

The Founder (2016)

Written by Robert D. Siegel
Directed by John Lee Hancock

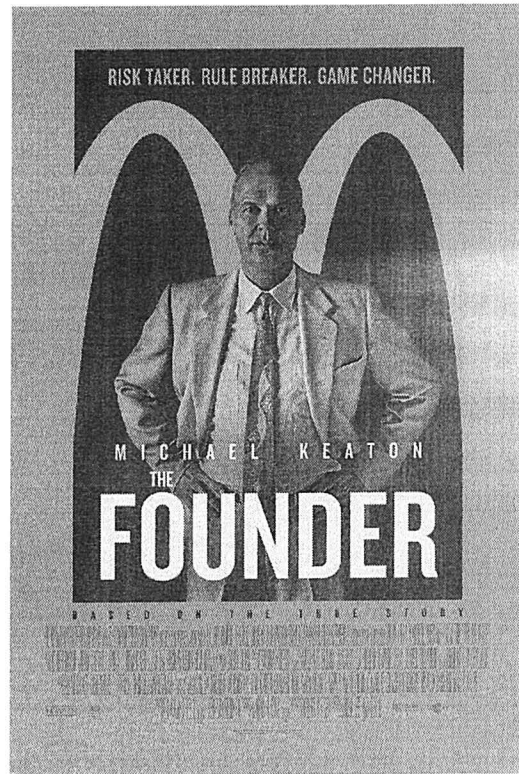
Cast

Michael Keaton – Ray Kroc
Nick Offerman – Dick McDonald
John Carroll Lynch – Mac McDonald
Linda Cardellini – Joan Smith
Laura Dern – Ethel Kroc

Awards

Oscar Nominations

None



Plot Synopsis

The story of Ray Kroc, a salesman who turned two brothers' innovative fast food eatery, McDonald's, into the biggest restaurant business in the world, with a combination of ambition, persistence, and ruthlessness.

Tidbits and Trivia

- During the opening/closing credits, the real Ray A Kroc is heard giving an interview about how he came to buy out McDonald's
- The McDonald's restaurants depicted were built from scratch in parking lots, as the crew was unable to locate suitable existing restaurants in locations which matched the desired look of the film.
- The on-screen flies that were attracted to the smell at McDonald's were actually Cocoa Krispies. They were poured in front of a powerful fan in order to make it look like swarms of flies.
- Dick McDonald rejects the idea of powdered milkshake mix by saying "What next, frozen French fries?" In fact,

part of the success of McDonald's was adopting the use of frozen potatoes for their French fries, which required a new freezing technology developed by the J.R. Simplot Company.

- Michael Keaton took piano lessons in preparation for the movie, after discovering the real Ray Kroc liked to play piano.
- The characters of Ray and Ethel Kroc appear to have a childless marriage, but the real couple had one daughter together.
- John Lee Hancock initially turned down the offer to direct the film twice. After reading the script, he changed his mind.
- Dick and Mac McDonald had different responses to Kroc's actions. Dick moved back to New Hampshire, and was relatively okay about selling McDonald's, but was bothered by how Kroc called himself "the founder" and referred to the Des Plaines location as the "first" McDonald's, as it was actually the ninth. Mac, on the other hand, never got over Kroc's actions, and died ten years after selling the company, due to his heartache and stress over the sale.
- The one million dollars each brother got would be worth 8.7 million dollars each in 2017 dollars.