

Gangster Repeat

By Justice Gray

WGAW# 2231602

Historical/Crime. 120 pages

LOGLINE:

A modern-day criminal obsessed with the 1930s sets out to recreate John Dillinger's most notorious St. Paul heists, only to be forced into a reckoning when the ghost of the legendary outlaw appears to stop him.

SUMMARY:

The Ghost of Public Enemy No. 1. John Randolph has spent a lifetime fueled by his Uncle Greg's whiskey-soaked stories of the 1930s—tales of the bold heists, ruthless kidnappings, and the "gentleman" gangsters who once ruled the Midwest. When Greg offers to bankroll a pilgrimage from Oregon to the blood-stained streets of St. Paul, John isn't just going for the history; he's looking for a connection to a shadow he's chased since childhood.

But as John walks the neon-lit tours of the city's most notorious crime scenes, a simple fascination curdles into a dangerous obsession. The legends of John Dillinger and the Barker-Karpis gang aren't enough; he wants to feel the rush of the getaway and the weight of the Tommy gun.

Convinced that the only way to truly understand his uncle's past is to resurrect it, John begins a series of increasingly violent "re-enactments" of Dillinger's most daring hits. As the police close in and the line between historical tribute and modern-day crime spree vanishes, John waits for a final, spectral validation—determined to keep the hammer down until he meets the ghost of the man who started it all.

AWARDS:

Cambridge Script Festival
Finalist
2024

2025

Hollywood International Indie
Screenplay Awards
Selected
2025

Oxford Script Awards
Finalist
2025

Reno Tahoe Fellowship
Quarter-Finalist

Finalist
Berlin International Screenwriting
Festival
2026