

JOHNNY DERANGO

PRODUCER / DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

Johnny Derango (www.DirectorofPhotography.com) is an established, sought-after cinematographer and a respected film and TV producer/director who strives to tell each story truthfully, with equal parts visual grace and technical prowess. In 2018, he was featured by the industry's prestigious American Cinematographer Magazine on their coveted annual list of **Rising Stars of Cinematography**. Johnny has shot for major studios and networks including, Warner Bros., Paramount, Lionsgate, Disney, Discovery Channel and MTV as well as global brands Mandarin Oriental Hotels, Firefox, Napster, Nissan, Southwest Airlines and Tyson Foods.

In addition to his expertise as a cinematographer, Johnny serves as a producer on many of his projects. Most recently, holding the roles of co-producer and director of photography on the Lionsgate feature film UNSUNG HERO, which opened #2 at the box office on **April 26th, 2024**. The film has since grossed over \$20 million domestically. In the same month, Season 1 of "Everyone is Doing Great," a TV series Derango executive produced alongside "One Tree Hill" alums James Lafferty and Stephen Colletti, debuted on Apple TV and quickly rose to the #1 Comedy (and #3 overall) of Apple's TV Chart Toppers on its opening day. Season 2 of "Everyone is Doing Great," of which Johnny also directed an episode, is completed and awaiting release.

Johnny next lensed the feature FLIGHT RISK, an intense thriller starring Mark Wahlberg, Michelle Dockery and Topher Grace. The film, which will debut in theaters on **January 24th, 2025**, was directed by Academy Award®-winner Mel Gibson. Derango and Gibson previously worked together on The Nelms Brothers' 2020 film FATMAN. Johnny's prior collaborations with The Nelms Brothers include Magnolia's **early 2024** release of RED RIGHT HAND, starring Orlando Bloom and Andie MacDowell. Notably, Derango also lensed their film SMALL TOWN CRIME (2017) a thriller with dark humor that showcases an Academy® and Emmy level cast including John Hawkes, Anthony Anderson, Octavia Spencer, Robert Forster and Clifton Collins, Jr. Upon its theatrical release, the film garnered rave reviews from top critics at the New York Times, Los Angeles Times, The Hollywood Reporter, Variety and **renowned film critic, Leonard Maltin, who stated he thoroughly enjoyed the film that was "artfully lit by Johnny Derango."** Previously, Derango also produced and shot their film LOST ON PURPOSE (2013).

Johnny continues to work as a Cinematographer and Producer splitting his time between Nashville, Chicago and Nashville.

American
Cinematographer
An International Publication of the ASC
"Rising Stars of Cinematography"



LIONSGATE



"Johnny Derango works wonders with a camera. He blended into a complex, even dangerous environment, and captured beauty and energy and performance and subtle moments all with remarkable ease. He is a wonderful talent and a truly great guy to work with. I so look forward to working with Johnny again."

- Josh Lucas

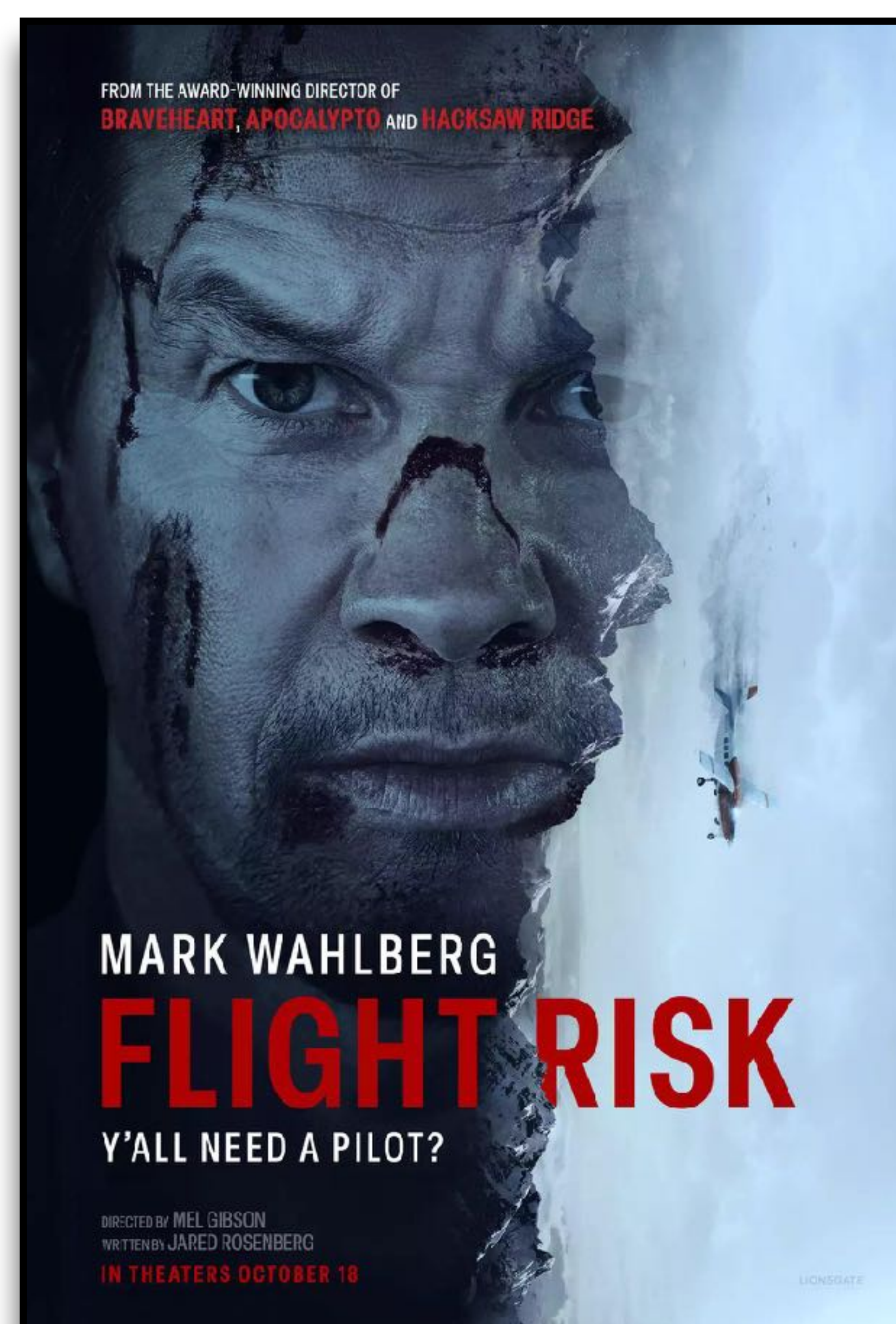
"Johnny's kindness, good humor, keen eye and tireless dedication to SMALL TOWN CRIME helped to make this film an incredible experience. His passion and craft makes me hope this is just the first of many."

- John Hawkes

2024/2025 RELEASES



Official Trailer: [Here](#)



Official Trailer: [Here](#)



Official Trailer: [Here](#)

November 7, 2025:

SARAH'S OIL
Director: Cyrus Nowrasteh
Distributor: **MGM/Amazon**

JANUARY 24, 2025:

FLIGHT RISK
Director: Mel Gibson
Distributor: **Lionsgate**

APRIL 26, 2024:

UNsung HERO
Directors: Joel Smallbone/
Richard L. Ramsey
Distributor: **Lionsgate**

FEBRUARY 23, 2024:

RED RIGHT HAND
Directors: The Nelms Bros.
Distributor: **Magnolia**

PRESS + APPEARANCES

Johnny has been featured on the highly coveted American Cinematographer's List of "Rising Stars of Cinematography" in addition to several ads for key companies. A sought after speaker, Johnny has been a panelist for the PGA's Produced by Conference, SXSW, Panasonic and Cinegear, among others.



"Rising Stars of Cinematography" 2018



Left: Johnny Derango checks his frame. Right: Ming Jue Hu finds an angle from atop a crane.

Rising Stars of Cinematography

By John Calhoun, Jim Hemphill and Debra Kaufman

To select this year's list of 12 Rising Stars, A/C's editors surveyed a wide field of excellent work shot by up-and-coming directors of photography. El Born, Carolina Costa, Johnny Derango, Ming Jue Hu, Matthias Koenigsweiser, Rafael Leyva, Laura Beth Love, Nicola Marsh, Eponine Mornemcau, Egor Povolotskiy, Michal Sobocinski and Adolpho Veloso have already begun to amass impressive credits in commercials, music videos, shorts, television series, documentaries and narrative features, and those credits promise tremendously bright careers ahead. As these stars continue to rise, we capture a snapshot of their trajectories to date.

of the features we have done together have been very different visually and tonally, but with this one I was really able to add my visual stamp," Derango says. "There are sections of the film that visually give the feel of a Rockwell-esque small town, but I was also able to craft a darker, grittier look to show the underbelly of the community."

Johnny Derango

Johnny Derango never planned to make films — he intended to study criminal justice. "Growing up in a small town, I had never thought of film as a career," he reflects. With a laugh, he adds, "I mean, really who makes movies for a living?" His parents, though, encouraged him to follow his passion, and he wound up attending the film school at Columbia College Chicago. There, he was mentored by the late Ron Pitts, and he photographed dozens of 16mm shorts.

"These experiences prepared me well for the work that awaited him in Los Angeles, where he found his break when he was hired for five days of re-shoots on a 35mm feature. "The producers were so happy with my work they decided to re-shoot 70 percent of the film," he remembers. "I received my first feature director of photography credit, and the film debuted at the 2005 Tribeca Film Festival."

That opportunity led to a network pilot, more television and feature work, and, most recently, to the darkly comic thriller *Small Town Crime*, which reunited him with the writing-directing team of brothers Estlin and Ian Neils. "All three

from Tangjin, China, to New York as an eighth grader, he fell in love with movies for a very practical reason: they helped him learn to speak English. After gorging on films rented from his local Blockbuster, Hu enrolled in a high-school cinema-history class. "In the class, I was exposed to films from old masters such as Hitchcock, John Ford and Billy Wilder, and modern auteurs like the Coens, David Fincher, Tarantino and P.T. Anderson," he recalls, adding that *Run Lola Run* ultimately inspired him to apply to film school. "I was electrified by its energy and ingenious use of film language."

He attended the New York University Tisch School of the Arts as an undergraduate and immediately began crewing on older students' shoots. Under the guidance of camera and lighting professor Geoffrey Ito, ASC, Hu began shooting short films during his final two years at school.

After graduation, Hu focused on shorts, music videos and commercials to build his reel. He broke into features when a fellow NYU grad asked him to shoot a film called *M Cream* in India. "I prepped for it for six weeks, and we shot in 44 locations from Delhi to the Himalayas in 54 days straight," he remembers. "By Indian industry practice we didn't really have any days off. I was 23 at the time, so it was very challenging to work with seasoned professionals from the Bollywood industry."

M Cream won Best Feature at the Rhode Island International Film Festival and Best Cinematography at the Madrid International Film Festival, and gave Hu a

Ming Jue Hu
When Ming Jue Hu emigrated

American Cinematographer



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Website & Reel at www.DirectorofPhotography.com

Full Resume Available Upon Request

I CAN ONLY IMAGINE 2	Director of Photography	Directors: Brent McCorkle + Andrew Erwin Lionsgate Milo Ventimiglia, Dennis Quaid, Arielle Kebbel, Sophie Skelton
SARAH'S OIL (2025)	Director of Photography	Director: Cyrus Nowrasteh MGM/Amazon Zachary Levi
FLIGHT RISK (2025)	Director of Photography	Director: Mel Gibson Lionsgate Mark Wahlberg, Michelle Dockery, Topher Grace
DRUMMER BOY CHRISTMAS LIVE	Director of Photography + Co-Producer	Directors: Joel Smallbone + Kadin Tooley Fathom Events For King + Country
UNsung HERO (2024)	Director of Photography + Co-Producer	Directors: Joel Smallbone + Richard L. Ramsey Lionsgate Joel Smallbone, Daisy Betts, Kiralee Berger, Lucas Black
RED RIGHT HAND (2024)	Director of Photography	Directors: The Nelms Bros. Magnolia Orlando Bloom, Andie MacDowell, Garret Dillahunt, Scott Haze
"Everyone is Doing Great" S1/S2 (2024)	Director of Photography + EP S1 Director + Executive Producer S2	Directors: James Lafferty + Stephen Colletti Paramount+/ HULU James Lafferty, Stephen Colletti, Alexandra Park
FATHER STU (2022)	Director of Photography (Montana Unit)	Director: Rosalind Ross Sony Pictures Mark Wahlberg
FATMAN (2020)	Director of Photography	Directors: The Nelms Bros. Rough House Pictures Mel Gibson, Walton Goggins
Radio 88 (short) (2018)	Director of Photography + Producer	Directors: Kim Noonan + John Salcido Panasonic Efren Ramirez, Cyrina Fialo, Jeremy Ratchford
SMALL TOWN CRIME (2017)	Director of Photography	Directors: The Nelms Bros. Saban Films John Hawkes, Anthony Anderson, Octavia Spencer
"I Called Game: Paul Pierce (2017)	Director of Photography	Distributor: The Player's Tribune
LOST ON PURPOSE (2013)	Director of Photography + Producer	Directors: The Nelms Bros. Folly Films Jane Kaczmarek, C. Thomas Howell, Octavia Spencer
BULLRIDER (Teaser) (2013)	Director of Photography	Director: Bethany Ashton Wolf Josh Lucas, Jon Voight
"Boyfred" (pilot) (2011)	Director of Photography	Producers: Tommy Schlamme, Bruce Helford Tate Ellington, Josh Zuckerman, Kelen Coleman

Additional Short Films + Commercials

Tribute (2013), Pepper (2009), Vile (2007), Missing Pieces (2006), Running Dragon (2006), Flower Shop (2005), Second (2004) and commercials for Mandarin Oriental, Tyson Foods, Nissan, Bayer, Firefox, Volkswagen, Napster, Clorox, Nestle and others.

