

The Making of *The Goose That Laid the Golden Egg* by Doug Bremner, writer, director & producer



I am a psychiatrist and a professor, and have been writing my entire life. At first mostly nonfiction books about health-related topics for the average reader, in addition to the results of my research. I started writing screenplays about 15 years ago, initially encouraged to do so by a friend who was also a doctor but who wrote screenplays, when he heard the story that inspired what became the screenplay for *The Goose That Laid the Golden Egg*.

After migrating into the genre of screenplays, I quickly became obsessed with the craft. It's like writing Haiku. I read every book I could get my hands on about how to write screenplays. I took a weekend seminar in the craft with a writer from Hollywood. I paid my kids and their friends to read my screenplays out loud to polish the dialogue and get feedback on the characters. We usually combined it with a beer tasting session conducted by my daughter's boyfriend, which was a lot of fun. I submitted my screenplays to competitions, and got written feedback from the judges.

In a writers online forum someone said you shouldn't send out your work until you had written 11 screenplays. So that's what I did.

I started submitting my screenplays to contests. Over time they did well, starting out as a finalist for *Inheritance Italian Style*, a comedy about five sisters who return to their home in Sicily to divide the family art and furniture, in the PAGE Screenwriters competition. Later I would be a finalist or semi-finalist for my screenplays *The Goose That Laid the Golden Egg* in the Immagina Florence Film Festival, and *Murder without Death* in the Palm Springs International Film Festival and the Charleston International Film Festival. I went on to direct *Inheritance Italian Style*, which played in several film festivals, made some overseas sales, and went through a couple of distributors who went bankrupt before it was finally fully released on all video on demand (VOD) platforms in 2021.

Based on my experience getting notes from the screenplay contests and feedback from other venues I saw a pattern where there were certain types of films that were getting the go-ahead for production, but that didn't have as broad a range in content to keep the attention of viewers. I felt like my experience as a medical researcher and a physician had something to offer that could produce content that some people might find interesting.

Along the way my medical research got me caught up in a drama which rivaled anything you could see on the silver screen. After doing a brain imaging study in acne patients treated with a medication for acne called Accutane that showed changes in the brain with the medication, I became the expert witness in dozens of cases related to suicide and depression in teenagers treated with the drug. This was a high-powered legal drama, with a lot of money at stake for this billion-dollar drug. That case led to a narrative non-fiction book, *The Goose That Laid the Golden Egg*, and eventually inspired a screenplay of the same name that was a fictionalized version of the case.

Drawing on local talent in cast and crew, as well as pos-production people, who have honed their craft in Atlanta, Georgia, through the Marvel Comic Universe movies shot here and long-running shows like *The Walking Dead*, I was able to put together an excellent team to execute the final product of *The Goose That Laid the Golden Egg*. I wanted it to be more than just a legal drama, however, so I blended together the legal drama with personal stories of loss and triumph over adversity.

I'm hoping that audiences will enjoy the film as much as I enjoyed making it.

The Goose That Laid the Golden Egg is a 92 minute feature length drama. For more information: email info@laughingcowproductions.com or visit <http://goosefilm.io>