



# THE ROYAL EXECUTIONER

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**Genre:** Historical Drama  
**Director:** Peter Soos  
**Producers:** Carlos Alperin, Kornel Sipos  
**Writer:** Marshall Ferrin  
**Countries:** Spain/Hungary/Australia  
**Duration:** 100'  
**Language:** English  
**Year:** 2026  
**Budget:** \$10m  
**Available:** Worldwide  
**Awards:** Screenplay won 10 awards and  
15 nominations at international  
competitions  
**Locations:** Spain (Basque country)  
**Post Production:** Australia

## Logline

Amid the chaos of Revolutionary France, Charles-Henri Sanson, the reluctant Royal Executioner, grapples with the moral weight of his inherited duty, torn between family loyalty, personal anguish, and the brutal demands of justice during one of history's bloodiest chapters.





# Synopsis

In 1756, Versailles, France, Royal Executioner Charles-Baptiste Sanson and his son, Charles-Henri, botch an execution and flee when the crowd turns on them. With Charles-Baptiste gravely ill, Charles-Henri must take over as Royal Executioner to support the family. His first execution is a success, and upon his father's death, he becomes a fourth-generation executioner.

By 1789, Charles-Henri, now in his late 40s, faces turmoil when Revolutionaries invade the Bastille, allowing the Marquis de Sade to escape. Ordered by Robespierre to execute King Louis XVI, Charles-Henri complies, using the newly invented guillotine. As a successful executioner, he grows uneasy about the adulation and fear he inspires, as well as Robespierre's abuse of capital punishment.

Charles-Henri meets and advises 20-year-old Charlotte Corday in a cutlery shop, charmed by her naivete. Later, he witnesses her trial and execution for the murder of Marat, which breaks his heart.

Attempting to resign, he is threatened by Robespierre with death for his family. Pleading his case with Danton, he is offered safe passage to Switzerland, but Danton is arrested before they can escape.

Robespierre orders Charles-Henri to execute Danton. Shortly after, Robespierre is arrested by his own people, and Charles-Henri is forced to execute him as well. This act serves as his revenge against the brutal leader who abused his power.

In 1806, a broken Charles-Henri dies while tending to his garden. By 1847, his son Henri ends the family's six-generation legacy of executioners, having only daughters.



# Screenplay: Wins & Nominations





# Similar Films

## Differentiation from Other Historical Dramas:

**Unique Historical Perspective:** "The Royal Executioner" delves deeply into the psychological and moral struggles of an executioner tasked with carrying out the brutal will of the Revolution.

**Character-Driven Narrative:** The film centers on Charles-Henri's internal conflict and emotional journey, offering a poignant exploration of guilt, redemption, and the human spirit.

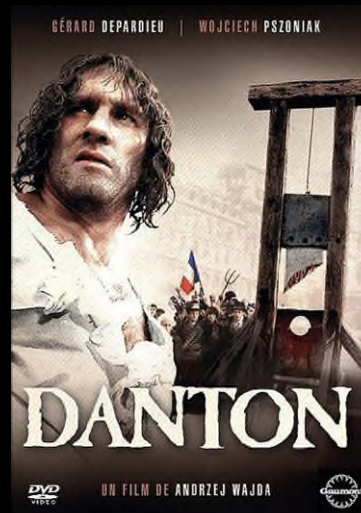
**Personal and Political Conflict:** Balancing personal redemption with the political upheaval of the time, the film presents a compelling dual narrative that appeals to both character-driven and historically-inclined audiences.

## Recent Successes in Historical Drama:

**"Gladiator 2" (2024):** The anticipated sequel to the iconic "Gladiator," this film continues to captivate audiences with its dramatic storytelling and high production values, demonstrating the enduring appeal of historical epics.

**"Napoleon" (2023):** Directed by Ridley Scott, this film has gained acclaim for its epic portrayal of Napoleon Bonaparte, highlighting his complex character and military genius. Its success lies in its grand scale and intricate character study.

**"The Last Executioner" (2014):** Offers an intimate look into the life of an executioner, focusing on his personal and psychological struggles. This film's success lies in its deep character study and emotional storytelling.







## France Locations



# France: Costume Design





# France: Architecture & Interiors





# Peter Soos

Director



Péter Soós is a highly accomplished Hungarian filmmaker and academic, renowned for his contributions to both television and cinema. He graduated from Eötvös Loránd University in Budapest with a degree in Hungarian history, laying the groundwork for his deep understanding of narrative and cultural context. In 1992, he further honed his storytelling skills, earning a degree in Film and TV Direction from the prestigious College of Theatre and Film Arts, Budapest.

Soós has directed a range of feature films and television productions that have left a lasting mark on Hungarian media. His notable works include *Budapest Anno*, *Blessed State*, and *Genius - The Alchemist*. He is particularly celebrated for his popular TV series, such as *For Better or Worse* and *Hacktion*, which garnered critical acclaim and a loyal audience in Hungary.

In addition to his on-screen achievements, Soós is a skilled stage director, having directed productions in several Hungarian theatres.

Currently, Péter Soós is in post-production for *1242: Gateway to the West*, a \$14 million historical thriller with Ray Stevenson, Michael Ironside and Eric Roberts that explores a pivotal moment in history. This ambitious project underscores his ability to blend historical depth with cinematic storytelling, further cementing his reputation as a versatile and visionary director.



# Carlos Alperin

Producer



Carlos Alperin has 28 years' experience in producing, marketing, financing and selling films internationally. In 2002, Carlos founded the international sales agency Galloping Entertainment. He is responsible for the acquisition and sale of feature films, documentaries and TV series from international producers and for their licensing to international film distributors, TV broadcasters and VOD platforms. Since 1994, Carlos participated at more than 120 film and TV markets, and festivals.

Carlos wrote, directed and produced episodes of the animated TV series “*Cosmo Kids*” (recipient of the AWG Monte Miller Award), “*The Pup Pups*” developed with Scottish TV, and “*Bilby Blastoff*.” He wrote and produced the multi-award-winning documentary film “*Raul the Terrible*” directed by David Bradbury (Australia), produced the thriller “*ICU*” directed by Aash Aaron (Australia), the comedy “*The Cost of Living*” directed by Veronica Craven (United States) and the executive produced the multi-award-winning historical drama “*Sargent Matacho*” directed by William Gonzalez (Colombia).

Carlos is one of the producers of the historical thriller “*1242: Gateway to the West*”, a \$15m Hungarian/British/Australian/Mongolian coproduction; the historical drama “*The Royal Executioner*,” a \$10m Spanish/Hungarian/Australian coproduction; the thriller “*Tunnel*”, a \$2.2m Spanish/Hungarian/Australian coproduction; the supernatural thriller “*Jump Out*”, a 3.8m UK/ Australian coproduction, and the sci-fi “*Deep Echo*,” a \$15m US production.

Carlos served 3 times as Juror at the *International Emmy Awards* in New York.



# Kornel Sipos

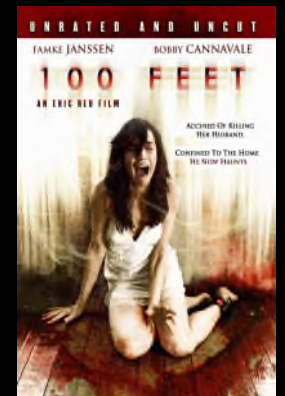
Producer



Kornél Sipos is a Hungarian film producer who has been involved in the film industry since 1991. He started his career as a production manager and executive producer at Focusfilm in 1989. He produced his first feature film, *Pirouette*, in 1992. In 1993, he founded Laurin and started developing feature films and producing commercials. He became the CEO of MAFILM Group in 2000 and produced films with his company LAURIN between 2001 and 2012.

Since 2012, he has been working as Head of Productions and Operations at ORIGO Film Group. Since 2014, he has been the owner and managing director of Mozgo Mozi, a Production and Distribution company. Kornél produced *White Palms* (2005), *Day of Wrath* (2005), *Rep Revue Romeo* (2004), *Happy Birthday!* (2003), *Antisocial* (2015), *Aglaia* (2012), *Great Ghost Rescue* (2011) and *Kolorado Kid* (2010). He was an executive producer for *Three Thousand Numbered Pieces* (2021) and co-produced *Two Cities, or the Depth of Europe* (2020), *Adas* (2008), and *Kalandorok* (2006). Kornél is currently producing *Live with Love*, a TV series directed by Andor Szilágyi, and has worked on several other projects in recent years, including *Lawsuit Against the Nation I* and *II* (2020-2021), both directed by Péter Mudry.

Kornél is the lead producer of *1242: Gateway to the West*, an upcoming historical action film directed by Péter Soós. The film features an ensemble cast including Ray Stevenson, Eric Roberts, Michael Ironside, Neil Stuke, David Schofield, Jeremy Neumark-Jones, Genevieve Florence, and Bold Choimbol.







For more information contact:

**Carlos Alperin**

Producer/Sales Agent

Mob/WhatsApp: +614 1444 7743

[carlos@gallopingentertainment.com](mailto:carlos@gallopingentertainment.com)

[www.gallopingentertainment.com](http://www.gallopingentertainment.com)