

THE CARDTURNER

The Story of a King, A Queen, and a Joker

Based on a book by the award-winning author of *“HOLES”*
Louis Sacher

THE CARDTURNER

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

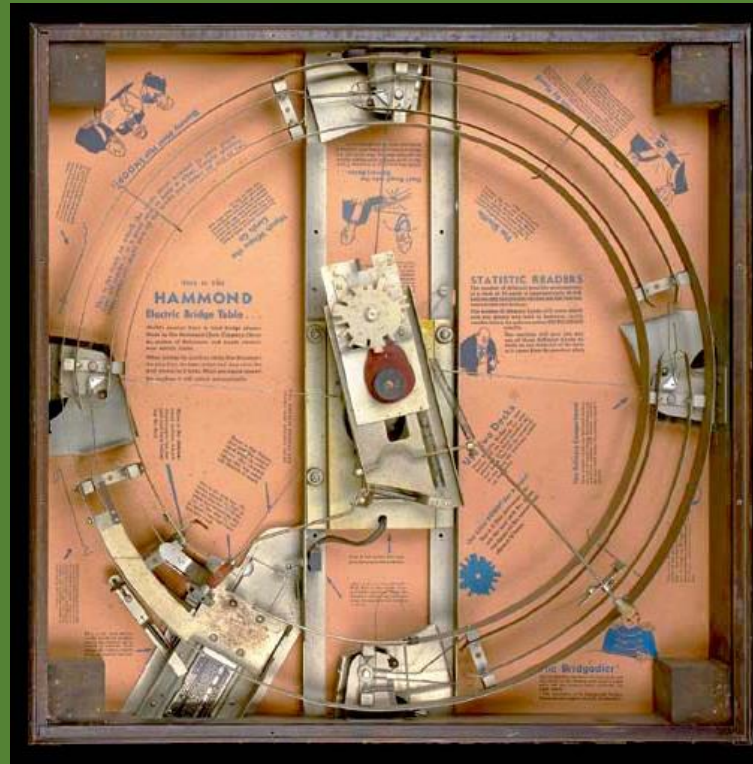
LENGTH: 100 minutes

GENRE: YA, Coming of Age, Dramedy

BUDGET: \$5MM

Written by:
Mark Oxman

Adapted from the book:
THE CARDTURNER
by Louis Sachar



Produced by:

Tony Greenberg
Mike Sammaciccia

The summer after junior year of high school looks bleak for Alton Richards. His girlfriend has dumped him, he has no money, no job, and his mother insists that he drive his blind Uncle Lester to his bridge club four times a week to be his card turner. Alton soon realizes he's been dealt more than just cards in this twisty narrative about love lost and embracing the unpredictable hand life deals you.

A man with white hair and glasses, wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and dark tie, is seated in a large, dark leather armchair. He is holding a silver cane with his right hand. The background is a dimly lit room with wooden paneling and a window with red curtains. A wooden cabinet and a lamp are visible in the background.

SYNOPSIS:

The summer after junior year of high school looks bleak for Alton Richards. His girlfriend has dumped him, he has no money and no job, and his parents insist that he drive his great-uncle Lester, who is old, blind, very sick, and very rich, to his bridge club four times a week and be his cardturner. But Alton's mother isn't the only one trying to worm their way into Lester Trapp's good graces. There is Trapp's longtime housekeeper, his alluring young nurse, and the crazy Castaneda family. Alton soon finds himself intrigued by his uncle, by the game of bridge, and especially by the pretty and shy Toni Castaneda, as he struggles to figure out what it all means, and ultimately to figure out the meaning of his own life.

Why The Cardturner?

There is a huge market for YA content. Coming of age stories are often uplifting and The Cardturner is no exception. In addition, it is a love letter to the card game Bridge and provides an opportunity to do for Bridge what films like Searching For Bobby Fischer and The Queen's Gambit have done for chess. In addition, Louis Sachar has an avid fan base, devoted to his many works. The Cardturner, like "Holes", takes us on a non-linear journey into the past and connects it to the present in a fun and engaging way.









Michael Oxman

Writer

Mark Oxman is a writer/director based in Los Angeles. A 30-minute short film he wrote and directed, "Sing Along," starred Tony winner Alice Ripley ("Next to Normal"), Tony nominee Patrick Page ("Hadestown"), three-time Emmy winner Uzo Aduba ("Orange is the New Black"), and a slew of other Broadway performers — including Myles Erlick who later on to play Snowboy in Steven Spielberg's "West Side Story." The short was Academy Award-eligible and ended up being purchased by ShortsTV, playing in rotation on DIRECTV and across Europe. His second short, "Vinyl Child," starred Creed Bratton of NBC's "The Office," two-time Emmy winner Patrika Darbo, and was purchased by Gonella Productions.

"Sing Along" led to Broadway producers looking to collaborate on musicals – he was hired by producer Harvey Kivel to write a biopic about 1920s Broadway star Libby Holman, a vehicle designed for Lady Gaga. Broadway producer and lawyer Benjamin Carl Feldman ("Pippin;" "On the Town;" "Natasha, Pierre & The Great Comet of 1812") hired him to adapt a stageplay from a short film his client had starred in, with which Oxman joined the Dramatists Guild.

Oxman wrote a screenplay called "Virtual Strangers" which CAA liked and tried to position Melissa McCarthy to star in. This screenplay was championed by producer Declan Baldwin, who convinced Oxman to move to New York to work at Declan's Big Indie Pictures, learning about producing and development. Big Indie has co-produced dozens of films for Amazon Studios – including Academy Award winners "Manchester By the Sea" and "Still Alice," and recently, "Being the Ricardos." Oxman moved back to Los Angeles and immediately developed a fantasy/sci-fi TV series titled "The Darwin Theory" for Howie Mandel's Alevy Pictures.

In 2022, Oxman wrote a vehicle on request of Joey King's team for Netflix which they expressed interest in acquiring upon completion. He also recently finished completion on a screenplay for a star of "The Real World: Homecoming" on Paramount+.





Producers



Tony Greenberg
(Producer)

Producer, Tony Greenberg, MD, retired from hospital practice in 2013 and decided to realize his lifelong dream of making movies. His primary objective has been to identify books with meaningful stories, obtain the film rights, and create a team of collaborators to develop & produce the movie.

Tony produced THE RIDESHARE KILLER, which was released in 2022. His company, Two Jacks Productions LLC, has multiple projects in various stages of development.

His company's motto:
Betting on a Good Story is
Never a Gamble!

MICHAEL SAMMACICCIA
(co-writer/director/producer)

Mike Sammaciccia began his career with Robert De Niro's Tribeca Productions and Miramax Films. From there, he became Walden Media's first creative executive, bringing in the book "Holes" and serving as executive in charge of production. Next, Sammaciccia wrote, directed, produced, edited, and shot "Always Will", an award-winning indie available on Amazon and iTunes. He was the SVP of live-action for Viacom/Nickelodeon, producing highly rated content every quarter. He then produced Quibi's "Survive" for Jeffrey Katzenberg, a 10-part series starring Sophie Turner and Corey Hawkins and directed by Mark Pellington. Most recently, Sammaciccia launched Afterglow Pictures, specializing in content guaranteed to leave a lasting impression long after the glow of the screen fades. Afterglow has over 15 active projects including films and tv series with HBOMax, Ubisoft, Fremantle, Sony and Westbrook Studios.



Thank You

We Look Forward to your Feedback!

Tony Greenberg

310.383.4955

tonygreenberg.1@gmail.com

Two
Jacks



Productions LLC

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