

**FM 21-76**

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY FIELD MANUAL

# ZERO MILE

A POST-APOCALYPTIC THRILLER

THE NEW FILM FROM  
EMMY & PEABODY  
AWARD WINNING DIRECTOR  
THADDEUS D. MATULA

In a near-future world where oxygen is currency, three unlikely heroes race to revive the planet's last coral reef before humanity suffocates.

**DOUBLELIFE**  
FILMS

**SURVIVAL**



HEADQUARTERS, DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
PRESENTED BY DOUBLE LIFE FILMS & CINEMATULA

## **OXYGEN SCARCITY**

Earth's oceans collapsed, killing the phytoplankton that produce most of our breathable air. Oxygen is now THE commodity – compressed, extracted, stolen, and killed for – stockpiled and traded like gold.

WELCOME TO THE END OF  
A HUMAN EXTINCTION EVENT.

The background of the entire image is a dark, deep blue underwater scene. In the foreground, there are several pieces of coral, some of which are illuminated with a bright, glowing blue light. The water is filled with numerous small, glowing blue particles that appear to be drifting or falling, creating a sense of movement and depth. The overall atmosphere is mysterious and scientific.

## THE CORAL REEF

Our last hope. A Hail Mary plan to seed the planet's only known surviving coral system in the Florida Keys with a newly engineered enzyme may be humanity's sole chance to reignite global oxygen production.



## OUR HEROES

Kurt (a jaded ex-Special Forces operative), Tommy (a teen with developmental disabilities), and Elizabeth (a driven marine biologist) are pursued by oxygen cartel mercenaries as they race to Mile 0 and the last surviving coral. They must spark new life in the reef before time on its once-yearly, lunar-aligned breeding window – *and humanity* – runs out.

A man with short, spiky hair is wearing a dark tactical vest over a black shirt and a white respirator mask with two filters. He is looking directly at the camera with a serious expression. The background is a large, dark industrial vehicle, possibly a truck or bus, with a large circular hatch. The scene is lit with a warm, golden light, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The overall mood is gritty and intense.

## ULTIMATE STAKES

The ruthless oxygen baron Prince hunts them to seize Elizabeth's life-giving enzyme and exploit the last reef's secrets.

Succeed, and the world breathes again. Fail, and all humanity suffocates.



**KURT**

- Battle-hardened veteran disillusioned by humanity.
- Fights to protect Tommy, honoring a promise to a fallen brother.



**ELIZABETH**

- Marine biologist whose discovery can restore oxygen to Earth.
- Hunted by Prince for her life-saving research.

TOMMY  
That stuff. The soldier stuff.  
KURT  
You have your things and I have my things.  
TOMMY  
Teach me to be a soldier.  
KURT  
No.  
TOMMY



**TOMMY**

- Brilliant yet misunderstood teen with developmental disabilities.
- His hope and innocence fuel humanity's last shot at survival.

Yes, I do. Then I could save everybody.  
KURT  
Yeah. Well... Not everybody's worth saving, T.



**PRINCE**

- Oxygen cartel warlord, fueled by greed, he rules with O<sub>2</sub> and fear.
- Determined to monopolize the last breath of mankind.

# THE PLOT



## ACT I:

- Kurt's isolated existence with Tommy is shattered when Elizabeth arrives, bloodied and on the run.
- She carries an urgent plan to restore Earth's oxygen by injecting a miracle enzyme into surviving coral.

## ACT II:

- The trio embarks on a perilous journey to Mile 0 in the Florida Keys, pursued relentlessly by Prince's forces.
- Betrayals, dwindling oxygen tanks, and brutal clashes push them to the brink.

## ACT III:

- Final standoff at the reef: seed the coral before Prince crushes humanity's last hope.
- Kurt, Tommy, and Elizabeth must risk everything for Earth's chance to breathe again.

**\$6.5M TOTAL BUDGET  
LOUISIANA PRODUCTION**

# PRODUCTION STRATEGY & LOUISIANA ADVANTAGE



## Louisiana Infrastructure:

- Established crew base & equipment
- Proven studio facilities
- Experienced local production partners
- Immediate production readiness

## Investment Advantage Through Incentives:

- Total Budget: \$6,500,000.00
- Louisiana Tax Credit (30-40%): \$2-2.6M Rebate
- Net Investment Required: ~\$4.5
- Early recoupment reduces investor risk

## What This Means for Investors:

- Your \$4.5M net investment controls a \$6.5M production
- First money back comes from tax credits (6-8 months)
- Lower risk profile than other states
- Proven rebate system with reliable payment history

## What This Means for Investors:

- Premium talent attachments with guaranteed offers
- A-list production partnerships negotiated from strength
- Distribution positioning for theatrical and streaming markets
- Technical specs for premium exhibition (Dolby certified)

# MARKET COMPS & GENRE POSITION

## ZERO MILE: MAD MAX MEETS CHILDREN OF MEN

- **MONSTERS (\$500K):** Launched Gareth Edwards to blockbusters (Rogue One)
- **THE PLATFORM (\$2M):** Netflix's most-watched original
- **PROSPECT (\$4M):** Netflix acquisition, cult following
- **MOON (\$5M):** 2x theatrical return + streaming evergreen
- **10 CLOVERFIELD LANE (\$15M):** 7x return on thriller elements

### WHY ZERO MILE WINS

- **Action Travels:** High-octane thriller elements transcend language barriers
- **Environmental Urgency:** Expands coverage beyond entertainment media
- **Found Family:** Universal emotional hook within survival framework
- **Distribution Flexibility:** Built for theatrical impact, guaranteed streaming value

**Projected Returns: 2-3x ROI**

**Festival launch → Streamer bidding →  
International sales → Ancillary revenue**

# PONY EXCESS SUCCESS

## DIRECTOR'S PROVEN TRACK RECORD

Directed by Thaddeus D. Matula

- Highest-Rated Documentary Premiere in ESPN's History (at time of release, Dec 2010)
- 1.6 Nielsen rating, reaching 2.52 million viewers on its premiere night
- Peabody Award-winner

## PROVEN CAPABILITIES:

- Attracts massive audiences with compelling narratives
- Bridges prestige (awards) with commercial success
- Delivers on schedule and budget
- Transforms real stories into cinematic experiences

### FROM DOCUMENTARY TO NARRATIVE:

*Zero Mile represents Thaddeus's transition to scripted features, bringing the same storytelling mastery that made Pony Excess a cultural phenomenon.*

# PONY EXCESS

DATE	FILM	RATING	VIEWERS (000)
12/11/10	"Pony Excess"	1.6	2,517
12/12/09	"The U"	1.6	2,368
12/13/08	"The Greatest Game Ever Played"	1.2	1,811



# INVESTMENT STRUCTURE

## Single-Purpose LLC Structure

- Clean, project-specific entity
- No cross-collateralization with other projects

## Revenue Participation Model

- Revenue participation rights only
- No copyright ownership
- No voting rights or operational burden
- Clean exit after recoupment

## Returns Waterfall

- 100% Principal Recoupment
- 15-20% Preferred Return
- 50/50 Backend Split

**Minimum Investment: \$150,000**

Standard independent film structure proven across hundreds of productions



# TIMELINE & DISTRIBUTION

Pre-Prod  
Production  
Post-Prod

Festivals

## PRODUCTION

- Pre-Production: ~3 months
- Principal Photography: 6-8 weeks
- Post-Production: ~5 months
- Total ~12 months from greenlight

## INVESTOR RETURNS

- Revenue flows per waterfall structure
- Louisiana tax credits provide early recoupment
- Distribution revenues trigger backend participation
- Multiple revenue streams maximize ROI potential

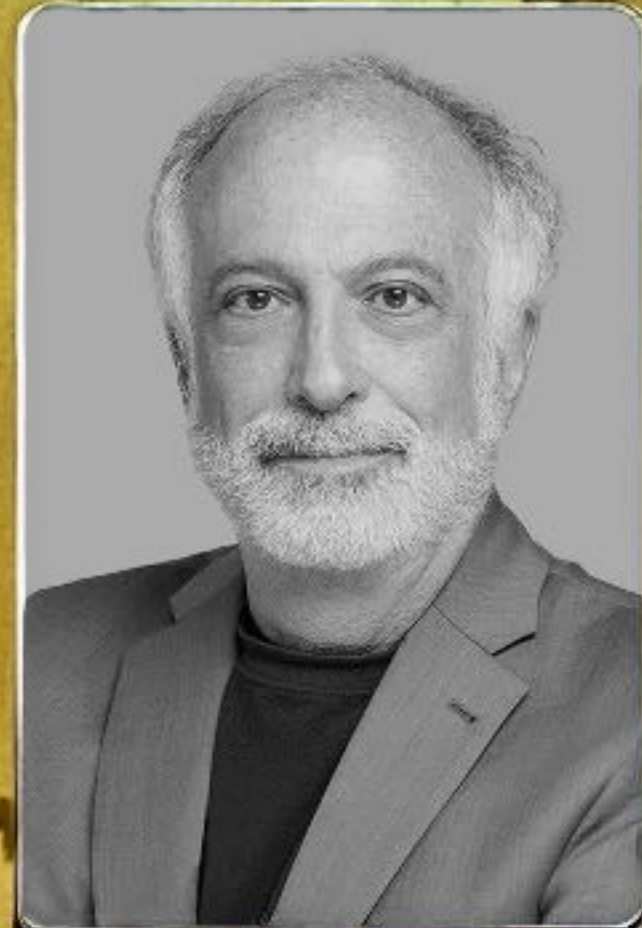
## DISTRIBUTION

- **Festival Launch**  
Sundance, TIFF, SXSW for premiere buzz
- **Theatrical or Day-and-Date:**  
Limited theatrical release followed by streaming
- **Major Streamer Deals:**  
Big platforms pay premium for mid-budget thrillers with known actors
- **Ancillary Windows:**  
Cable, international, physical media



**THADDEUS D. MATULA (Director)**

- Emmy & Peabody-winning filmmaker (ESPN's 30 for 30)
- Proven track record in narrative & documentary storytelling
- Directed ESPN's highest-rated doc premiere (Pony Excess)



**LARRY WAKS (Legal/Packaging)**

- Entertainment attorney to A-list talent and brands
- Architect of significant exits incl. Casamigos & Aviation Gin
- Strategic packager aligning capital, talent, and distribution for high impact genre projects



**KING HOLLIS (Producer)**

- 25+ years in content creation (ABC, FOX, CW, PBS)
- Award-winning commercial director
- Branded entertainment specialist



**TERRI PIÑON (Producer)**

- Producer (You Can Call Me Bill; upcoming Kim Novak doc)
- Prestige genre festival, finance, and delivery expertise
- Proven execution from development through post

**KEY TEAM**

# ZERO MILE

ZERO MILE is a testament to the indomitable human spirit, the power of sacrifice, and the unwavering belief that even in the darkest of times, a single spark of hope can ignite the flames of change.



# THANK YOU

# ZERO MILE

## JOIN ZERO MILE

- \$6.5M Louisiana production for marquee talent & robust marketing
- Immediate escrow positions us to make offers & secure top actors

## *NEXT STEPS*

- Request full budget breakdown & script
- Discuss your investment goals
- Secure your revenue participation

CONTACT:

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Breathe life into the future of cinema.