

The Goose That Laid the Golden Egg Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for the Writer/Director

How did you get involved in filmmaking?

I came at it from the perspective of a writer. I have published several nonfiction books and have been writing poetry and fiction my entire life. I told a friend who had written screenplays about a story, and he said it would make a great film. I started writing screenplays and didn't stop.

Was the story based on a real life?

I am a professor of psychiatry and a researcher and I did brain imaging research on the effects of an acne medication, isotretinoin (Accutane), on the brain, and as a result became an expert witness in multi-district litigation related to depression and suicide in teenagers who had taken the drug. The research was funded by private donations from affected families. Based on that experience I have the background knowledge to have written the screenplay for *Goose*. Other than that it is a fictionalized story.

Does that mean the characters are based on your family members?

Not really. The characters in my screenplays draw from all of the people I have known but then they take on a life of their own. Then the actors take on the characters and change them some more.

So what part of the story is true?

One of the plaintiff's lawyers was from Texas and at the start of the litigation flew on a Lear Jet although by the time the trials came to an end he was flying Delta coach. The mother of the suicide victim, the plaintiff, did sit in court, but other than that it is all fictionalized. There was an actual dodgeball training video for drug reps at one time in which reps were taught how to dodge difficult questions from doctors, although the wording was changed in the film. I did try to engage the FDA in research on the drug and they did say they didn't have the budget for that and they couldn't force the manufacturer to help us by giving us free medication for the research. In real life the plaintiffs settled with the drug manufacturer and part of the settlement was that they couldn't talk about it.

Where did you film the movie?

At a lawyers firm I work for in Atlanta, Georgia. At a studio in Atlanta and in my house, "The Boxwood," in the Druid Hills neighborhood of Atlanta. The Newark court and the outdoor lunch scenes were filmed at the Bartow County Historic Courthouse in Cartersville, Georgia, and the Trenton appeals court scene at Hall County Historic Courthouse in Gainesville, Georgia. The "medical" scenes were filmed at Integrated Environmental Services (IES) in Atlanta. Other scenes were filmed at Studio Spaces Atlanta. The cemetery scenes were filmed at Crest Lawn Memorial Park in Atlanta.

How did you get the money for the film?

Private investors, and then we benefited from the Georgia Film Tax Credit.

Where did you get the title for the movie?

During discovery in the litigation I was involved in a teaching slide deck was produced from the manufacturer that called the drug their goose that laid the golden egg, and that they had to protect it. The film recreates this and has Red explain the presentation, and then tell the moral of the story (he who is too greedy gets nothing) except in his own distinct style of speech.

What's the next project?

I have a screenplay called *Murder Without Death* that has been a finalist in a couple of competitions that is based on a true story about a doctor in Georgia who was framed by a corrupt CEO of a large manufacturing company and thrown in jail.

