

REALM

STUDIOS

A Return to Hope

Executive Summary for the Motion Picture

Steal Away

Realm Studios is the vanguard of the century's new Independent Studio, a groundbreaking production company that will produce global blockbuster entertainment on a low-cost independent basis. Realm is seeking financing to produce our flagship motion picture *Steal Away*, a \$200 million musical epic that Realm will produce for \$23.5 million (following tax credits). Fully developed and largely cast, the project has undergone extensive creative, financial, and market diligence and is ready to enter preproduction immediately upon capitalization. Based on two beloved books and a popular TV special, *Steal Away*'s screenplay has received high rankings from the industry's premier coverage houses, and Hollywood's leading box-office analytics firm is projecting robust returns across domestic and international platforms. Key creative partners include an internationally renowned Grammy-winning composer and an A-list Broadway artist. Realm's pioneering production, distribution, and promotional models will deliver a high-concept, globally released theatrical feature at a fraction of studio cost, while rigorously protecting investor capital.

And now, presenting...



An apocalyptically divided America

Warring pulpits and gods

**The Queen of England, the Emperor of Germany,
an American President,**

And the epic saga of the world's most unlikely warriors

The year is 1871, the events are real.



STEAL AWAY

*"One of the most breathtaking stories ever known" **

*"Steal Away is a
captivating true story
brilliantly brought to life."*

*"The characters are beautifully
crafted, with poignant scenes and a
vividly painted world. This is a deeply
moving story that had me in tears."*

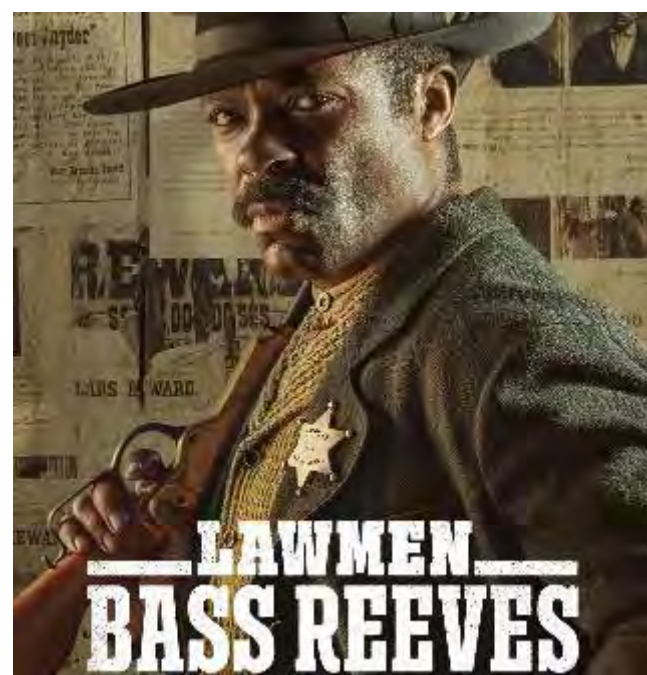
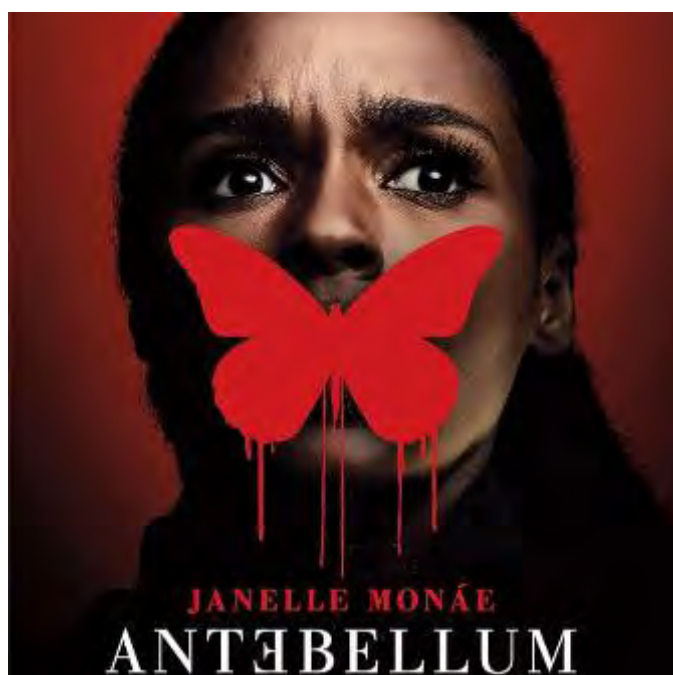
*"Steal Away is Spielbergian, with
romance, humor, heartbreak,
and everything between."*

*"Their story is epic, their
journey is unforgettable.
There's a strong audience
for Steal Away."*

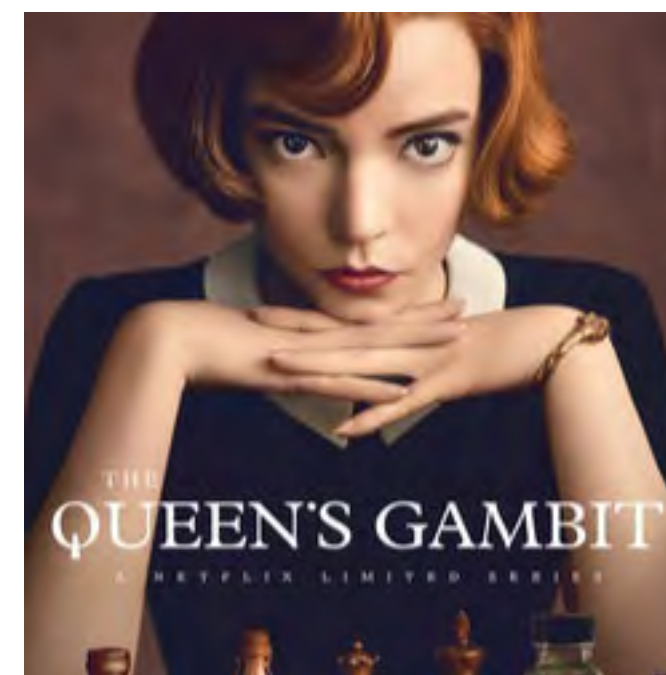
STEAL & AWAY

A Sweeping Musical Epic

Based on two critically acclaimed books — including Andrew Ward’s post-Civil War epic *Dark Midnight When I Rise* — and the TV special *Sacrifice and Glory*, *Steal Away* is the legendary true story of the Fisk Jubilee Singers, a sensational choir of young former slaves fighting the KKK’s reign of terror against their schools, not with bullets or bombs but electrifying songs of faith and freedom. *Steal Away* follows the choir’s spectacular rise from the darkness of slavery to the glittering ballrooms and throne rooms of Europe as they become global Victorian celebrities — then fall prey to their demons and wage war on each other. A breathtaking epic, *Steal Away* will feature a diverse international cast, a Tony-winning Broadway legend, a Grammy-winning composer, and a thundering message of courage, redemption, and hope that will leave audiences cheering from Boston to Berlin.



GAME OF
THRONES™



Meet the Cast...

You know many of them from major motion picture, television, and gaming entertainment.
Others are brilliant artists at the brink of blockbuster careers:





Eugene Simon



Nina Toussaint-White



Trent Mason



Joy Buckle



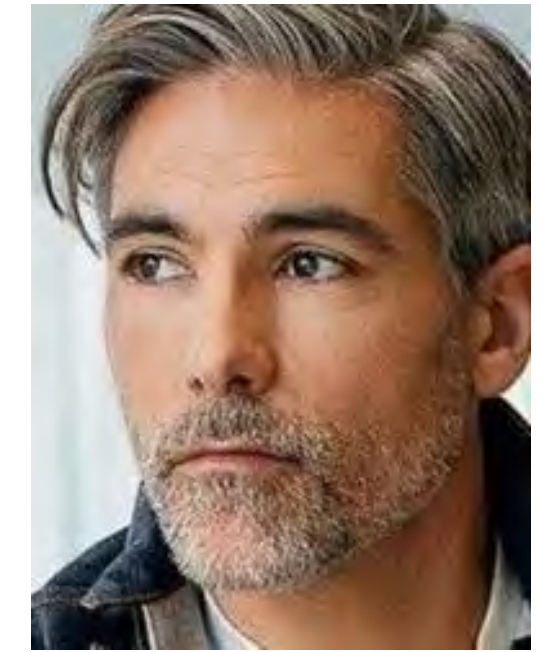
Paul Amos



Tongayi Chirisa



Brittany Shonka



Michael Mau



Lauryn Ford



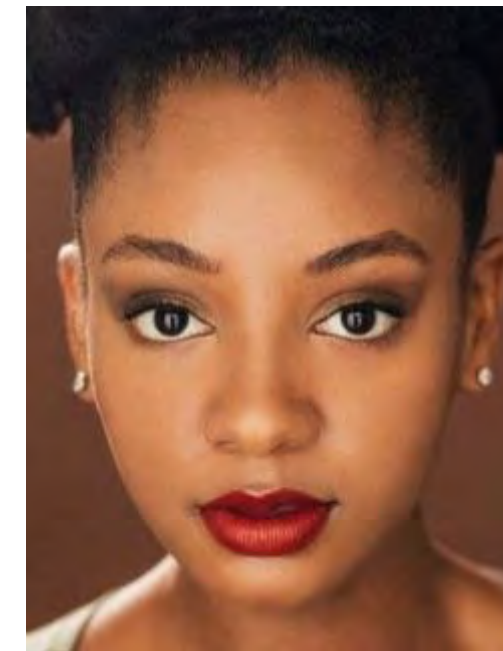
Nicola Ransom



Keith Walker



Jordan Salloum



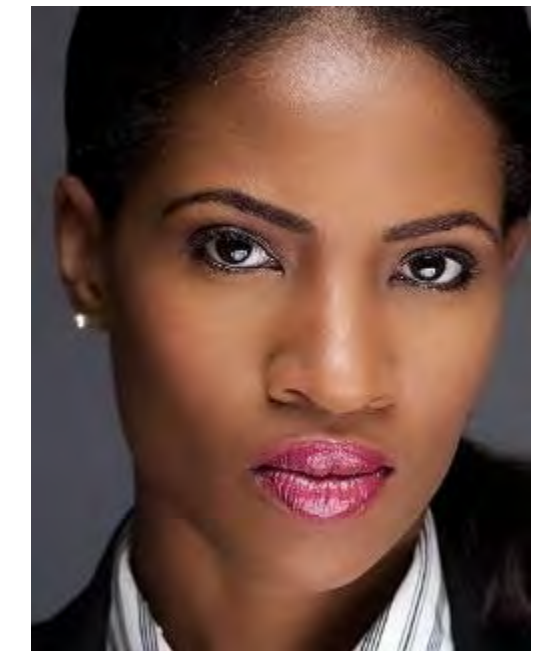
Chakendra Fennell



Bessie Holland



Michael Emery



Jessica Graie



Jeremy Hill



MerryI Ansah



Daniel Lench



Brian Onaghinor



Jay Disney



Gabriel Davenport



Keivonn Woodard



Jonathan Failla



with Broadway legend

Joaquina Kalukango

as Sarah Sheppard

Tony-winner Joaquina Kalukango has brought down the house in Godspell, Ragtime, The Color Purple, Antony and Cleopatra, Into the Woods, Jelly's Last Jam, Paradise Square, How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying, Our Lady of Kibeho, The Wild Party, Hurt Village, and Holler If Ya Hear Me. **Watch her showstopping Tony Awards performance on YouTube by searching for [Joaquina Kalukango – Let It Burn](#)**



and six-time Grammy Composer
Billy Childs

Billy Child's world-famous work includes collaborations with Sting, Alison Krause, Renee Fleming, Wynton Marsalis, Yo-Yo Ma, Chick Corea, Wayne Shorter, Freddie Hubbard, Jack DeJohnette, Dave Holland, Ron Carter, J.J. Johnson, Joe Henderson, Rachel Barton Pine, Anne Akiko Meyers, Esa-Pekka Salonen, The Los Angeles Philharmonic, The Los Angeles Master Chorale, The Detroit Symphony Orchestra, The Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra, The Kronos Quartet, The American Brass Quintet, The Dorian Wind Quintet, The Ying Quartet, and many others. His Holocaust epic "The Voices of Angels" for choir, soloists and orchestra premiered to widespread acclaim at Los Angeles' Walt Disney Concert Hall.

Realm's Production Model:

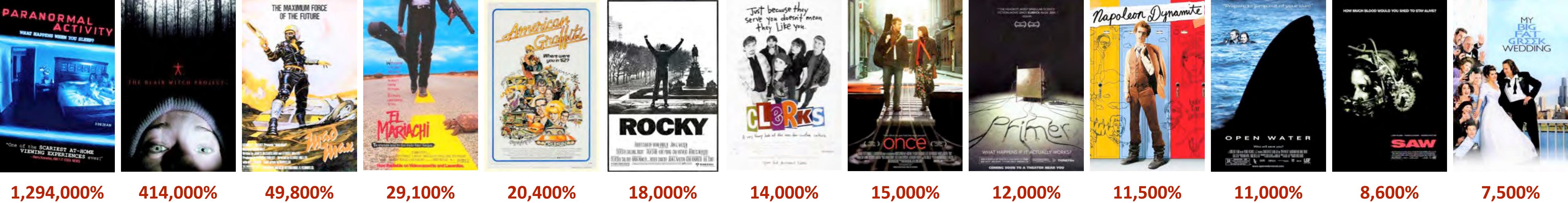
Blockbuster Entertainment on Indie Budgets



STUDIO SYSTEM: ESCALATING CRISIS

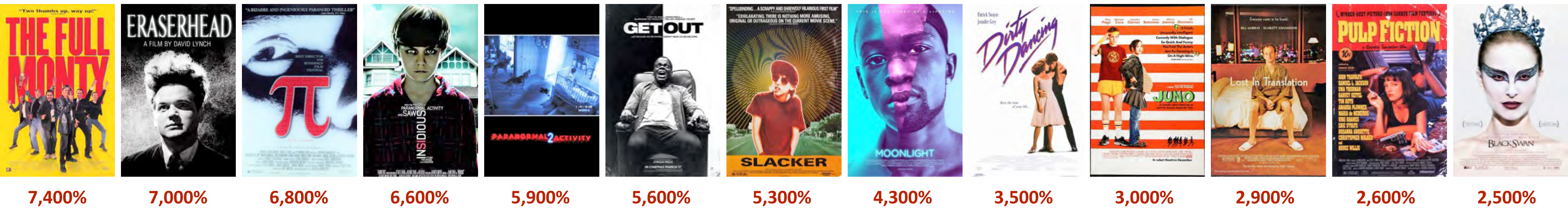
Hollywood has long operated in two competing camps: the **Studio System** and **Independent Production**. While unrivaled in producing global entertainment, the Studio System is now in a spiraling crisis due to a systemic practice that severely impacts the studios' bottom line: **colossal overspending**. Despite star casting and respectable gross revenues, every film on this page lost substantial money, *as do half of all studio releases*. Wasteful production budgets, exorbitant talent and executive deals, and towering corporate fee structures doom 50% of studio releases to net losses while curbing profits for the rest.





INDIE PRODUCTION: VASTLY UNTAPPED POTENTIAL

Meanwhile, Independent Producers have long made profitable films by aggressively slashing waste. **George Lucas** produced the original *Star Wars* for only \$11 million by filming epic battleship scenes in outdoor parking lots and casting electrifying *emerging* artists (Harrison Ford’s salary: \$10,000), delivering a **14,500% return** against its budget and launching a \$65 billion empire. Similarly, the famously tightfisted **Roger Corman** produced nearly 400 profitable films while *launching* the A-list careers of Robert De Niro, Jack Nicholson, James Cameron, Martin Scorsese and many others. The films on this page, shown with their box-office-to-budget returns, are just some of the countless independent productions that have delivered exponential profits. Yet unlike Lucas, most Independent Producers don’t leverage their cost-driven methods to produce high-concept global entertainment, instead making smaller niche films for demographically narrow audiences – and curbing what could be far greater profits.





Until now, the Studio and Independent systems, each time-tested in its own right, have operated in starkly divided camps, each lacking the other's formidable strengths. In a groundbreaking move, Realm is merging them to engineer fiscal waste out of global motion picture production, **producing blockbuster entertainment on cost-driven indie budgets.**



STEAL AWAY

Production Budget: **\$23.5 million vs. \$200 million**

With its epic cast, locations, action sequences and soundtrack, *Steal Away* is a sweeping saga on the scale of *Braveheart* and *Schindler's List* that a Universal or Disney would spend in excess of \$200 million to produce. To budget *Steal Away* with full studio production value on a rigorous cost-disciplined basis, Realm has engaged preeminent line producer Kelly Todd (*Dawn of the Planet of the Apes*). Widely regarded for her fiscal mastery, Todd currently serves as SVP of Feature Production at William Morris Endeavor's Endeavor Content*. Paring all waste and procuring bottom-dollar pricing on all talent, labor, equipment and services, Todd brings *Steal Away* in at \$23.5 million**, a substantial 88% cost savings.

*Recently renamed Fifth Season | **Net budget following tax credits. Gross production budget is \$31.2 million.

Development, **Promotion**, Distribution

Development: Based on Bankable IP

Steal Away is based on two beloved books and TV special that capture the incredible true story of the Fisk Jubilee Singers. The Jubilees were global legends and superstars who commanded millions of fans across America, Europe, and Asia, and a track record of box-office success. Their legacy endures to this day, with the choir earning a Grammy in 2021.

Promotion: Making Global Audiences Vested Stakeholders

Consumers today are passionate about *playing a part* in the entertainment they consume. Disrupting the Studios' notoriously secretive approach to production, Realm is making moviegoers around the world active collaborators in producing *Steal Away*. More than 25,000 fans have already read the script and have shared their love for the story on TikTok, Instagram, YouTube, and Facebook. During production, social media influencers will broadcast the real-time filming of the movie, and Realm will use Zoom technology to record the epic soundtrack with a large international choir and orchestra, transforming global audiences into invested stakeholders in *Steal Away's* box-office success.

Distribution: Global Release without Presales

While perceived as a risk mitigant by many investors, distribution presales actually *erode* net profits due to the inflated premiums charged by sales agents. To eliminate this profit leakage and maximize returns, *Steal Away* will be globally promoted, theatrically premiered, then distributed across worldwide streaming, home video, TV and ancillary platforms, while its highly lucrative merchandising, soundtrack, music publishing and licensing corridors for prequels, sequels, spinoffs, specials, and series are robustly monetized – all without presales.

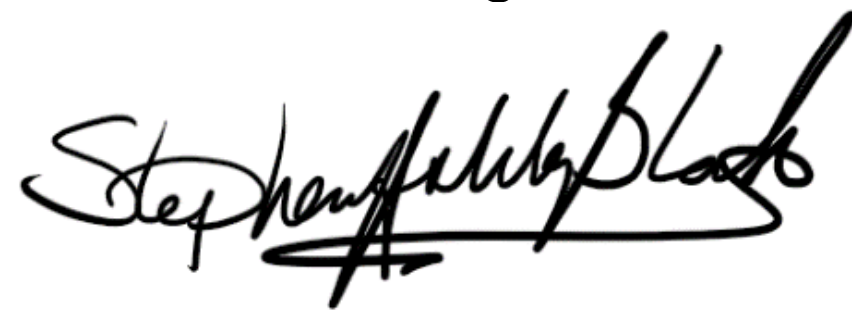
Launching the New Independent Studio System

An arcade operator, a bicycle shop owner, a bowling alley operator, a meat merchant, an ophthalmologist, a shoe repairman, an upholsterer. A century ago, with no prior experience in the entertainment industry, these everyday workmen saw the future, seized their moment, and became silver-screen legends — **Roy Disney, Louis B. Mayer, David O. Selznick, Samuel Goldwyn** and **Carl Laemmle**, among others — and so did their startups: **Disney, MGM, Universal, Paramount, Warner Bros.** and **20th Century Fox**.

Hollywood still rewards visionaries — entertainment giants **Netflix** and **Amazon Studios** were founded by a software developer and a hedge fund manager-turned-bookseller.

Today, with the century-old studio system in need of reinvention, a once-in-a-generation opportunity has emerged. We invite you to take your place among Hollywood's great luminaries and join Realm in forging the Independent Motion Picture Studio of the next century.

With best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Stephen Ashley Blake". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping "S" and a long, horizontal flourish at the end.

Stephen Ashley Blake
Founder/CEO



Realm Studios **Leadership**



Stephen Ashley Blake, Co-Founder and CEO, is a multi-award-winning, 40-year industry veteran with more than 200 motion picture, television, commercial, and music video credits. His work spans productions for Universal, Paramount, Warner Bros., Sony, HBO, ABC, Fox, and Samuel Goldwyn Films, as well as leading music companies including UMG, Geffen, Motown, Interscope, Virgin, Capitol, Columbia, RCA, Atlantic, Island, Def Jam, Arista, and Elektra. A veteran creative and production leader, Stephen brings rare, full-spectrum experience—uniting storytelling, production execution, and industry-scale operations at the core of Realm’s strategy.



Sonya Blake, Co-Founder and COO, is an Emmy-nominated producer and nationally recognized executive with decades of senior leadership overseeing large budgets, capital programs, and complex organizations across government, nonprofit, and cultural institutions. Her career includes executive appointments under two Los Angeles Mayors and the Governor of California, where she directed strategic initiatives involving financial oversight and stakeholder accountability. Sonya has led and advised mission-driven organizations responsible for multi-million-dollar operating budgets, capital campaigns, and donor-funded initiatives, and serves on prominent economic and civic boards, including the 2028 Los Angeles Olympic Games. Recognized by the *Los Angeles Business Journal* as one of Los Angeles’ most influential leaders and honored by Comerica and the Los Angeles Lakers, she brings disciplined fiscal management, governance rigor, and investor-aligned stewardship to Realm’s leadership team.



Brent Buchanan, Executive Vice President, leads Realm’s long-term expansion and infrastructure strategy, including capital deployment, real estate acquisition, and the future development of international soundstage and VFX facilities. He brings more than 20 years of executive leadership in the engineering, procurement, and construction (EPC) sectors, where he has overseen large-scale budgets, complex contracts, and capital-intensive projects. Brent’s experience spans strategic planning, finance, supply chain leadership, and contract negotiations with Fortune 100 companies, positioning him as the operational and financial anchor supporting Realm’s creative ambitions with disciplined execution and investor-focused oversight.

This Executive Summary has been prepared in partnership with



* Script coverage excerpts from Scriptapalooza and Coverfly

Cast and production personnel subject to change

