

"THERE'S NO DRAMA LIKE WRESTLING."

- ANDY KAUFMAN.



THE DESVALIDO



WRITTEN BY
C. NEIL DAVENPORT

NOT EVERY HERO
GETS THE CHEERS.

BUT THEY DO
GET THE GIRL

THE DESVALIDO



★ LOGLINE ★

A timid, overlooked grocery-store bagboy transforms himself into a masked luchador to impress the woman he loves, but when a ruthless wrestling icon exposes him in front of the whole town, he must learn that the mask never made him worthy of being seen; it only revealed the courage he already had.



★ SYNOPSIS ★

Dwight is a plump, awkward, chronically late grocery-store bagboy living with his mother and avoiding the basic responsibilities that would move his life forward. He dreams of heroic wrestling glory, but in the real world he is invisible, broke, anxious, and stuck on the bottom shelf. After meeting **Clay**, a wildly confident new hire who becomes his friend and hype man, Dwight is pulled toward **Selena's** world of family, community, and Lucha Libre. **Selena's** affection, **Pedro's** admiration, and the mythology of masked wrestling give Dwight a chance to become someone larger than his self-image.

Clay brings Dwight into the wrestling gym, where **Emmet** and the wrestlers begin training him. Dwight becomes “**The Desvalido**,” a masked underdog whose awkward body, sincerity, and accidental timing unexpectedly connect with the crowd. His first victory teaches him the wrong lesson: he thinks the mask made him valuable. That dangerous misread draws the attention of **Señor Muerte**, a cruel, dominant luchador who believes masks are not symbols of hope but instruments of power. **Muerte** humiliates Dwight, beats him, unmasking him publicly, and destroys the fragile identity Dwight had built.

In the aftermath, **Dwight** must stop using the mask as a hiding place. His community—mother, **Clay**, **Selena**, **Pedro**, and the gym family—help him understand that Desvalido is not a costume: it is an identity that must answer to the man underneath. In the rematch, Dwight enters as himself: cape on but mask off, and fights Muerte with the awkward, sincere, hard-earned tools of his real self. He wins not by humiliating Muerte, but by refusing to steal Muerte's mask when given the chance. **Dwight** proves he does not need to destroy another man's identity to validate his own.



SETTINGS



A. DWIGHT'S ORDINARY LIFE

His bedroom, his mother's home, the grocery store, parking lots, bathroom stalls, the restaurant, and the daily spaces where he is unseen or mocked.



B. SELENA'S COMMUNITY WORLD

Family gatherings, Lucha events, the Mexican restaurant, Abuelo's influence, Pedro, and the communal moral language of masks, lost causes, family, and responsibility.



C. THE WRESTLING WORLD

The gym, locker rooms, tunnels, arenas, local TV broadcast, tournament brackets, heroic entrances, rival luchadors, public humiliation, and public redemption.

COMPS

Comparables



★ NACHO LIBRE ★



★ PEANUT BUTTER FALCON ★

THE COMEDY OF **NACHO LIBRE** MEETS
THE BROTHERHOOD OF **PEANUT BUTTER FALCON**
IN THE WORLD OF **LUCHA LIBRE**.



★ CHARACTERS ★



★ **SELENA** ★

Dwight's love interest and moral center, deeply connected to family and community.



★ **DWIGHT** ★

The overlooked grocery-store bagboy who becomes The Desvalido.



★ **CLAY** ★

Dwight's loyal new friend, hype man, and brother-in-arms.



★ **SEÑOR MUERTE** ★

The ruthless lucha icon who becomes Dwight's greatest rival.



★ **MOM** ★

Dwight's loving but frustrated mother who sees both his flaws and his heart.



★ **EMMET** ★

Dwight's tough trainer who teaches him that the man matters more than the mask.



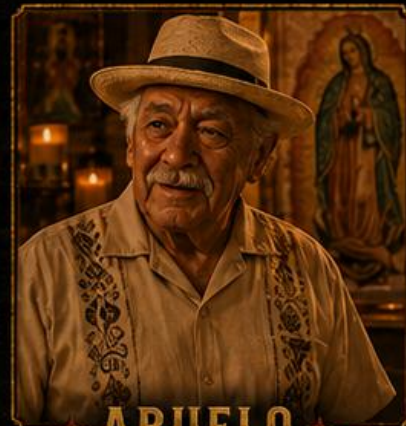
★ **PEDRO** ★

The young believer who looks up to Desvalido and helps reveal Dwight's worth.



★ **MR. JESÚS** ★

Dwight's stern grocery-store boss who challenges him to stop living on the bottom shelf.



★ **ABUELO** ★

Selena's grandfather, a community patriarch whose love of lucha shapes the story's moral world.

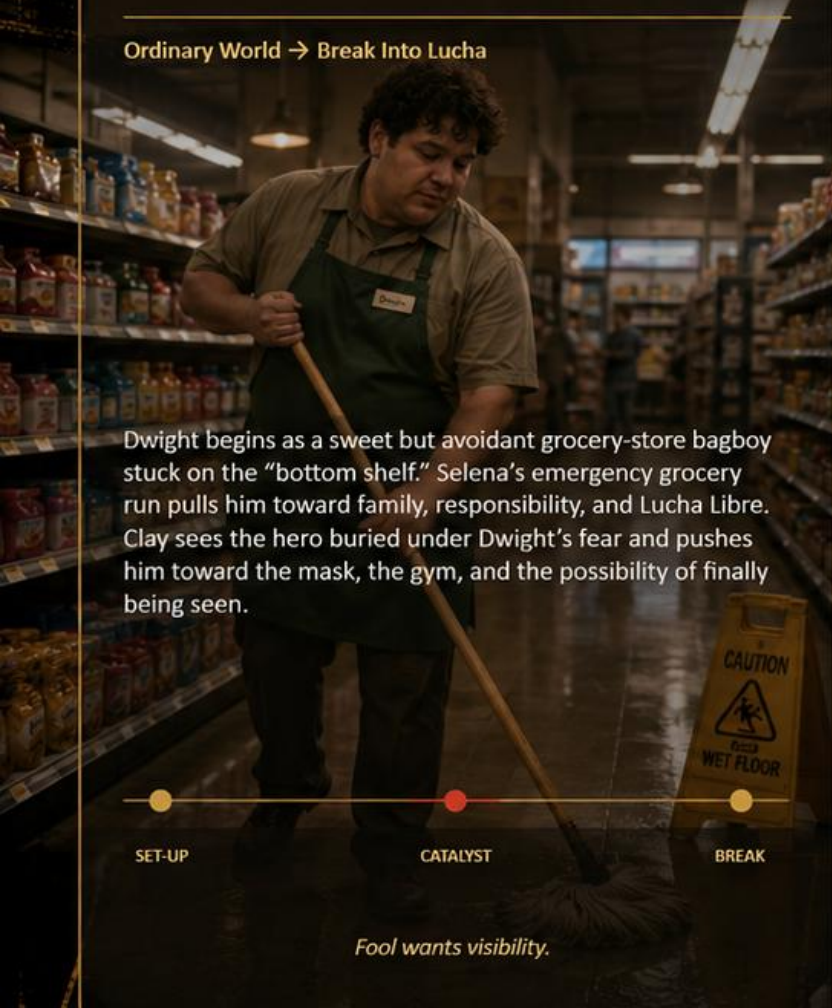
STORY STRUCTURE

FOOL TRIUMPHANT / BUDDY LOVE

ACT I

INVISIBLE MAN

Ordinary World → Break Into Lucha



Dwight begins as a sweet but avoidant grocery-store bagboy stuck on the “bottom shelf.” Selena’s emergency grocery run pulls him toward family, responsibility, and Lucha Libre. Clay sees the hero buried under Dwight’s fear and pushes him toward the mask, the gym, and the possibility of finally being seen.

SET-UP

CATALYST


BREAK

Fool wants visibility.

ACT II

THE MASK WORKS TOO WELL

Training → False Victory → Public Humiliation



Under Emmet’s brutal mentorship, Dwight’s awkward body and sincerity become an accidental wrestling style. His first win makes the crowd chant for The Desvalido, but he learns the wrong lesson: he thinks the mask made him valuable. Señor Muerte exploits that wound, unmasking him publicly, and destroys the fragile identity Dwight built.

FUN & GAMES

MIDPOINT

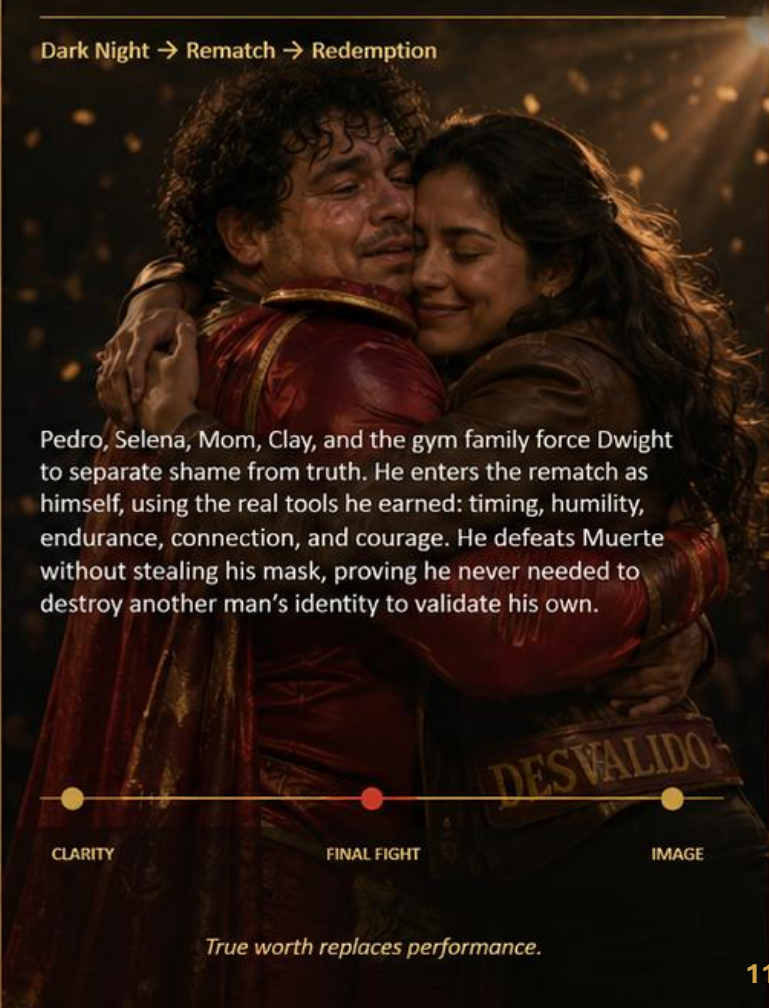
ALL IS LOST

Buddy love gives him a team.

ACT III

THE MAN UNDERNEATH

Dark Night → Rematch → Redemption



Pedro, Selena, Mom, Clay, and the gym family force Dwight to separate shame from truth. He enters the rematch as himself, using the real tools he earned: timing, humility, endurance, connection, and courage. He defeats Muerte without stealing his mask, proving he never needed to destroy another man’s identity to validate his own.

CLARITY

FINAL FIGHT

IMAGE

True worth replaces performance.

PRODUCTION, MARKETING & DISTRIBUTION



PRODUCTION

Design around a contained location strategy: one grocery store, one house, one restaurant, one gym, one arena, and controlled crowd days. Prioritize stunt safety and wrestling authenticity.



MARKETING

Lead with the underdog transformation, Lucha Libre spectacle, family and community warmth, and the emotional hook.



DISTRIBUTION

Position as a PG/PG-13 crowd-pleasing sports comedy with family appeal, Latino cultural specificity, and four-quadrant uplift.

★ A crowd-pleasing, culturally specific underdog comedy with broad commercial appeal. ★

BUDGET

GEORGIA PRODUCTION BUDGET RANGE

LOW-END GEORGIA INDIE

\$4.77M



HIGH-END COMP-PLUS

\$7.48M

Estimated effective net production cost after Georgia credit: **\$3.70M–\$5.76M.**



CONTAINED LOCATIONS:
grocery store, house,
restaurant, gym, arena.



GEORGIA INCENTIVE:
estimated 30%
credit value.



PRODUCTION STRATEGY:
controlled crowd days,
stunt safety, wrestling
authenticity.

★ THE ★
DESVALIDO



THANK YOU

Thank you for your time, consideration, and belief in **THE DESVALIDO**. I'm looking for partners, collaborators, and champions to help bring this heartfelt underdog story to life.

Let's make this movie happen.

C. Neil Davenport

cneildavenport@gmail.com