KNIGHT

Treatment by:
Josh Mabie

Contact:
ph: 310-963-4103
email: joshua.m.mabie@gmail.com

INTRO

Knight is a coming of age story wrapped up in a comic book film that follows the adventures of Lucas Fox as he attempts to save North Gotham from the tyranny that is slowly engulfing the city. It's a character journey that explores who Lucas is while he struggles with where he fits into the landscape of the tumultuous and vibrant world of North Gotham. After poking the hornet's nest of crime, he is nearly killed and is set on a path of redemption in order to save his friends, family and ultimately the city itself.

The story opens on Luke in the middle of his first MMA fight, despite his father's wishes. He pitts himself against other warriors in the ring in an attempt to hone his skills to become strong enough to defeat the streetgangs.

KNIGHT is a story about the realization that you are only as strong as those that you surround yourself with. It's a story in the vein of Iron Man and Thor, where a well to do individual has the carpet ripped out from under them and must journey back to find themselves and do right by their friends and family. This movie has the potential to be DC's answer to Black Panther. An intimate character drama about a man searching for redemption through saving his family.

OUR HERO
LUKE FOX

CHARACTER

A good story starts with a strong character that has a compelling arc.

Character's are driven by misbelief and one of the most interesting things about comic book movies is what they have to say about power and the misconceptions they breed when it comes to achievement.

For example, in Iron Man, in order to build a suit like Stark's it would take at least 3-4 real world genius'
coming together to move the dial on science and tech.

That seems to be the most glaring error in what makes the worlds of The Dark Knight Trilogy feel so much different and so much more grounded and compelling than every other modern day comic book film. That's what we are aiming to return to. The grounded hyper-real world will be brought to life through the thematic lens that we are only as strong as the people we surround ourselves with and it is only through their aid that we can achieve our goals and become our own individual selves.

LUKE'S FATHER IS TECH CEO

LUCIUS FOX

Much like Thor and Iron Man, it is a story that focuses on the fall of a prince and his journey back to saving the city and in the process saving himself. Lucas Fox has lived a life of luxury since his father became CEO of Wayne Tech and his journey has been easier for it. It is time to take everything away from him and force him to work his way back from the ground up.
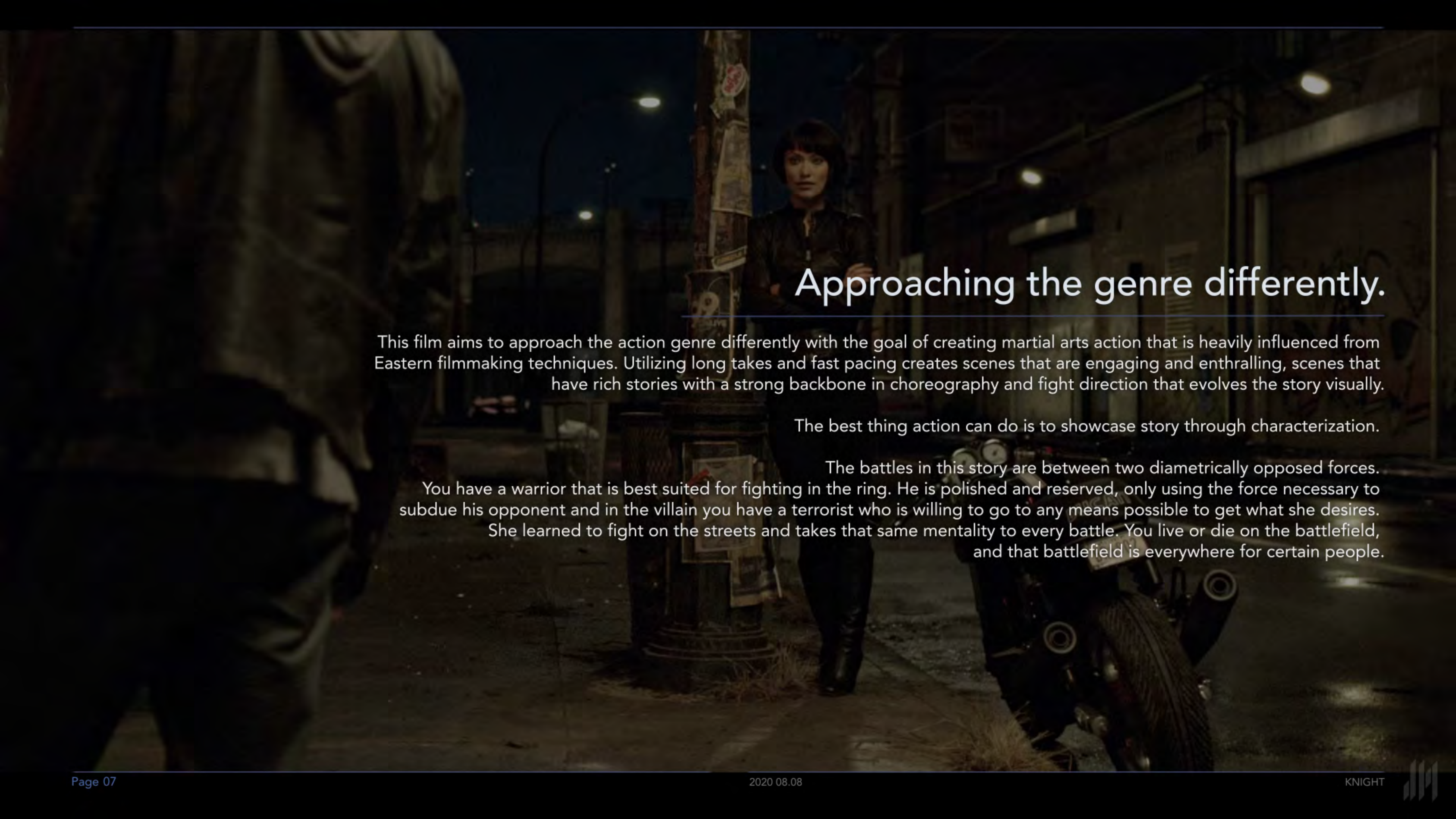
When one man thinks he can change the world alone, the world shows just how hard it can hit, driving Luke to the aid of his closest friends and enemies in order to stop the 99%er gang from destroying everything his father and Bruce Wayne have attempted to build.

Unforgettable Action

Action in the Superhero drama is some of the most sought after and highly polished action in the world today. In order to separate this from other super hero films we plan on having over the top action combined with gritty down to earth fights that will leave you breathless. We're not trying to compete with Marvel or DC in terms of action, but we are in terms of stakes. You don't take fifty shots to give one in Knight. If you get hit badly, you go down, if you get cut, you bleed and may potentially die. The stakes have never been higher and then you tack on rooftop chases, bank heists, explosions and hand-to-hand combat that you will feel in your bones and you've got a unforgettable action film.

Approaching the genre differently.

This film aims to approach the action genre differently with the goal of creating martial arts action that is heavily influenced from Eastern filmmaking techniques. Utilizing long takes and fast pacing creates scenes that are engaging and enthralling, scenes that have rich stories with a strong backbone in choreography and fight direction that evolves the story visually.

The best thing action can do is to showcase story through characterization.

The battles in this story are between two diametrically opposed forces.
You have a warrior that is best suited for fighting in the ring. He is polished and reserved, only using the force necessary to subdue his opponent and in the villain you have a terrorist who is willing to go to any means possible to get what she desires. She learned to fight on the streets and takes that same mentality to every battle. You live or die on the battlefield, and that battlefield is everywhere for certain people.
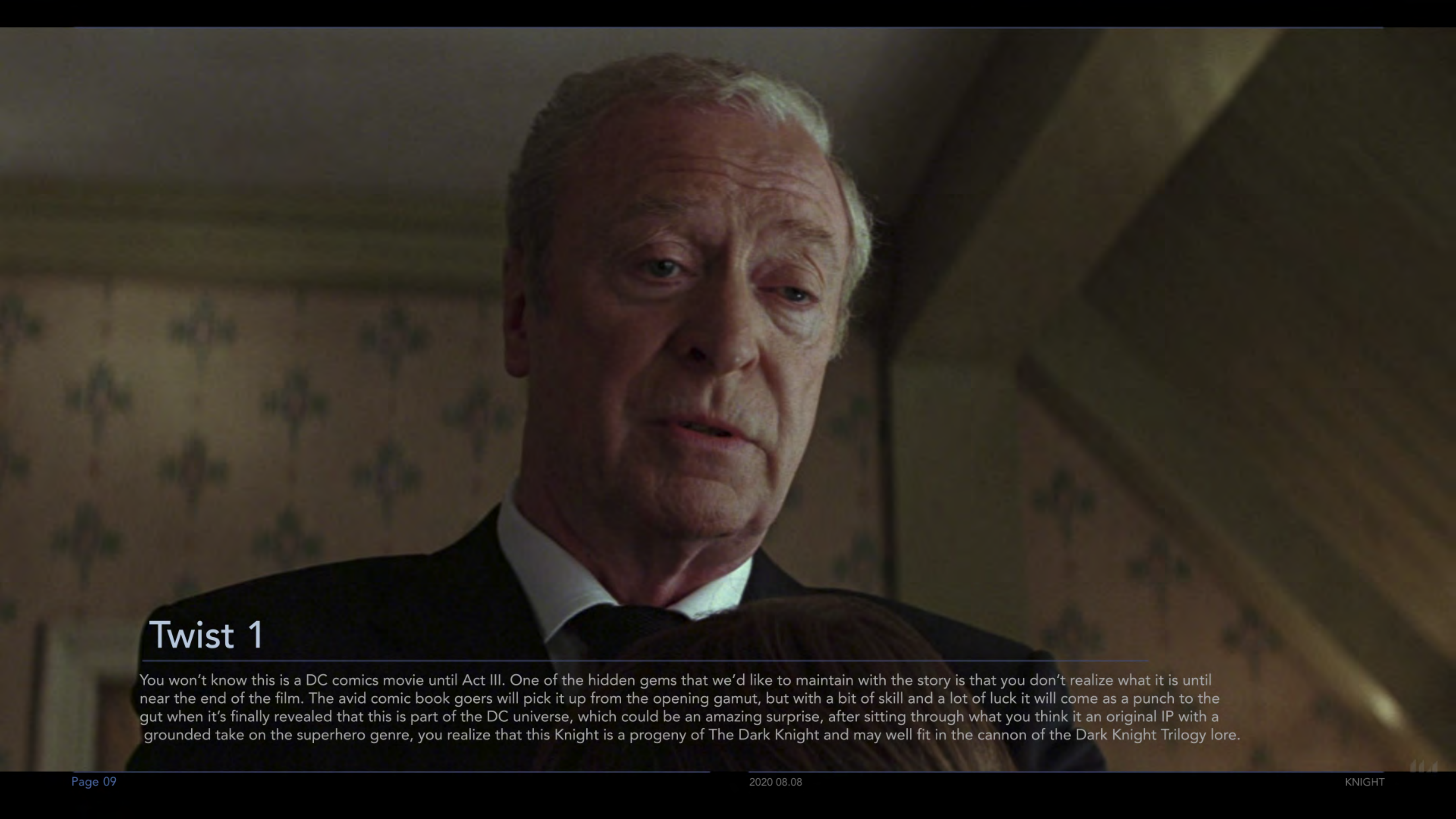
Heart-felt Storytelling

Not only are our hero and villain diametrically opposed in their martial arts styles but also in their convictions.

Luke was born into poverty and through the hard work and dedication of his father, his family found themselves in a dramatically different world and life. A world of private schools and gated walls. A lifestyle he didn't ask for but knows how to navigate. A lifestyle that he feels uncomfortable in and works hard to get what he desires.

Whereas our main antagonist, Lady Vic, was raised in a life of luxury and had poverty thrust upon her during her formative years. Imagine growing up with a silver spoon and having everything at your fingertips and then suddenly having it ripped from beneath you despite it not having anything to do with you. Having everything ripped from your fingertips because of a conglomerate that clearly couldn't care less about the individual.

After being thrust out, she spent years wandering the planet learning the best ways to kill, before making it her goal and drive to exact revenge upon the wealthy elite of Wayne Tech that caused her family to lose their generations old wealth and power.

Twist 1

You won't know this is a DC comics movie until Act III. One of the hidden gems that we'd like to maintain with the story is that you don't realize what it is until near the end of the film. The avid comic book goers will pick it up from the opening gamut, but with a bit of skill and a lot of luck it will come as a punch to the gut when it's finally revealed that this is part of the DC universe, which could be an amazing surprise, after sitting through what you think it an original IP with a grounded take on the superhero genre, you realize that this Knight is a progeny of The Dark Knight and may well fit in the cannon of the Dark Knight Trilogy lore.

Twist 2

The second twist is that our diametrically opposed hero and villain fall in love early in the script. This unwittingly becomes a tale of two people from opposite sides of the economic divide that have pasts that are mirror-opposites and the only way that they can overcome both of their greatest weaknesses is through the help of the other. In the final showdown Lady Vic realizes that Luke is right in his convictions and that he is fighting for what he believes in and what makes him strong is his family. Whereas Luke realizes that Lady Vic is right about certain aspects of her ideology.
The wealthy elite have corrupt Gotham and are doing terrible things throughout the world.
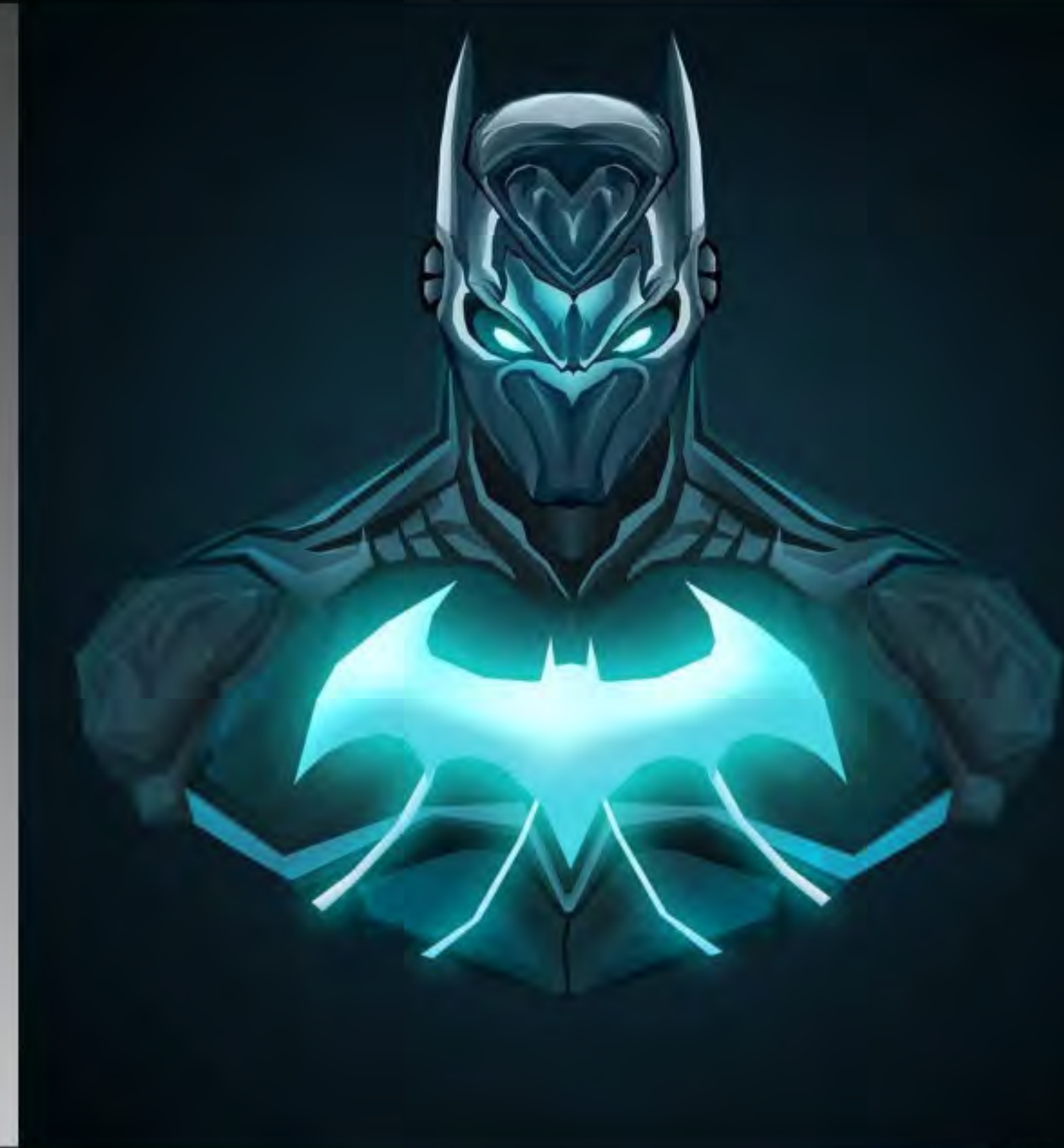
Only when they meet in the middle are they both able to realize their flaws and overcome them together.

2020 08.08

The Suit

The suit will play an integral role in this film as it is the hallmark of a superhero and the first version will be ugly. Not quite Iron Man Mark 1 ugly, but it will definitely be a hodgepodge of materials cobbled together to somewhat resemble military grade gear (seeing as how Luke is stealing the gear from Wayne Tech)

After Luke fails in this suit he turns to Duke to help him build a suit that reacts to his movements and enhances them, it may even have a few toys.
Lady Vic destroys this suit and the two are left to start over. With a little help they end up building the Mark III Suit.

The Mark III suit will be a close amalgamation of the suit from the comics with a more tactical leaning feel of modern day military infrastructure, a la, something between Batman's suit from The Dark Knight trilogy and Iron Man's polished chrome suit.

2020 08.08

KNIGHT

CINEMATOGRAPHY

Pushing the boundaries of cinematography will be paramount to this film's success.
The bounds of cinematography are limitless and creating stunning images is of integral importance in modern day filmmaking, in a world where everything is fighting for your attention and every notification on your phone threatens storytelling, every moment needs to be pure spectacle.
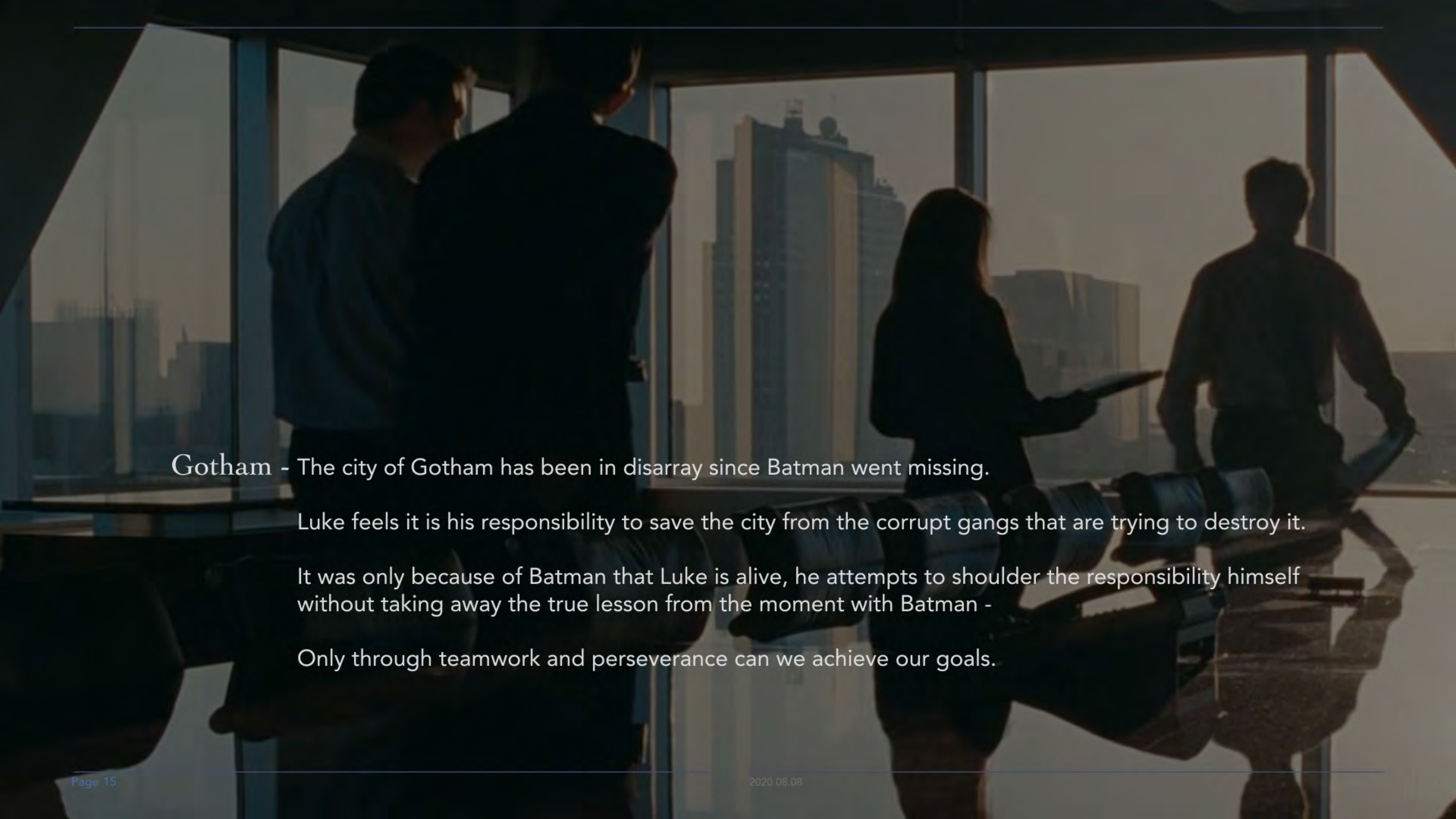
We plan to take cues from shows such as Mr. Robot and Luther. What is the best way to showcase the emotional state of the character? Is it through a specific choice of lens, angle, space in the shot, or are we choosing to showcase an item instead of a reaction shot, do we choose to use the lines of architecture to make it feel like the world is suffocating our protagonists? These are all things we will explore through the lens and cinematography.

Taking homage from the source material, the framing will at times be graphical itself (clean and structured framing).
Comic books are amazing inspiration for films because they have to choose the best angle possible to represent the most action in each panel.
They have strong lines and movement to them that help convey your eye and the action through the frame.

Gotham - The city of Gotham has been in disarray since Batman went missing.

Luke feels it is his responsibility to save the city from the corrupt gangs that are trying to destroy it.

It was only because of Batman that Luke is alive, he attempts to shoulder the responsibility himself without taking away the true lesson from the moment with Batman -
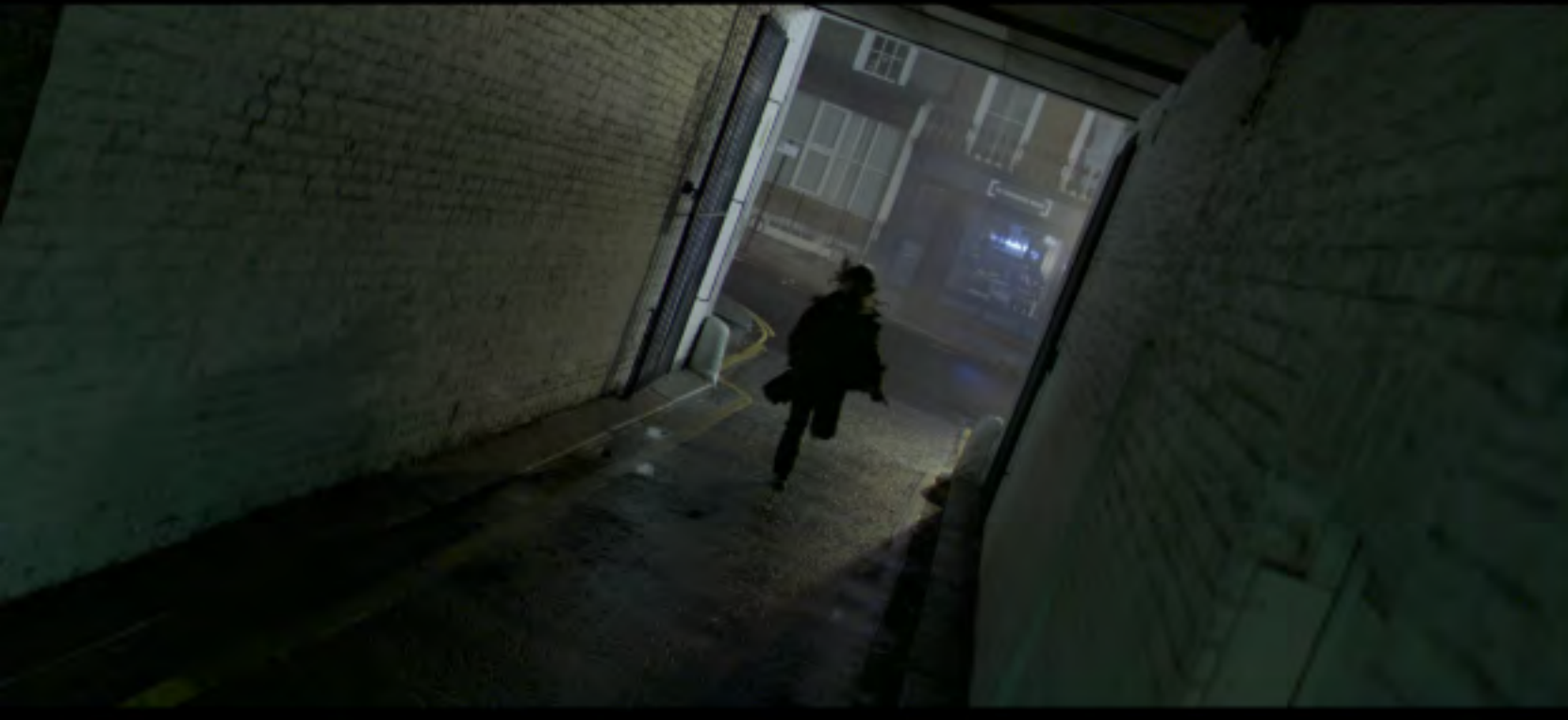
Only through teamwork and perseverance can we achieve our goals.

2020 08.08

Poverty vs. Abundance -

Showcasing the wealth disparity between the elite and the average Gothamite will help us create sympathy and is a prime motivator in Luke's journey to becoming a hero.

2020 08.08

2020 08.08

When it's darkest, a hero will rise.

2020 08.08

The transformative power of teamwork.

After subduing a threat on the subway Luke takes it upon himself to stop the 99%er gang, but he is thwarted time and again and because of his past, he doesn't want to let anyone in, he doesn't want to put anyone at risk or let anyone help him.

Little does he know that it is only through the aid of his friends and family that he will be able to overcome the threat.

It is through his blind drive and unwillingness to accept help, that his mother, his closest confidant and supporter, loses her life. It nearly costs him his best friend and it is only through being saved on the precipice of death, that he realizes the help he needs has always been there.

Sometimes it's more costly to not let in the people you love.

INFLUENCES

This film is a tale that many of us tell ourselves - We must succeed on our own merit otherwise it is not success.

This theme is perpetuated in media across all platforms especially in the super-hero genre. While this may be true in certain circumstances, one man cannot stand alone and overcome insurmountable odds. This is a far more interesting theme, especially in our modern day where we consistently isolate and ostracize ourselves from others. We must band together for the greater good in order to concretize positive change in our ever-evolving world.

Here are a few films that have had a profound impact on the concept and execution of this movie.

Batman Begins
The Dark Knight
Iron Man
Thor
Thor: Ragnarok
21 Bridges
Black Panther
Moonlight
Dope
Inside Man
Do the Right Thing
The Fall
A World Without Thieves
Cowboy Bebop
Exiled
Undisputed 2

THANK YOU

contact: Josh Mabie
phone: 310-963-4103
email: joshua.m.mabie@gmail.com