

THE FASTEST GUNS IN THE WEST

Written By

Graeme Beresford

FADE IN:

EXT. WESTERN TOWN, MAIN STREET - DAY

SUPER: The Wild West, 1885

A sandy street is home to a saloon, a sheriffs station, a blacksmiths, a bank, and other wooden structures. The town is silent. The banks window is covered in blood and shattered from two large bullet holes.

Two men stand back to back in the middle of the dusty street. Two stuffed bags sit either side of them. A crowd of locals, madams, and an elderly barman have gathered on the saloon porch.

One of the men is dressed in a brown hat and dark red poncho. The other man wears a brown poncho, and has shoulder length scruffy curly hair that hangs from his black hat. This man has a bullet wound to the shoulder. Both of their faces cannot be seen. In unison they take a step forward.

EXT. SALOON PORCH - CONTINUOUS

The saloon barman SAMUEL JENKINS (52) watches from his porch. He has the face of an experienced man and has a towel over his left shoulder, which he cleans a glass with.

SAMUEL

Yes Sir, its about that time of year again. The winds are blowing, the sun is shining and people... People are dying.

A local man by the name of SEAMUS BROWN (33) arrives at Samuels side. Seamus is small, fragile, has a small ginger mustache and wears an awful hat.

SEAMUS

How come Sheriff Cassidy ain't puttin' a stop to this?

SAMUEL

(Slightly laughing)

A stop to what Seamus, nothings happened yet. Besides, nobody has seen or heard from him in days... He an his two deputies.

SEAMUS

Christ.
(Puzzled)

SEAMUS(cont'd)

Somebody needs to put a stop to this. We ain't seen blood split on these here streets for five years or so. Who are these two anyhow?

SAMUEL

I'd like to see you try stopping them because it looks like they're going for the ten paces boy.

Seamus's eyes widen and his jaw tightens. Seamus moves from Samuels side and reaches into his belt for his weapon.

SAMUEL

You wouldn't even make it to the street son. They're outlaws and its outlaw season.

Seamus looks shocked. He quickly rejoins Samuel. Everyone on the porch begins to gather around Samuel.

SEAMUS

They're outlaws? Both of them?

SAMUEL

Yes Sir, both of them. Two of the finest gun slingers in the whole of the wild West right there boy.

SEAMUS

Jesus. How you know they are outlaws Samuel?

EXT. WESTERN TOWN, MAIN STREET - CONTINUOUS

Both outlaws take a second step forward.

CLOSE UP - BROWN HAT OUTLAW

The outlaw in the brown hat lifts his head to reveal his clean cut complexion, freshly shaved face, deep brown eyes and sparkling white teeth. He has a Spanish look about him.

SAMUEL (V.O.)

That character there in the brown hat is old ONE SHOT. Been wanted by county Sheriffs for years.

Sweat drips from One Shots forehead and through his eyes but he doesn't blink, not once.

SEAMUS (V.O.)

There got to be a story behind that name Samuel. What's this vermin's history?

EXT. ANOTHER WESTERN TOWN, MAIN STREET - FLASHBACK - DAY

One Shot stands in the middle of the main street, he wears his distinctive brown hat. Opposite him are four men, all dressed in similar attire. They are in order left to right, RUI, PAOLO, MARCO and ANTONIO FRAGTELLI.

SAMUEL (V.O.)

Four years ago One Shot got into some ruckus with four bad to the bone Italian villains called The Famous Four Fragtelli Brothers, actually in a town not so far from here. Four verses One was surly to tough a task for even the most ruthless outlaw to overcome... But them Italians didn't know.

SEAMUS (V.O.)

What didn't they know Samuel? He have a sidekick with him?

RUI FRAGTELLI

He ain't going to draw.

ANTONIO FRAGTELLI

He's going to draw any second... Just keep your eyes on him and your hand near your guns brothers.

PAOLO FRAGTELLI

I'm sick and tired of waiting can't I just shoot him... I'm hungry.

Marco Fragtelli steps forward.

MARCO FRAGTELLI

(Shouting)

Hey you brown hat son of a bitch bastard, go for your guns.

SLOW MOTION

One Shot draws two Colt .45's from each holster. He goes down onto one knee and while twisting both hands into different angles he fires one bullet from each gun.

SAMUEL (V.O.)

They didn't know that old One Shot has a special ability. He can fire his shots in such a way that he can kill two people with only one bullet. Its got something to do with the right stance and the way in which he angles his irons.

END SLOW MOTION

Marco clutches his chest. Antonio grabs his stomach. Rui gets hit in the gut. Seconds later Paolo gets hit in the heart. The four brothers stand fatally wounded and then drop to the ground.

SAMUEL (V.O.)

That was the day he was given the name One Shot and since then he has killed over fifty outlaws in over thirty western towns.

One Shot is on one knee as a bullet races past his face. He spins around to see twenty law enforcers shooting at him. One Shot rolls behind a wooden manure cart.

SEAMUS (V.O.)

It sounds like he's doing more good than bad to me. Killing all them outlaws.

One Shot peers his head out from hiding.

SAMUEL (V.O.)

That's because One Shot isn't your typical outlaw... He's smart. He waits until another outlaw robs a train or holds-up a bank and then he simply robs them. But he kills whoever he needs to in the process, and over the years seventy sheriffs, deputies and rangers have fell to One Shots irons.

ONE SHOT'S P.O.V

Twenty rangers in different stationary positions all fire in his direction.

END P.O.V

One Shot takes two dramatic deep breaths and bursts out from hiding. He sprints across the street and fires five shots from both guns, each time twisting his hands into positions.

One Shot reaches the other side of the street and dives behind a water trough. He frantically pats himself up and down and breaths a sigh of relief at the sign of no injury.

One Shot stands over the four Fragtelli brothers bodies, he tips his hat. One Shot picks up four bags full of money and walks away. In the background lies twenty rangers bodies massacred on the ground, over barrels and leaning against buildings.

EXT. SALOON PORCH - CONTINUOUS

SAMUEL

And that's the legend of old One Shot.

One Shot and the other outlaw are five paces apart. Everyone on the porch has fully gathered around Samuel. MISS BONNIE, an overweight madam in a kinky outfit pushes her way to the front of the crowd.

MISS BONNIE

What about that other fella, the rough lookin one with the wound in his arm.

SAMUEL

(Giggling)

Well Miss Bonnie, I'm sure glad you asked.

EXT. WESTERN TOWN, MAIN STREET - CONTINUOUS

The outlaws are six paces away from each other, both bags lie lonesome in between.

CLOSE UP - BLACK HAT OUTLAW

The black hat outlaw lifts his head to reveal a face full of scars, stubble that could strike a match, all gold teeth and an eye patch covering his right eye. Flies buzz around his dirty face and tatty unwashed hair.

SAMUEL (V.O.)

That man, that man right there in the black hat and brown poncho is one of the meanest outlaws to ever walk through the valley of death.

MISS BONNIE (V.O.)

Why? What he do Sam?

SAMUEL (V.O.)

In HANG EM TWICE'S case its more like what didn't he do.

INT. WESTERN GOLD BANK - FLASHBACK - DAY

Four men que inside the bank. JANE CASSIDY see's to a fifth male customer at the cashier desk named, JAMES GOLDSMITH.

Each man is dressed in a smart suit and carry's a briefcase which they each hold tightly in their hands. James's briefcase is on the counter desk.

JAMES

Just the ten bars this week, Miss Cassidy.

JANE

Mr. Goldsmith how many times have I told you to call me Jane.

SAMUEL (V.O.)

Again, it was four years ago if I remember right...

Suddenly the door is kicked open and there stands Hang Em Twice. He laughs and spits on the floor. He draws a Colt .45 and shoots dead the four queuing men. Jane screams as blood splatters onto her blouse.

SAMUEL (V.O.)

Old Hang Em Twice was a small time nobody in town. He was a mean bastard but nobody knew him. Nobody took him seriously so he decided the best way to get attention was to create his own nickname.

(Beat)

But, he's a few bottles short of a saloon if you understand what I'm getting at.

SAMUEL(cont'd)

He came up with a nickname that has caused so much shit that the flies even keep away.

Hang Em Twice walks over to Jane and raises his gun to the side of James's head. Jane screams but James is scared stiff. Hang Em Twice raises his finger to his mouth and signals to Jane to stop screaming, she does instantly.

SAMUEL (V.O.)

Hang Em Twice walked into the Western Gold bank early on a Friday morning... Exactly when the local mine owners were cashing in their gold dug up from the week. He walked straight in and shot four men dead, toyed with another and beat a lass employee who's name was Jane Cassidy till she was black and blue.

Hang Em Twice signals to Jane to open James's briefcase. She cry's hysterically and frantically shakes but she manages to pop the briefcase open. She slides it round to Hang Em Twice.

Hang Em Twice opens the case and his face lights up a golden bright yellow. His eyes widen and his toothless mouth smiles.

JANE

You have what you want. Please take the gold and leave please.

JAMES

(scared senseless)
No no no Sir, don't take my gold... Please... Sir... Please...
I beg you.

Hang Em Twice closes the briefcase.

SAMUEL (V.O.)

As far as old Hang Em Twice was concerned that gold was already his. But he still had to make his nickname known.

Hang Em Twice moves the gun from James's head and shoots him once in the leg.

MISS BONNIE (V.O.)

What did he do? Set the place on fire with em both inside?

MISS BONNIE(cont'd)

Shoot em both in the feet and leave
em in the middle of the desert?

Hang Em Twice gives a sick smile to Jane as James starts to
scream.

SAMUEL (V.O.)

(Flirting)

No Miss Bonnie, although it sounds
like you might make a mighty fine
outlaw one day.

(Beat)

He did something that had never
been done before, but has been done
countless times since.

EXT. BEHIND WESTERN GOLD BANK - FLASHBACK - CONTINUOUS

Hang Em Twice is walking back into the bank, he turns and
looks back to see James and Jane swaying in the breeze as
they both hang from a tree. Jane's face is an unrecognizable
black and blue.

SAMUEL (V.O.)

He hung them. He hung them both.

MISS BONNIE (V.O.)

That ain't new to nobody Sam.
Every outlaw in the book has hung
folk.

EXT. BEHIND WESTERN GOLD BANK - FLASHBACK - NIGHT

Hang Em Twice walks away when suddenly two pale legs drop
right in front of us, they don't hit the floor.

SAMUEL (V.O.)

He hung em both, twice.

CLOSE UP - JANE'S NECK

A bloody red ring is embedded in her neck below the rope
which has been moved up two inches.

EXT. SALOON PORCH - CONTINUOUS

A shocked gasp goes up from the crowd.

SAMUEL

And that is the story of old Hang
Em Twice.

SAMUEL(cont'd)

That's what he has been doing ever since to his victims, as if death wasn't as punishment enough. But let me tell you it ain't been easy for Hang Em Twice to live up to his nickname.

MISS BONNIE

What you mean?

SAMUEL

One time down in Red Canyon Town he returned the next day but the kin folk had already taken the bodies down and buried em.

(Beat)

Hang Em Twice forced the undertaker to dig em both up with his bare hands just so he could rope em up again and live up to his nickname. He may not be the brightest outlaw but he came up with a nickname that our Grandchildren's Grandchildren will talk about. That's for sure.

MISS BONNIE

An outlaw by trade an outlaw by nature. Jane Cassidy? Wasn't that the Sheriffs daughter?

SAMUEL

Indeed it was. The Sheriff swore to avenge her death one day. I would of thought he would of been here to put a bullet in old Hang Em Twice's temple. Beats me why he ain't.

Seamus enters the porch from the saloon with a whisky in hand.

SEAMUS

(Sharp)

Sorry to interrupt everybody's story time, but how do you know all of this Samuel?

The crowd parts so everybody can see Seamus. Samuel continues to watch the duel, he never takes his eyes off the outlaws.

SAMUEL

I was there Seamus... Both times... I was there.

SEAMUS

(Laughing)

Pull the other leg Samuel. I suppose you can also tell us what has led to this duel aswell. Jesus.

SAMUEL

If you would of paid attention to the stories you could of figured that out for yourself.

(Beat)

Judging by the banks window and the wound in Hang Em Twice's shoulder I can tell you that...

INT. BANK - 15 MINUTES EARLIER - DAY

A single male customer is inside the bank. He is at the cashiers desk, being served by a male cashier.

SAMUEL (V.O.)

Hang Em Twice probably walked into the bank with his gun drawn and was shot, by either a person inside or the cashier...

Hang Em Twice kicks the door down and instantly shoots the male customer. The cashier grabs a gun from under the desk and fires two shots at Hang Em Twice. One misses and goes through the window. The other rips through Hang Em Twice's shoulder, shattering the window with a second bullet hole and spraying blood all over the glass.

Hang Em Twice returns fire and hits the cashier in the head three times, ripping his head from his body. Hang Em Twice walks over to the body of the customer. He is still breathing.

SAMUEL (V.O.)

... Judging by level of authority I can tell you that the Sheriff and his two deputies are either swaying from trees or seeping fluid like a bad bottle 'a whiskey...

EXT. BEHIND BANK - 14 MINUTES EARLIER - DAY

The customer hangs from a tree, now dead. Hang Em Twice walks back into the bank and we see another tree with three men hanging from its branches. A badge falls off one of the men.

CLOSE IN ON BADGE

The badge is gold, star shaped and reads "Sheriff".

INT. BANK - 12 MINUTES EARLIER - DAY

Two large bags lay in the middle of the banks floor. Hang Em Twice comes out from behind the cashiers desk.

SAMUEL (V.O.)

... And judging from both outlaw's styles I am guessing that as soon as Hang Em Twice stepped out of the door, a gun was pointed at his head by no other than One Shot...

Hang Em Twice walks towards the banks exit. He picks up the two large bags and leaves.

EXT. OUTSIDE BANK - 11 MINUTES EARLIER - DAY

One Shot has a gun to the back of Hang Em Twice's head. Hang Em Twice turns around to face One Shot. Both of their faces are startled when they see each other.

SAMUEL (V.O.)

... And I am guessing, only guessing Seamus that the only way to end one of these great outlaw's lives was to perform the honorable ten paces duel.

EXT. SALOON PORCH - CONTINUOUS

Samuel makes his way to the saloon entrance. Everyone watches him as he slowly and emotionally leaves the porch. Seamus is speechless.

EXT. WESTERN TOWN, MAIN STREET - CONTINUOUS

One Shot and Hang Em Twice are nine paces apart. They take their tenth step in tandem.

SLOW MOTION SERIES OF SHOTS

- 1) One Shot spins around.
- 2) Hang Em Twice turns quickly.
- 3) Samuel watches from behind the window in the saloon.
- 4) One Shot draws his Colt .45.
- 5) Hang Em Twice draws his gun.
- 6) The crowd on the porch watch.
- 7) One Shot fire one single shot.
- 8) Hang Em Twice fires one single shot.

END SLOW MOTION SERIES OF SHOTS.

The bullets hit each other in mid air. The crowd on the porch gasps, nothing happens for a few seconds.

Samuel comes running out of the saloon and into the street, frantic.

SAMUEL

(Shouting)

Its a draw... Its a draw. Nothing like that has ever happened... Its a draw.

EXT. SALOON PORCH - CONTINUOUS

Mouths hang open, people stand still, nobody dares to blink.

SEAMUS

Why they only fire a single shot?

MISS BONNIE

I guess they got respect for each other... Must have a history.

EXT. WESTERN TOWN, MAIN STREET - CONTINUOUS

One Shot and Hang Em Twice look at Samuel. Their eyes fill with emotion. One Shot blinks rapidly and Hang Em Twice's teeth make a clattering sound as his jaw starts to tremble.

SAMUEL

(Softly)

You are still outlaws... You are still the best... You just proved it. You don't have to do this.

ONE SHOT/HANG EM TWICE

(To themselves, in tandem)

I am the only outlaw.

One Shot and Hang Em Twice look at each other. One Shot performs a curtsy. Hang Em Twice bows his head.

They both raise their guns and fire another shot. Out of nowhere an ELDERLY LADY sprints into the street. One Shot falls to his knees. Hang Em Twice falls backwards.

The elderly lady drops to her knees in the sandy street. Samuel looks at the Elderly Lady and hangs his head.

ELDERLY LADY

(Screaming & crying)

Nooooo... Please God no....
Please!

PULL BACK from the scene. The wind blows sand into the bodies of One Shot and Hang Em Twice. The two bags of money lie in the middle of the two fallen outlaws.

EXT. GRAVEYARD - DAY/DUSK

The Elderly Lady stands in a sandy graveyard. She looks at a headstone whilst wiping away tears with a handkerchief. The headstone reads:

Clinton "One shot" Gunn

"Lived by the gun..."

1855-1885

Samuel appears and touches the Elderly Lady's shoulders lovingly. She feels his hands with hers. She turns and slaps him many times. She hits him with all the strength she has.

ELDERLY LADY

(Whilst slapping)

Why didn't you do anything? Why
didn't you stop them? Why didn't
you love them? Why didn't you love
them? Why didn't you love them?

Samuel hugs the elderly lady as she weeps in his arms.
CAMERA PANS RIGHT to reveal another headstone next to One
Shots. It reads:

William "Hang Em Twice" Gunn

"...died by the gun"

1855-1885

The Elderly Lady leaves Samuels arms and walks away. Samuel reaches into his pocket and pulls out a small tatty piece of paper. Samuel fights the tears as he looks at the paper in his hand.

SAMUEL

(Beginning to weep)

Because they were outlaws...
Because they were outlaws.

Samuel drops the piece of paper to the floor and leaves the graves.

CLOSE IN ON HEADSTONES

The piece of paper is blown into the middle of the headstones. The piece of paper is a black and white photograph of a younger Samuel, the Elderly Lady and two small boys. At the bottom of the picture are the words "The Gunn's, 1865".

A gust of wind throws the photograph into the air and we PAN UP to the golden orange sun, setting in the wild West.

FADE TO BLACK.