

A person is seen from behind, holding a blue umbrella on a city street at night. The background is filled with out-of-focus city lights, creating a bokeh effect. The overall mood is romantic and atmospheric.

# *THE ARNOLD CHRONICLES*

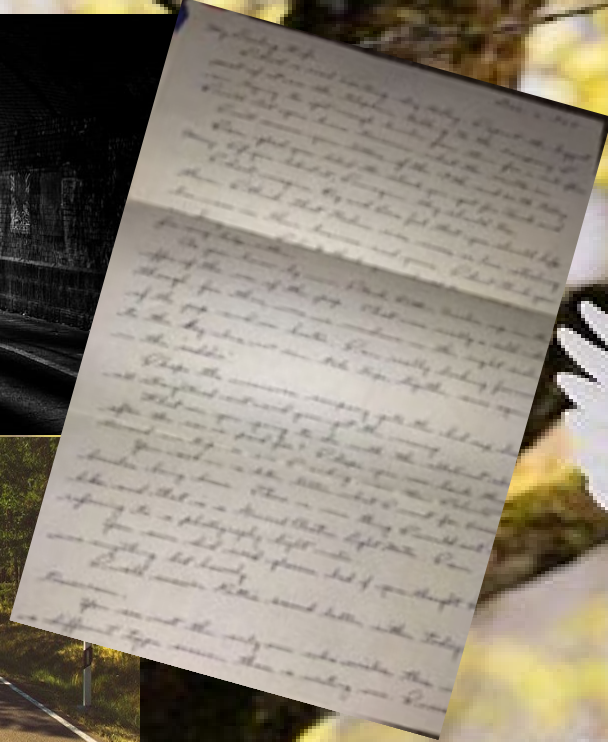
A FEATURE FILM By John DEAN ALFONE

## *LOGLINE*

A COMEDY/DRAMA FEATURE FILM. THE ARNOLD CHRONICLES (AKA "THE TRAVELS, OR "THE ARNOLD TRAVELS" , IS A 1950'S PERIOD PIECE ABOUT TWO MARINE VETERANS WHO HAVE JUST RETURNED FROM THE KOREAN WAR, AND TRAVEL THROUGH THE CONTINENTAL SOUTH/SOUTHWEST IN SEARCH OF MEANING, ROMANCE AND ADVENTURE.

# THE ARNOLD CHRONICLES

# SYNOPSIS



*The Arnold Chronicles* (aka *The Travels*) is a 1955 period drama that follows two young Korean War veterans, Mexican-American Alfonso “Arnold” Villanueva and his friend, Charlie Johnson, as they drift through the American South and Southwest in search of meaning and adventure. In their military khakis, Arnold and Charlie journey across small towns in Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas, and New Mexico, haunted by their wartime trauma and feeling disconnected from a rapidly changing country. Set against a nostalgic 1950s backdrop of watermelon, lemonade, and cotton candy, the film explores hidden societal tensions of the era — hypocrisy, repressed sexuality, lust, racism, and spirituality. Their encounters with characters like Mr. Thompson, a closeted small-town figure who turns hostile after a failed seduction, and the beauty queens at the Neshoba County Fair, who reject Arnold due to his heritage, reveal the darker undercurrents of a seemingly idyllic America. As they travel west, a spiritual shift occurs in the New Mexico desert, where an Apache shaman leads them on a peyote journey, sparking deep reflection and insight. *The Arnold Chronicles* is a rich, allegorical tale of two free spirits facing the complexities and contradictions of a 1950s America in transition.

# THE ARNOLD CHRONICLES

Alfonso “Arnold” Villanueva, 23 – A Mexican-American veteran, introspective and idealistic, haunted by wartime memories yet driven by a deep need for belonging and self-discovery.

Charlie Johnson, 28 – A carefree, charismatic Caucasian veteran, masking trauma with humor; his pursuit of thrill and pleasure often contrasts with Arnold's search for meaning.

Mr. Thompson, 50s – A respected small-town figure with a secret life; his hidden desires reveal themselves through manipulation, exposing the era’s deep-seated hypocrisy and personal repression.

Miss Hattiesburg, early 20s – A poised Southern beauty pageant contestant, charming yet constrained by societal expectations; she captures Arnold’s attention but is bound by the racial prejudices of her world.

**Apache Shaman, 60s** – A wise, enigmatic figure who embodies spiritual depth; he guides Arnold and Charlie through a transformative peyote journey, offering insight and awakening in the vast New Mexican desert.

## CHARACTERS

With its protagonists’ quest for freedom and meaning, “The Arnold Chronicles” pays homage to Jack Kerouac’s “On the Road” & “The Dharma Bums”, Carlos Castaneda’s “The Teachings of Don Juan,” Geoffrey Chaucer’s “The Canterbury Tales” and the movie “Easy Rider.”

A seagull is shown in flight, wings spread wide, against a clear blue sky. The bird is white with a yellow beak and is positioned in the upper left quadrant of the image. The background is a gradient of blue, transitioning from a lighter shade on the left to a darker shade on the right.

# THE ARNOLD CHRONICLES

## WHY NOW? Director's Statement

In an era of rapid change and social evolution, *The Arnold Chronicles* captures a pivotal moment in American history—a 1955 period that both seduces with nostalgia and provokes with complex, often unspoken realities. As two veterans' journey across a South and Southwest marked by racial divides, hidden desires, and suppressed freedoms, the film transcends its time, mirroring themes that still resonate today. In a society that is, once again, grappling with identity, inclusion, and the scars of conflict, Arnold and Charlie's quest for belonging and meaning in post-war America speaks to a universal yearning for freedom, purpose, and connection. By immersing audiences in the colorful yet conflicted America of the 1950s, *The Arnold Chronicles* examines what it means to belong—or not belong—in a country at odds with its own ideals. Their story confronts repressed desires, racial discrimination, and spiritual awakening through a timeless lens, appealing to modern audiences who recognize these struggles in our current cultural landscape. The film invites co-producers, distributors, and financiers to bring to life a uniquely American tale, with characters that embody the bold, unfiltered search for truth in the face of adversity.



**John Dean Alfone**  
Writer-Director-Producer

# THE ARNOLD CHRONICLES

John Dean Alfone, Writer / Director. A New Orleans native now based in Santa Fe, owns Corsair Media Productions and has over 35 credits on nationally broadcast TV shows, movies, and streaming programs. Notable projects include NFL Honors, Top Chef, America's Got Talent, American Ninja Warrior, The Voice, and Netflix's We Have a Ghost. A member of IATSE Local 480, he's also published 100+ articles on arts and culture. John holds a BA from Columbia University and an MFA from City College of New York.



# FILMMAKERS

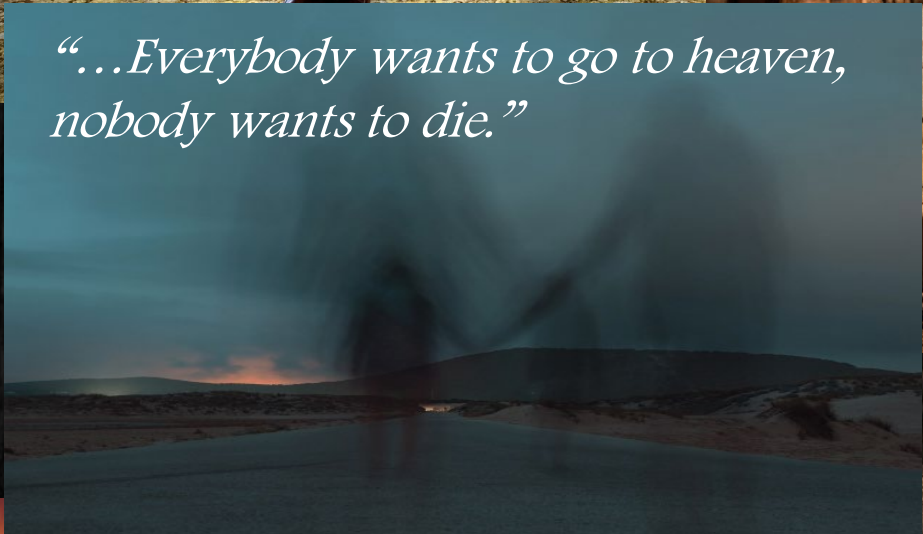
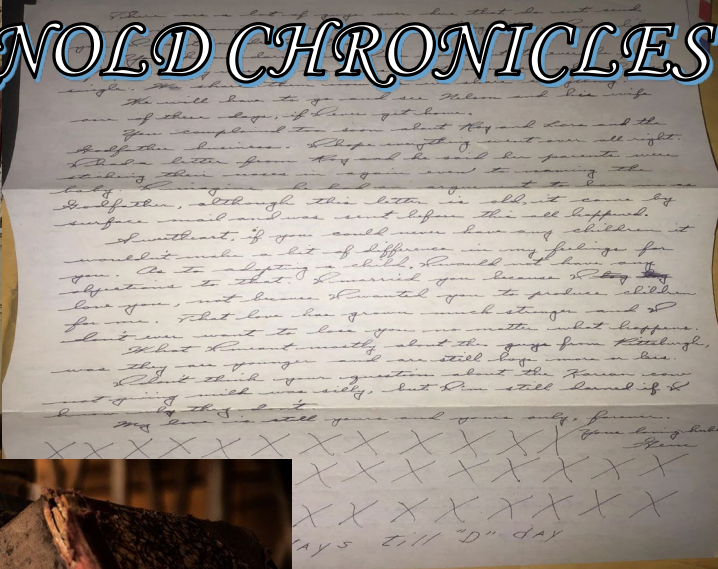
Michael David Raso is a writer, producer, and editor, and a partner at Corsair Media Productions. He's worked on TV shows like *Big Medicine* (TLC), *Pinks: All Out* (SPEED), *Nightwatch* (A&E), and *True Lies* (CBS). His film credits include *Rebel Ridge* (Netflix) and *Big George Foreman* (Sony). Michael writes for *Big Easy Magazine*, holds a degree in communication from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, and previously worked as a TV news cameraman. He lives in New Orleans with his fiancée, Mollie, and their ten dogs.



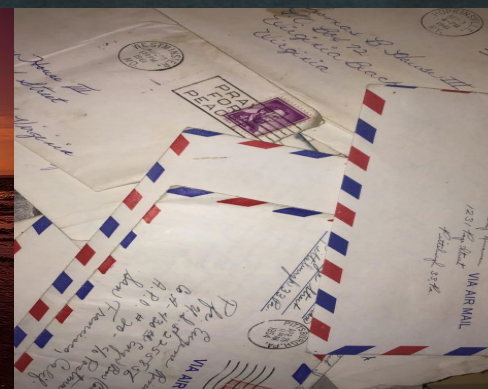
**Michael David Raso**  
Producer / Editor



# THE ARNOLD CHRONICLES



*"...Everybody wants to go to heaven,  
nobody wants to die."*



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