



KING OF THE JUNGLE



*In some places it takes a village to raise a child,
but in Chicago, it takes the Mob.*

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Title: *King of the Jungle*
Length: *Feature Film*
Genre: *Coming of Age Crime Drama*

King of the Jungle is a coming of age, crime drama set in Chicago in 1967. Although this story is fiction, the characters are based on actual people, and in some cases, composites of several individuals that the author has known. This indicates a competitive advantage.

The structure of *King of the Jungle* will be a feature film with a beginning, middle and end. There will be no loose ends at the end and all the lead characters will have complete arcs.

There is no Epilogue. It has franchise potential because, although this story is written as a stand-alone 2-hour tale, it doesn't end there. The story continues in subsequent installments.

Five full length screenplays already exist with Joey Di Napoli a bit older and continuing his chosen career path, facing new challenges, forbidden love and a stretch in federal prison.

We get to explore some of the same characters from the original story as well as a new ensemble of unique and likable characters in new adventures and time periods.

Everyone loves a well-done gangster film as evidenced by the success of *The Godfather*, *Goodfellas*, *Casino* and *A Bronx Tale*. There's no reason why audiences won't love this story.

Like *Goodfellas* and *A Bronx Tale*, it shows the lengths a child would go to please a father figure. It's different in that he stays 8 years-old so it gives the audience more time to see him as a child and root for him.

In a time that questions the relevance of a father and the definition of a family, the story will resonate with audiences of every generation.

A man wearing a dark top hat, a white shirt, a dark vest, and a dark tie is seated at a table. He is holding a glass of amber liquid in his right hand. The background is a large window with a grid pattern, showing a city skyline at dusk or dawn. The sky is a mix of blue and orange, and the water of a lake is visible in the foreground. The word "LOGLINE" is written in a bold, yellow, stylized font across the middle of the image.

LOGLINE

A Chicago Outfit Boss has to deal with a renegade in the ranks, a gang war and an 8-year-old delinquent wanting to join the rackets.



WRITERS' VISION

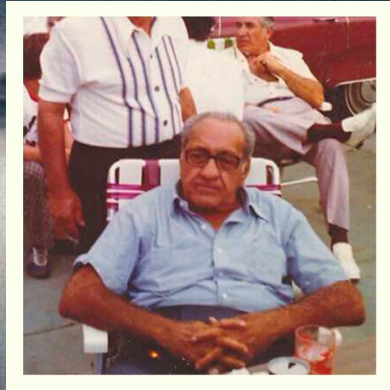
“King of the Jungle” is more than just another crime drama. Written by John Roselli, it is fictional, rooted in reality. It’s the story of his incredible life as a young boy growing up around Chicago mob life in the mid-1960’s.

The author can attest to the fact that "scared straight" doesn't work. He has been around criminals for much of his life. The rich character development and story details come from his interacting with these characters and understanding their world.

The story is both timeless and relevant to today’s social and political landscape. It stresses the importance of a father figure in a boy’s life and the need for a role model. Joey is eager to fit in and goes to great lengths to please the Mob Boss father figure.

It also shows the importance of community and family – wherever it can be found. The bond between Tony and Joey is strong despite being tested continuously because they feel like family.

VISUAL STYLE



The visual style will be dark and foreboding and the pacing will be fast.

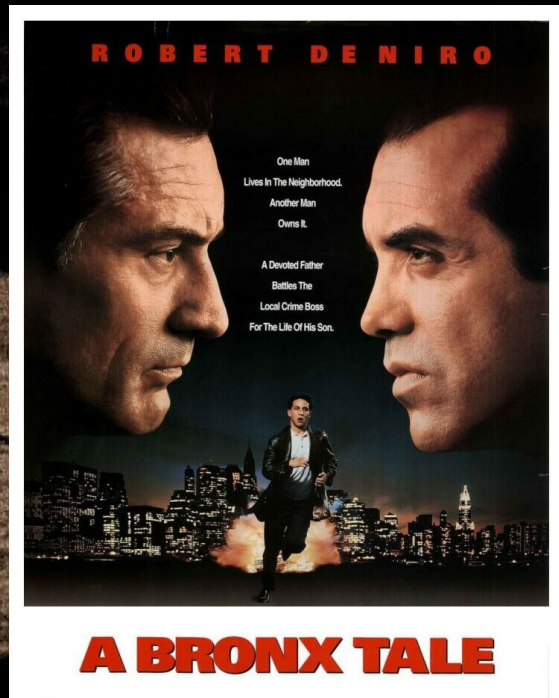
Set in 1967, there will be a nostalgic feel with antique cars, clothes and furnishings such as telephone booths, rotary phones and bouffant hairstyles. Frankie Valli and Sinatra will play on the radio while an original soundtrack will play at other times.

Although the story is fictional, it is rooted in reality with the back-and-forth violence of the warring gangsters who conduct their business in the shadows.

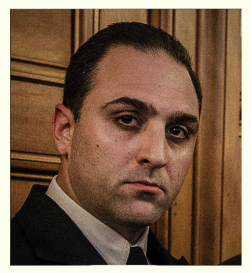
The violence will be graphic and gritty exposing the horrors of humanity.



COMPARABLES



MAIN CHARACTERS



Tony Terrasini - Italian immigrant from Sicily who is the patriarch and Boss of the Chicago Outfit. He got his start working for Al Capone and was suspected as a trigger man in the St. Valentine's Day Massacre. Married to Sophia and has one "miracle daughter", Donna. Unlike many in his organization, he is faithful to his wife. He is amiable, genteel and low key unless the situation warrants something different, then he can become violent and ruthless. He has an affection for Joey as the son he never had.



Joey Di Napoli - An 8 yr. old dedicated hoodlum intent on becoming a member of Tony's Clan, regardless of the cost. When he gets caught packing a pistol Tony tells him that "guns don't solve problems, they create them." Joey perceives this as hypocritical since Tony used to sit in the lobby of Capone's hotel with a machine gun in his lap. Despite this, he views Tony as a father figure and is loyal to the extreme.



Frankie "Fats" Fungielli - Sloppy, unkempt and overweight, he is suspected of being a cannibal. He is cruel and uncaring. He tells how he killed his first wife and fed her to the lions at the zoo. When asked why he didn't just get a divorce, he explained that he was a good Catholic and that would be "a sin."



Ralph Potesta - Recently released from prison after serving 10 years and keeping his mouth shut! He expresses a desire to get into narcotics but is shot down. He finally settles on untaxed cigarettes from the Carolinas albeit he is resentful for being held down.

ADDITIONAL CHARACTERS

Eddie Cooligan - A top narcotics man with his fingers in many criminal pies. He attempts to have Tony rubbed out in the street but fails. With him gone, Cooligan could expand his Empire. He will later be gunned down by Tony's men.

Mario Sirrocco - A Federal judge loyal to Tony because he helped Mario's mother in a dispute with some gang members. The details are unclear.

Roxanne - A stripper and prostitute that is gifted to Ralph. She likes it rough. She's also jealous of Ralph's pigeons.

Angelo Bassi – the Underboss and confidant of Tony.

Jimmy Baci - Described by Angelo as an up and comer capable of replacing them all. He becomes Tony's bodyguard and driver.

Pete "The Greek" Andropolis - A political facilitator who uses payoffs and blackmail to solve problems and achieve results.

Samuel "The Fixer" Goldberg - A well connected attorney that pays off the right people and gets his clients off the hook.

Jimmy "The Voice" Rossiello – A famous singer with multiple "Gold Records." He got his start singing with the Big Bands.

SYNOPSIS



We begin at the Fairmont Hotel in downtown Chicago celebrating the return of "college graduate" Ralph Potesta from prison.

The party, hosted by Chicago Outfit boss Tony Terrasini, introduces various mob characters including a psychotic, cannibalistic, loan shark, "Fats" Fungielli.

While driven home by Jimmy Baci one night, Tony witnesses a Young Boy carrying a ham while being chased by two police officers. After giving them the slip, he re-engages the chase, laughing all the way.

At the Friends of Italy Social Club, Tony has a sit-down along with the underboss, Angelo Bassi.

They discuss various job options but Ralph wants to go into the drug business. Tony adamantly refuses and Ralph settles for bootleg cigarettes.

A Federal Judge, Mario Sirocco, has an audience where he pledges his loyalty to Tony after learning that he was instrumental in protecting his mother from some trouble.

An attempt on Tony's life is made but the shooters are stopped dead. Unfortunately, George Falcone, the bodyguard, is also killed leaving behind a three year-old son. Tony pledges to look out for the young boy.

The CPD OCB (Chicago Police Dept. Organized Crime Bureau) takes Tony downtown for questioning (harassment) and puts him into a jail cell.

Soon a patrolman throws a pint-sized wisecracking 8 year-old Joey Di Napoli into the next cell in an effort to scare him straight. It doesn't work. Tony recognizes him as the kid being pursued by the two cops and who re-engaged the chase after they gave up. Thinking that he may be poor and hungry, Tony offers him money. Joey refuses to accept charity; besides, "stolen food tastes better."

Impressed with the youngster, Tony invites him to pay a visit at the Friends of Italy Social Club before the cop drags him out of the cell. "I ain't done yet."

A phone call from Judge Sirocco frees Tony. Tony learns the two shooters were freelancers.

Tony is subpoenaed to appear before a Senate Committee run by Bill Allison, a Southern Baptist with a hard-on for Eye-talians.

Joey shows up at the Social Club and informs Tony that he wants to work for him. Tony tells him to go home and think about the possibility of doing five, ten or even twenty years in jail. Joey is only 8.

At the Federal Building, the Senate Select Committee hearing is underway. Senator Allison asks questions and Tony responds with the fifth amendment.





Ralph and his crew are at a warehouse on a pier of the lakefront. He has a truckload of heroin that he will cut and deliver.

Joey struts into Tony's office with a tribute. Tony asks Joey where he got the cash. He stole candy from the band and sold it. Interested in dissuading the boy, Tony asks what he is going to do with Joey.

"Well, the way I look at it, ya' got two choices. You can keep me or ya' can kill me cause I know too much. I vote that you keep me."

Two of Ralph's boys receive subpoenas to testify against Tony. One is for a decades-old murder. It is agreed on that Ralph must have the backing of drug Kingpin, Cooligan, as Ralph doesn't have that kind of influence.

Three of Ralph's crew, Rizzo, Castelluccio, and Lombardo, sit with Tony, Angelo and Jimmy in Tony's office. They swear that they had a falling out with Ralph. Angelo gives Tony an envelope with incriminating pictures of Allison. They can use this to force him to back off.

The Senate Committee questions **Albert Facinelli** about the alleged murder committed by Tony. As Facinelli is questioned, Tony has a frown on his face and his eyes are dead. Facinelli is not convincing.

During the questioning of **Luigi Cappelletti** regarding Tony's criminal empire, the witness is confused and not credible.

To the astonishment of the other committee members, Allison makes a concluding statement declaring that Tony is not part of any criminal syndicate and is excused from the court.

Tony holds a barbecue in his back yard to celebrate. Joey arrives offering a bottle of scotch as a gift. Good manners are important. Tony questions him about how he obtained it. Finally, Joey admits that he shoplifted it. Tony admonishes him.

Ralph is on the run. Tony sends emissaries to Cooligan for a sit-down but they are killed. The Irish-Italian Gang War is underway and each side takes turns killing each other.

Fed up, Tony wants to strike Cooligan where it really hurts in order to stop the back and forth killings. He does this by exposing Cooligan's drug distribution network. Now Cooligan may lose money but he also loses face.

The gang war continues. A hit is attempted on Tony but fails.

In an effort to end the war, Danny Greene, Cooligan's underboss is kidnapped. He is questioned about the whereabouts of Ralph but his captors learn nothing. He is killed.

The two hoods that testified against Tony are captured. One dies prematurely. The other is tortured while hanging on a meat hook.





When no one is looking, “Fats” saves a few slices for himself. Later Fats fries up a tasty dinner at home.

Against his better judgment, Tony lets Joey be used to get into a tight space belonging to Cooligan. It turns out to be an armory.

Tony confiscates a gun that Joey has acquired. He tells the boy that guns don’t solve problems. They create them. Tony tells him that he can get it back when he is older and has a few lessons.

Fats and his crew go to the Zoo after hours and feed the various big cats the contents of the plastic bags. It is also where he got rid of his first wife. He couldn’t divorce her because he is a good Catholic.

Joey insists on talking to Tony, who is in a meeting. When they are alone, he reveals that he snuck into the Club the previous night to retrieve his gun that Tony took away, and overheard a plan by Ralph’s men to murder Tony and the others during their meal at a restaurant.

The tables are turned on the would-be assassins and they are killed. Finally Ralph is spotted on top of a building and is taken out by Gino, the sniper.

An assault on Cooligan’s headquarters kills what’s left of Tony’s enemies.

The war is over and Tony takes his daughter Donna and Joey out to lunch and then to an amusement park.



The End?

Although the story is written as a stand-alone, 2-hour tale, it doesn't end there. The story continues in subsequent installments, in new adventures, in new time periods.

Details on the next page.

INSTALLMENTS

There is franchise potential with the following five full-length installments. The screenplays have already been written (WPA numbers available upon request). Some of the characters from the original story are included along with an additional ensemble of unique and likable characters.



The Wrong Choice

Tired of the daily strains of running the city, a Mob boss, accustomed to operating in the shadows, mistakenly turns over the reigns to his replacement, with disastrous results. The flamboyant gangster appears in the tabloids with showgirls, threatens the FBI and has a hair-trigger temper. He's gotta go!



Wrong Place Wrong Time

Torn between the love and respect that he has for The Man and the romance he feels for the bosses' daughter, Joey struggles with the dilemma of loyalty versus forbidden love. Tensions mount as star-crossed lovers face the disapproval of a Mob Boss father, and the loss of this one true love. With prison time on the horizon, is this romance doomed forever?



Living in Limbo

Fresh out of prison, a small-time hoodlum must reintegrate back into the criminal world he left behind while avoiding any contact with the woman he thought he loved. The problem is she's the boss's daughter and he sees the Boss all the time.



Step On a Crack

A Mob-connected strip club owner and loving father goes up against a vindictive ex-wife and an archaic court system to gain custody of his tender age daughter. While maneuvering through the obstacle course known as the legal system with the help of a child psychologist, he gains insight into himself and redemption for his past.



Sacred Vows

While in the hospital after surviving a bullet wound, a charismatic mobster pursues the woman of his dreams, his doctor. Only one hitch: she's married. They each took a vow of loyalty and commitment. And it wasn't to each other.

A revolver and a rotary telephone are positioned on a dark wooden surface. The revolver is on the left, and the rotary telephone is on the right. The scene is lit with warm, low-key lighting, creating a moody atmosphere. A semi-transparent dark rectangle is overlaid on the left side of the image, containing text.

CONTACT

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[Review pitch presentation](#)

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