

# TACHYON 1981



# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



TITLE: TACHYON 1981

LENGTH: 108 MINUTES

GENRE: SCI-FI / THRILLER

BUDGET: EST. \$4 MILLION

Enter today's date (m-d-y): 11-8-81

The IBM Personal Computer DOS  
Version 1.00 (C) Copyright IBM Corp 1981

A> LOGLINE

IS THIS WHAT YOU WANT (y/n)? y

# LOGLINE

The tech-savvy teen daughter of a computer programmer tracks down a serial killer kidnapping children from arcades across the Midwest in the fall of 1981. But a stranger from Silicon Valley with experimental gaming technology that alters more than high scores holds secrets she isn't ready to uncover.



KONG: SKULL ISLAND  
DIRECTOR: JORDAN VOGT-ROBERTS  
© 2017 WARNER BROS



KUNG-FU MASTER  
DIRECTOR: AGNES VARDA  
© 1988 CINELICIOUS PICS

## SYNOPSIS

Acclaimed Purdue University computer scientist DR. FRANCIS FAIRCHILD LAWSON is accidentally shot on campus by police officers during a late-night chase gone wrong. Now fatherless, ZURI spends her time in his empty home office connecting with online friends during the internet's earliest days. But when her eighth-grade classmate doesn't come home from the arcade, Zuri and her web of allies link his disappearance to a lonely repairman and a string of unsolved child murders baffling cops across three states. Using her best friend as bait, Zuri stumbles into a network of cyber criminals, killers, and tech geeks who can bend space and time.



DR. SLEEP  
DIRECTOR: MIKE FLANAGAN  
© 2019 WARNER BROS



BLOW OUT  
DIRECTOR: BRIAN DE PALMA  
© 1981 FILMWAYS PICTURES



GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY  
DIRECTOR: JAMES GUNN  
© MARVEL STUDIOS

# THRILLER

Rapidly changing technology builds the world of Tachyon 1981. Video cameras capture life now. Children hit the arcades wearing Walkman cassette players and chewing bubblegum. The internet already exists in dens and dark basements for hobbyists and hackers. And a hundred latchkey kids go missing every day.



FAME  
DIRECTOR: ALAN PARKER  
© 1980 UNITED ARTISTS

# SCI-FI

Blending the infamous urban legend of the seizure-inducing mythical arcade game Polybius with space-time altering technology, this sci-fi tale uses early 1980s science and the largest diamond in the world to change reality.



KOYAANISQATSÍ  
DIRECTOR: GODFREY REGGIO  
© 1983 ISLAND ALIVE NEW CINEMA



MARATHON MAN  
DIRECTOR: JOHN SCHLESINGER  
© 1976 PARAMOUNT PICTURES

## A> RUN VISUAL AESTHETICS

Late Autumn 1981  
Chilly and Damp  
Foreboding



STRANGER THINGS  
CREATED BY THE DUFFER BROTHERS  
© 2016- NETFLIX

# STYLES & TECHNIQUES



FRIGHT NIGHT  
DIRECTOR: TOM HOLLAND  
© 1985 COLUMBIA PICTURES



POWOWQUATSI  
DIRECTOR: GODFREY REGGIO  
© 1988 THE CANNON GROUP

## A> RUN SOUND TECHNIQUES

Experimental Techno Tones  
Bleeps and Computer Clacks  
Kraftwerk and Cybotron Music



KOYAANISQATSI  
DIRECTOR: GODFREY REGGIO  
© 1983 ISLAND ALIVE NEW CINEMA



NIGHT OF THE COMET  
DIRECTOR: THOM EBERHARDT  
© 1984 ATLANTIC RELEASING CORPORATION

# STYLES & TECHNIQUES



TRON  
DIRECTOR: STEVEN LISBERGER  
© 1982 WALT DISNEY PRODUCTIONS



EIGHTH GRADE  
DIRECTOR: BO BURNHAM  
© 2018 SONY PICTURES



WAR GAMES  
DIRECTOR: JOHN BADHAM  
© 1983 UNITED ARTISTS

A> RUN CINEMATOGRAPHY STYLES

- Use of Longshots
- High Angle Shots
- Fast Cutting

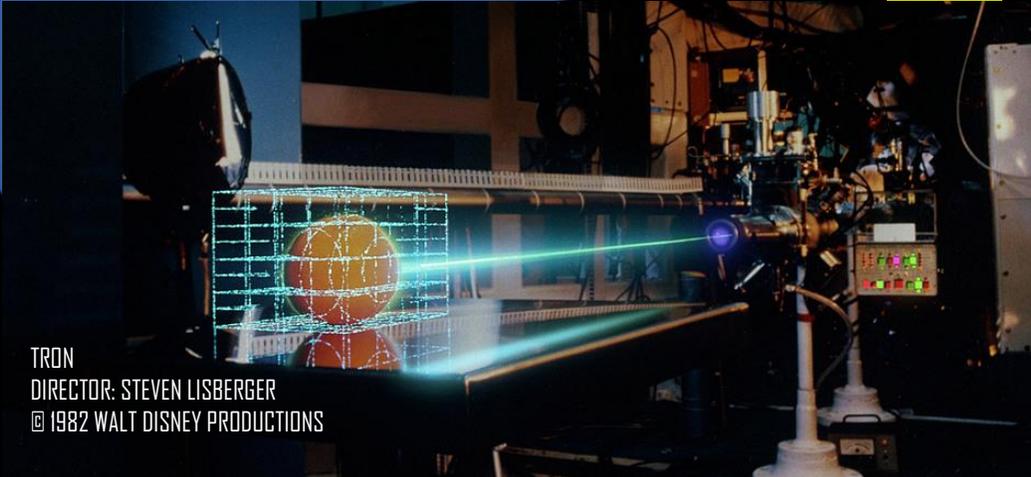


FAME  
DIRECTOR: ALAN PARKER  
© 1980 UNITED ARTISTS

# STYLES & TECHNIQUES



WITNESS  
DIRECTOR: PETER WEIR  
© 1985 PARAMOUNT PICTURES



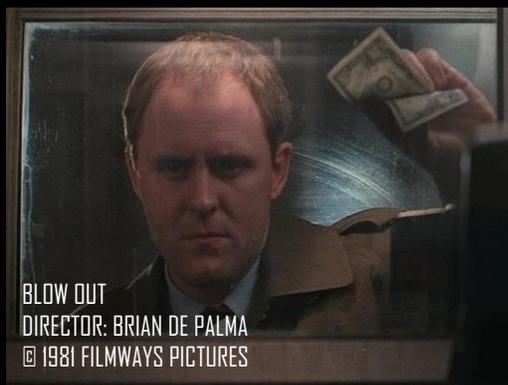
TRON  
DIRECTOR: STEVEN LISBERGER  
© 1982 WALT DISNEY PRODUCTIONS

# CHARACTERS



## ZURI

Zuri Lawson begins her story as the daughter of a recently killed Purdue computer genius. Usually passive, Zuri chooses to fight back after a serial killer abducts her 8<sup>th</sup> grade classmate. Emboldened, Zuri uses her bright mind and her dad's scientific breakthroughs to reverse the killer's wicked crimes.



## THE REPAIRMAN

Like *Mindhunter*'s real-life child killer Wayne Williams, ROBERT CHARLES is a violent loner. An arcade repairman with a 1981 GMC Vandura and a lewd Polaroid collection, Charles traffics children for THE MAN FROM SILICON VALLEY. But his sick desires create complications that eventually expose everything.



## LATCHKEY KIDS

These victims feel like the *Stranger Things* kids. A Pac-Man champion goes missing in Chicago, a Donkey Kong whiz kid vanishes in Columbus, and a Defender dynamo disappears in Indianapolis. But with police precincts so far away, only Zuri and her network of online friends link the kidnappings to The Repairman.



## THE MAN FROM SILICON VALLEY

Bill Gates meets Ted Bundy. This maniac uses computer technology to manipulate space and time. And he tests it on children. But when Zuri arrives at his private lab in the woods, The Man from Silicon Valley loses much more than just control of his child test subjects.

# PROJECT TEAM

## JOE DEEZ (writer)

Joe Deez is a globally published writer whose works have appeared in USA Today and the UK magazine Chortle. This film project is based on his short story of the same name that was a finalist in the 2022 Vocal+ Fiction Awards contest. He is also a professional stand-up comedian who has earned viral fame and appeared on the nationally syndicated television show "Right This Minute." He co-founded the non-profit organization Humor Association to help children and young adults deal with bullying through humor and comedy.



## REGINA CHIAPPAZZI (co-writer)

Regina Chiappazzi is the president and face of Humor Association. She founded the nationally recognized "Lima's Funniest Lady" all-female comedy festival in Lima, Ohio to celebrate the legendary Hollywood actress and comedienne Phyllis Diller in 2012. She has taught comedy writing and acting classes to underprivileged children and professional adults in Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio. Her students have also performed on the Improv Olympics stage in Chicago.



A> RUN/MOOD BOARD/LOCATIONS

# LOCATIONS

## General/main locations:

### Indiana

- Purdue University campus
- Amtrak train and station
- Home bedroom setting
- Downtown arcades
- Hidden forest lab

There is an arcade resurgence across America, and arcade bars are now in most major cities, making for simple filming. Many scenes will take place in a small warehouse, in the forests of the Midwest, in bedrooms, and on-site at a university science lab.

There are several scenes involving a 1980s Amtrak train line and train stations. But visually, the vibrant colors of the era make the story stand out and can be filmed at nearly any location.

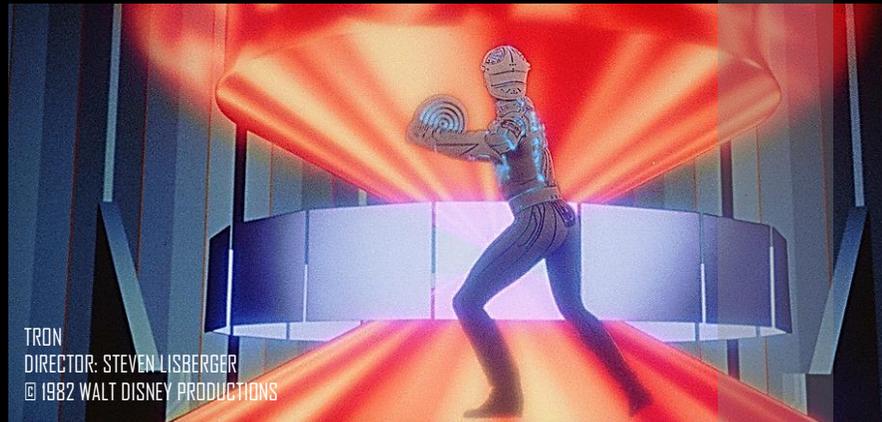
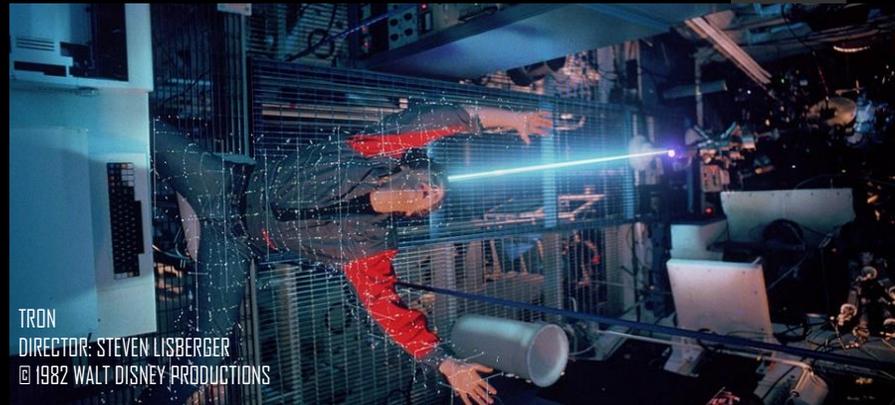


A> RUN/MOOD BOARD/TONE

# TONE

## Sci-Fi/Thriller:

- The Man from Silicon Valley's lab and warehouse in the woods take inspiration from the movie Tron.
- Interior scenes like homes and the college campus have earth tones similar to Stranger Things.



A> RUN/MOOD BOARD/COSTUMES

# COSTUMES

## Teenage 1981 Fashion Trends:

- Bright, vibrant colors
- Bangles and bandanas
- Green trucker hats
- Nike shoes w/ tube socks
- Video game watches
- Thick, brown plastic glasses
- Faded sweatshirts
- Feathered hairstyles





STRANGER THINGS  
 CREATED BY THE DUFFER BROTHERS  
 © 2016 - NETFLIX

## RETRO STYLE

- STRANGER THINGS (2016-2022)
- WONDER WOMAN 1984 (2020)
- FEAR STREET 1978 (2020)
- IT FOLLOWS (2015)



# SIMILAR FILMS



SUPERMAN III  
 DIRECTED BY: RICHARD LESTER  
 © 1983 WARNER BROS

## FROM THE 80s

- SUPERMAN III (1983)
- WAR GAMES (1983)
- BLOW OUT (1981)
- TRON (1982)



# DISTRIBUTION ANALYTICS

## 2021 BOX OFFICE REVENUE

- SCI FI: \$851 MILLION\*
- THRILLER: \$137 MILLION\*\*

## VIEWING AUDIENCE STATISTICS\*\*

- SCI FI: 24%
- THRILLER: 19%

\*SCI FI STATISTICS ACCORDING TO VARIETY.COM

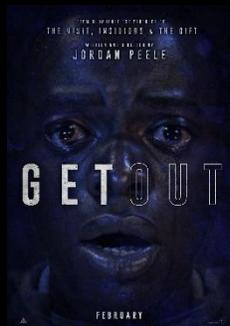
\*\*STATISTICS ACCORDING TO STATISTA.COM

# PROJECTED BUDGET

ABOVE THE LINE EXPENSES:	\$1 MILLION
PRODUCTION EXPENSES:	\$1.9 MILLION
POST-PRODUCTION EXPENSES:	\$400,000
OTHER EXPENSES:	\$600,000

**TOTAL PROJECTED BUDGET: \$3.9 MILLION**

## (SIMILAR FILMS)



GET OUT  
(2017)  
BUDGET:  
\$4.5 MILLION  
BOX OFFICE:  
\$252 MILLION



IT FOLLOWS  
(2014)  
BUDGET:  
\$1.3 MILLION  
BOX OFFICE:  
\$23 MILLION



BLACK BOX  
(2020)  
BUDGET:  
>\$10 MILLION  
AMAZON  
DISTRIBUTION

# ABOUT THE WRITER



Joe Deez is a globally published and an award-winning freelance writer. This pitch deck is based on his short story of the same name that was a 2022 Vocal+ Fiction Awards contest finalist.

## **JOE DEEZ**

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