



THE PLASTIC MAGICIAN

THE PLASTIC MAGICIAN

A TRUE CRIME FEATURE FILM

Adapted from biographical novel by **Ron Berkowitz**



Born of Cuban descent, Arturo Hoyo, aka The Plastic Magician, found himself on the front page of the Miami Herald for scamming American Express out of over 8 million dollars of credit card services in Florida alone.

His rise to the pinnacle of his profession was acknowledged by vice-president George Bush and the Senate Judiciary Committee on crimes involving scams in Washington, D.C.

Spending millions at the drop of a hat, he romanced Hollywood celebrities. His jet setting lifestyle was one of which we all dream of having. Everything he says sounds like it can be a best selling book.

Some of his scams involved impersonating an Argentinian General and Mr. Bacardi, the rum magnate. The Plastic Magician can change identities and residences as fast as Clark Kent can change into Superman.



**This is the story of one of
America's greatest con artists
of the 20th century.**

LOGLINE: A former drug smuggler turned strip club manager entertains his boss with the exploits of a genius con artist he befriended in prison, a man who revolutionized credit card fraud in the early 1980's.



SYNOPSIS

An ex-convict, named Ron Berkowitz, is tasked with telling his coked up mob boss about a genius con man he did time with. Ron reluctantly agrees to do so, correctly suspecting that his boss, and his visiting associate, don't quite believe him.

The con man, named Arturo Hoyo, forms a bond with Ron in prison, and offers to recount his life story to him. Arturo spins tales of one unbelievable exploit after another, from how he became a master confidence man, to how he finally ended up getting caught after being noticed by Miami-Dade County detectives, who are forced to expand their thinking to an international level just to play catch up.

After relating Arturo's story to an enthusiastic but ultimately doubting mob audience, Ron is informed that his former cellmate has vanished after his release from prison. Arturo shows up in the most unlikely of places when Ron realizes that his con artist friend is gearing up to pull off his final masterpiece of deception, right before he disappears forever...

WHY IT MATTERS

From the housing crisis of 2008, to the private investment horror of Bernie Madoff, and now the Bitcoin shenanigans of FTX and Sam Bankman-Fried, there seems to be no end in sight to constant criminal malfeasance in the financial sector.

The exploits of the Plastic Magician himself, Arturo Hoyo, are now as relevant as ever, despite the fact that he committed his crimes over thirty years ago. This story is a warning that, no matter the time period, these problems won't go away - so long as there are men willing to bend the system to their advantage.



COMPARABLES

TOP RATED

- Inventing Anna (2022)
- Ocean's film series (2001-2018)

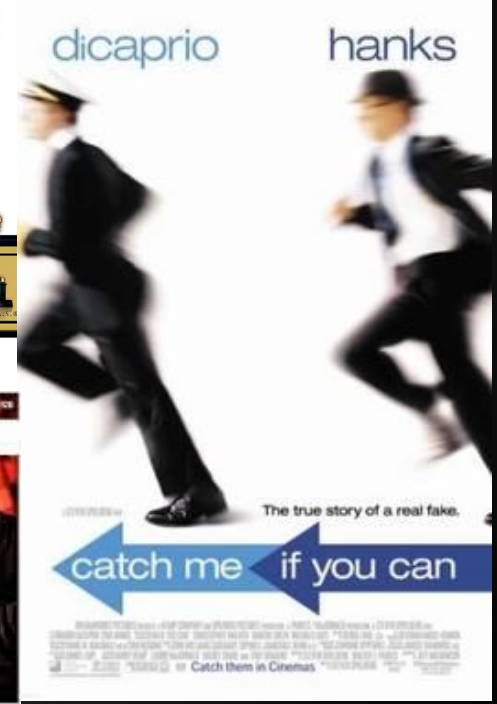
CLASSICS

- The Sting (1973)
- Catch Me if You Can (2002)

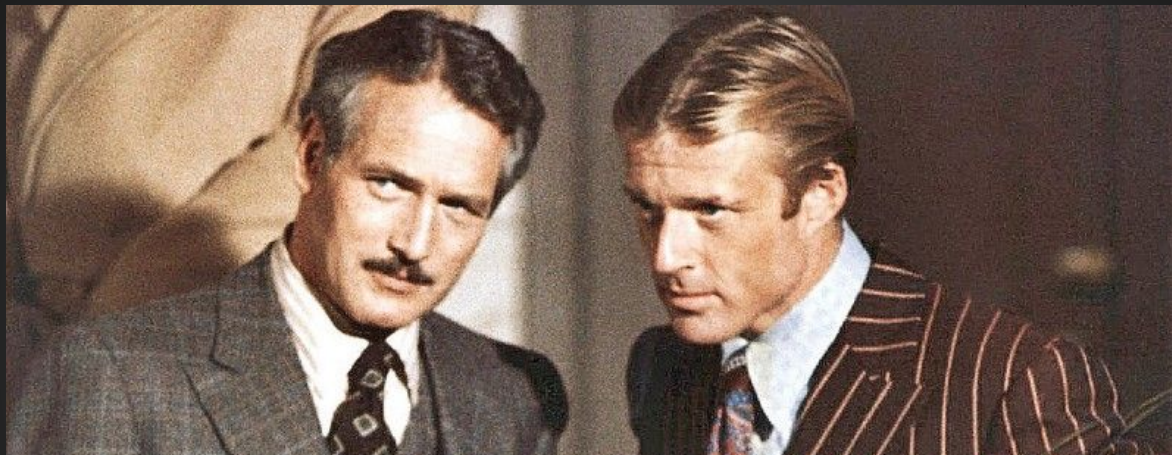
THE STING



7 ACADEMY AWARDS® 1973
INCLUDING
BEST PICTURE



TONE



The dramatic irony of Arturo's schemes will provide organic moments of levity for the audience, without having to force the issue, allowing the film to have brief moments of respite from any mounting tension.

Although Arturo and Ron are not killers, they operate within a dangerous criminal world with its own set of rules, and the tone of the film reflects this.



THEMES

Stories Within Stories

How Criminals Mythologize Each Other Through The Tales Of Their Exploits (The Robin Hood Effect)

Inside Each Con Is Always Another Con

Additional Themes:

Credit Card Fraud

Financial Security

Unbelievable Exploits

Revenge and Redemption



RON BERKEWITZ

MAIN CHARACTER

Thematically, Ron has become tentative and stuck-in-the-mud regarding his life choices. Although relatively unscathed from a physical perspective, mentally Ron has been scarred by being in prison, because he was able to be let out based on his own research about the flaws in his case.

If Ron hadn't done that research, he'd still be locked up on a long sentence. However, Ron still gravitates to the people and environment that got him locked up in the first place, which is always a danger for any ex-con trying to walk the straight and narrow.

Ron's final lesson will be to move away from these people and the mentally they inhabit, and ironically he'll be able to take his first steps toward that freedom by re-telling the story of a con man.





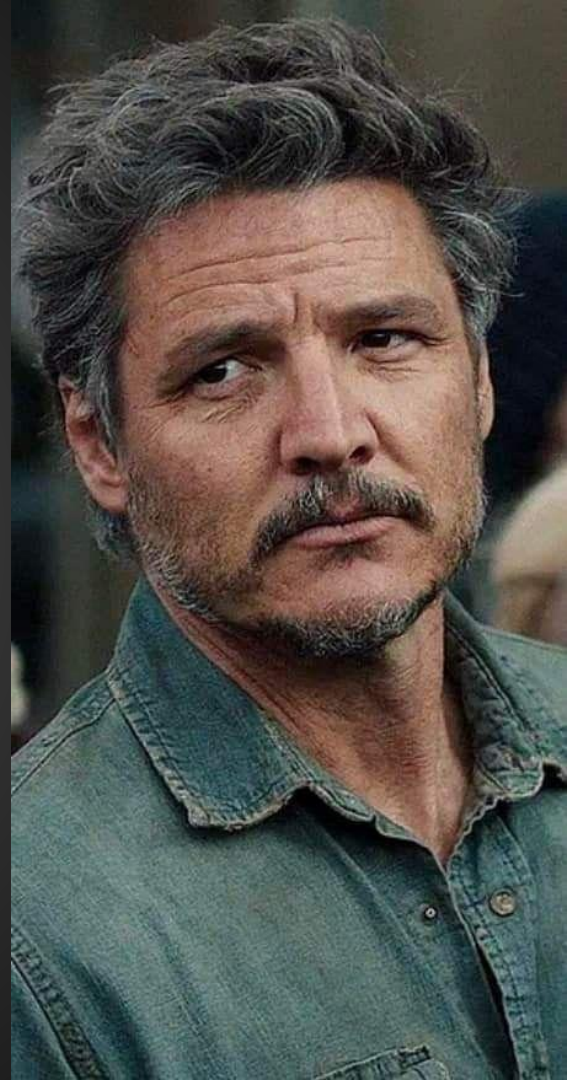
ARTURO HOYO

CONMAN

Arturo is a mythical figure within the framework of this story, but myth and reality can often be two different things. His story is exciting, filled with intrigue, glamour, and revels in the glory of sticking to not only your enemies, but the establishment itself.

But, if you look beyond the mythology of Arturo Hoyo, the glamorous facade begins to crack. His parents are dead. His revenge against the man who killed him has awakened a lust for lawlessness and fraud, and the family he created will forever be kept at a distance because of him constantly having to stay one step ahead of the authorities.

Although smart and resourceful, Arturo's ultimate con will be the stories he tells himself to justify the crimes he's committed.



MICHAEL

MAIN CHARACTER

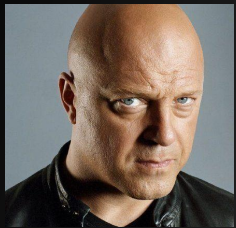
Hubris is the word that defines strip club owner and fierce Mafioso Michael. His loyalty to a life of crime was forged early, and unlike Ron or even Arturo, Michael lacks the imagination to see himself as anything but a coke snorting, strip club owning soldier for his upstate Family.

A life outside of the Mob is inconceivable to Michael, so to hear Ron's story of an upstart rogue criminal (although admirable to a certain extent), feels almost unnecessary, as well as way too much work. Why think to create schemes when all you've done is take?

Sadly, Michael will learn about the art of the con first hand when he makes the mistake of doubting the story of Ron's friend and mentor.



SUPPORTING CHARACTERS



FROGGY

Sent from the Mob higher-ups to keep an eye on Michael Peter, Froggy's chilly disposition hides a keen instinct for human observation, and his respect for Ron grows the more he hears him articulate Arturo's story.



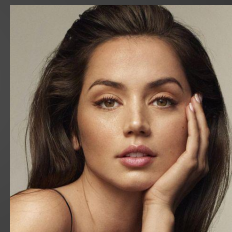
FELIX HOYO

Felix is fiercely loyal to his brother Arturo, and follows him down the road of criminality without any hesitation.



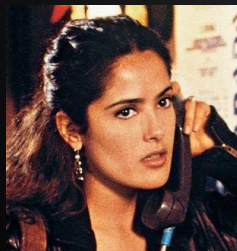
BARBI

Although looked down upon for her profession, Barbi extreme intelligence ultimately shines through, despite her rambunctious personality.



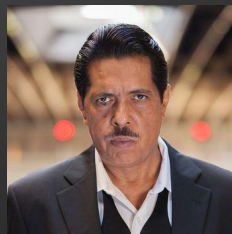
PILAR

Arturo's loyal wife is one of the few people not seduced by Arturo's high-flying lifestyle, and he is in constant danger of losing her because of it.



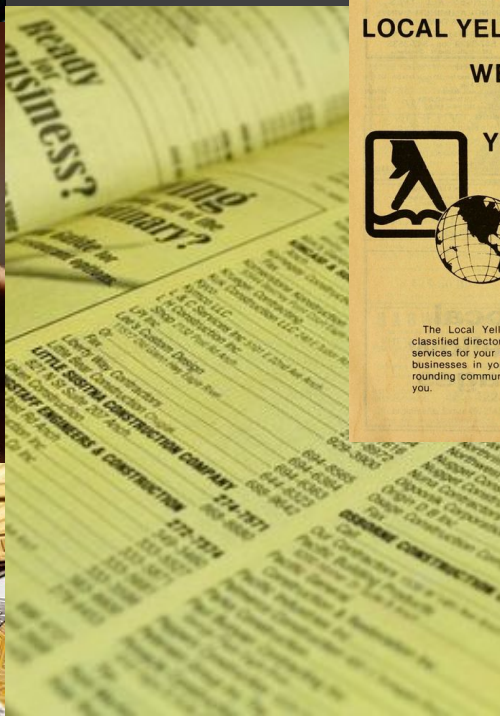
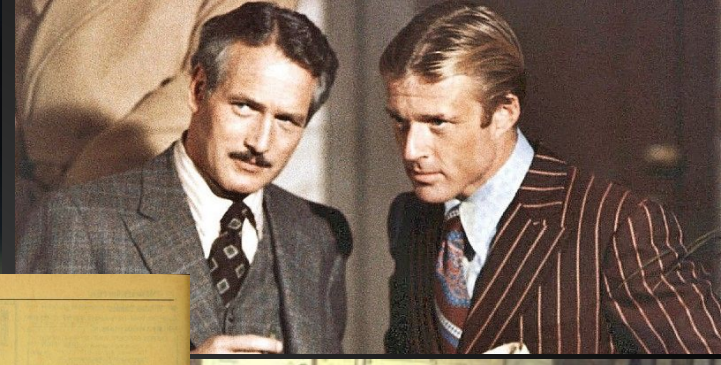
DETECTIVE ALEX ORTEGA

This by-the-book detective is sincere in her efforts to take down Arturo, but this same drive threatens to expose her insecurity and angst at trying to bring down such a high profile figure.



ENZO DEL BUFALO

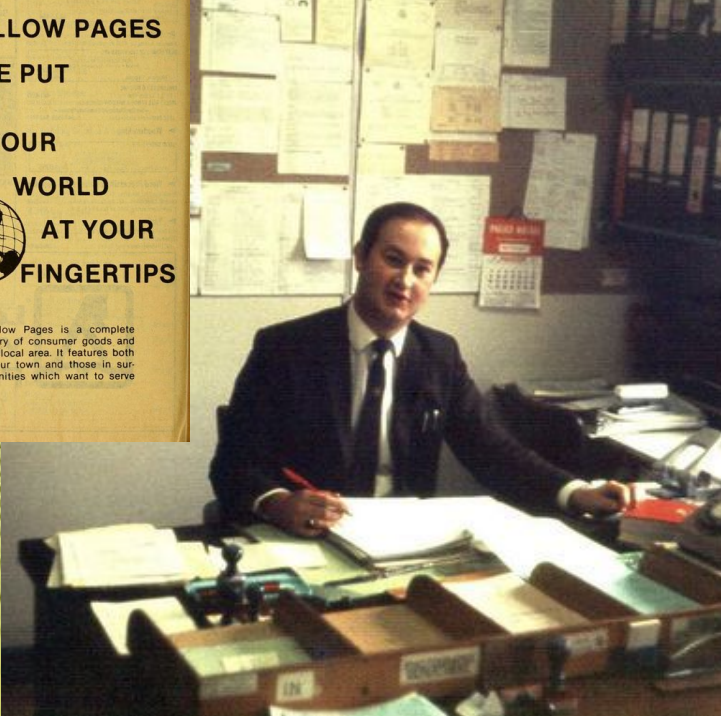
The man directly responsible for the death of Arturo's parents is a conniving, sniveling snake of a man, and his comeuppance as a start to Arturo's criminal hijinks is most satisfying.



110

AT THE
LOCAL YELLOW PAGES
WE PUT
YOUR
WORLD
AT YOUR
FINGERTIPS

The Local Yellow Pages is a complete classified directory of consumer goods and services for your local area. It features both businesses in your town and those in surrounding communities which want to serve you.



THE WORLD



THE WORLD



THE WORLD



MARKET SUMMARY

The global movies and entertainment market is expected to grow at a compound annual growth rate of 7.2% from 2022 to 2030 to reach USD 169.68 billion by 2030.

Key factors that are driving the movies and entertainment market growth include the increasing popularity of 3D movies that give the audience experience of virtual reality and increased spending on entertainment and change in the lifestyle of people in emerging economies.

Read more or purchase full report:

<https://www.grandviewresearch.com/industry-analysis/movies-entertainment-market>

BUDGET NARRATIVE

Production Information

Principal Photography: 36-40 days

Cast/Crew Size: 30

Budget Estimates

Cast/Crew Salaries and Meals: \$800,000-\$1.4 million

Preproduction: \$250,000-500,000

Equipment and materials: 500,000-750,000

Editing: \$50,000-\$100,000

- As an independent non-union film we are pricing this out within the \$5 million range.
- A showrunner or film accountant will work out the remaining line item budgets:
 - Locations, insurance, permits, pyrotechnics, music and footage licensing.
- Additional Information:
 - There are certain things we may need to travel to the location or at least obtain footage from to make it look believable, like the Fountainbleau in Miami. The lobby is very recognizable and has a famous staircase. It will cost \$50,000 to send a crew to obtain footage and \$100,00 to bring all the actors down there to do the scenes.
 - There are a lot of locations (approximately 70 different locations). Production must consider the cost/benefits of leasing a stage and building a lot of the sets instead of renting out a large number of locations.

The Plastic Magician

Tommy Sigmon

E: stranglewood@hotmail.com

P: (773) 828-3511