

A Glenn Powell Original Screenplay

SLICKS

VIETNAM 1969.

THE SKY WAS THE DEADLIEST PLACE ON EARTH.



A reckless young helicopter pilot in Vietnam discovers the missions he flies are feeding a covert CIA assassination program and must choose between the silence that keeps him alive and the truth that will cost him everything, including the woman waiting back home.

Based on True Events

APOCALYPSE NOW - HURTLOCKER

WAR / CONSPIRACY DRAMA. 102 PAGES.

THE PITCH

THE WORLD

Every Vietnam film has shown you the grunt in the mud. The tunnel. The ambush in the tree line. *None of them have put you inside the cockpit.*

SLICKS lives in the subculture that has never been explored on screen, the Air Cavalry helicopter pilots who flew into hell on a daily basis. Low and slow over hostile jungle. Rotors that enemy ears could hear from a mile away. Men who couldn't duck. Men who couldn't run. Men who could only *fly back in*.

THE STORY

MARK BRADY is twenty years old and freshly winged when he lands at a dusty base in Vietnam. He's not a hero. He's not a coward. He's exactly the kind of young American man the war manufactures in bulk - eager, uncertain, and about to have everything he thought he knew stripped away.

His anchor is JJ, his co-pilot, his best friend, the kind of bond forged in the crucible of shared danger that most people never experience in a lifetime. Together they fly combat missions, skimming the canopy, taking fire, hauling broken men out of impossible places. It is terrifying. It is also, in the language of twenty-year-olds, *the most alive either of them has ever felt*.

Back home, Brady's girl JESSICA writes him a Dear John letter. The war takes everything, and then it takes that too. In the jungle, legendary correspondent LARRY BURROWS moves through the carnage with a camera, bearing witness to a war the world is watching but few truly understand - forcing Brady to see his own experience not just as survival, but as history.

Then Brady learns what his helicopters are really carrying.

The men he ferries into the dark aren't prisoners. They're targets. His missions are feeding **Phoenix**, the CIA's covert program of interrogation and assassination, running quietly beneath the war everyone else can see. It is the kind of truth a man cannot unsee, and cannot un-know.

Speak, and he becomes a threat to the most powerful men in the war. Stay silent, and he is complicit in it. The choice Brady makes will define every year of his life that follows.

"The script wades into pretty heady territory about survival, purpose and honor - and does so from an earnest perspective that ultimately feels fair to the lives and reputations of those featured."

THE BLACK LIST

WHAT MAKES THIS FILM

01

A WORLD YOU'VE NEVER SEEN.

Air Cavalry helicopter pilots operated in a specific, mechanical, death-defying subculture that cinema has never explored up close. The mission sequences carry deep technical authenticity, the kind that makes an audience lean forward and hold their breath.

02

A FRIENDSHIP AT THE CENTER.

Brady and JJ are the emotional engine. Their bond is not sentimental, it is built from shared fear, shared dark humor, and the quiet understanding that only the person in the next seat truly gets it. When that bond is tested, the stakes are everything.

03

TRUE EVENTS. REAL WEIGHT.

SLICKS is grounded in the real, documented history of the Phoenix Program, the covert operation the public barely knows and cinema has never dramatized from inside a cockpit. The moral fog, the atrocities witnessed, the silence that followed: this is not invention. That truth gives every scene a gravity impossible to manufacture.

WHY THIS. WHY NOW.

THE APPETITE IS THERE

War drama has never gone away; it has simply been waiting for a fresh lens. The helicopter-pilot angle is not a gimmick. It is a genuine blind spot in the Vietnam canon, and audiences who grew up on Platoon and Apocalypse Now are ready to see the sky.

A THRILLER'S ENGINE

Beneath the war drama runs a conspiracy: a young man who knows something powerful people need buried. That engine, moral suspense, the cost of the truth, a secret worth killing for – is what lifts SLICKS out of the combat-film field and gives it a spine audiences chase in the dark.

COMING-OF-AGE AT SCALE

At its core, SLICKS is the oldest story there is: a young man learning what he's made of. That story travels across every demographic, every market, every generation. The Vietnam setting is the crucible. Brady's journey is universal.

A FILMMAKER'S SCRIPT

This is not a franchise play. It is not IP-adjacent. It is an original, authored story with a distinctive voice, authentic detail, and the kind of moral complexity that attracts serious talent both in front of and behind the camera.

THE ASK

This is the film: moments of terrifying clarity inside overwhelming chaos. A twenty-year-old deciding, again and again, in split seconds and in long silences - who he is, when knowing the truth is the most dangerous thing of all.

SLICKS is ready for the filmmaker who wants to take audiences somewhere they've never been – and show them something they were never meant to see.