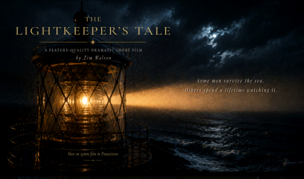


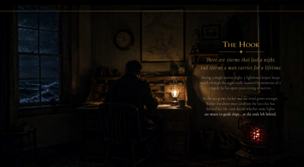
THE LIGHTKEEPER'S TALE

A FEATURE-QUALITY DRAMATIC SHORT FILM

by Tim Walton

Shot on 35mm film in Panavision

Some men survive the sea.
Others spend a lifetime watching it.



The Hook

There are storms that last a night.
And storms a man carries for a lifetime.

During a single stormy night, a lighthouse keeper keeps watch through the night while haunted by memories of a tragedy he has spent years trying to survive.

As the sea grows darker and the wind grows stronger, Walter Darabont must confront the loss that has defined his life—and decide whether some lights are meant to guide ships... or the souls left behind.

Logline

As a violent storm batters the California coast, a lone lighthouse keeper confronts the tragedy that has haunted him for decades, sustained only by memories that refuse to fade.

THEMES

GRIEF: The weight of loss carried across a lifetime.

DUTY: The quiet dignity of showing up every day.

MEMORY: The people we lose never entirely leave us.

ENDURANCE: Some lives are defined not by great victories, but by perseverance.

HOPE: Even the smallest light can guide us home.

Synopsis

Walter Darabont has spent years tending the light at Point Cabrillo Lighthouse. As a violent storm bears down on the Mendocino coast, he performs the duties that have defined his life: recording the weather, maintaining the lamp, and keeping watch over the darkening sea.

But the storm awakens memories of another night long ago — a shipwreck aboard the Dakota, when the sea took more from him than he could bear to remember.

As wind and rain close in, Walter finds comfort in the presence of his wife, Clara, and their young daughter, Abigail, whose quiet companionship seems to guide him through the darkness.

By dawn, memory and reality blur, and Walter must confront the truth he has carried for years: that the love keeping him alive has been with him only in memory.

Director's Statement

I began making films as a child in the early 1970s, when every image was captured on film and storytelling was driven by what audiences could see rather than what characters could say. The filmmakers who inspired me taught me the power of visual storytelling. Films like "Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge," "The Red Balloon," and "The Black Stallion" demonstrated that **silence, imagery, and emotion can often communicate more than** dialogue ever could.

The Lightkeeper's Tale was born from that philosophy.

Set against the rugged Northern California coast, it is a story of grief, memory, resilience, and love. The lighthouse, the sea, and the storm are not simply settings— they are reflections of the protagonist's inner world.

My goal is to create a film that feels timeless, relying on atmosphere, performance, and imagery to tell a deeply human story. Like the lighthouse itself, the film is ultimately about endurance: the lights we carry, the losses we survive, and the hope that guides us home.

KODAK
5219
32

Why 35mm

Because some stories are meant to be captured, not recorded.

The story of The Lightkeeper's Tale lives in light, shadow, weather, and memory. From the warm glow of an oil lamp to the sweep of the lighthouse beacon across a storm-dark sea, the film depends on imagery to communicate what words cannot. Photographing the film on 35mm allows the medium itself to become part of that experience. Its texture, depth, and organic response to light create a world that feels tangible, timeless, and emotionally resonant.

Why Panavision

Because craftsmanship matters.

For more than seventy years, Panavision has helped filmmakers shape light into story. That tradition resonates deeply with The Lightkeeper's Tale—a film centered on a man whose life's work is tending a beacon that guides others through darkness.

By combining Panavision optics with 35mm film, the production embraces a legacy of craftsmanship, visual storytelling, and cinematic excellence. The **result is imagery that feels timeless, immersive, and emotionally authentic.**

Like Walter's lighthouse, every element serves a single purpose: to ensure the light reaches its destination.

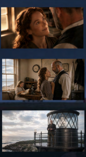
Visual Approach

The storm outside. The storm within.

The storm world is cold, dark, and unforgiving — shaped by wind, rain, fog, and the hard geometry of the lighthouse. Walter's memories are warmer, more intimate, and painterly, filled with lamplight, faces, and the fragile beauty of the life he once knew.

As the night progresses, these two worlds begin to merge. **The storm outside becomes inseparable from the storm** within him.

The goal is not to create beautiful images for their own sake, but images that reveal character, memory, and grief.



The Family

The love Walter carries through the storm.

WALTER DARABONT

Portrayed by Chris Amick

A former sailor turned lighthouse keeper, Walter is a man shaped by survival, duty, and loss. On the night of the storm, he must confront not only the sea outside, but the memory he has spent years trying to endure.

CLARA DARABONT

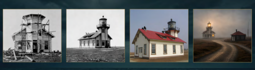
Casting in Progress

Walter's wife. Warm, intelligent, and quietly strong, Clara is the emotional anchor of his life. Whether remembered, imagined, or something more mysterious, her presence reminds Walter of the love that still guides him.

ABIGAIL "ABBY" DARABONT

Portrayed by Tenley Peacock

Walter and Clara's young daughter. Bright, curious, and full of life, Abby represents the future Walter lost — and the part of him that still reaches toward hope.



Point Cabrillo Light Station

The light must never go out.

The Point Cabrillo Light Station is more than a location. It is one of the film's central characters.

Perched above the Pacific on the Mendocino coast, the lighthouse gives the story a sense of isolation, history, and physical truth that cannot be manufactured. Its restored lantern room, coastal landscape, and period architecture provide an authentic foundation for Walter's world.

The film uses the lighthouse not as a backdrop, but as a symbol: a fragile human structure standing against darkness, weather, and the vastness of the sea.

The Path to Production

Built to preserve the intimacy of the story
while protecting the scale of the production.

THE LIGHTKEEPER'S TALE is designed as a focused, contained production built around controlled interiors, a practical historic location, and carefully planned visual sequences.

Principal photography will take place at Point Cabrillo Light Station, with select interiors produced on a constructed Watch Room set to allow greater control over lighting, weather effects, camera movement, and schedule.

Storm, sea, and shipwreck imagery will be achieved through a hybrid approach combining practical elements, **controlled photography, visual effects, and carefully designed inserts—placing resources where they matter most:** image, performance, period authenticity, and atmosphere.

Production Snapshot

FORMAT: 35mm Motion Picture Film

CAMERA PACKAGE: Panavision 35mm Camera and Lenses

PRIMARY LOCATION: Point Cabrillo Light Station

SET CONSTRUCTION: Watch Room

PERIOD: 1922

STATUS
In Pre-production
Script: Complete
Location: Identified
Set Location: Identified
Select Cast: Attached

Use of Funds

A focused budget designed to preserve craft, authenticity, and visual impact.

Budget Philosophy

THE LIGHTKEEPER'S TALE is a lean, feature-quality dramatic short, with resources concentrated on the elements that most directly shape the audience's experience: 35mm image capture, period authenticity, performance, practical atmosphere, and finishing quality.

The film's contained story, limited cast, and controlled interior work allow the production to remain focused while preserving the scale and cinematic texture required by the story.

Through committed in-kind partnerships—including production design, period furnishings, specialty props, and wardrobe—the production is able to devote more of its budget directly to what appears on screen.

Primary Uses

Estimated 35mm Film Workflow: *Kodak motion picture film stock, lab processing, high-resolution scanning.*	$12,000
Panavision Camera/Lens Package: *Assumes negotiated independent-film rate or in-kind camera support.*	$12,000
Location/Permits/Lodging/Meals: *Point Cabrillo Light Station, US Coast Guard, California State Parks, Insurance, etc.*	$12,000
Period Wardrobe/Props/Set Build:	$6,000
Cast & Crew:	$12,000
Shipwreck & Weather VFX:	$6,500
Post-production/Sound/Color:	$9,500
ESTIMATED TOTAL:	$70,000

Cast & Creative Team

A collaborative team of storytellers, craftspeople, and artists dedicated to honoring the story with autenticity and cinematic integrity.

KEY CAST

THE LIGHTKEEPER
Chris Amick
Known for his intensity and range, Chris brings rugged authenticity and emotional depth to the solitary **lighthouse keeper at the** heart of the film.

CLARA
(TBD)
Walter's true love and the source of his inner strength. Her presence lives in his memory — a guiding light **that never fades.**

ABBY
Tenley Peacock
Already a seasoned performer at only 8-years old, Tenley is the living embodiment of Abby — intelligent, fun, **loving, and full of life.**

CREATIVE TEAM

WRITER/PRODUCER/DIRECTOR
Tim Walton
Emmy®-winning filmmaker with a passion for character-driven stories and visual **storytelling.**

PRODUCER
Dianna Wilberg
Award-winning filmmaker, producer, television host, and author dedicated to character-driven, emotionally **engaging storytelling.**

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER
Kitty Walton
Her focused, detail-driven executive leadership ensures the production stays organized, on budget, and **on schedule.**

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY
(TBD)
Experienced in 35mm cinematography with a focus on light, texture, **and atmosphere.**

PRODUCTION SOUND MIXER
Donovan Murphy
With 70+ major credits, he is known for clean dialogue and a fast, **production-friendly approach.**

PRODUCTION DESIGNER
Executive Director of Baker Street West, providing museum-quality period resources, production **design, and Victorian expertise.**

SCRIPT RECOGNITION

Before production, *The Lightkeeper's Tale* script has already been selected by 24 film and screenplay festivals, earning multiple placements and **honors for its script, story, and** cinematic potential.

Production Partners

BAKER STREET WEST

Baker Street West is a world recognized, immersive Victorian theatre and museum located in Jackson, California. Its extraordinary commitment to historical authenticity and craftsmanship makes it an invaluable production partner for The Lightkeeper's Tale, providing production design resources, authentic period furnishings, wardrobe, and creative collaboration.

PANAVISION
Camera Partner (Pending)

SHOT ON KODAK 35MM FILM
Film Partner (Pending)

FOTOKEM
Lab Partner (Pending)

About The Filmmaker

TIM WALTON

FILMMAKER • CINEMATOGRAPHER • EDITOR • PRODUCER

Tim Walton is an Emmy® Award-winning filmmaker whose career spans more than three decades in documentary, television, cinematography, and editorial storytelling. A lifelong student of motion picture film, Tim began making movies as a child and spent much of his career working in 8mm, Super 8, 16mm, and 35mm before the industry's transition to digital.

With THE LIGHTKEEPER'S TALE, Tim brings together a lifetime of **visual storytelling and a deeply personal love of traditional filmmaking** craft to create a story rooted in memory, endurance, and the quiet power of light.

3X EMMY AWARD WINNER • 18X TELLY AWARD WINNER • 30+ YEARS IN FILM & TELEVISION

Help Keep The Light

The Lightkeeper's Tale is seeking funding, production partners, and in-kind support to bring this 35mm dramatic short film to life.

We are looking for partners who believe craftsmanship still matters—and that some stories deserve to be told in the light they were imagined.

CURRENTLY SEEKING

- Grant & Private Funding
- Production Partners
- 35mm Film, Camera & Lab Support
- Post-Production & Finishing Partners
- In-Kind Production Resources

TIM WALTON
Writer/Director
arrimantim@hotmail.com
www.timwaltonfilms.com

*Screenplay and additional production materials available upon request.

Thank You

Thank you for taking the time to consider *The Lightkeeper's Tale.*

We are grateful for your interest in this film and for your support of independent, craft-driven storytelling.

We look forward to the possibility of sharing this journey with you.

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