

A FILM BY ELI MCCAIG

THE  
GHOSTLIGHT

As Russell Layne inherits Fonda Theater from his estranged friend James Newman, he embarks on a poignant journey of self-discovery and redemption, confronting the profound impact of their bond and finding solace in embracing his past.

JOURNEY THROUGH THE SHADOWS OF THE PAST

In "The Ghostlight" Russell Layne, a man estranged from his past, finds himself unexpectedly inheriting ownership of a cherished theater from his late friend James Newman. As Russell grapples with this unexpected responsibility, he embarks on a journey of self-discovery and reconciliation. Through a series of poignant flashbacks from childhood to adolescence, Russell navigates the intricacies of friendship, identity, and unspoken truths that have shaped his life. As he confronts the profound impact of his bond with James and the significance of the theater in his journey, Russell ultimately finds solace and purpose in embracing his past and honoring the legacy of his friend.

A photograph of a person in a theater costume, showing their legs and feet. They are wearing a light-colored, patterned skirt or dress, white stockings, and dark loafers. The background is a dimly lit stage with a wooden floor and a guitar visible in the distance.

# Plot Synopsis

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# Film Themes



Friendship & Connection



Identity & Self-Discovery

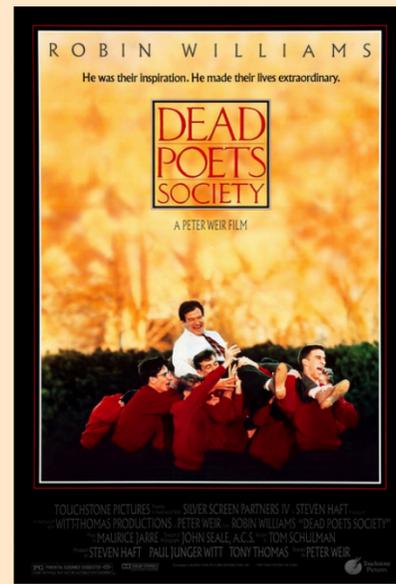
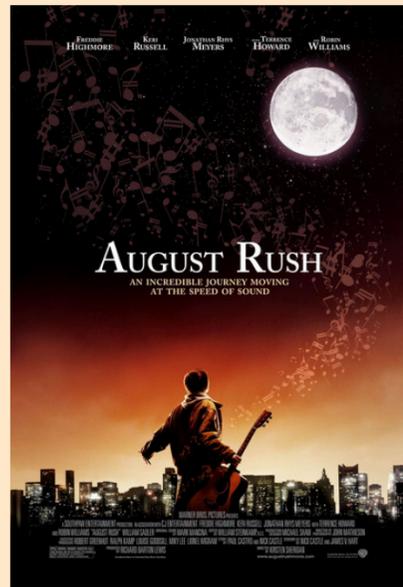


Legacy & Inheritance



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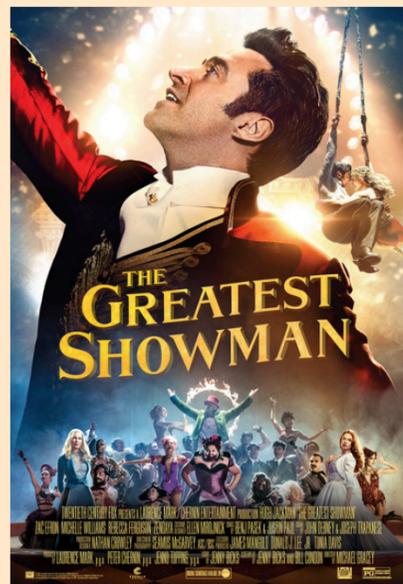
# Comparables



August Rush (2007)

Dead Poets Society (1989)

The Greatest Showman (2017)



Cinema Paradiso (1988)

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# Visual Comparables

Birdman (2014)



The Haunting of Hill House:  
Episode 6 - Two Storms (2018)



# Why A Long Take?

Opting to shoot the film as a long take is to have a similar feeling of a stage play. The setting of a theater creates the idea of a live theater play which allows the story to be told continuously. This allows audiences to be fully focused on the actors during their performance. This also allows the actors to feel more natural during their performances and feel connected to their surroundings.

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# Key Characters

**Russell Layne:** 62, Traits: Mature, introverted, carries a sense of unawareness. Exudes an air of maturity tinged with a hint of introversion. Having grown up more than necessary, he carries himself with a sense of unawareness, navigating life's complexities with a quiet resolve.

**Lawyer:** Age, Gender, & Race are indeterminate. Sympathetic, urgent, professional. Tasked with delivering important news to Russell about the theater deed. Despite their sympathetic demeanor towards Russell's loss, they are also pressed for time, reflecting a sense of urgency in their interactions.



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# Key Characters

**Child Russell:** 10, Timid, introverted, gradually opens up. Seeking a young actor who can portray the character's journey from reluctance to openness with authenticity and vulnerability. Reluctantly attends theater camp under his mother's insistence. Initially resistant to socializing, he gradually begins to open up thanks to the influence of his outgoing friend, James.

**Child James Newman:** 10, Extroverted, encouraging, warm. Looking for a young actor who exudes charisma and energy, capable of portraying James's outgoing nature and his desire to help Russell. Embodies extroversion, contrasting sharply with Russell's introverted nature. Eager to help Russell break out of his shell and make friends, James exudes encouragement and warmth in his interactions.



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# Key Characters

**Teen Russell:** 18, Introverted, grappling with self-discovery and feelings for James. Seeking a young actor who can convey the internal conflict and emotional depth of the character as he navigates the complexities of adolescence and identity. Just weeks away from his 18th birthday and graduation, Teen Russell retains traces of introversion while shedding much of it. Guarding a secret about his sexuality, he grapples with feelings for James while navigating the fear and uncertainty of self-discovery.

**Teen James:** 18, Confident, outgoing, harboring deep feelings for Russell. Looking for a young actor with charisma and charm, capable of portraying James's confidence and warmth, as well as the depth of his emotions for Russell. Confident, outgoing and ready to embark on new adventures but holds onto the dream of buying the theater he holds dear. Concealing his own homosexuality, he encourages Russell to embrace his true self, all while harboring deep feelings for his friend.



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# Film Crew

Director: Eli McCaig

Producers: Shelby Adele Tyre (Hub City  
Productions)

Writer: Eli McCaig

Director of Photography:

Production Designer:

Editor:

Score/Music:

First Assistant Director:

Production Coordinator/UPM:

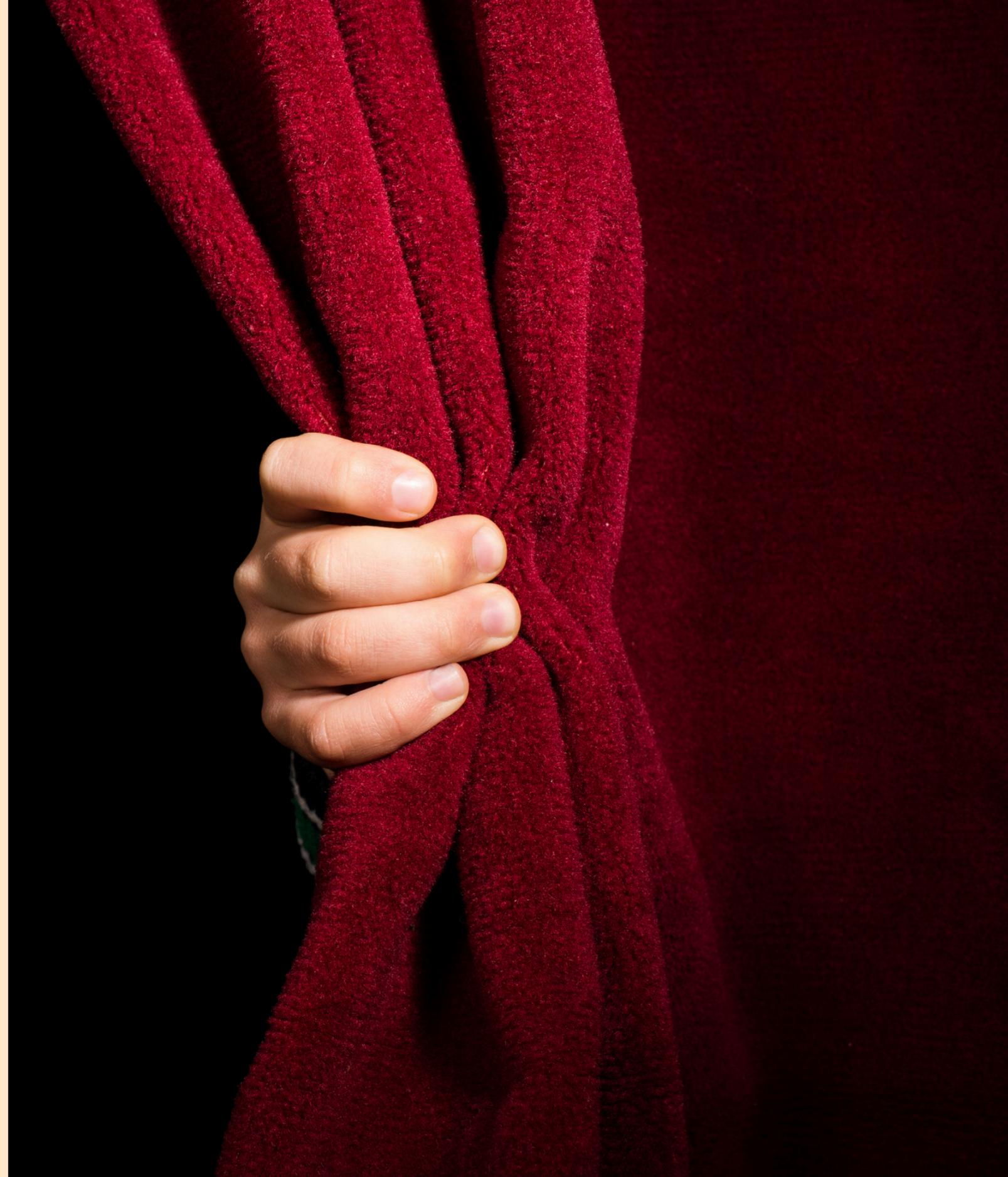
Sound Mixer:

Gaffer:

Key Grip:

Hair/Makeup/Wardrobe:

Script Supervisor:



A photograph of a theater stage. The background is a large, closed red curtain. Above the curtain is a golden, ornate archway. The stage floor is dark, and there are some small lights visible at the bottom. The text 'Production Plan' is overlaid in the center.

# Production Plan

# Pre-Production - June

**Casting:** Release casting calls and audition notices. Conduct auditions for all roles. Finalize casting decisions by June 15th.

**Location Scouting & Set Design:** Scout potential filming locations. Secure necessary permits for filming. Begin designing sets and props as per script requirements. Coordinate with the art department to ensure sets are ready for filming.

**Finalize Shooting Schedule:** Coordinate with the director, cast, and crew to finalize shooting dates. Lock in locations and finalize logistics. Prepare a detailed shooting schedule for the entire production day.

# Production - July

Day One: Rehearse blocking for the full shot. Work with the crew to perfectly understand all the necessary movements for each crew member. Have the cast understand that if they mess up a line keep going. Encourage the idea of this being similar to a stage show.

Day Two: Arrive on set early for setup and rehearsals. Film all scenes involving Child Russell, Child James, Teen Russell, Teen James, Lawyer, and Adult Russell. Ensure all necessary shots are completed as per schedule. Wrap up filming for the day.

# Editing & Post-Production - August

Review and organize all footage captured during filming. Begin editing process to assemble the film. Add necessary visual effects, sound effects, and music. Conduct test screenings and gather feedback for revisions. Finalize editing and post-production by late-August.

# A Word From The Writer

“The Ghostlight” originates from my origins with the theater. I grew up doing theater for years, and this was my way of honoring that part of my life. It was my way of looking at that part of my life and sharing my love. It also comes from my friend, who helped nourish my love for the theater. He is the main inspiration for Russell and this story. Without him, I don’t know if this story would be written. This story stayed on my computer for too long, and the time to make it is now. The idea of making it a “long-take” film comes from how plays are “long-take” performances. I love this story. It’s a story I want to share. To share a love for the theater in this way is the only thing I can think to do.



A hand in a dark suit sleeve is reaching out from the left side of the frame, with fingers slightly spread. The background is a deep red, vertically pleated curtain. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the hand and the texture of the fabric.

**Thank You!**