second Battle of Saratoga) on October 7, 1777, Timothy is reputed to have fired two shots that found their mark and sent the British command of the battle into complete confusion. The first shot killed Sir Francis Clerke and the second cut off the life of General Simon Fraser.

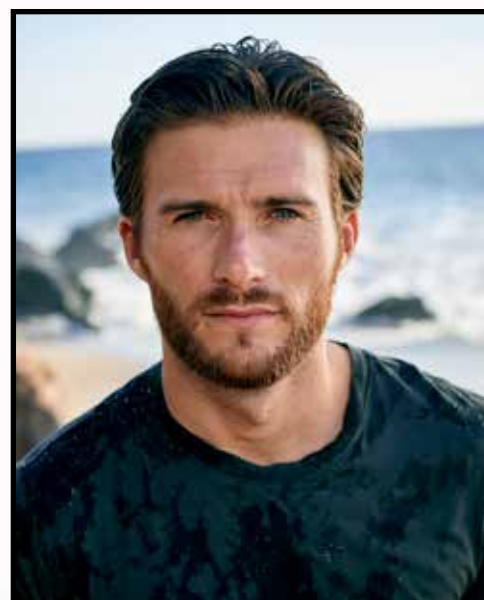
POTENTIAL CASTING:



Ryan Reynolds



Mark Wahlberg

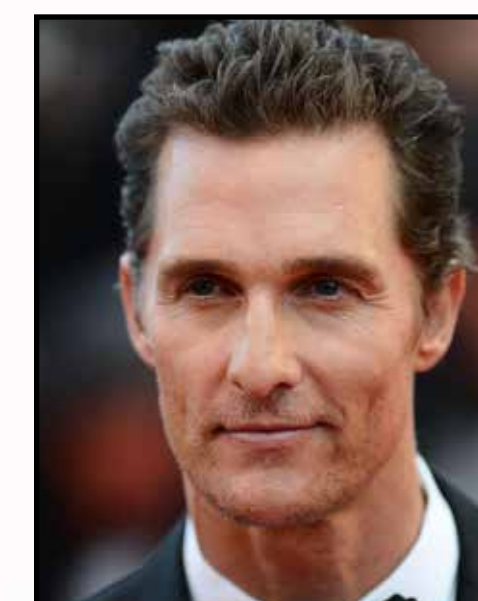


Scott Eastwood



## *Colonel James Wilkinson*

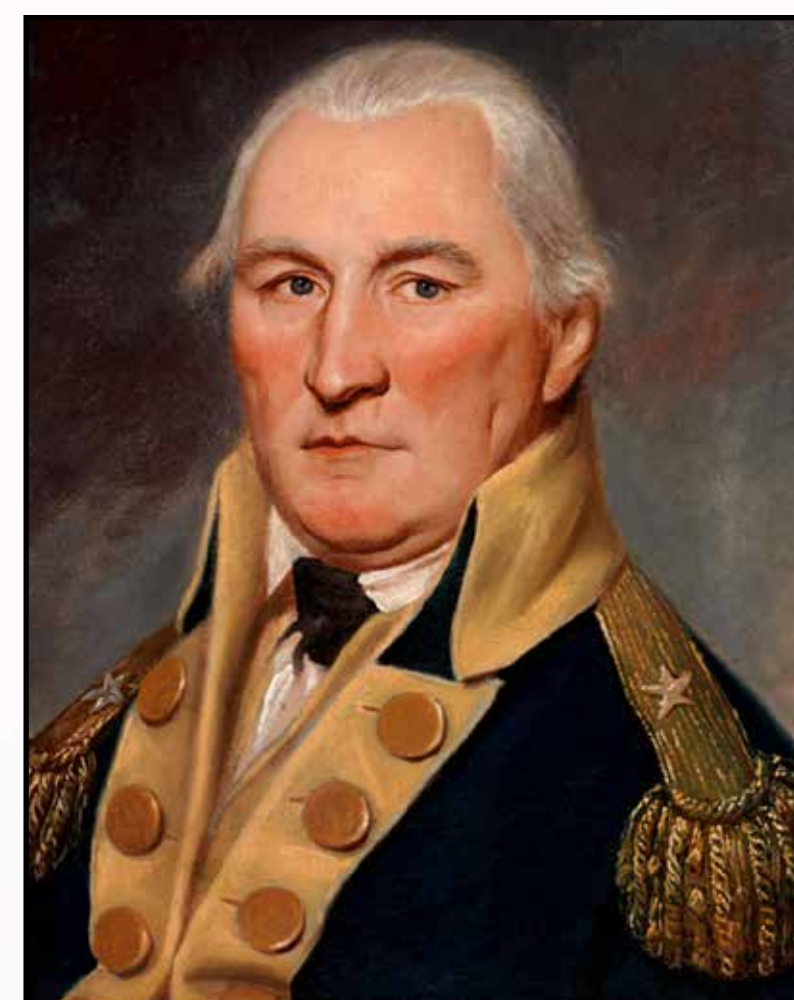
POTENTIAL CASTING:



Matthew McConaughey



Damien Lewis

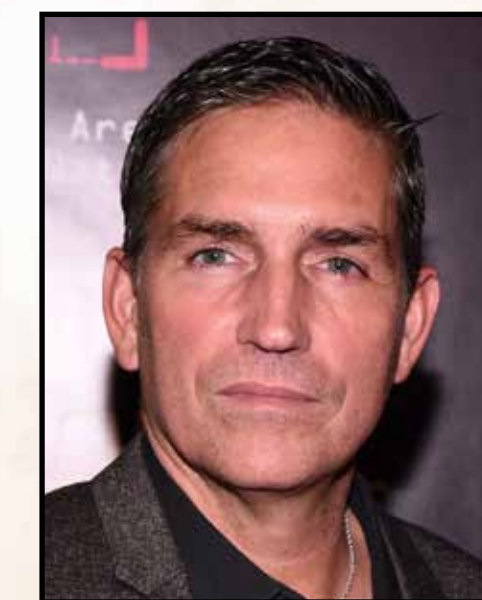


## *Colonel Daniel Morgan*

POTENTIAL CASTING:



Kevin Sorbo



James Caviezel





*Tadeusz (Thaddeus) Kosciuszko*



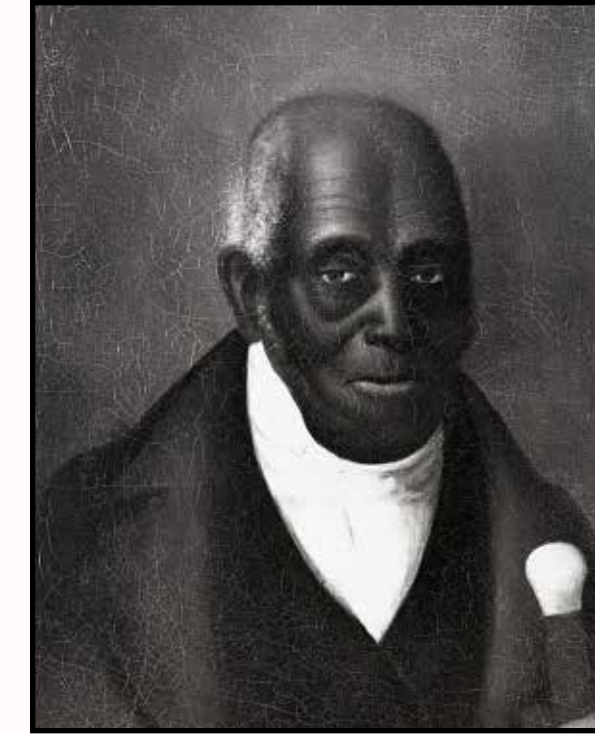
Marcin Kowalczyk



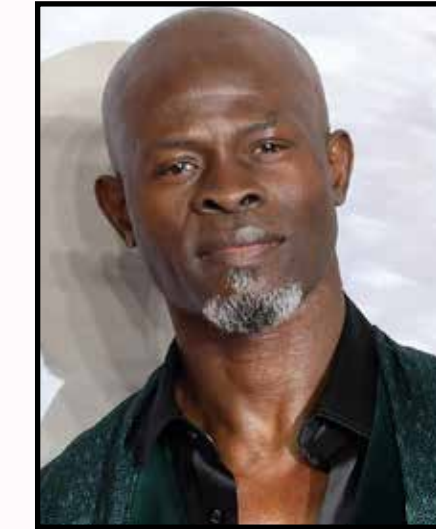
Mateusz Kosciukiewicz



Antoni Pawlicki



*Agrippa Hull*



Djimon Hounsou



Trevante Rhodes



*George Washington*



Liam Neeson



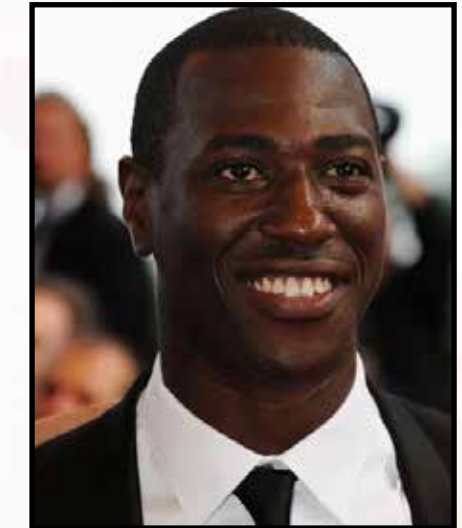
Neal McDonough



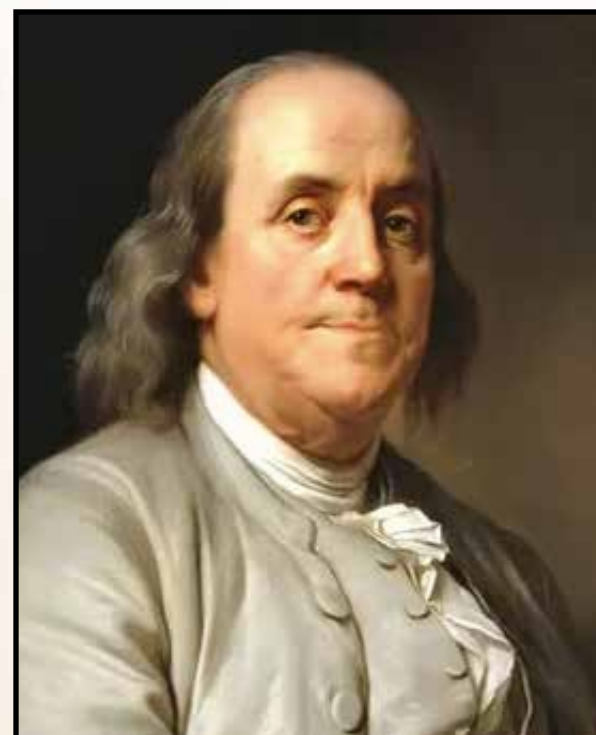
*Peter Salem*



Dennis Haysbert



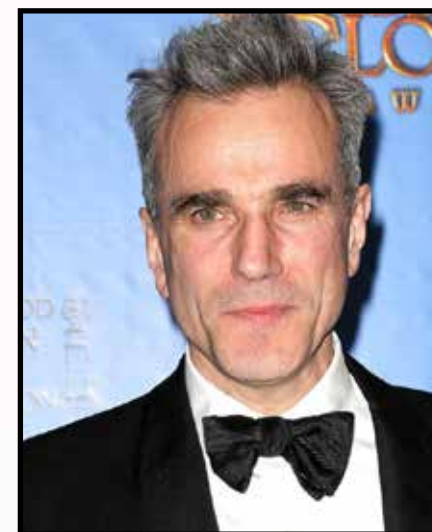
Jacky Ido



*Benjamin Franklin*



Kelsey Grammer



Daniel Day Lewis



*Jane McCrea*



Elizabeth Banks



Margot Robbie



# THE BRITS

*key characters and cast considerations*



## *General John Burgoyne*

Handsome, Intelligent British General. Affectionally dubbed "Gentleman Johnny" by the soldiers he commanded. Well educated, overly confident Member of Parliament, Playwright, Gambler, Womanizer. Led British invasion from Montreal to Albany.



Christian Bale



Benedict Cumberbatch



## *General Simon Fraser*

Scottish- born, Brigadier General, Burgoyne's first in command who was killed in the Battle of Bemus Heights during the Saratoga Campaign, shot through the intestines by Timothy Murphy, an American rifleman.



James McAvoy



Ewan McGregor



## *General Von Riedesiel*

German born, was put in Command of all German, Artillery and American Indian forces during the campaign. His wife Frederika and infant daughters accompanied him during the journey.



Alexander Fehling



Daniel Brühl



# THE BRITISH



*Charles Gravier*



Benoit Poelvoorde



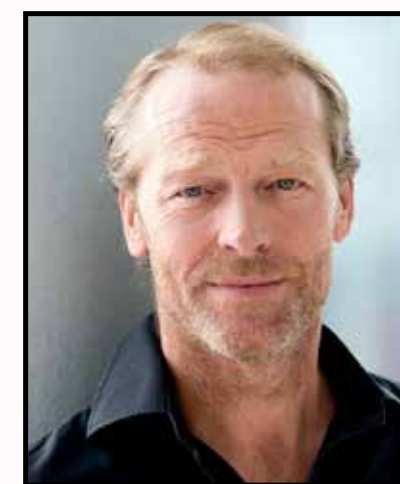
Matthias Schoenaerts



*King George III*



Gary Oldman



Iain Glen



*Lady Riedesel*



Diane Kruger

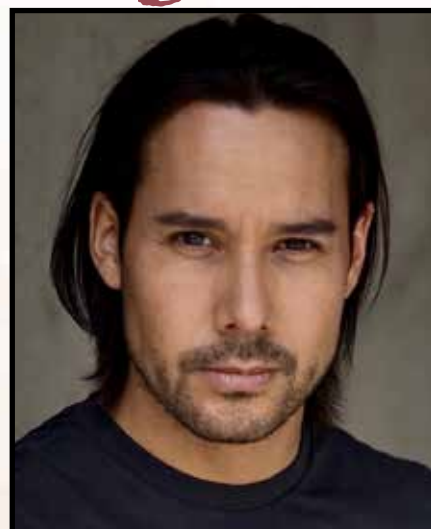


Franka Potente

*Algonquin Chief*



Rudy Youngblood

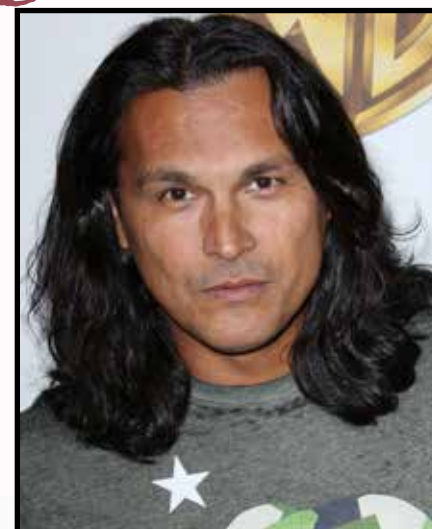


Justin Rain

*Oneida Chief*



Martin Sensmeir



Adam Beach

*Oneida Woman*



Julia Jones



Q'orianka Kilcher

*Burgoyne's Mistress*



Kate Winslet



# LOOK BOOK

OUR MISSION IS TO DEVELOP A TIMELESS, ENDURING, AND ICONIC MOTION PICTURE THAT EVOCATIVELY AND COMPELLINGLY TELLS THE STORY OF SARATOGA. This independent feature film project will aim to vividly depict the dramatic events and autumn grandeur that set New York's Upper Hudson Valley ablaze in 1777.

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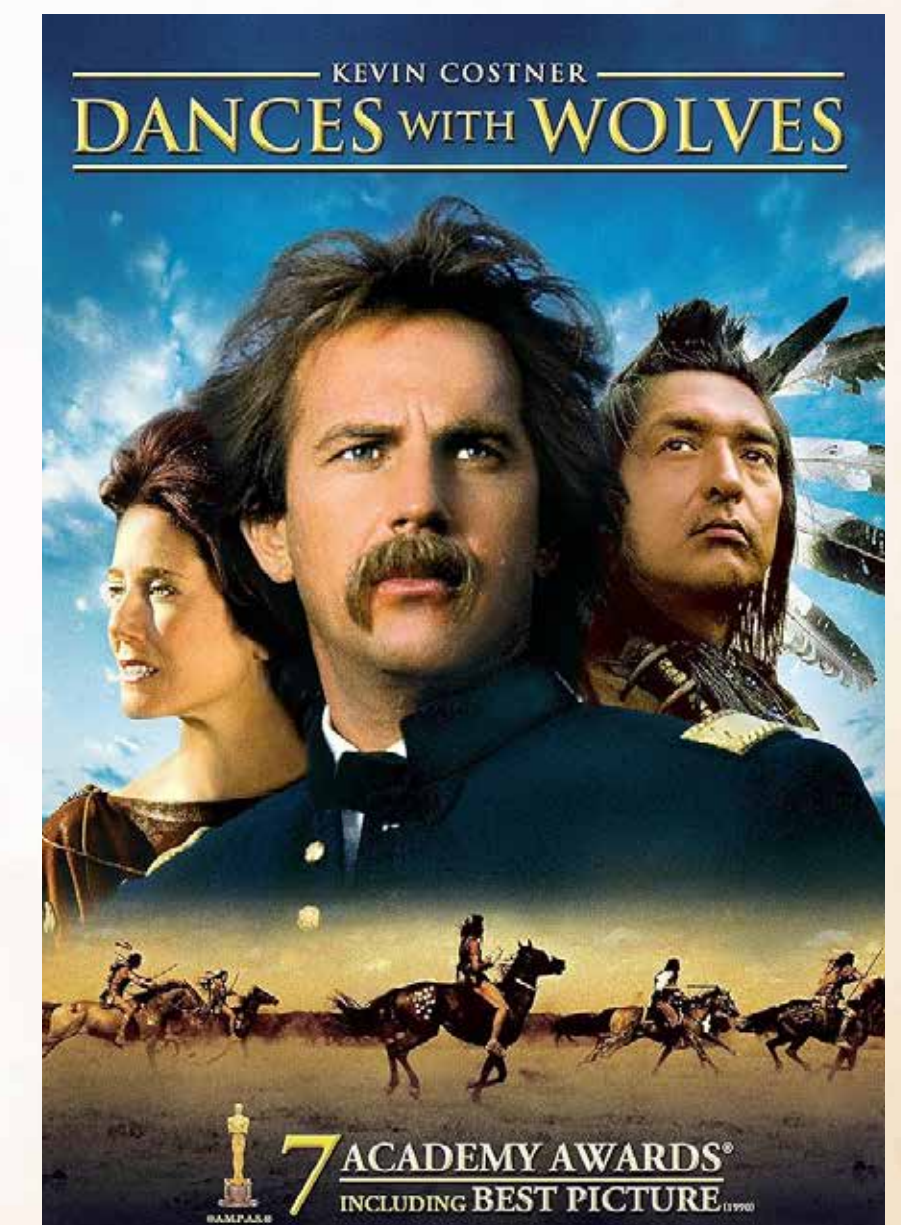
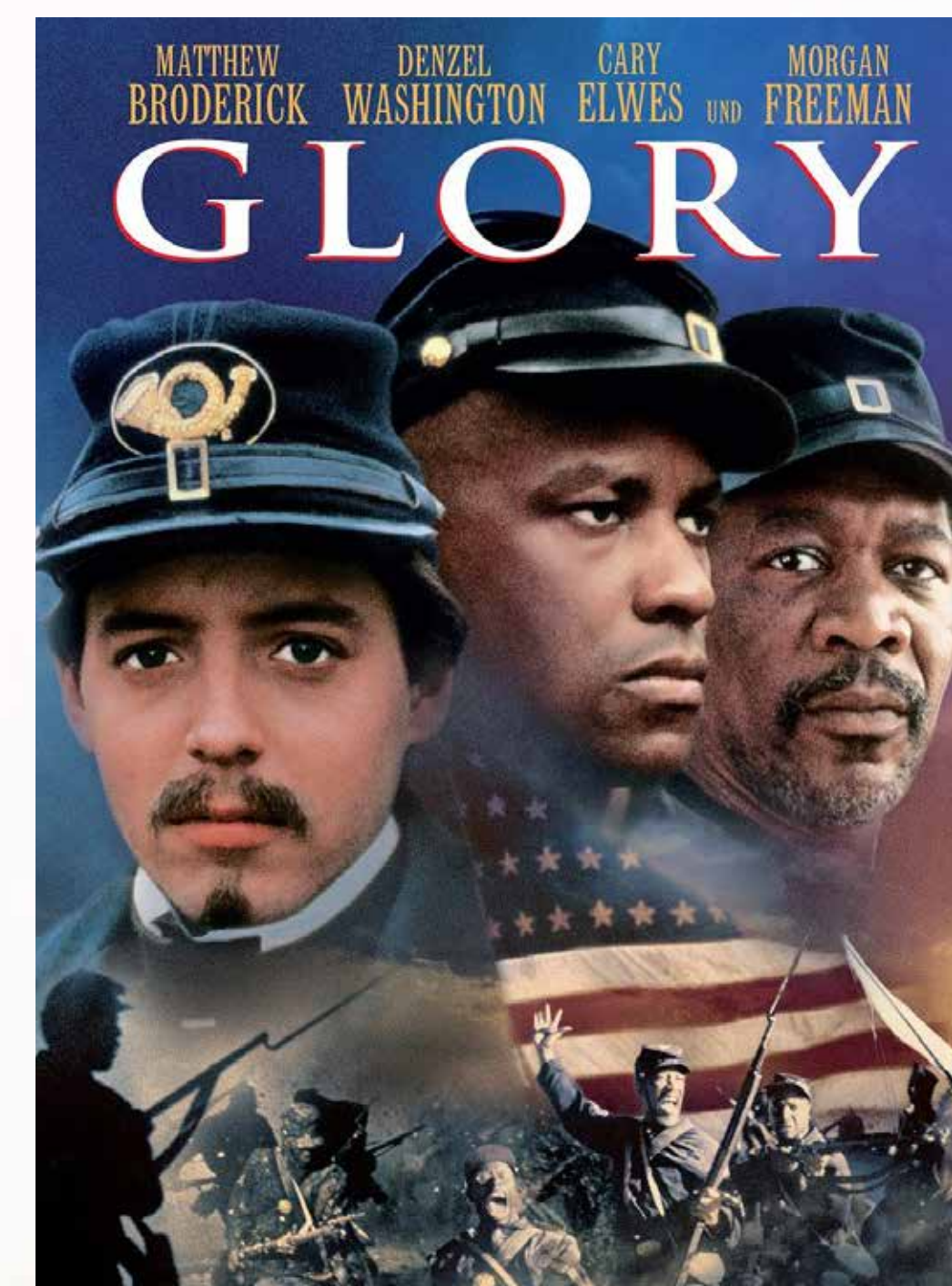
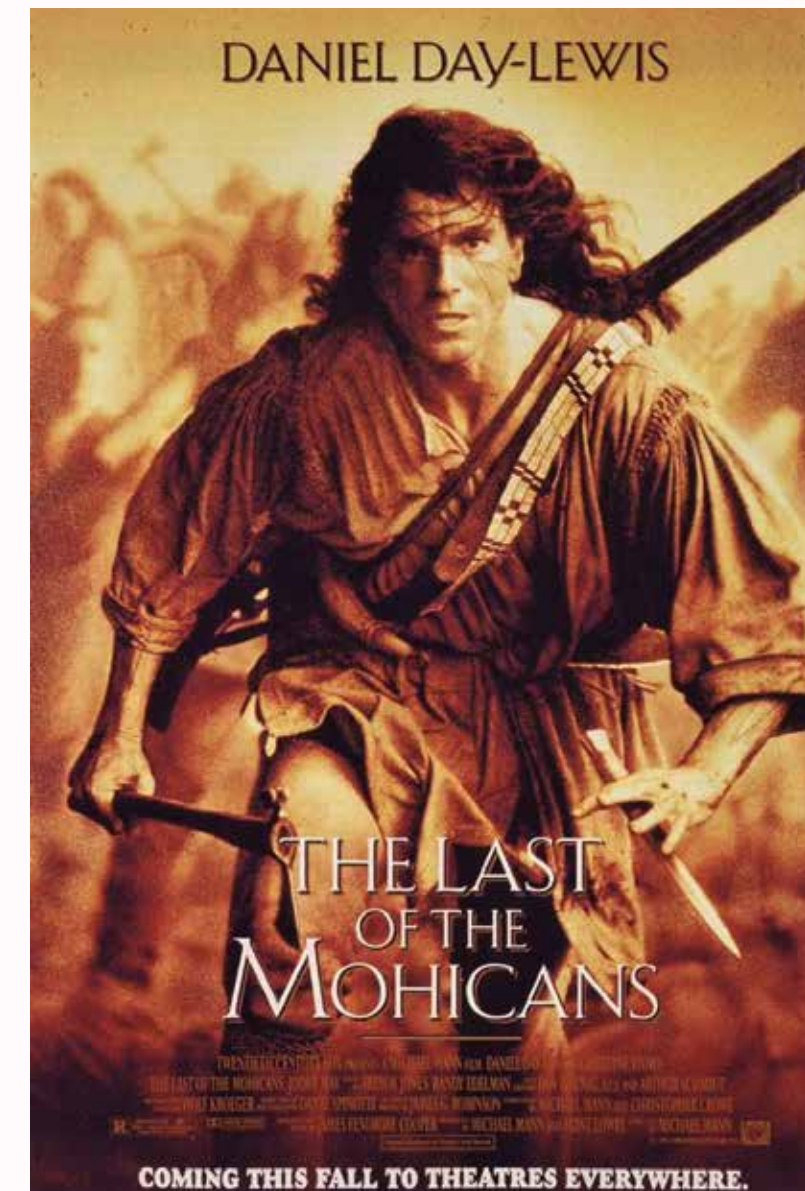




# *Superior* CINEMATOGRAPHY, SOUNDTRACK, DIRECTING, CASTING.

*Similar to Last of the Mohicans; Dances with Wolves; Glory; and Saving Private Ryan.*

This feature film project aspires to capture the cinematic essence of timeless classics like "Last of the Mohicans," "Dances with Wolves," "Glory," and "Saving Private Ryan." Our vision encompasses cinematography that transports viewers to breathtaking landscapes and pivotal moments in history, just as these films did. The soundtrack will evoke emotions, drawing inspiration from the powerful scores that enriched the storytelling in these iconic movies. Our commitment to directing will ensure a compelling narrative that resonates with audiences, while the casting will bring together a talented ensemble, mirroring the authenticity and depth of characters found in the mentioned films. In essence, our project aims to deliver a cinematic experience that leaves an indelible mark, much like the revered classics that have come before it.





# NOTABLE COMPARABLES

## *Hollywood's War-Themed Films*

Hollywood has always had a fascination with epic, historical, war themed films. From the early classics like "Birth of a Nation" and "Gone With the Wind" to contemporary favorites like "Saving Private Ryan," "Fury," "American Sniper," and "Lone Survivor." Additionally, current television hits set in the Revolutionary War era include AMC's "Turn: Washington's Spies" and the History Channel's "Sons of Liberty." One of the primary goals of our feature film, "Saratoga: The Turning Point" is to reach a global audience and be embraced by viewers worldwide. We are truly offering a unique opportunity for investment (donations) with minimal risk.





# OUR MISSION

*Spread the word from one veteran & patriot to another.*

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Our crucial mission cannot be completed without your help.

*We are calling on America's patriots and veterans to:*

- Generously support this noble project which was started more than 10 years ago.
- Please spread the word so that this incredible story can reach the silver screen by October 17, 2027, the 250th anniversary of the victory at Saratoga, the decisive turning point of the American War for Independence. This stirring triumph saved the American Revolution; changed the destiny of a nation; and the course of world history.

Please join our effort now and help us bring this forgotten story to the world. The soldiers who served and sacrificed at Saratoga bravely did their part. Now, let's do our part!

*Together, we can do this.*





# LOCATION

*Fort Ticonderoga, Fort Stanwix, Stillwater, Oriskany & Walloomsac NY*

form New York's "Turning Point Trail" (part of the state's storied "Path Through History").

This trail – consisting of Fort Ticonderoga, whose cannons were used to end the protracted Boston Siege in March 1776 – which strategically commands unrivaled vistas of the majestic Champlain Valley, the Adirondack High Peaks and the Green Mountains; Walloomsac, NY, actual site of the Battle of Bennington (where Burgoyne's foraging force was routed in August 1777, a harbinger of the ultimate outcome of his ill-fated campaign); and, the Saratoga National Historical Park, site of the war's decisive turning point – marks the geographic region of one of the most consequential chapters of the American Revolution.





# *Health. History. Horses.* OPPORTUNITY FOR TRANSFORMATION

When the lights dim at SPAC and the Saratoga Race Track, **it's a moment to shift our focus to the rich history that makes Saratoga County truly special.** This locale holds the essence of the American Revolution, akin to Gettysburg in its significance. It's not just about the past; it's about the potential to shape the future.

Through this film project, we have a unique chance to breathe new life into Saratoga County, propelling it forward. By harnessing the power of storytelling, we can captivate and inspire audiences, both near and far, with the untold stories that reside within these historic grounds. This endeavor isn't just about preserving history; it's about igniting a renaissance, a rebirth that will elevate our community to new heights. **Together, we can make history come alive, ensuring that Saratoga County shines even brighter in the years to come.**



# OUR TEAM

## VETERAN-OWNED AND OPERATED

The project's talented leadership team is comprised of preeminent military historians; U.S. military veterans, and those who proudly hail from military families; veterans of the motion picture and entertainment industry; and, by individuals who grew up, were educated, lived, and worked in New York's Upper Hudson Valley.



*Mark O'Rourke, Esq.*

**PRODUCER / MANAGING MEMBER**

**SARATOGA SPRINGS, NY**

Over the years, as a Boy Scout, U.S. Army R.O.T.C. cadet, member of the U.S. Army, and as a grateful citizen, I have proudly visited numerous American battlefields and historical sites where our very freedoms were courageously fought for and secured by patriots that often are not sufficiently remembered.

I am a member of the National Eagle Scout Association; the American Legion; the New York State Fraternal Order of Police; Ducks Unlimited; the NYS Bar Association; and St. John's University Law School's Alumni Board of Directors.



*Robert Burris*

**SCREENWRITER**

**LOS ANGELES, CA**



*James Kirby  
Martin, Ph.D.*

**HISTORIAN & SENIOR ADVISOR**

**HOUSTON, TX**



*Col. Kevin  
Weddle, Ph.D.*

**HISTORIAN & SENIOR ADVISOR,  
U.S. ARMY, RETIRED**

**CARLISLE, PA**





*Alex Johnson*  
**SENIOR ADVISOR**  
WASHINGTON, D.C.



*Patrick Toomey*  
**SENIOR ADVISOR**  
SARATOGA SPRINGS, NY



*Todd Vandervort*  
**SENIOR ADVISOR**  
ALBANY, NY



*Jane Vandervort*  
**SENIOR ADVISOR**  
ALBANY, NY



*Matthew Walter*  
**SENIOR ADVISOR**  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

CREATIVE



*Justin Cerone*  
CONTENT CREATOR,  
32 MILE PRODUCTIONS



*Kelsey Sherman*  
CREATIVE DIRECTOR,  
FIVE TOWERS MEDIA



*Michael Nelson*  
CO-FOUNDER & PARTNER,  
FIVE TOWERS MEDIA



*Rosetta Annino*  
JR. CREATIVE DIRECTOR  
FIVE TOWERS MEDIA

LEGAL



*Bob Wise, Esq.*  
WISE ENTERTAINMENT LAW



*Mark Ustin, Esq.*  
FARRELL FRITZ, PC



*Stacey Goldstein, Esq.*  
FARRELL FRITZ, PC



*Pina Campagna, Esq.*  
CARTER, DELUCA & FARRELL



# Founder's Special Request

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While there are many bona fide and very worthy local, regional, and national institutions and organizations - both public and private - that are diligently preparing to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the American War for Independence and the nation's founding, **I humbly ask that you carefully make a truly informed decision as to which efforts to support financially.**

To this end, I respectfully ask that you thoughtfully acknowledge that many of these established institutions and organizations are the recipients of very substantial public support - **that is often wholly subsidized by taxpayer money** - that is provided directly by government at the municipal, county, state, and federal levels. Notably, these entities have long enjoyed this sustained governmental and taxpayer support for many years, often for decades. Additionally, these entities also receive significant support from corporations and foundations as well.

In sharp contrast, **the success of this veteran owned film project** - which is dedicated to telling the story of how the nation's first veterans saved the American Revolution at Saratoga - **is wholly**

**dependent on support from the private sector and the generosity of our fellow citizens.** Please know that this compelling film will simply not reach the silver screen without the timely and generous support of the nation's patriots, veterans, and private sector.

With the approach of the 250th anniversary of the nation's fight for independence and founding, we ask that you make a very considered judgment and look to pointedly support efforts such as this independent film project that truly needs your generous support.

**The heroes that saved the American Revolution at Saratoga did their part when all appeared to be lost and America desperately needed a miracle in the early autumn of 1777. Now, another miracle is indeed needed.**

**We must do our part to bring this story to the widest possible audience in time for the 250th anniversary of the victory at Saratoga on October 17, 2027.**

**Please support this mission that seeks to honor America's heroic origins and our national heritage.**



# CONTACT.

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FOR MORE INFO ON THE PROJECT:

email: [info@1777.org](mailto:info@1777.org)

website: [1777.org](http://1777.org) • [battlesofsaratoga.com](http://battlesofsaratoga.com)

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JOIN OUR MISSION. *We Need You*