

# VINE

**Writer:** Frederick Keeve

**Time period:** Modern day

**Locations:** Culver City, Amazon Rainforest

**Genre:** Teenage adventure/thriller with an environmental twist. *Arachnophobia*, *Gremlins* and *Stranger Things* meet *An Inconvenient Truth*. (The first two films combined grossed over \$200M worldwide. Equivalent to \$500M today. *Stranger Things* is a **billion-dollar franchise**)

**Tagline:** “Nature Fights Back.”

**Genre Pitch:** Deep in the Amazon jungle the rainforest has begun to rebel against its own impending extinction by fighting back against its principal predator: Man.

**Logline:** The Johnson family moves into a rundown house in Culver City, and while cleaning up the backyard, deadly vines from deep in the Amazon rainforest become entrenched in the neighborhood with frightening results. It’s a thrill ride through the worst fears of a typical suburban neighborhood.

**Synopsis:**

The Johnson family moves into a rundown house in Culver City, and while cleaning up the backyard, a mysterious gardener, Francisco Chavez, befriends the Johnson’s teenage children, Nick and Steve. He teaches the Johnson boys about carnivorous plants so Nick can win the high school’s annual science fair. What they don’t realize is that Francisco has escaped the multi-billion-dollar Jari River Project that has destroyed thousands of acres of rainforest in the Amazon, because a group of renegade vines are making humans their hosts.

The vines become entrenched in the Johnson's suburban neighborhood and one by one, the gardener's assistants, the pool man, the nosey neighbor next door, even the kids' science teacher become victims of this deadly and highly intelligent form of plant life. The clever vines easily outwit the adults, so it is up to Nick, Steve, and their teenage friends to figure out how to destroy the vines, and fight for "survival of the fittest," before it is too late. Linked to Man's destruction of the world's rainforests, with years of in-depth research about the Amazon Rainforest, lianas, and carnivorous plants, it's a scientifically based, fun thrill ride through the worst fears of a typical suburban neighborhood.

### **Background:**

**ABC News confirms that "fires in the Amazon rainforest are up more than 80% this year."** Residents from Sao Paulo have reported black rain from fires in the Amazon. The severity of the fires has prompted the state of Amazonas to declare an emergency. Scientists warn that if the Amazon fires reach a "point of no return," the forests could be replaced by fire-prone brush and savanna, causing the death of millions of species, according to the World Wildlife Fund.

**CNN reports that the Amazon rainforest is an ecological marvel. It's twice the size of India,** according to the World Wildlife Fund, and it's the largest remaining tropical rainforest in the world. It's home to a least 10% of the world's biodiversity, produces 20% of the world's oxygen and helps regulate the temperature of the whole planet. Without it, climate change could become irreversible.

**Environmental and climate change experts say the Amazonian fires are mostly caused by humans, notably cattle ranchers.** These illegal operators are being encouraged to clear land by the policies of the current Brazilian government, eager to exploit the Amazon's agricultural and mineral wealth. This ties directly into the main themes of *Vine*.

*Vine* has been developed over twenty years, and now is ready for the next step. Considering the recent Covid-19 pandemic that is truly a global epidemic, combined with the climate crises, it does seem that *Mother Nature is fighting back*. *Vine* addresses the issue of rainforest survival as a critical link to man's survival in the next few decades. This story sends a crucial message, provides some startling factual information, and has the potential to sweep across market segments and demographics to become a huge blockbuster.

Frederick Keeve produced, wrote, directed and composed the score for the award-nominated *From Russia to Hollywood: The 100-Year Odyssey of Chekhov and Shdanoff*, which featured many award-winning actors such as Gregory Peck, Jack Palance, and many more. Keeve's other producer/writer/director credits include: *Maxine Waters EPC*, *Small Town Conspiracy*, *Purple Sail*, *Cadillac City*, *Designated Caretaker Redux*, *The Accompanist*, *The Godfather Buck*, *Salome: A Love Story*, *Back to the Heart*, *Jimmy Comes Marching Home*, and upcoming stand-alone sequel *The Accompanist Awakening*, the faith-based *Letters from Heaven* and the six-episode Limited Series by Edgar Rice Burroughs *The Girl from Hollywood*.

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## **Comparables: (Box Office)**

### **E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial (1982)**

**Budget:** \$10M **Gross:** \$757M (Worldwide)

Summary: A troubled child helps a friendly alien return to his homeland.

### **Gremlins (1984)**

**Budget:** \$11M **Gross:** \$148M (USA)

Summary: A boy breaks three rules concerning his new pet and unleashes a horde of malevolently mischievous monsters on his town.

### **The Goonies (1985)**

**Budget:** \$19M **Gross:** \$61M (USA)

Summary: A group of kids set out on an adventure in search of pirate treasure that could save their homes from foreclosure.

### **Arachnophobia (1990)**

**Budget:** \$31M **Gross:** \$53M (Worldwide)

Summary: A species of South American killer spider hitches a lift to the U.S. in a coffin and starts to breed and kill.

### ***An Inconvenient Truth* (2006) (Academy Award-winner)**

**Budget:** \$1.5M **Gross:** \$50M (Worldwide)

Summary: A documentary on the threat that climate change poses to the Earth—causes, effects and history and potential solutions to it. Presented by former Vice-President Al Gore.

## **The Ruins (2008)**

**Budget:** \$8M **Gross:** \$22.7M (Worldwide)

Summary: A group of friends Mexican holiday turns deadly when an archaeological dig in the jungle unearths something evil among the ruins.

## **Super 8 (2011)**

**Budget:** \$50M **Gross:** \$260M (Worldwide)

Summary: A group of friends witness a train crash and investigate subsequent unexplained events in their small town.

## **Jurassic World (2015)**

**Budget:** \$150M **Gross:** \$1.6B (Worldwide)

Summary: A new theme park creates a genetically modified hybrid dinosaur, the Indominus Rex, which escapes and goes on a killing spree.

## **Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle (2017)**

**Budget:** \$90M **Gross:** \$962M (Worldwide)

Summary: Four teenagers are sucked into a video game; the only way to escape is to work together to finish the game.

## **Jurassic World: The Fallen Kingdom (2018)**

**Budget:** \$170M **Gross:** \$1.31B (Worldwide)

Summary: When the island's dormant volcano erupts, Owen and Claire advocate to rescue the remaining dinosaurs.