

THE PRINCE OF DARK CORNERS

THE TRUE STORY OF A MOUNTAIN OUTLAW

Written by GARY CARDEN
Produced by NEAL HUTCHESON
Featuring MILTON HIGGINS
as 'Major' Lewis Redmond

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SYNOPSIS

At the time of his capture in 1881, Lewis Redmond was the most famous outlaw in the country, outshining contemporaries Billy-The-Kid and Jesse James. In the lean and hopeless years of Reconstruction, he maintained an extensive bootleg operation that ran through North Georgia, upstate South Carolina, and Western North Carolina. To the people of Southern Appalachia he became an American Robin Hood, fighting revenueurs and using moonshine profits to save people's land. When he shot and killed a childhood friend who had become a federal marshal, the years of narrow escapes and daring deeds that followed made Redmond the most notorious outlaw in America. While Northern papers depicted him as a degenerate and cold-blooded murderer, he retained a reputation for honesty and generosity. Though he was eventually shot and captured, no one would have predicted the fate that awaited, one which deprived him of his rightful position in the annals of American folklore. His recovered story sheds light on a time and place that has long been shrouded in mystery. Milton Higgins delivers a tour de force as Major Lewis Richard Redmond in Gary Carden's masterwork of Appalachian identity, *The Prince of Dark Corners*.

ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS

GARY CARDEN (Author) is a storyteller, folklorist, and dramatist whose work has drawn exuberant praise from readers, audiences and critics. Fred Chappell, former poet laureate of North Carolina, wrote, “I know the folks of the Western North Carolina mountains and Mr. Carden knows them too [...] he tells their stories, passes on their humor and sadness, and hears their music.” Lee Smith, author of *Oral History*, *Fair and Tender Ladies*, and numerous other popular novels, adds, “Gary Carden is a national treasure—an Appalachian Garrison Keillor!” His book *Mason Jars in the Flood* (2000) won the Book of the Year Award in 2001 from the Appalachian Writers Association, and in 2006 Carden received the prestigious Brown-Hudson Folklore Award. *The Prince of Dark Corners* is adapted from Carden’s play of the same title. His previous plays include *The Raindrop Waltz*, *Land’s End*, *Nance Dude*, and *Birdell*, and other published works include *The Raindrop Waltz and Other Plays* (2001), *Papa’s Angels* (1996), and *Belled Buzzards, Hucksters, and Grieving Specters* (1994).

- For more on Gary Carden see: <http://www.tannerywhistle.net>

MILTON HIGGINS grew up in Burnsville, North Carolina, across the road from the Parkway Playhouse, where he would ultimately act and direct. Among many other roles, Higgins has lent his unique presence and authentic voice to Gary Carden’s Appalachian plays *The Raindrop Waltz*, *Land’s End*, and *The Prince of Dark Corners*.

NEAL HUTCHESON has produced numerous works for public television audiences, including the Emmy-winning *The Last One*, the national PBS release *The Queen Family – Appalachian Tradition and Back Porch Music* (2006). Other broadcast credits include the popular *Mountain Talk* (2004), *Voices of North Carolina* (2005), and *Indian By Birth: The Lumbee Dialect* (2000). Hutcheson received a 2004-2005 Artist Fellowship from the North Carolina Arts Council, and project grants from United Arts in 1997 and 2002. Three of his documentary films were honored in a special showing at a film festival in Berlin, Germany, in 2006.

- For more on Neal Hutcheson see:
<http://www.indyweek.com/gyrobase/Content?oid=oid%3A20124>
<http://www.newsobserver.com/692/story/396765.html>

PRAISE FOR THE PRINCE OF DARK CORNERS

“A wonderful production and a great performance.” – Bryan Sodeman, UNC-TV

“I watched your film on PBS and found it simple and amazing at the same time. I found the language to be honest and not at all overdone as happens in the movies. Thanks for the great work.” – Greg Cunningham, Franklin, NC

“Even my wife (who could watch Oprah re-runs 24/7) enjoyed it!!! Now that’s saying something!” – Peter McIntyre, Myrtle Beach, SC

“I saw the show on ETV last night and loved it. I thought Mr. Higgins did a super job. This guy is good! I loved the storyline—I don’t want to sound soft, but when Lewis started out across the cornfield to meet them other boys at the end...well lets just say I had goose bumps on my arms and that was about the time ‘something flew in my eye’ and made it water up.” - Tommy Keaton, SC

“Last night I ran across *The Prince of Dark Corners* on ETV. The actor, Milton Higgins, gave me pause. I was thoroughly entertained. It was fast-paced and was filled with so many events, places and facts of interest to me. I had never been introduced to ‘Major’ Lewis Redmond’s story, but the names of places and towns that I have either visited or have heard stories of by my family made me feel as much a part of the production as if I were sitting on the first row watching and listening to it live.” Patricia Criscola, Greer, SC

“What a wonderful performance. What a tremendous tale. Would that TV could be all like this excellent story.” - Sherry Williams, Charlotte, NC

DVD DETAILS

INCLUDED WITH THE OUTLAW LEWIS REDMOND



Distributed by Sucker Punch Pictures

USA • 2009 • 125 minutes total features • Color • Letterbox Format

CONTACT

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- High-resolution photos available at www.suckerpunchpictures.com

Photo captions

- **Gary Carden** Storyteller, Folklorist & Dramatist Gary Carden by the Nikwasi Indian Mound
- **Milton Higgins 1 & 2** Milton Higgins as ‘Major’ Lewis Richard Redmond in *The Prince of Dark Corners*
- **Redmond Family** Lewis Redmond surrounded by his family. His epitaph reads, “He Was the Sunshine of Our Home.”
- **Lewis Redmond** Portrait of the outlaw Lewis Redmond
- **Entwined Lives** A “border romance” published in Philadelphia by Barclay & Company in 1879. The tale it tells of Redmond is entirely contrived.
- **Redmond capture** Illustration from an 1881 account of Redmond’s life.
- **Pardon 1 & 2** The presidential pardon issued to Lewis Redmond by president Chester A. Arthur in 1884.
- **Wanted** A wanted poster for Lewis Redmond, contrived for use in *The Prince of Dark Corners*. Though there is no remaining evidence of any actual such poster, presumably one existed.