

IN A COUNTRY AT WAR, THEY FIGHT FOR PEACE

BLESSED ARE THE

BASED ON THE INCREDIBLE TRUE STORY

PEACEMAKERS

LOGLINE

A true story about an Army chaplain and an Anglican priest working with Muslim leaders to bring peace to Iraq before Al Qaeda kills them all.



The screenplay reflects the realities of Iraq, based on the author's multiple visits over the years with the State Department and firsthand interviews with the main protagonists. With increasing global strife, audiences will welcome the movie's positive message of faith leaders risking their lives to bring peace. Also, as 2028 will mark 25 years since the U.S. invasion, the anniversary will spur discussion about the war's failures, so a little-known true story when American leadership and ingenuity saved lives will stand out.

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SYNOPSIS

Set during The Surge at the height of Iraq's bloody sectarian civil war in 2006-2007, this gripping true story highlights the heroic work of U.S. Army chaplain Mike Hoyt, Anglican priest Andrew White, and brave Iraqi Muslim leaders Imam Abbas and Sheikh Fatah. With hope hanging by a thread, these unlikely allies navigate the chaos, pushing back against the apocalyptic violence, working to steer the country away from the abyss.



The movie starts three years after the U.S. invasion, with Iraq on the brink of self-destruction. U.S. strategists failed to account for Iraq's religious divisions. Now Sunni Muslims and Shia Muslims are fighting a deadly civil war that risks spiraling out of control while terrorists attack the United States and any Muslim leader seeking peace. To end the bloodshed, Chaplain Hoyt and Canon White desperately search for Muslim partners to bring peace and save lives. Each must overcome major obstacles: Chaplain Hoyt, an indifferent and hostile leadership, Canon White's health issues and emotional scars, Imam Abbas and Sheikh Fatah attacks by Al Qaeda and skepticism of the United States by their followers. Finally, support by General Petraeus and action by courageous Muslim leaders provide an opportunity for peace if Al Qaeda doesn't kill them all first.

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CHARACTERS



CHAPLAIN MIKE HOYT

A colonel, a Baptist, and an Army man through and through, he follows orders but knows when to bend the rules. A weathered face that's seen it all, he hates to use the glasses in his front pocket, which signals advancing age and a career that will soon end. He is kind and folksy—a man of few words with a clear midwestern accent. But he is also brave, earning his Airborne wings and becoming Ranger qualified with 200 parachute jumps.

- MICHAEL ROOKER
- MARK WAHLBERG
- DENNIS QUAID



CANON ANDREW WHITE

Opinionated. He loves risks and adrenaline, sometimes pursuing things to the point of irresponsibility. But he also loves people. Warm-hearted. Conservative religiously and politically. Desperate to help his Iraqi flock survive the civil war. He was the Vicar of St. George's Church in Baghdad, the only Anglican church in Iraq, from 2005 until his departure was ordered in November 2014 after the ISIS invasion. Upper crust English accent.

- TOBY JONES
- HUGH LAURIE
- SIMON PEGG

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CHARACTERS



IMAM ABBAS

Leading Sunni cleric and Iraqi nationalist, Abbas is around 50 years old. Always holding himself with dignity, his three-inch long black beard is neatly cropped. Wears flowing black and white robes, with his keffihey (traditional headdress worn by men) with a gold band around the top. He is angry at the United States for destroying his country and aggrieved by Al Qaeda hijacking his faith for terrorism. However, he does not know what to do.

- AMR WAKED
- WALEED ZUAITER
- KHALED AL NABAWY



SHEIK FATAH

He is a key Shia Muslim religious figure and a deal maker. Unlike the Sunni sheiks, Fatah wears a black turban signaling his spiritual authority, with a thin flowing robe over a starched white shirt with a high collar. A man in his early 50s, round faced with a neat salt-and-pepper beard, he is constantly relaying information from the Grand Ayatollah in Najaf. He is a man of action but fearful of losing newfound power.

- IRRFAN KHAN
- ALI SULIMAN

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SUPPORTING CHARACTERS

IRAQI NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER AL-RUBAIE

He is Prime Minister Malki's key adviser and point-person with U.S. occupation forces. A refined and cultured man in his 60s, Al-Rubaie is more British than the British. A neurologist by training, he is confident to the point of arrogance. He wears stylish glasses and likes nice suits while keeping his beard trim. He wants America out of Iraq but not before their political situation is secure. [Real person]

SERGEANT MAJOR EDDIE BROWN

An enlisted Army soldier, Miss Brown serves as a Chaplain's Assistant to Hoyt, helping him execute the many tasks on his plate. Small but mighty, she has overcome a lot in life to reach the rank of Sergeant Major as an African American woman. Brown hasn't forgotten her roots in Atlanta. She doesn't take any bull. [Composite person]

SHEIKH LATIF

A critically important Iraqi religious leader among Sunni Muslims, Latif carries himself as such. In his 70s, he wears sumptuous white robes with golden trim and a lightweight overcoat with a golden sheen. His keffihey does not have any band, a symbol of a sheikh and religious authority. His silver beard is well-trimmed, and he has bright eyes. Mourns Iraq's destruction and searches for answers. [Composite person]

AMBASSADOR SUSANNE SMITH

Polished and poised, Smith is a career diplomat who knows the Middle East. Having risen through the male-centric ranks of the Foreign Service, she's worked twice as hard as her male counterparts. She assumes men will mansplain things to her (especially military men). A consummate pro, her demeanor is commanding, cold, and curt. [Composite person]

WILL CASSIDY

Thirty-something American diplomat with a bookish air and a cutting sense of humor that is jaded and often macabre. Not focused on appearances, he combines wrinkled clothing and tussled hair with bow ties and rimless glasses. He works hard and ably represents U.S. interests in Iraq while knowing they have made grave mistakes. He could be a future Secretary of State. Skeptical of faith but trusts Canon White. [Composite person]

GENERAL GEORGE CASEY

The picture-perfect example of an Army general, Casey served as Commanding General of Multi-National Forces-Iraq from June 2004 to February 2007. He wears rimless glasses and keeps his salt-and-pepper hair cropped short. An Army lifer, Iraq is his biggest challenge, and he knows the challenge is too big for him. He is under immense pressure, rarely smiles, and is borderline depressed by the increasing number of service members killed. He knows they are losing in Iraq. [Real person]

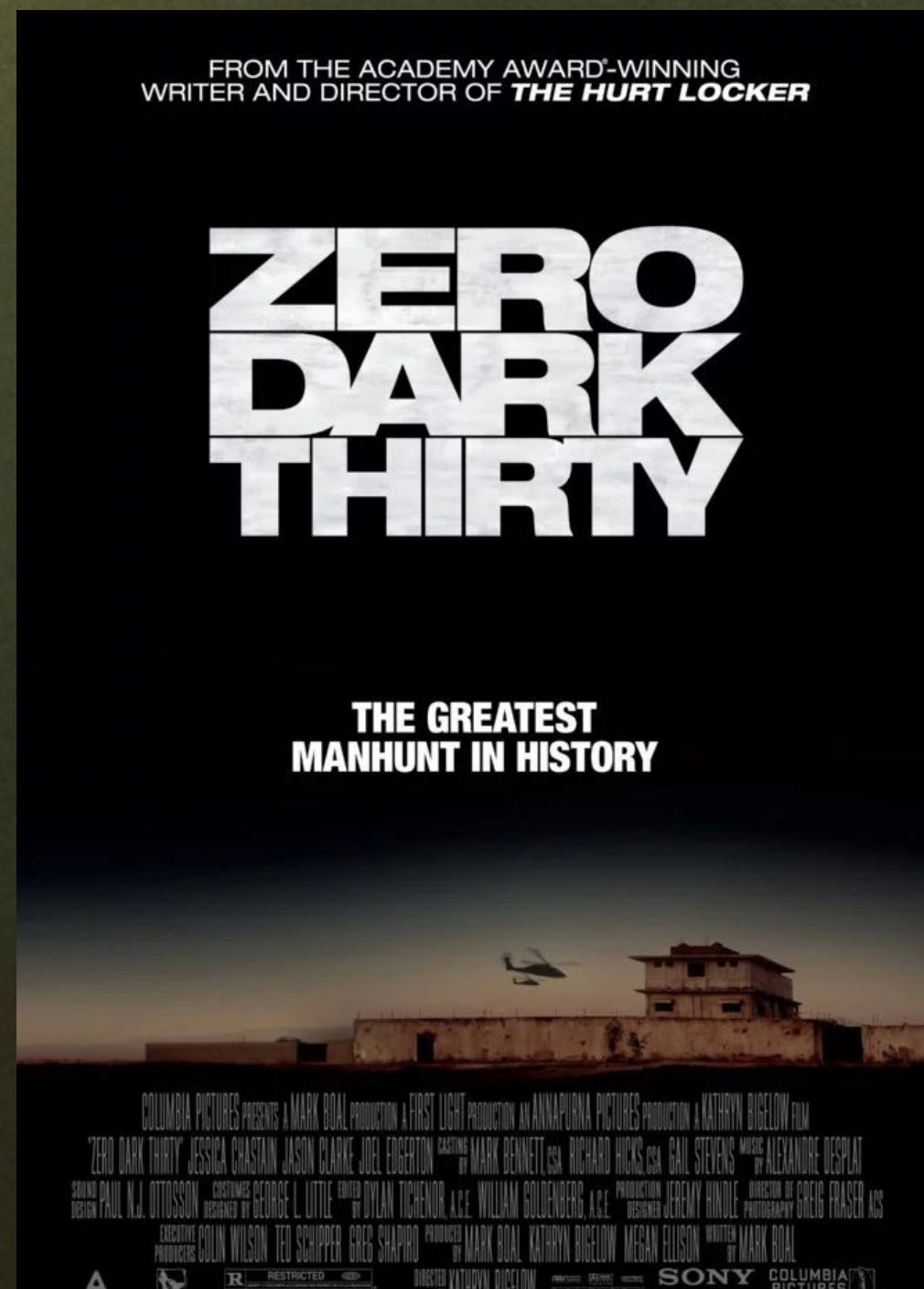
PAUL MATTIAS

Fresh out of grad school, the lanky GQ American just arrived in Bagdad to assist Canon White and his ministry. However, he does not know the country, language, or religion but wants to be helpful. He is a fish out of water, and Iraq's many paradoxes and dangers constantly surprise him. [Composite person]

GENERAL DAVID PETRAEUS

The Army wunderkind, he takes over as Commanding General in February 2007 with a new strategy and new energy. The troops believe in his leadership. He is approachable, prone to smiling, and warmly engages subordinates. Serving as a breadth of fresh air, he is searching for new ideas to save the U.S. mission in Iraq before it's too late. [Real person]

COMPS



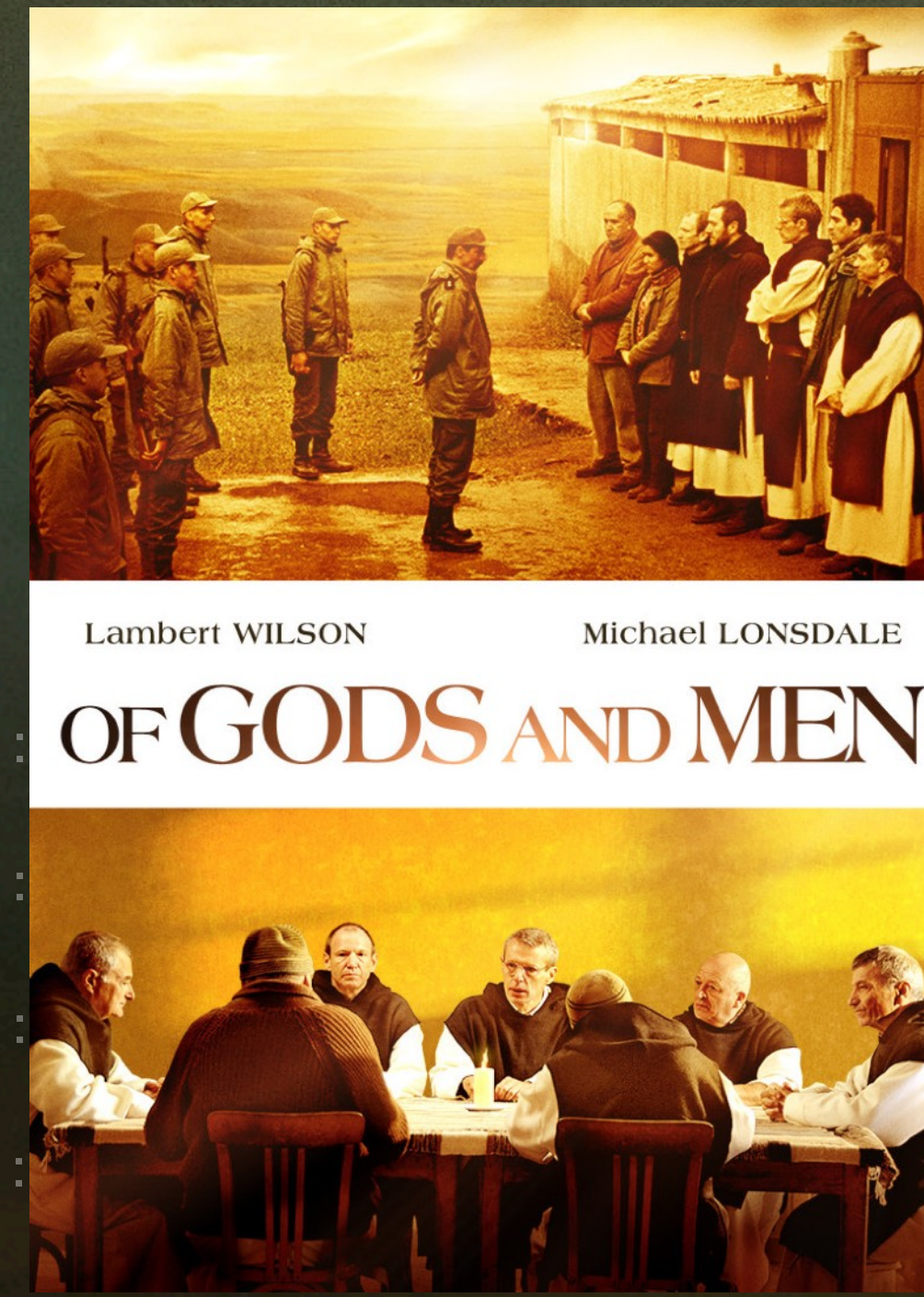
ZERO DARK THIRTY

Overcoming obstacles
and skeptical
leadership post 9/11



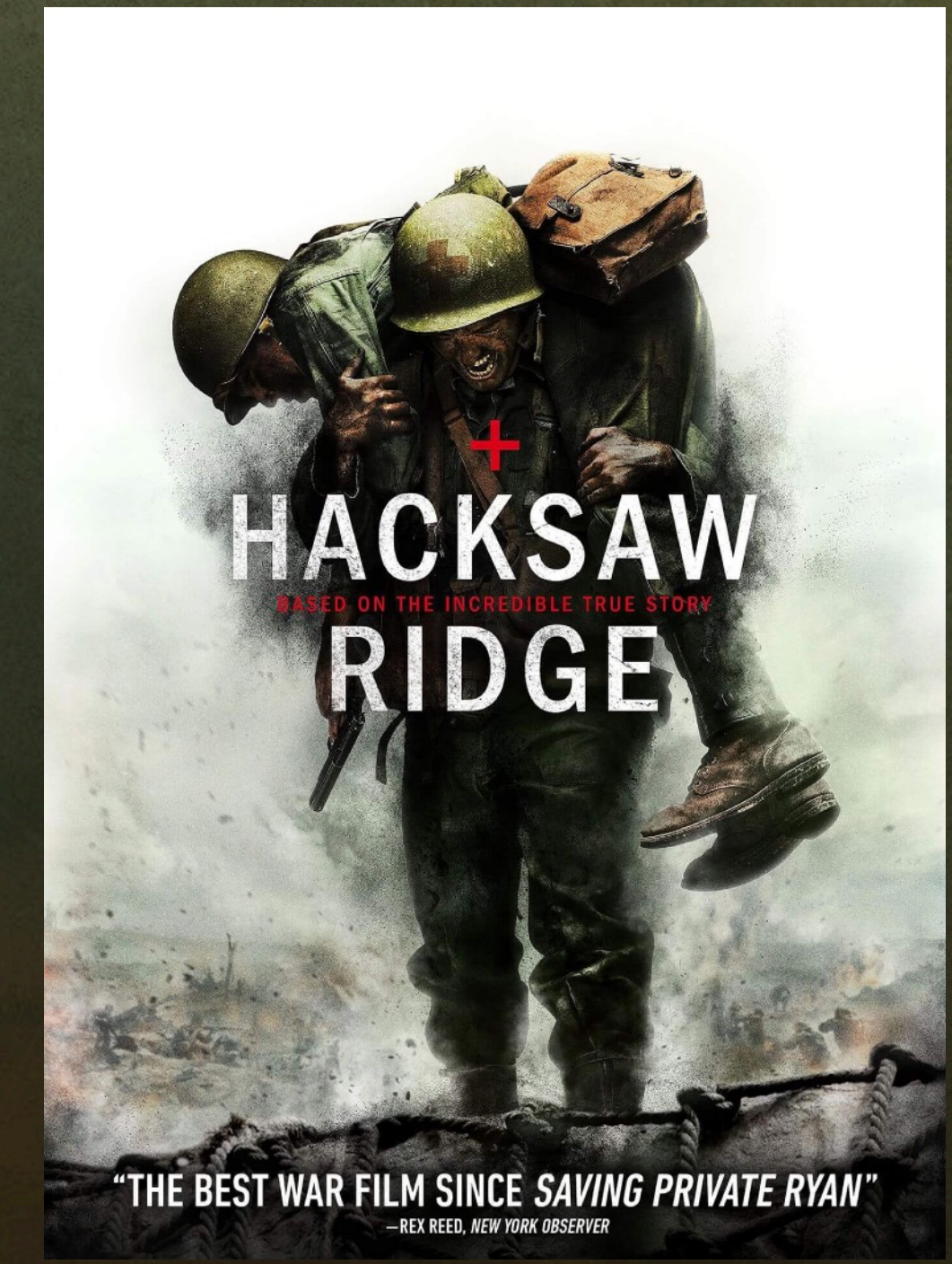
AMERICAN SNIPER

Accurate portrayal of
Baghdad and Army life



OF GODS AND MEN

Internal struggle to
know God's will and
finding the courage to
do what He asks



HACKSAW RIDGE

Chaplain risking his
life to save others



H. KNOX THAMES

WRITER

Original screenplay by H. Knox Thames, who served in a variety of senior U.S. government positions over his 20-year career and visited Iraq multiple times. He left the State Department in 2020 after serving in a special human rights envoy role for both the Obama and Trump administrations focused on religious minorities in the Middle East. While his first screenplay, Thames is a prolific writer and advocate on issues relating to human rights and religious freedom, with articles appearing in TIME, the Washington Post, USA Today, Foreign Policy, Newsweek, the Harvard Human Rights Journal, the Yale Journal of International Affairs, the Small Wars Journal, and others. In addition, his second book, Ending Persecution, will be released in summer 2024.

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