

A man with a beard and long hair, wearing a blue coat and a hat, stands in a field. The background is a vast, open landscape under a hazy sky.

A RIVER OF FIRE

PITCHBOOK BY:
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HI, I'M JAKE EBRIGHT

Jake Ebright is an American actor from Baltimore, Maryland. He is known for Sync and Good Trouble. Before moving to Los Angeles to begin his professional career, he graduated magna cum laude from the University of Pennsylvania where he took his first acting classes. He is also the award-winning director, writer, and producer of Good Men and Unicorns.



02/15

SYNOPSIS

LOGLINE

A Civil War Army captain testifies against his ruthless commanding officer, risking everything to reveal the truth about a massacre of Cheyenne Indians he called friends.

SYNOPSIS

Cpt. Silas Soule enters a Denver saloon to find Col. John Chivington glorifying his attack on the Cheyenne. Silas is tormented for being an Indian sympathizer. Outside, Hersa Coberly expresses her concern for his safety. That night, talk of their future is interrupted by an attack on Silas. Hersa nearly convinces Silas to leave town but he decides to stay in order to testify to the atrocities committed by Chivington at the Battle of Sand Creek. Disgraced, Chivington seeks vengeance. Silas kills Chivington in a gunfight but is mortally wounded. Seeing visions of Cheyenne children laughing and playing, Silas knows he will soon be at peace in heaven.



03/15



DIRECTOR'S VISION

Inspired by true events, A River of Fire is a proof of concept short film born out of a year's worth of research and writing on a feature film by the same name.

Like High Noon, its themes are integrity, moral courage, and an individual's duty to stand up to injustice, even when standing alone.

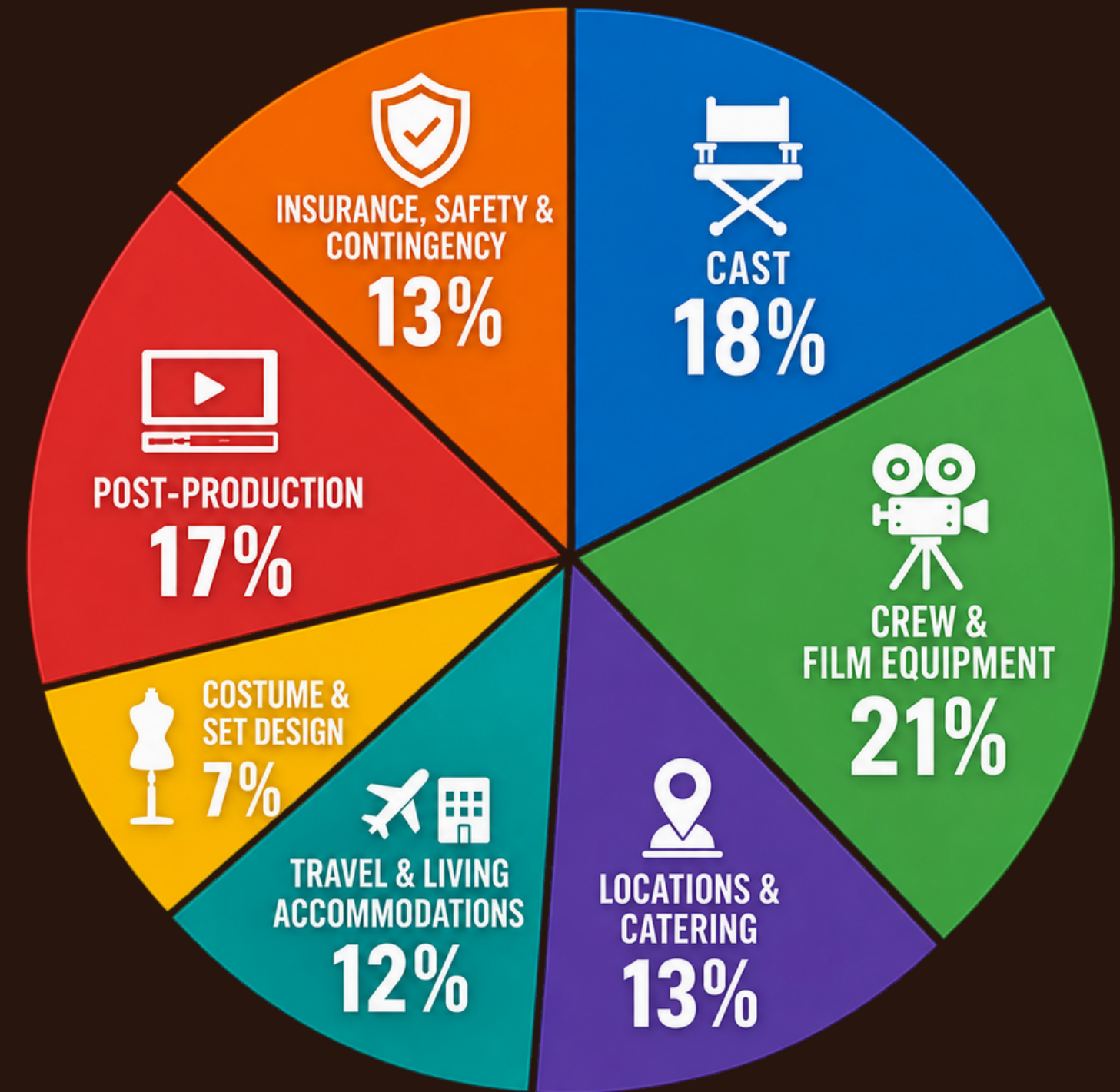
A River of Fire is a testament to the power of truth and a timeless story about the struggle of good versus evil.



FINANCIAL PLAN

05/15

A big challenge for any period piece is creating the world in which it takes place. Factoring in costumes and locations, we will achieve this worldbuilding with a budget of \$40,000.



CAST

06/15



JAKE EBRIGHT

Jake plays Silas Soule, a courageous cavalry captain. Jake received a Best Actor Award from the American Filmatic Arts Awards, Brooklyn for his lead role in Hero.



LEAH GROSJEAN

Leah plays Hersa Coberly, a strong-willed frontier woman. Leah's recent credits include a principal role in Netflix's The Gringo Hunters.



PETER ZIZZO

Peter plays John Chivington, an ambitious cavalry colonel. Peter's recent credits include a guest-starring role in J.J. Abrams' Duster.

CAST

07/15



TRAVIS HAMMER

Travis plays Jacob Downing, a wolfish army lawyer. Travis's recent credits include a recurring role in NCIS: Origins.



PETER O'CONNOR

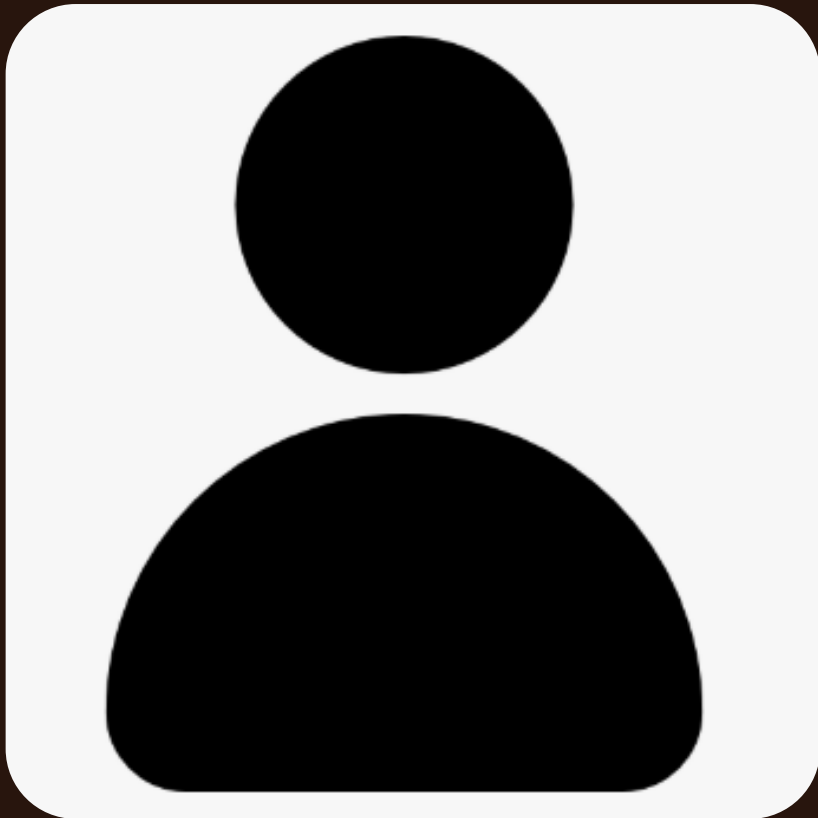
Peter plays Luther Wilson, a tall-tale-telling army lieutenant. Peter was an understudy for the Center Theater Group & Mark Taper Forum's 2025 production of Hamlet.



JAKE OLSON

Jake plays Samuel Tappan, a principled cavalry Lt. Col. Jake recently starred alongside Billy Bob Thornton in Taylor Sheridan's Landman.

CREW



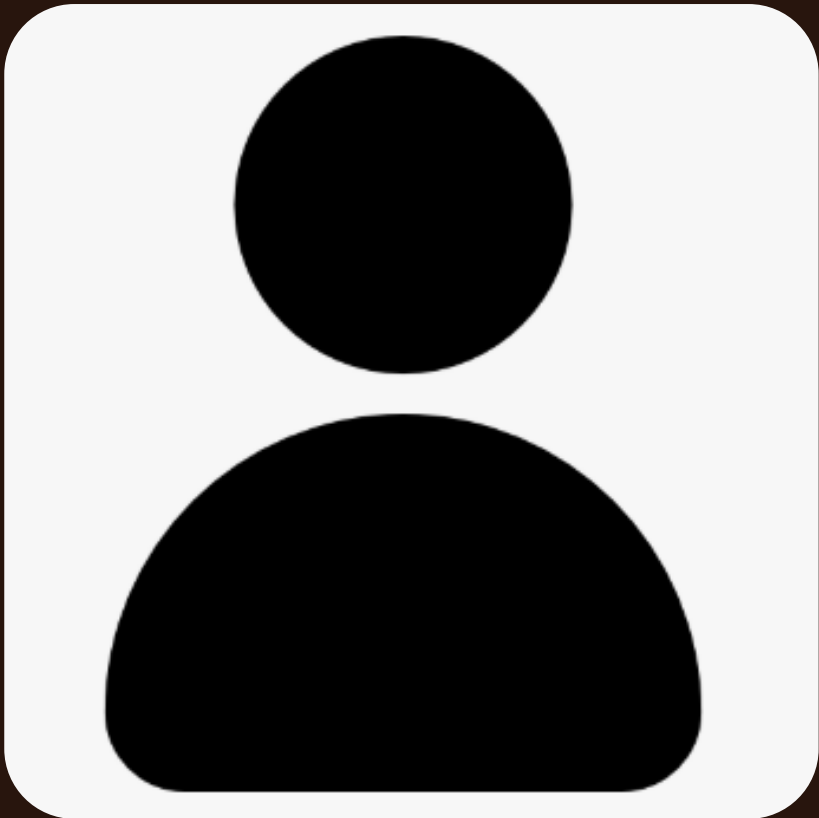
CINEMATOGRAPHER

To be determined.



MAXIMILIEN BLANC

Max is an award-winning editor whose work on Sweetbriar helped win the Audience Award at the 2025 SXSW Film Festival.



COMPOSER

To be determined.

LOOK REFERENCE

09/15

A River of Fire draws inspiration on its look from Italian-directed westerns like *The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly*; *Once Upon a Time in the West*; and *Tombstone*. In moments of highest tension, characters convey emotions through subtle facial expressions captured in extreme closeup. Love, vengeance, and justice are poetically channeled through the portal to the soul: the eyes.

THE GOOD, THE BAD, & THE UGLY

Builds tension and anticipation by cutting between extreme close-ups, pulling the viewer in with every glance

ONCE UPON A TIME IN THE WEST

Silence, micro-expression, and musical score communicate as much as character dialogue

TOMBSTONE

Color palette of warm browns, golds, and ambers. Strong, readable close-ups









13/15

FILMING LOCATIONS

Mescal Movie Set will stand in for 1860s Denver, Colorado. Major productions that have filmed here include Tombstone, The Quick and the Dead, and The Outlaw Josey Wales. The historic Tombstone Courthouse will be the set of the trial.

DENVER STREET

28 buildings nestled in authentic cattle country

SALOON

For opening scene where Silas is harassed

COURT ROOM

For the pivotal scene where Silas delivers his testimony



STYLE & COSTUME

Period costumes will be essential for bringing the wild frontier of the 1860s to life. Films such as *Dances with Wolves*, *Glory*, and *Tombstone* will serve as visual guides.

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A River of Fire



THANK YOU