

David M. O'Neill...

## Screenwriter and Filmmaker

Screenwriter and Filmmaker David M. O'Neill's latest produced, written-work, *The Stand at Paxton County* was shot in May of 2018 in Petaluma California for ESX Productions / Lucas Films. The independent thriller stars Jacqueline Toboni, Chris McDonald and Michael O'Neill and will be theatrically released in the fall of 2019.

Working both as a hired feature writer, along with directing his-own written work, David's four produced films to date include the writing directing efforts of *Five Aces* (20<sup>th</sup> Century) starring Charlie Sheen, and *Player 5150* (First Look) starring Ethan Embry and Kathleen Robertson. Produced sole writing efforts include the Afghanistan drama, *The Black Tulip* and most currently *The Stand at Paxton County*.

*The Black Tulip* was entirely shot in Kabul and ultimately selected by the Afghanistan Film Commission as its official, 2011 Academy Award entry for *Best Foreign Language Film*. Favored in the 83rd Academy Awards as eligible for best original screenplay, *Tulip* was awarded Pen USA's 2013 prestigious *Freedom to Write Award*.

The film was released internationally worldwide through Snagfilms.

David's screenplay *War Junkies* was also optioned by award winning producer, Mark Harris (*Crash*, *Gods and Monsters*) of The Mark Harris Company. The setting is Vietnam, and the story is of KNBC on-air frontline correspondent Jim Bennett who filed more stories there than any other reporter – ultimately caught deep behind enemy lines and securing a safe escape by way of the Mekong Delta.

David spends his time collaborating and partnering with rights holders, capturing, creating and executing new *Intellectual Property*. Work-for-hire assignments, include the story of Mary, the Mother of Jesus, *Empress of Heaven*, the Vietnam war drama, *War Junkies*, Golf comedy *Gentlemen Only Ladies Forbidden*, St. Martin's Press psychological thriller, *The Happy Man*, and Pulitzer Nominated Richard Jessup's action-thriller, *Threat - 115 Degrees*.

O'Neill's screenwriting career began when his spec, novel-adaptation of Jack London's period epoch, *Martin Eden* was purchased by Academy Award-winning Danish producer Just Betzer. From there, he went on to sign with the William Morris Agency and move to Paris while penning William Wharton's, *Last Lovers* along with writing the English-speaking version of Out of Africa's Isaak Denison's - *Babette's Feast*.

**Awards Include:** *The Black Tulip* – Freedom to Write Award. Afghan Film Official Entry - Best Foreign Film, Motion Picture Academy Awards. Official Academy screenplay consideration. NY International Film Festival – Official Selection. Salento International Film Festival – Best Feature Film. Boston International Film Festival – Best Feature Film. Beverly Hills Film Festival – Golden Palm Grand Prize. Cinequest – Official Selection. International Digital – Screenwriter. Ft. Lauderdale Int. Film Festival – Writer-Director – Spirit of Independent Filmmaking Award. William Morris Agency – Writer of the Week. Monte Carlo Charity – Best Feature.

**Education:** Bachelor of Science Degree – Graduate of the University of Oregon. Scholarship Winner, American Conservatory Theatre – San Francisco. Post Grad – University of Washington, Arizona School of Business - Scottsdale.