

EIGHT YEARS

Revised Working Draft-Aligned Preliminary Line Item Budget - Georgia Prestige Southern Death Passage Feature

Prepared after reviewing the revised full-length working draft and using the attached budget sheet as the baseline structure. This budget refits the line-item ranges around the script footprint: courtroom-present spine, 1972/1980/1987 period flashbacks, South Georgia field discovery, Winkler Outdoor Advertising office/warehouse, family homes, motel rooms, gym/bodybuilding beats, Navy/industrial inserts, period vehicles, evidence props, child performers, and a restrained final hearing/homecoming finish.

Budget Metric			
Estimated pre-contingency spend	\$4,185,000	\$6,750,000	Direct production and post line items before contingency.
Producer contingency	\$418,500	\$675,000	10% working contingency.
Estimated gross production budget	\$4,603,500	\$7,425,000	Excludes theatrical P&A; distributor fees, financing interest, backend, and tax/legal opinions.
Preferred gross target	\$5,200,000	\$6,500,000	Recommended finance target inside the full range: enough to protect period detail, courtroom days, casting, and post finish without over-building scale.
Budget comp anchor	\$5,800,000	\$5,800,000	Planning anchor for an elevated Georgia prestige drama. The Iron Claw and Manchester by the Sea are narrative/scene comps, not spend controls.
Estimated Georgia-qualified spend	\$3,774,870	\$6,237,000	Assumes 82% low / 84% high qualifies after audit and compliant Georgia structuring.
Maximum statutory GA credit value	\$1,132,461	\$1,871,100	Planning value at 30%: 20% base + potential 10% GEP uplift, subject to certification/audit.
Estimated monetized cash value	\$1,019,215	\$1,683,990	Assumes 90% monetization after sale/fees; actual market, timing and buyer demand vary.
Estimated effective net production cost	\$3,584,285	\$5,741,010	Gross budget less estimated monetized credit.

Key Budget Assumptions Revised for the Working Draft	
Tone / audience promise	A restrained, tactile Southern psychological family drama about a son whose mother's buried remains are unearthed and whose pursuit of justice threatens to make him absent from his own child.
Budget posture	Low-end is a disciplined professional version using existing Georgia locations, local crew, controlled courtroom blocks, lean period detail, and cast discovery. High-end supports one or two sellable attachments, stronger period production design, and a more polished post finish.
Schedule	Low: approx. 28-31 shoot days plus 5-6 prep weeks. High: approx. 34-38 shoot days plus 7-8 prep weeks. Period continuity, child actors, courtroom background, and multi-era flashbacks drive prep.
Production scale	Mostly practical and contained: courthouse/courtroom, field/wooded burial site, homes, motel, office/warehouse, gym, Navy/industrial inserts, roads, vehicles, limited crowd/press scenes, no heavy VFX.
Cast posture	Requires a powerful Harold, luminous Helen, credible Kenny/Foxy power dynamic, emotionally grounded Anne/Jerry/Lisa/Sheila support, child performers for Scott/young Harold, and strong courtroom witnesses.
Georgia plan	Principal photography and meaningful post should remain routed through Georgia crew, vendors, payroll, locations, lodging, rentals, catering, dressing work, and incentive accounting where practical.

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Script-Specific Budget Drivers Added or Reweighted

Courtroom-present spine	Multiple court days, witness stand, judge/jury/gallery, attorneys, reporters, holding rooms, courtroom wood visual grammar.	Requires controlled courthouse/courtroom access or build, background, legal props, continuity, and multi-angle coverage.
Multi-period story	1972 disappearance, 1980 box discovery, 1982 trial/afterlife, 1987 final hearing, childhood/adult Harold.	Raises wardrobe, vehicles, art dressing, hair/makeup, props and continuity across years.
South Georgia field discovery	Farmers uncover box; police/investigator scene; dirt, pines, evidence handling, grave-space.	Requires safe controlled earthwork, prop box/remains/evidence, rural location control, night or dusk lighting options.
Winkler Outdoor Advertising world	Office, warehouse, gas pump, company truck, keys, box, workplace danger, Foxy/Kenny power.	Needs period office/warehouse dress, signage, business props, vehicles, and clearance-safe branding.
Family homes and domestic rituals	Helen's breakfast, Jerry's guitar, Scott's needs, Anne/home, final pancakes and washed hands.	Requires repeated home locations with strong continuity and food/prop detail; these are emotional production-value scenes.
Navy / body-control material	Nimitz/machinist world, shipboard discipline, gym/bodybuilding, body strain, sweat.	Budgeted as controlled industrial/ship-substitute interiors and gym blocks; avoid expensive ship access where possible.
True-story evidence props	Box, green dress, rope, ring, hair, keys, gas-pump padlock, court exhibits, scrapbook pages.	Hero props are central to storytelling and require multiples, continuity, aging/distressing and safe handling.
Child performers	Young Harold, Scott, Louisa, school/bus/family flashbacks.	Requires scheduling discipline, guardians, tutoring/child-labor compliance and emotional rehearsal.
Limited violence / animal moment	Daydream beating of Kenny; Rosie offscreen shooting; scuffles/rumor fights.	Low stunt burden but needs coordinator, safety, animal handler/stand-in strategy, medic, insurance clearance.
Prestige post finish	Nonlinear testimony/flashbacks, restrained score, sound detail, period cleanup, color for dirt/pines/court/motel.	Protect editorial rhythm, sound design, score, color and cleanup; do not over-spend on spectacle.

Comparable Film Positioning

The Iron Claw	Narrative/family-system comp	Family tragedy organized around an inherited machine of damage; protagonist survives by refusing to pass the curse forward.	Larger wrestling period picture; not a direct spend model for Eight Years.
Manchester by the Sea	Tone and grief/fatherhood comp	Restrained grief drama where ordinary care becomes impossible after trauma.	Less courtroom/case machinery and less multi-period legal/evidence structure.
The Wrestler	Body-as-burden comp	The body carries shame, labor, injury and identity; useful for Harold's bodybuilding/strain.	Not a legal/family cold-case drama and should not dictate scale.
The Peanut Butter Falcon / Winter's Bone lane	Independent regional budget posture	Regional texture, contained practical world, strong human stakes, achievable indie scale.	Eight Years has more period/court/legal complexity than a purely contained regional drama.

Recommended budget story for financiers: Eight Years is best presented as a Georgia-friendly prestige Southern drama with a practical footprint, controlled courtroom spine, limited action, and strong period/evidence production value. Preferred gross target: \$5.2MM-\$6.5MM; defensible gross planning range: approx. \$4.60MM-\$7.43MM.

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Budget by Major Category - Working Draft Aligned

Development & Rights	\$150,000	\$275,000	\$125,000	Rights, chain of title, production rewrite, true-story clearance posture, research verification, legal review.
Above the Line	\$700,000	\$1,450,000	\$750,000	Director, producers, writer polish, principal/supporting cast. High-end protects one or two meaningful indie attachments.
Production Staff	\$300,000	\$500,000	\$200,000	UPM, AD team, office, accounting, locations, PAs. Needed for multi-period courtroom/flashback structure.
Cast & Background	\$225,000	\$400,000	\$175,000	Day players, courtroom gallery, press, family/community roles, child performers, limited stunt/daydream support.
Below the Line Crew	\$820,000	\$1,150,000	\$330,000	Camera, G&E;, sound, art, wardrobe, HMU, props, script supervision, DIT, limited stunt/safety coverage.
Locations & Physical Production	\$760,000	\$1,200,000	\$440,000	Courthouse, field, homes, motel, office/warehouse, gym, Navy substitute, period vehicles, evidence props, wardrobe.
Logistics	\$500,000	\$700,000	\$200,000	Georgia travel, lodging, transport, catering, craft, fuel, parking and crew movement.
Insurance, Legal & Admin	\$260,000	\$400,000	\$140,000	Production insurance, E&O;, payroll/workers comp, incentive compliance, production legal, audit and bond placeholder.
Post Production	\$470,000	\$675,000	\$205,000	Editorial, sound, score, limited music, cleanup, color, online, deliverables. Protect restrained prestige finish.
Subtotal before contingency	\$4,185,000	\$6,750,000	\$2,565,000	
Contingency - 10%	\$418,500	\$675,000	\$256,500	Working producer contingency.
Gross production budget	\$4,603,500	\$7,425,000	\$2,821,500	Theatrical P&A;, distributor fees, financing interest and backend excluded.

Budget Philosophy

Spend should be visible in actors, period specificity, courtroom control, true-story evidence props, restrained cinematography, and post sound/color. Do not spend to make the movie artificially huge. Spend to make Harold's grief tactile, the case credible, Helen's memory vivid, and Scott's need for presence unmistakable.

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Detailed Line Item Budget - Working Draft Aligned

Amounts are preliminary planning ranges in U.S. dollars. Final budgets should be rebid after the stripboard, shooting schedule, location plan, union/payroll assumptions, cast posture, child performer plan, period vehicle plan, and Georgia incentive strategy are locked.

Development & Rights	Script polish / production draft cleanup	\$35,000	\$60,000	115-page target pass, legal continuity, courtroom compression, dialogue polish, visual storytelling pass.
Development & Rights	Life/story rights, novel rights, chain of title	\$45,000	\$80,000	Rights review with source novel/IP, producer/writer agreements, title and adaptation clearance.
Development & Rights	Historical research / script clearance	\$30,000	\$60,000	Fact verification, legal sensitivity, fictionalized-name clearance, period/legal consultant review.
Development & Rights	Pitch deck / lookbook / casting materials	\$40,000	\$75,000	Prestige Southern drama lookbook, comp language, casting reels, financing materials.
Above the Line	Producer fees	\$150,000	\$275,000	Indie package, finance, sales, incentive strategy, legal/business oversight.
Above the Line	Director fee	\$125,000	\$250,000	High-end supports a prestige drama director with actors/courtroom/nonlinear structure experience.
Above the Line	Writer fee / polish / production rewrites	\$60,000	\$110,000	Production pass, on-set revisions, compression and continuity.
Above the Line	Principal cast package	\$260,000	\$650,000	Harold, Helen, Kenny, Anne/Jerry/Lisa. High-end allows one or two value-adding attachments.
Above the Line	Supporting cast package	\$50,000	\$95,000	Scott, Polly, Sheila, Foxy, Collier, Hillar, Barker, Wren, Maynard, Starnes, Sparks, Jane, Oscar.
Above the Line	Casting director / sessions	\$35,000	\$50,000	Georgia plus targeted national casting; child casting and regional authenticity.
Above the Line	ATL payroll fringes/taxes placeholder	\$20,000	\$20,000	Final amount depends on union/payroll posture and deal structure.
Production Staff	Line producer / UPM	\$70,000	\$100,000	Budget control, Georgia management, period schedule and courtroom/flashback logistics.
Production Staff	Assistant directors	\$65,000	\$105,000	Courtroom background, child performers, period resets, field and multi-location days.
Production Staff	Production office staff	\$45,000	\$70,000	Coordinator, secretary, office PAs, paperwork, clearances, sides, logistics.
Production Staff	Locations department	\$55,000	\$95,000	Courthouse, field/forest, homes, motel, office/warehouse, gym, Navy substitute, roads.
Production Staff	Accounting / payroll coordinator	\$45,000	\$80,000	Georgia incentive documentation, cost reporting, petty cash, vendor compliance.
Production Staff	Set PAs / lockups / background support	\$20,000	\$50,000	Courtroom, exterior field, period street and background management.
Cast & Background	Day players	\$70,000	\$110,000	Investigators, judge, clerks, doctors, old couple, reporters, neighbors, workers, family friends.
Cast & Background	Courtroom / press / town background	\$45,000	\$85,000	Jury, gallery, reporters, courthouse observers, funeral/memorial/community texture.
Cast & Background	Child performers / family extras	\$35,000	\$65,000	Young Harold, Scott, Louisa, school bus kids, childhood/family flashback continuity.
Cast & Background	Stunt performers / doubles	\$30,000	\$60,000	Controlled daydream fight, minor scuffles, safe blocking, possible Harold/Kenny inserts.
Cast & Background	Rehearsal / fittings / read-throughs	\$20,000	\$35,000	Period wardrobe, courtroom rhythm, child performer prep, family scene rehearsal.
Cast & Background	Dialect / legal / performance coaching	\$25,000	\$45,000	South Georgia rhythm, legal testimony realism, non-caricature Wren/Maynard handling.
Below the Line Crew	Camera department labor	\$110,000	\$160,000	Courtroom coverage, flashback texture, handheld/body pressure, controlled field/night scenes.
Below the Line Crew	Grip and electric labor	\$130,000	\$185,000	Courtroom wood, motel fluorescence, home warmth, field night, office interiors.
Below the Line Crew	Production sound labor	\$70,000	\$95,000	Courtroom testimony, rural exteriors, restrained dialogue, ADR planning.
Below the Line Crew	Art department labor	\$120,000	\$150,000	Period homes, office/warehouse, courtroom details, motel, Navy substitute, evidence handling.
Below the Line Crew	Costume / wardrobe labor	\$95,000	\$135,000	1972/1980/1987 period continuity, court suits, family aging, Helen green dress, Navy looks.
Below the Line Crew	Hair and makeup labor	\$45,000	\$70,000	Aging, period hair, courtroom continuity, Harold body strain, bruises/paper cuts/sweat.
Below the Line Crew	Script supervisor	\$25,000	\$35,000	Nonlinear testimony/flashback continuity across years and repeated motifs.
Below the Line Crew	DIT / media management	\$35,000	\$50,000	Data pipeline, courtroom multi-angle coverage, still/evidence inserts.
Below the Line Crew	Stunt coordinator / fight choreographer	\$35,000	\$55,000	Daydream fight, minor fights, safe blocking, Rosie gunshot staging, stunt consultation.
Below the Line Crew	Special visual unit / inserts	\$45,000	\$70,000	Evidence inserts, scrapbook hands, pine trees, courtroom details, body/gym closeups.
Below the Line Crew	Set decoration / props / greens crew	\$110,000	\$145,000	Evidence props, box, keys, scrapbook, pines, homes, office, courtroom paperwork.
Locations & Physical Production	Courthouse / courtroom / holding	\$105,000	\$170,000	Primary present-tense spine; gallery, jury box, witness stand, judge bench, holding rooms.
Locations & Physical Production	Farm / field / forest / burial site	\$60,000	\$95,000	Box discovery, police scene, grave-space, pines, controlled earthwork.
Locations & Physical Production	Homes / motel / office-warehouse package	\$90,000	\$145,000	Harmon home, adult home, motel rooms, Winkler Outdoor Advertising, holding/dressing.
Locations & Physical Production	Navy / industrial / ship substitute	\$80,000	\$140,000	Contained machinist/Nimitz world using industrial interiors, uniforms, sound and inserts.

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Detailed Line Item Budget - Continued

Locations & Physical Production	Period vehicles / picture cars	\$105,000	\$165,000	1970s/1980s cars, police cars, trucks, GMC/Ford work vehicles, continuity and transport.
Locations & Physical Production	Evidence / scrapbook / hero props	\$55,000	\$85,000	Box, cash box, padlock, keys, green dress, rope, ring, clippings, court exhibits.
Locations & Physical Production	Period wardrobe / uniforms / multiples	\$110,000	\$170,000	Helen, family over decade, court suits, Navy, police, workers, child clothing, aging changes.
Locations & Physical Production	Camera/lens package	\$90,000	\$140,000	Prestige drama package; high-end supports stronger courtroom and texture coverage.
Locations & Physical Production	Grip/electric package / lighting	\$65,000	\$90,000	Courtroom wood, motels, homes, field night, restrained Southern realism.
Logistics	Travel to/from Georgia	\$75,000	\$115,000	Cast/key crew travel; controls depend on attachments.
Logistics	Housing	\$105,000	\$150,000	Georgia lodging through qualified vendors where practical.
Logistics	Per diem	\$55,000	\$75,000	Schedule-dependent; low assumes lean travel footprint.
Logistics	Transportation rentals	\$95,000	\$130,000	Passenger vans, trucks, picture-car movement, rural locations.
Logistics	Fuel / parking / tolls	\$35,000	\$45,000	Rural moves, courthouse holds, period vehicle support.
Logistics	Catering	\$95,000	\$130,000	Crew size, child performer days, courtroom/background days.
Logistics	Craft service	\$40,000	\$55,000	Crew/background volume dependent.
Insurance, Legal & Admin	Production insurance	\$75,000	\$115,000	Period vehicles, limited stunts, animal/Rosie handling, field scene and courthouse.
Insurance, Legal & Admin	E&O; insurance	\$35,000	\$50,000	Distribution and true-story deliverables requirement.
Insurance, Legal & Admin	Completion bond / lender requirements	\$45,000	\$75,000	May be required depending on financing structure.
Insurance, Legal & Admin	Payroll company / PEO / workers comp admin	\$35,000	\$55,000	Georgia payroll compliance and worker coverage.
Insurance, Legal & Admin	Production legal / business affairs	\$45,000	\$70,000	Cast, location, rights, clearance, finance, vendors, deliverables.
Insurance, Legal & Admin	Audit and tax-credit compliance	\$25,000	\$35,000	Mandatory audit/incentive documentation placeholder.
Post Production	Picture editorial	\$100,000	\$150,000	Nonlinear courtroom/flashback rhythm, testimony escalation, restrained pacing.
Post Production	Assistant editor / post supervisor	\$50,000	\$75,000	Workflow, turnovers, archival/evidence inserts, deliverables management.
Post Production	Post facility / storage / cloud	\$35,000	\$50,000	Drives, backups, cloud, post facility costs.
Post Production	Sound edit / mix / ADR / Foley	\$90,000	\$135,000	Courtroom detail, rural ambience, body strain, gunshot offscreen, motel silence.
Post Production	Composer / music supervision	\$70,000	\$100,000	Restrained Southern score; guitar motif; avoid over-reliance on needle drops.
Post Production	Licensed music allowance	\$20,000	\$35,000	Limited period cues only where dramatically essential.
Post Production	VFX / cleanup / screen comps	\$35,000	\$55,000	Signage, period cleanup, evidence/photo inserts, minor fixes.
Post Production	Color grade / online / conform	\$45,000	\$50,000	Dirt, pines, courtroom wood, motel fluorescence, final breakfast light.
Post Production	DCP / masters / QC / deliverables	\$25,000	\$25,000	Festival/sales delivery cushion; theatrical P&A; excluded.

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Georgia Incentive Treatment - Planning Model

This model assumes the production is structured to pursue Georgia incentive treatment with principal photography, payroll, vendors, lodging, rentals, catering, dressing work, qualified production services, and meaningful post routed through Georgia where practical. Actual value depends on state certification, audit, final eligible spend, credit-transfer market, legal/accounting fees, buyer demand, timing and cash-flow mechanics.

Gross production budget	\$4,603,500	\$7,425,000	Total production/post cost before incentive monetization.
Estimated qualified Georgia spend	\$3,774,870	\$6,237,000	82% low / 84% high assumed because the script can be routed through Georgia practicals and post.
20% base credit estimate	\$754,974	\$1,247,400	Subject to certification, audit and eligibility review.
10% GEP uplift estimate	\$377,487	\$623,700	Assumes approved promotional value/uplift treatment.
Total statutory credit estimate	\$1,132,461	\$1,871,100	30% of estimated qualified Georgia spend.
Estimated monetized cash value	\$1,019,215	\$1,683,990	Assumes monetization at 90% of face value after transaction costs.
Estimated effective net cost	\$3,584,285	\$5,741,010	Gross budget less estimated monetized cash value.

Effective planning range after estimated Georgia credit monetization: \$3,584,285 to \$5,741,010. This is a planning estimate, not a guaranteed incentive amount or financeable receivable without formal certification, audit, legal/tax review and lender approval.

Risk Notes and Cost Controls

Period sprawl	Multiple years can quietly inflate wardrobe, vehicles, props and location dress.	Limit hero period details to the frame; reuse vehicles; define precise years in each scene; avoid gratuitous period crowds.
Courtroom static coverage	Long testimony can become visually flat and expensive in edit time.	Block witnesses by emotional escalation; use inserts, flashbacks, hands, reactions and wood/evidence motifs.
Navy/Nimitz material	Real ship access or large military replication can spike costs.	Use industrial interiors, sound design, uniforms, tight inserts and limited VFX/graphics to imply scale.
True-story clearance	Real case inspiration increases E&O; and legal scrutiny.	Keep fictionalized names, use legal review, preserve historical spine without claiming documentary exactitude.
Child performers	Scott/young Harold schedule can affect shoot days.	Plan child scenes in tight blocks; rehearse emotionally sensitive material; avoid overtime risk.
Period vehicles	Multiple car years and police/work trucks can become a visible cost driver.	Prioritize hero vehicles: Helen car, company truck, police, Harold/Sheila car; keep background vehicles sparse.
Post rhythm	The film depends on pacing between courtroom, memory and domestic silence.	Protect editorial, sound, score and color; do not raid post for production overruns.
Georgia qualification	Net cost depends on clean documentation and eligible spend.	Use incentive counsel/accounting early; build Georgia-qualified vendor and payroll workflows before production starts.

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Producer Notes / Financing Framing

Recommended gross target	Aim for a finance plan around \$5.2MM-\$6.5MM gross. That range protects cast, period detail, courtroom control and post finish while staying viable for an independent prestige drama.
Low-end path	The \$4.60MM gross version works if the project uses cast discovery, controlled practical Georgia locations, minimal Navy scale, lean period background, limited licensed music and disciplined court blocks.
High-end path	The \$7.43MM gross version works if the package secures one or two value-adding attachments, expands period polish, strengthens courtroom production value, and protects post sound/color.
Preferred sales shorthand	A courtroom-framed Southern Death Passage drama in the lane of The Iron Claw and Manchester by the Sea, produced at a Georgia-optimized independent scale.
Most important creative budget principle	Do not spend to spectacle. Spend to make the box, the court, the body, the family and the final breakfast feel emotionally inevitable.

Revision / Source Summary

Uploaded budget sheet: The Desvalido comp-anchored Georgia budget	Used as the baseline structure, table posture, Georgia incentive model, risk-note style and line-item budget format.
Eight Years revised full-length working draft	Used to identify the production footprint: 114-page courtroom-framed Southern drama; farmers/field opening; courtroom present; 1972/1980/1987 flashbacks; homes, office, motel, gym, Navy/industrial inserts; evidence props; child performers; final home/breakfast/pines.
Eight Years locked development framework	Used to protect the creative drivers: Death Passage structure, Harold/Scott agency, witness escalation, Helen memory design, historical spine, show-don't-tell visual grammar.
Georgia incentive official guidance	Used as planning basis for 20% base transferable tax credit + potential 10% GEP uplift, minimum spend and mandatory audit assumptions. Final treatment requires incentive counsel and audit review.

Final Budget Positioning

Prepared as a planning document for creative development, packaging, early financing conversations, and incentive-aware budgeting. A final production budget should be prepared by a line producer and production accountant after a final screenplay, stripboard, shooting schedule, location plan, payroll/union assumptions, casting posture, child performer plan, period vehicle plan and Georgia incentive strategy are finalized.