
REBEL
BASED ON THE INCREDIBLE TRUE STORY
A FILM BY ROBYN LEE VAN VECHTEN & JAMES LEE



REBEL

A HISTORICAL FAMILY DRAMA

—FEATURE FILM—

When a Patriot's horse escapes to a spirited young girl, they must flee a ruthless British Loyalist to warn her father's troops amid the American Revolution.

"To muster the militia that stormy night, sixteen-year-old Sybil Ludington rode over forty miles— Paul Revere's famous ride was twelve."

SYNOPSIS

REBEL is a gripping, historical drama that plunges us into the gritty turmoil of the American Revolution, highlighting the incredible, untold legacy of Sybil Ludington.

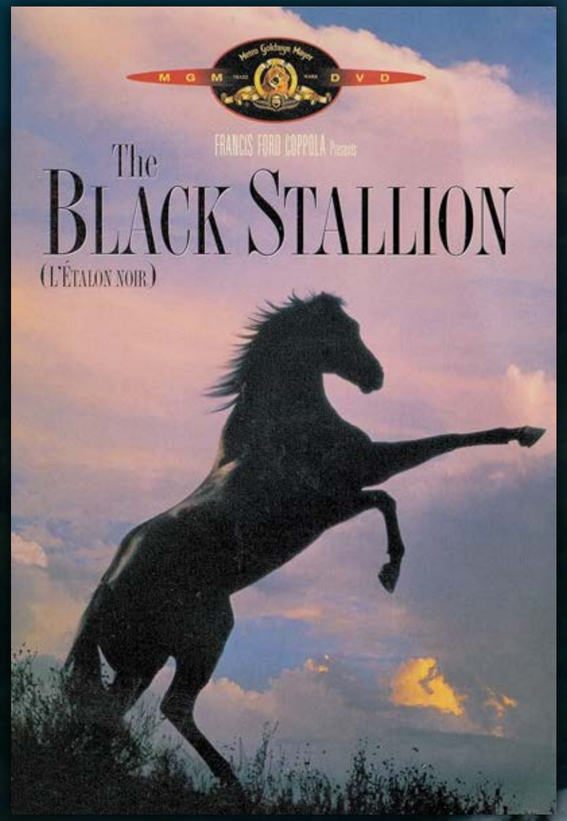
The story jumps into action with Nathan Hale, a young spy for the Continental Army, who infiltrates a Loyalist meeting place, only to be captured and hanged by the British. His loyal horse, Rebel, witnesses the heartbreaking death of his rider and sets off on a perilous journey of his own.

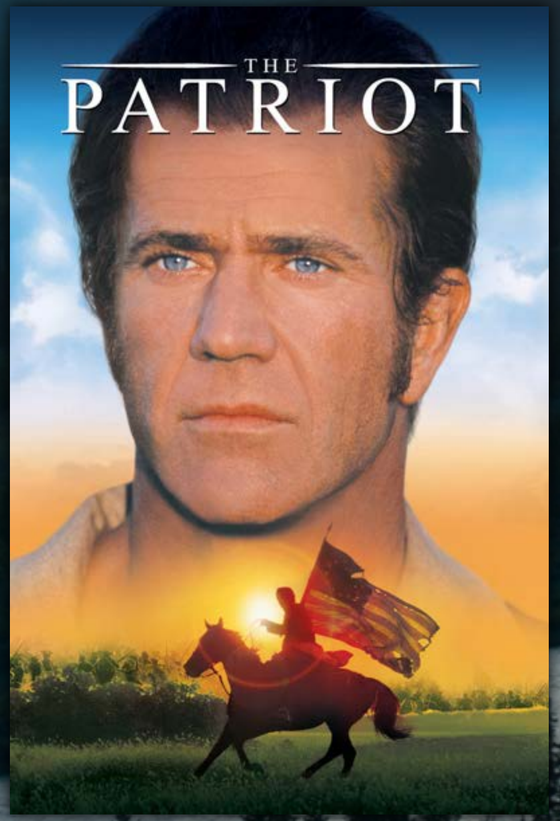
Rebel's path crosses with Sybil, a fiercely spirited sixteen-year-old who longs to join the fight for freedom despite societal expectations. With the help of Caleb, a wise former slave, Sybil is able to tame Rebel, forging a deep bond with him as they both navigate their trauma and find their place in the fight for independence.

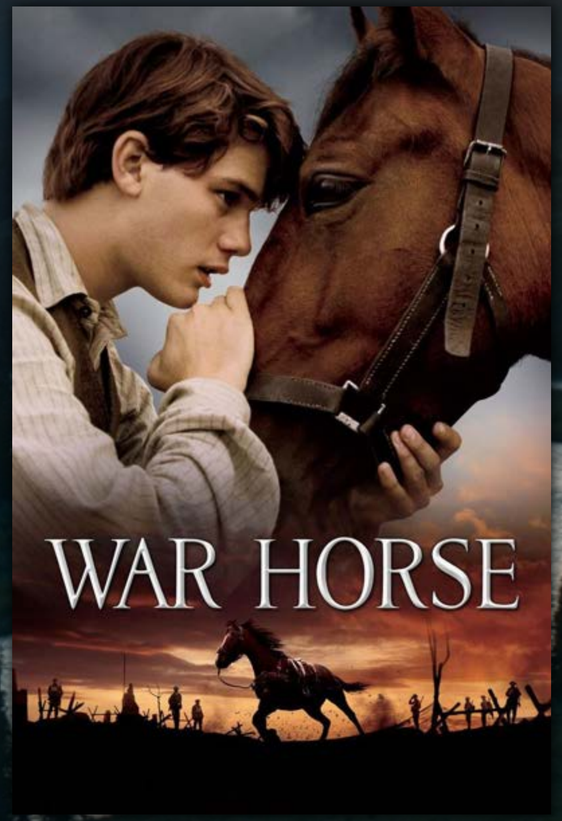
Through cunning, courage, and close friendship, Sybil and Rebel manage to evade the ruthless Dr. Prosser and his calvary of Loyalist thugs, in a climatic showdown—their bond fueling a vital mission to rally the Patriot militia and warn them that the *British are burning the town of Danbury!*

The film seamlessly weaves together Sybil's coming-of-age story and Rebel's transformation from a lost horse to a symbol of resilience and freedom.

Its *THE PATRIOT* meets *THE BLACK STALLION,* a raw and evocative exploration of loyalty, sacrifice, and the defiance that fuels revolutions. With its blend of action, drama, and historical authenticity, the film offers a personal perspective on America's fight for liberty, where even a horse can become a hero.


M G M D V D
FRANCIS FORD COPPOLA Presents
The
BLACK STALLION
(L'ÉTALON NOIR)


THE
PATRIOT


WAR HORSE


BLACK BEAUTY
A story
for all ages.
A friendship
for all time.
Share the adventure.

COMPS

THE WORLD

The film takes place in 1776, during the American Revolutionary War. The American colonies are fighting for independence from British rule, just a few months after signing the Declaration of Independence in July.

British forces have control over New York City, which is a key stronghold, while the Continental Army, led by General George Washington, is trying to hold its ground in the area.

This time is marked by heavy espionage, with both British and American sides seeking information about each other's movements. Spies and informants are crucial, risking their lives to gather intelligence that could change the course of the war.

Many colonists are divided—Loyalists support the British, while Patriots push for independence—creating an environment of suspicion, betrayal, and covert operations. The air is thick with tension, as loyalties are often masked.

Envision a world bathed in the soft glow of candlelight, where shadows dance and secrets lurk, setting the film's tone of suspense and uncertainty— brimming with political intrigue.

Imagine clandestine meetings in a dimly lit tavern, hidden messages written by quill, and a dramatic reveal of a hidden spy's identity.

Cobblestone streets wind through quaint colonial towns, leading to grand estates and humble cottages. Picture the thrill of a horseback chase, the thunder of hooves pounding against the earth. Witness the adrenaline pumping action scenes of skirmishes in the street and the chaos of a battlefield— muskets firing and soldiers clashing in a desperate struggle for survival.

The external conflict is elegantly interlaced with love and hopefulness on the Ludington farm. Feel the warmth of a family hearth, where laughter echoes and children play, creating an atmosphere of innocence, but as our character's experiences change in their country and eventually at their home, the stakes grow, robbing them of loved ones and introducing a new environment, where even the youngest are required to join the fight.

This world is a tapestry of contrasting images: the quiet beauty of a countryside meadow juxtaposed with the harsh reality of war. It's a place where hope and despair intertwine, where love and betrayal coexist.





























THE WORLD
MOOD BOARD


THE
CHARACTERS



SYBIL LUDINGTON

Entering womanhood isn't easy for Sybil Ludington (16, a spirited and rebellious adolescent) who wishes to break free from her mundane life and the traditional values set out for her— preferring musket fire to the sewing needle. Eager to join to the fight for independence, she yearns to prove her worth beyond mere domestic duties.

Inspired by a brave horse and the teachings of her father, the respected Patriot leader, Colonel Henry Ludington, Sybil embraces adversity and transforms from a curious girl finding her way, into a tenacious young woman.

Shattering gender barriers, Sybil trades her side saddle for Caleb's forward-facing one, defends her home against invaders and rides 40 miles through the night, in treacherous conditions— having given nearly the entire regiment of 400 Colonial troops the order to assemble. Finally able to step out of her father's shadow, and her mother's ideals of what a good daughter should be, she successfully contributes to the Continental Army's fight against the British. This time, it is she who inspires her family *and* her country.

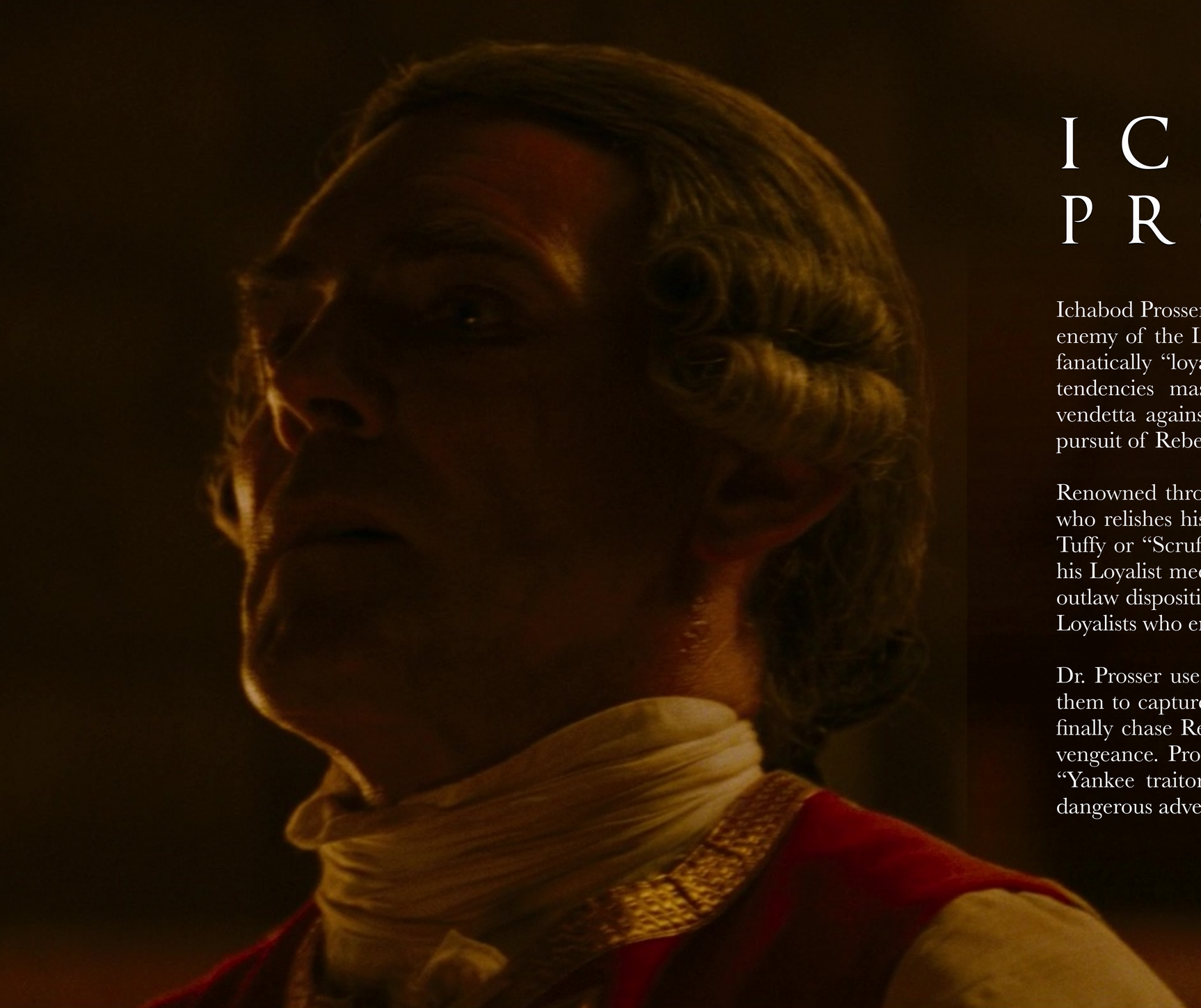
Over her journey, Sybil's willingness to take risks for what she believes in becomes a beacon of female empowerment and courage in the heart of the American Revolution.



REBEL

More than just a horse; Rebel is a symbol of liberation and defiance. Once Nathan Hale's loyal companion, Rebel witnesses the young Patriot's tragic demise and seeks solace in solitude. However, his path crosses with Sybil Ludington, a fearless sixteen-year-old who becomes his unexpected savior.

Despite his traumatic past, marked by war, death, and betrayal, Rebel's heart, although guarded, grows to love and trust again. He develops a deep bond with Sybil, finding comfort in her companionship and shared determination to fight for a better future. Rebel's unyielding loyalty and resilience become a testament to the enduring spirit of freedom, and the universal journey of overcoming adversity.



ICHABOD PROSSER

Ichabod Prosser (30s - 40s) is a local leader of the British Loyalists and enemy of the Ludingtons. Tall, thin, and somewhat of a priss— he is fanatically “loyal to the crown”. Prosser's sharp wit and manipulative tendencies mask a growing cruelty. As the story progresses, his vendetta against the Ludingtons intensifies, particularly his relentless pursuit of Rebel, Nathan Hale's horse, now cared for by Sybil.

Renowned throughout the colonies as a cunning and ruthless doctor, who relishes his role as a Patriot spy hunter, he partners with Arnold Tuffy or “Scruffy Tuffy” the owner of the tavern where Prosser holds his Loyalist meetings. His right-hand-man, Tuffy, a burly man with an outlaw disposition, leads a calvary of Skinners; a lowly gang of British Loyalists who engage in guerrilla tactics to sniff out Patriot allies.

Dr. Prosser uses his connection to Tuffy and the Skinners, to employ them to capture and torture Caleb, ambush the Ludington home and finally chase Rebel and Sybil down in an attempt to achieve ultimate vengeance. Prosser's unchecked ambition and his hatred towards the “Yankee traitors” drives his actions, making him a formidable and dangerous adversary.

SUPPORTING CHARACTERS



NATHAN HALE

(20s) a young, idealistic Patriot driven by a fiery passion and his natural bravado. He rides with one purpose in mind: to serve his country. Though ever resolute in the revolutionary cause, his naïveté ultimately leads to his downfall. His journey is short, but pivotal, as his tragic end becomes a rallying point for other Patriots and a catalyst for Rebel's journey.



CALEB

(50s-60s) as a former slave, his escape from Virginia was fueled by a relentless search for his separated family— a journey that led him to the Ludington farm years ago. There, he has found an extended family in the Ludingtons. His wisdom and patience are invaluable, particularly in guiding Sybil as she forms a bond with Rebel. A messenger for the Patriot cause, he operates covert missions behind enemy lines to gain British intel from his informant. Even in the face of danger, his strength of spirit is a steadying force throughout the narrative.



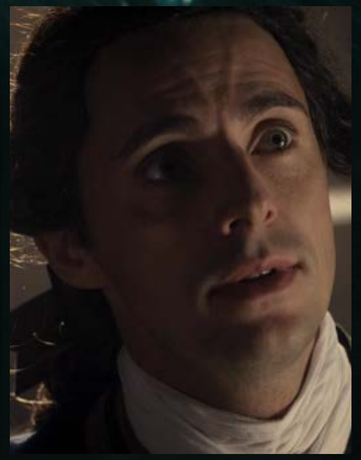
MILES

(17) a local stable boy and member of Colonel Ludington's Militia. After meeting Sybil on the road they talk openly about freedom and women's roles. Their conversation is cut short by the sound of Doctor Prosser's approaching wagon, but Miles always finds his way back to Sybil, bringing unheard news of Caleb's capture and even fighting beside her to defend her home. A budding love interest, and a loyal friend —Miles creates a charming dynamic between our characters.



REBECCA LUDINGTON

(14) Sybil's cute, little sister follows in her mother's footsteps, sewing and becoming a proper young lady. But when their home is ambushed, she not only takes up arms, but also proves to be remarkably resourceful, assisting Sybil in the delivery of their newborn sibling under the most challenging circumstances. This experience dramatically transforms Rebecca, revealing her hidden strength & resilience.



HENRY LUDINGTON

Colonel Henry Ludington (30s) is a respected militia leader and a loving father. His military experience, honed during the French and Indian War, lends him a commanding presence serving as aid to Gen. George Washington. Despite his stern demeanor on the battlefield, he is deeply caring and devoted to his family. Teaching Sybil how to shoot and giving her the responsibility of riding Rebel to check their land while he is away— because he *believes* in her.



ABIGAIL LUDINGTON

Abigail (30s, Henry's wife) had Sybil when she was just fourteen. Now, with several younger children, and one on the way— she could use her eldest's help. Frustrated by Sybil's rebellious nature, she wants her to fulfill the role expected of women traditionally. In the end, when Sybil and Rebecca help Abigail with a dangerous breech birth, Abigail can see the fire burning in Sybil's eyes, finally giving Sybil her blessing telling her to *"ride like a rebel."*

STORY

The year is 1776, Nathan Hale, a Continental Army officer, arrives at Tuffy's Tavern in New York, dressed as a civilian. Hale unknowingly walks into a trap and is quickly discovered by a British officer in disguise. His horse Rebel, witnesses his arrest and execution, making a brave escape from captivity — injuring Dr. Prosser, a collaborator, in the process.

Rebel, traumatized after Hale's death, wanders through the countryside and is eventually taken in by Caleb, a former slave and local farmhand. At the Ludington homestead in Kent, General George Washington visits to discuss espionage efforts in the area with Colonel Henry Ludington. Sybil, inspired by Hale's sacrifice and her father's involvement in the war, becomes impassioned to contribute to the cause before heading to the barn to meet with Caleb.

Upon Sybil's first encounter with Rebel, she struggles to gain his trust. Initially guarded and difficult to handle, Rebel takes his time allowing her to get close. Nearing her father's departure for New York, he entrusts Sybil with learning to ride Rebel and watching over their land. The Colonel arrives at Van Wyck headquarters, to question prisoners, among them Enoch Crosby, a fellow Patriot in disguise. He confirms his identity with a code phrase, and after a mock interrogation, frees him.

Meanwhile, Sybil's patience is tested as Rebel continuously escapes, wreaking havoc amongst the chickens and even dislodging her from her saddle. Regardless, she keeps at it, navigating challenges, like Rebel's fear of water and his reluctance to be ridden. Intercut with Sybil and Rebel's building connection is the external espionage ring that has both sides sniffing out information from the other. Enoch brings Caleb information, and Caleb meets Miles, a young man at Tuffy's Tavern. Prosser observes this and tells Tuffy to have Caleb followed.

As Sybil and Rebel's bond strengthens, tensions rise with Dr. Prosser, who grows suspicious of the Sybil's connection to the runaway horse. Unexpectedly, she meets Miles, a stable boy on the road, while evading Prosser. The quick-witted seventeen-year-old is a member of her father's militia, and we've seen him earlier— meeting with Caleb at Tuffy's to pass vital information to the Patriots.

Across Long Island Sound, Caleb rows a whaleboat with Continental Marines under British fire. He narrowly avoids death and helps his comrades escape, taunting the British as they row to safety. They reach the Connecticut shore at sunset, getting deeper across enemy lines.

Caleb travels through the forest by night and, reaching a dirt road, is suddenly surrounded by Skinners—local outlaws allied with the British. With no word back from Caleb, Miles warns Sybil that he may have been taken. Determined to find him, Sybil sneaks out running into Enoch Crosby, the undercover Patriot her father freed. Confronted by Tuffy and two Skinners, Crosby joins them holding a gun to her neck, ordering she be locked up with Caleb for further interrogation. With her in close quarters to Caleb, they are able to rescue him, but after brutal torture, he is gravely injured.

He warns her of an imminent British attack on the supply depot at Danbury, before taking his last breath under an old oak tree on the property, as they watch the sunrise. A heartbreaking loss for young Sybil, being so close to home, yet unable to save her closest friend and mentor— vowing his sacrifice will not be forgotten.

The following day, Sybil and her younger sister Rebecca sit on the porch, armed. They react to hoofbeats, only to realize it's Miles. Sybil scolds him for nearly getting shot. Miles explains that Enoch Crosby warned of an attack and has come to help defend their home.

That night, Sybil and Miles stand guard, discussing Caleb, passing the time with his memory. Sybil reveals Caleb's past escape from slavery. Miles shyly asks to court her, a potential romance for the two when— Tuffy and his Skinners ambush the farm.

Under heavy musket fire, Sybil, Rebecca and Miles take cover on the porch, firing back. Inside, their mother, Abigail, helps the youngest boys hold toy muskets and lines them up to create the illusion of a larger militia. Tuffy, spotting their enlarged shadows in the window orders a retreat. Sybil shouts a defiant farewell to Tuffy when she hears a painful wail coming from upstairs. Just when they thought their night of danger was over— their mother goes in labor. After assisting difficult breech birth, Abigail delivers a healthy baby girl by dawn.

Henry arrives, relieved to find his family safe. He confirms Caleb's intel, the British were advancing on Danbury. Realizing the urgency, and her father's duty to head straight to the front, Sybil volunteers to raise the alarm to the surrounding towns. Abigail gives her blessing, urging her to *"ride like a rebel."*

Sybil and Rebel brave the storm, beginning her famous midnight ride, stopping at each house to warn of the British threat. She rallies local militia, her calls echoing through the dark roads. Despite fear, she presses on, determined to alert everyone before the battle begins. Through difficult terrain, harsh weather and an encounter with the notorious Dr. Prosser and his men, Sybil's determination never wavers. Rebel proves to be a true partner, guiding her through dangerous paths and evading capture from the Skinners in one last climatic showdown.

Simultaneously, Colonel Ludington's militia engages in a fierce battle with British forces at Danbury. Sybil's warnings successfully rally the local militia, and her father's regiment plays a crucial role in pushing back the crown. However, the battle takes its toll, leaving Miles badly wounded. Sybil returns home, physically and emotionally exhausted, but triumphant in her mission, riding over 40 miles in one long night.

With the British driven back, Sybil and her family regroup at home. In a tender moment with Henry and a recovering Miles, Sybil reflects on the cost of war, the loss of Caleb and all the other fallen soldiers, now fully aware of the sacrifices involved.

With spring's arrival, General Washington visits the Ludington home, commending Sybil for her bravery and awarding her a Badge of Military Merit. He assures her that Rebel will remain with her, despite Prosser's claims. Rebel, now an inseparable part of Sybil's life, has sanctuary with her as they promise to continue to stand for freedom and independence. In the final scenes, Enoch Crosby arrives at Ichabod Prosser's door with soldiers, signaling his downfall. As Dr. Prosser's treachery is finally exposed, Sybil and her family reflect at Caleb's grave and prepare for the long fight ahead, knowing that their actions have made a profound difference in the revolution.

TARGETS & WHY NOW?

TARGETS



















THE ANSWERS ARE IN THE MANDATES:

-**APPLE** is seeking female forward films, wide open on genre in the $15M-$50M range that highlight humanity and hopeful themes.

-**AMAZON & MGM** have a unified slate of 8-10 theatrical films, 16-18 streaming, specifically looking for IP, true-stories and star driven narratives in the action-adventure space.

-**UNIVERSAL PICTURES** have a massive emphasis on originality. They would like do things different, telling four-quadrant classic stories, but with reflective POV's. They do not have as much IP or true-stories as others, thus the need here.

-**WALDEN** is always open to inspirational, uplifting stories that they are traditionally known for, like their success with *FINCH* and *MANHUNT*. Untold pieces of history, shedding light on heroes who were not given their due in the past, or historical events from a POV we haven't seen before. Specifically moving the world with stories of courage and heart.

-**RIDEBACK** is invested in heroes journey films– something inspirational with a message about the world. Buckets include their very own: *SHERLOCK HOLMES*, *AVATAR: THE LAST AIRBENDER* for Netflix, and *GODZILLA VS. KONG*.

-**DISNEY+ & HULU** have a unified slate, that includes pictures from WALT DISNEY STUDIOS, WALT DISNEY ANIMATION, LUCASFILM, MARVEL STUDIOS, **20th CENTURY STUDIOS** & **SEARCHLIGHT PICTURES.** They are focused on important IP that feels BIG (ie. What IP can we reinvent and what characters can they focus in on from classic stories) Big worlds, big talent and auspices. They want their content to be imaginative, optimistic, thrilling, and evocative. Propulsive storytelling, Mystery & heart. Content that should make you feel & think.

THEATRICAL COMPS
THAT STOLE THE SCREEN
& OUR HEARTS

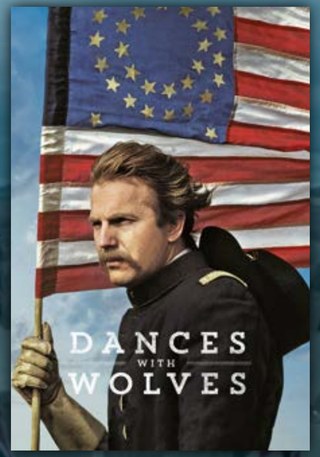


HAMILTON

WHERE TO WATCH: Disney+

NOTABLE COMPS: FAMILY HISTORICAL DRAMA, BASED ON A TRUE STORY, AMERICAN REVOLUTION

BOX OFFICE: $952 M
BUDGET: $12.5 M
RECOGNITION: PULITZER PRIZE, 11X TONYS

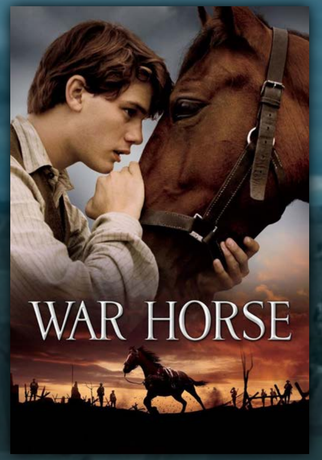


DANCES WITH WOLVES

WHERE TO WATCH: prime video

NOTABLE COMPS: FAMILY HISTORICAL DRAMA, AMERICAN WAR FILM

BOX OFFICE: $424.2 M
BUDGET: $22 M
RECOGNITION: 7X OSCAR WINNER/ 12X OSCAR NOM, 3X GOLDEN GLOBE WINNER/ 6X NOM



WAR HORSE

WHERE TO WATCH: tv

NOTABLE COMPS: FAMILY HISTORICAL DRAMA, HORSE FILM

BOX OFFICE: $177 M
BUDGET: $70 M
RECOGNITION: 6X OSCAR NOM, 2X GOLDEN GLOBE NOM & 5X BAFTA NOM

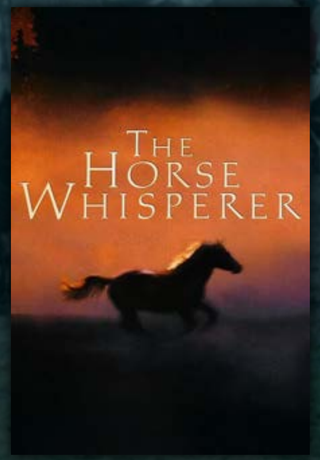


THE PATRIOT

WHERE TO WATCH: prime video

NOTABLE COMPS: FAMILY HISTORICAL DRAMA, AMERICAN REVOLUTION

BOX OFFICE: $215 M
BUDGET: $110 M
RECOGNITION: 3X OSCAR NOM

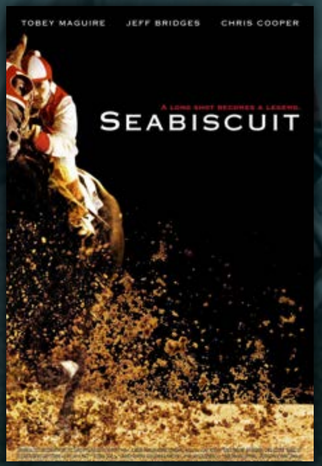


THE HORSE WHISPERER

WHERE TO WATCH: tv

NOTABLE COMPS: FAMILY DRAMA, HORSE FILM, BOND BETWEEN GIRL & HORSE

BOX OFFICE: $186.8 M
BUDGET: $60 M
RECOGNITION: OSCAR NOM, 2X GOLDEN GLOBE NOM



SEABISCUIT

WHERE TO WATCH: hulu

NOTABLE COMPS: FAMILY HISTORICAL DRAMA, HORSE FILM, BASED ON A TRUE STORY

BOX OFFICE: $148.3 M
BUDGET: $86.7 M
RECOGNITION: 7X OSCAR NOM



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