

RWM Projects

California Avenue Productions, LLC was formed by Jeffrey J. Stephan in order to support and realize the incredible breadth of talent and imagination of Robert W. Morgan.

It should be noted that in addition to the properties below, he has also written a book, and completed a screenplay about his undercover activities that led to the exposure of the corruption in the Vatican Bank. (CITIZEN SPY) This book/film will be done with the cooperation of the DEA and FBI agents with whom he worked.

Other completed properties by Mr. Morgan are as follows:

SK SUNDAY

A true story

In 1946, a starving man ran what became a \$400,000,000 marathon to help save his nation from starvation. His name was Stylianos Kyriakides. The nation was Greece. The race was the Boston Marathon. His name was erased from history by his jealous government.

Until Robert W. Morgan picked up the standard for this hero, the world had forgotten him. Now, thanks to his relentless efforts, this true story can be told to billions of people worldwide to demonstrate that true Olympians use their talents not for themselves, but for their nations.

STORY SYNOPSIS:

SK Sunday is the true story of a champion marathon runner from Greece circa 1936-48. Fiercely patriotic and the proud holder of 33 European and Balkan records, Stylianos (Stelios) Kyriakides is selected to carry his nation's flag in the 1936 Berlin Olympics. Keeping his Olympic credentials ultimately saves his life during the Nazi Occupation when he is caught up in a sweep for saboteurs that are hung outside Halandri like grotesque tree ornaments on Christmas Eve of 1943. SK is spared only because he is recognized as a 'fellow' athlete by a Nazi SS officer.

Ashamed that only his athletic prowess stood between him and the fate of his comrades and sickened by the misery of Greece when the Nazi's took even the farmer's seeds for planting as they evacuate, SK weeps when thousands of the starved bodies of his fellow Greeks are piled onto the carts that trudge about Athens. Even in the legendary white marble stadium children are snaring rats and boiling weeds for food. Determined to seek help from any quarter, and despite being thought mad by his wife, SK secretly begs and borrows enough money to enter the 1946 Boston marathon.

Moments before the race, the doctor denies SK's entry because of his emaciated condition. "This man will die if he tries to run 26 miles!" the doctor exclaims. Only pressure from Boston's influential Greek community gains him a place in the lineup at the last moment. Trading leads with America's best fed athletes, SK begins to flag only 3 miles from the finish. Someone from the crowd yells "Good second, Greek!" Second? For Greece? SK wins by minutes.

Standing before a bank of microphones, SK reveals his true mission: “Please America! You are so rich! Please help my starving people!”

His plea is heard not only by the Greek community who begin a nationwide drive to send food, clothing, seeds and farming implements to their motherland, it moves President Harry Truman to summon SK to Washington DC. After an hour conference, Truman sends SK back to Athens. Before he arrives the US Congress approves \$400,000,000 in aid.

Newspapers claim that a full one-third of the entire population of Greece crowded into Athens to greet a true hero. Stelios Kyriakides ran not for himself or his own glory; he ran for his nation.

THE AUTHOR

Robert W. Morgan conducted several exclusive interviews with Stelios Kyriakides and granted the rights to his personal story prior to his death. This up-close-and-personal biography differs from the recently published *Running with Pheidippides* by delving into the character of this man by someone he had come to trust with his inner secrets.

The screenplay is completed.

MARKETING

The timing could not be better to release a major international film into competitions and a personal biography book not only about a famous Greek athlete, but a selfless and patriotic athlete who used his talents not for himself but to the benefit of his people.

Both the film and the biography are targeted not only for the international audience, but they will make both adults and children stand up and cheer.

A documentary film should be planned about the making of the film to be offered through the appropriate channels.

THE FEATURE FILM

The shooting script is completed.

This film can be made largely in Australia by limiting the establishing shots to Greece and Boston. Alternatively, it could also be shot in Canada during the summer. There exist many financial incentives and financial support under Canadian law.

SHAMANWALK

The Lost Son of John ‘Grizzly’ Adams

This story, while largely fictional and fanciful, has firm roots in history. John Adams existed as a mountain man who lived among grizzly bears and wild Indians. Adams also visited Fort Ross (the southernmost fort established by the Baranov family for the Russian Czar to exploit the fur trade) along the California Coast. Therefore, Adams 'could have' met and married a Russian girl. The Baranovs, being listed as members of the 'Old Believers' of Russian Orthodoxy, would certainly have objected.

STORY SYNOPSIS:

Our tale opens in 1865 outside a tiny village set in the remote mountains of Russia's Eastern Siberia where young Sasha Adams (early teens) lives as a lonely outcast among the ascetic Old Believer villagers. He is only half-Russian and has not seen his American father since both he and his mother were kidnapped away from California by Ivan Baranov, his zealot grandfather. Sasha's sole friends are his mother Galina, and Nikki, a huge Siberian bear. Before Galina dies of a broken heart, she urges Sasha to flee to America to search for his errant father, John 'Grizzly' Adams. Galina had always believed her son was destined to fulfill an ancient prophecy as predicted by the Native American shaman friends of her famous husband. Like a multitude of modern children, Sasha is determined to find his missing father to ask him, "Why did you abandon us?"

While being pursued across Siberia by Ivan and his Cossack Riders, Sasha finally manages to escape to America with the aid of his huge bear friend, Nikki, and by the mystical appearance of Usena Teneh. Teneh is the first Native American 'Shaman-of-all-Shamans' who shape-changes between human and animal forms.

Upon arrival at the historic Russian Fort Ross in California, Sasha and Nikki commence a series of high adventures with Tenaya, a beautiful young Apache Indian shaman, and Tug and Sly, the two greedy, but bumbling bad men who pursue them. Despite all their evil intentions, Tug and Sly hurt no one except themselves. Tenaya finally leads Sasha to a secret glacial cave high in the mountains where the corporal body of Usena Teneh is forever encased in a solid block of ice. The timing is perfect: that same night Tenaya's band of fellow shamans arrive to hold a ceremony that is intended to grant 100 additional years of life to an ailing Grizzly Adams so he can help guard the world's wildlife against evil. Confronted by Sasha, a great mystery is then solved by Adams: Sasha learns that after the kidnapping, Ivan had sent word back to Ft. Ross that their ship had gone down with no survivors. Weeping for joy at finally meeting his son, Adams demands that his 'gift' of continued life be given to Sasha; he then dies with the hope of being reunited with Galina.

Sasha takes part in an elaborate ceremony inside that ice cave where living Indians and the ghosts of departed shamans all dance together with ethereal

animal 'allies' to grant extended life to Sasha, Tenaya, and Nikki, too-suddenly they are dangerously besieged by Tug and Sly until the ghosts of Grizzly Adams and Galina are joined by Ivan and his Cossacks to send the bad men into flight.

Sasha, Tenaya, the shamans, plus a sincerely repentant Ivan arrive at Fort Ross to discover an American Independence Day celebration is in full swing. Indians, Russians, and Americans join in a huge party complete with fireworks. Strangely, the bells of the Russian Orthodox Church begin tolling wildly. Usena Teneh is seen swinging from bell to bell - until he falls! Barely inches from earth the old man spreads his arms to take flight, the flight of a ghost eagle.

This ends the first film in what is intended to be either a series of feature films, a television series, or an animated series and video games for children where in Sasha, Tenaya, and Nikki adventure to help save and protect endangered or exploited animals all around the world. The possibilities are virtually endless.

THE AUTHOR

Robert W. Morgan, a member of the Writers Guild of America for his screenplays and a former partner at Creative Film & Sound, a production company in Miami, Florida, had been tapped to write and to direct this film in 1989 in concert with American and Soviet production teams. He made several trip to Russia, Georgia, and the Crimea to select both locations, facilities, and cast members. He was to be the first to blend Russian and Western talents in this manner. Unfortunately, the Gorbachev coup interrupted production and the backing collapsed.

The screenplay is completed plus breakdowns, costumes, and set designs.

MARKETING

We took note of the expansive markets that greeted 'Harry Potter' and 'Lord of the Rings.' We had foretold this trend when ShamanWalk was revived. However, its market niche remains unfilled because we combine the 'old reliable' affinity for all preteen youths for animal communications, Indian lore, and magical shamanism that triumphs over evil.

- Consider that the public attitude toward the exposure of pre-teenage children to violence, guns, and overt sex has triggered a ground swell of public opinion that demands more responsible programming. ShamanWalk contains no excessive violence. In every 'fight' scene, the 'bad guys' only hurt themselves. In those scenes where guns appear, they are rendered useless and are portrayed as being used by cowards.
- There are no overt sexual overtones in this film despite the attractions felt between the two teenage leads. When the opportunity does arise, (they spend nights together in camps) they each act with prudence.

- From a psychological point of view, there are millions of young people who feel abandoned or ignored by one or more parent. The preponderance of errant parents are fathers. Therefore, 'Sasha' will find a sympathetic audience when he (a) reveres the mother who stayed with him, (b) questions and rebels against established religious and cultural prejudices, (c) treks thousands of miles to find and confront that errant father figure, and (d) is relieved to find that there are often hidden reasons behind certain acts that must be explored before final judgment is rendered. It is to be noted that the overbearing grandfather, Ivan, is also redeemed and forgiven for his earlier acts because of his change of heart.
- Most children dream of, wish for, or sometimes invent animal protectors. However, our lead characters (Sasha and Tenaya) act out these fantasies by having bears as best friends while communicating with eagles, mountain lions, wolves, elk, etc. Sasha is the ideal son; he is proud of his honor and, while strong enough to wrestle a bear, he expresses his greatest strength by being gentle, kind, and considerate. Tenaya is the ideal daughter who blends physical abilities with psychic insights while expressing nurturing instincts. As a shaman, she demonstrates her intelligent mystical side that is often the forte of Indian women. While she honors her traditions, is a capable outdoors person, and is the ideal companion, she is capable of matching Sasha at every turn.

Tenaya and Sasha represent the ideal pair to which others may aspire, each having complementary talents to the other. Isn't this what society alludes to?

Because of their unique and potentially long-term profitability, the following items should be parceled with care when developing or assigning the ancillary rights associated with this storyline. We have the potential to develop and exploit:

- An income-generating mini theme park that would use the Ice Cave set (enhanced with holograms) plus the fort.
- Video and card games
- Dolls
- Imitative clothing (remember the Davy Crockett 'coon' hats?)
- Camping equipment (L. L. Bean endorsed?)
- An Internet web site where kids could receive information and advice from 'Sasha', 'Tenaya,' – or 'Nikki'!
- Their likenesses could be granted use by selected conservation projects.
- A film using the same cast should immediately follow. 'The Secret of Bear-Man Mountain' is already drafted to introduce 'Sasquatch' (remember the success of Harry & The Hendersons).
- The third film should be in Siberia to deal with the fading numbers of the Siberian tiger.
- Develop a pilot for a TV series (animated?)
- Create and distribute a newspaper comic strip that comments on daily events.

THE FEATURE FILM

Where to Shoot: Russia or Canada?

The original screenplay was developed as a possible co-production with a qualified Russian film company. They were to supply (pay for) all ground transportation expenses (air, train, limos, trucks, etc.) within Russia; all production staffing to design, build, maintain, and manage sets and locations; all associated labor and raw materials, all costumes, offices and expenses, production staffing as required, musical composing, scoring and studio recording, and production and acting talents.

In return, they were to receive all distribution rights within Russia and a negotiated portion of the profits as received from all other film distribution worldwide.

In the current atmosphere, we should examine renewing this concept if (and only if) we receive positive assurances, a completion bond, and the full cooperation of the Russian government via Putin himself.

However, while we lose a certain mystique, we could easily shoot the entire film within the borders of Canada. All exteriors involving the mountains and the 'steppes' could be shot in Alberta or British Columbia; all ocean side footage of the fort and ship could be shot on either coast (BC, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick).

Because of the favored tax breaks and the government subsidies to repay all labor and talent costs for moneys expended in Quebec, we will explore Montreal or Quebec City.

POST PRODUCTION

Because of the highly technical nature of the animal-to-human morphings and 'ghosts' and the increasing demands of the astute audiences, we would employ the best film editor and FX professionals to be found in Australia, USA, or Canada.

THE ACCOMPLICE

I and II

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Everyone knows who assassinated US President Abraham Lincoln . . . or do they? What have remained secrets are the identities - and the motives - of the true architects to that infamous murder. Thirty years of continuing research in both the USA and Canada, hundreds of hours of reflection, (and the luck to have been gained the confidence of a former highly-placed Jesuit) have allowed the author to uncovered certain historically accurate but highly explosive facts.

Consider that at that moment in history and amid the two civil wars that were raging in

the US and in Mexico, only the power and the guile of “the Black Pope” Pieter Beckx, General of the Society of Jesus 1853-1884, could engineer such a heinous event and expect to remain anonymous; and

At that same moment, only the megalomania of Pius IX, the pope whom had himself proclaimed “infallible,” could issue a Holy Bull that ordered the assassinations of two heads of state - and expect to be forgiven by God. His justification for the removal of tyrants and heretics from the earth by death is cited in St. Thomas Aquinas’s Summa Theologica: “. . . Non modo excommunicationis sententia sed etiam saecularibus principibus exterminandi, tradendi sunt . . . Meruerunt non solum ab Ecclesia per excommunicationem separari, sed etiam per mortem a mundo excludi.”

Benito Juarez escaped holy assassination. Abraham Lincoln did not.

Following Lincoln’s assassination only one conspirator escaped punishment. With the aide of two French Canadian Jesuit priests and himself disguised as a priest, John H. Surratt escaped to Canada. Hidden for weeks in the church rectory at Ste. Libore, the fugitive soon boarded a ship for England, again disguised as a priest. Jesuits in Liverpool and in Paris then concealed him before arriving in Rome to be secreted within Pope Pius IX’s Zouave army.

When discovered, Surratt was returned to the US for trial. Despite overwhelming evidence, the Catholics among the jury caused it to become ‘hung.’ A free man when he died, John Surratt was accorded a High Solemn Requiem Mass, which is reserved for bishops and ‘heroes’ to the Catholic Cause.

It was later discovered that the Pope and Beckx’s Jesuits had secretly engineered for the American Southern Confederacy to be initially aided in their cessation from the Union by King Louis Napoleon’s troops out of Mexico. However, once free the Rebels would be betrayed to fulfill Pope Pius’s plans to create Catholic monarchies throughout the New World.

SYNOPSIS

Part I

The Accomplice I begins with the formative years circa 1846 in rural Quebec that shape the destiny of two young boys and a girl whose lives are controlled by the fanatical religious devotion of their families. André Raudot is forced into the priesthood by the deathbed demands of his tyrannical grandmother; Natalie Perot, the girl André wishes to marry, becomes an Ursuline nun; and nervous and frail René Marchant fulfills his fondest dream by following André.

As Jesuits, the two young men become unwittingly embroiled in the violent Irish-Catholic riots in New York City and the heinous torching of a Negro orphanage. Bit by bit, they discover that these acts are all controlled by Archbishop John Hughes in his successful attempt to prevent Union troops from pursuing General Robert E. Lee following his defeat at Gettysburg. These acts are in prelude to the assassination of Lincoln.

André Raudot disavows and is repulsed by the Jesuitical theory of 'probablism' which allows that murder is sometimes justifiable if committed *Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam*, all for the 'Glory of God.' However, René elects to 'think with the Church' in the vain hope that the sins of his bastard birth will free his mother's tortured soul from Purgatory. André subsequently throws himself into studying the sacerdotal philosophy that allows the Church to become dominant of secular life while René is called to Rome where is he initiated into the most secret segment of Jesuit life: he takes the legendary Fourth Vow which requires that he becomes *Perinde ac cadaver*, as 'obedient as a corpse' to the commands of the General of his Order and the Holy father.

Again, the call of duty reunites André and René to return to the United States on another secret mission. This time they meet John H. Surratt at an inn at Old Orchard Beach, Maine. Disguising him as a priest, they smuggle him to his safe house in Canada. Subsequently, they learn that they have been made accomplices in the murder of President Lincoln. A schism erupts between the two old friends: René blindly follows the orders of the Church while André revolts. Refusing to become an accomplice to murder, André discovers that Natalie is a nun who came to the convent nearest his chapel to be close to him. His initial attempt get her to leave her Order and to accompany him to the US fails, so he steals the Papal Bull and returns alone where he seeks an audience with the Secretary of State. The night before his meeting is to take place, he is visited in his dingy rented room by René who has been ordered to assassinate him and to recover the stolen Bull. René advises André that they are only *amicus . . . usque ad aras*: friends - only to the altar.

Leaving André stabbed and bleeding before his makeshift altar and terrified that he has murdered his best and oldest friend, René frantically attempts to escape back to the sanctuary of his chapel in Quebec. Stealing a canoe from an Indian voyageur, he tries in vain to wend his way past massive ice floes that clog the Ste. Lawrence River. His way blocked by forces he cannot control, René goes mad. The audience is left believing that René has committed suicide.

PART II

The Accomplice II continues when Natalie rescues André and hides him away and nurses him back to health in his ancestral farmhouse. As he recovers, they sense that they are being watched and haunted by someone unseen and unknown. Exploring René Marchant's nearby old home, they discover his heavy coat and his copy of The Secret Instructions to the Society of Jesus, an ancient manual given only to those who accept the fabled Fourth Vow.

Gaining his strength, André realizes that they can only be safe once they prove that the Pope himself was the mastermind behind Lincoln's assassination. However, the Bull is missing. What is left? André must find John Surratt and bring him to justice.

André returns to Quebec to break into his old chapel. André finds a letter of Introduction, a ticket for passage to England, and money in René's old cell. André decides to track Surratt by assuming the role of the missing René Marchant. Coincidentally, his passage has been booked aboard the same ship that is carrying Captain Jerome Bonaparte, the disappointed 'Emperor of the Southern Confederacy,' back to France. Accepted by Bonaparte as the trusted René Marchant, André learns all the plans for the Papal betrayal of the American Rebels.

André follows Surratt's trail first to London, then Paris, and finally to Rome where his disguise is discovered. Fleeing for his life, André barely makes it to the sanctuary of the American Embassy where he finally convinces their ambassador that Surratt is not only alive but also hiding in 9th Company of Zouaves amid the Papal Army.

John H. Surratt is finally extradited to stand trial and a guilty verdict seems a certainty. But choosing a jury proves difficult. Quoting The Saturday Evening Gazette: “. . . and since the first panel of 26 men was largely Irish Catholic and Democrats, the chief objection lay in the fact that it was also a panel of dunces! Not one face in six was that of a man ordinarily intelligent. I am utterly at a loss to understand how it was possible, without extra effort, to get together such a company of stupid! But it is especially desirable that this case involving the great mystery of the assassination conspiracy should be tried before intelligent men and I think it a case of congratulation that Judge Fisher threw out the whole panel!”

A panel is finally seated and following a length trial the closing arguments of the defense attorney is plain: any Catholic member of that jury will be committing a mortal sin if they go against the wishes of their Holy Father (we will quote the exact words used - nothing will be invented) i.e.:

Judge George P. Fisher glowers and André listens intently as Surratt's

sanctimonious attorney, Richard Thomas Merrick, resumes his summary to the jury in his holiness voice: “. . . to the honor of the Catholic Church be it said: when this young man was accused of a crime in the papal dominions and there was no extradition treaty between this country and that, and no power could compel the Pope to surrender him, the Pope and Cardinal Antonelli voluntarily and without hesitation gave him up! They said, ‘Take him back to America and try him; if guilty, execute him!’ You see? The Catholic Church is on the side of virtue and mercy. She protects the fleeing criminal when she believes him to be innocent, but when the hand of power says ‘he is guilty, give him to me,’ she gave him up without a word. But he is not guilty! Certainly, if he were, our Holy Father would tell you so. Instead, Pope Pius IX has sent him back with his assurances that the good and righteous Catholics whom I see before me now will never, never allow such an injustice as to find their fellow good Catholic guilty of such a terrible crime! Never! ”

Prosecutor Edwards Pierrepont responds: “I find it interesting that in his eulogium Mr. Merrick forgot to mention the fact that the Pope at an earlier period of the war acknowledged the Southern Confederacy and wrote a sympathizing letter to Jefferson Davis whom he called his ‘dear son’ while denouncing President Lincoln as a tyrant! Mr. Merrick could scarcely have forgotten that the Pope of Rome had also sought to take advantage of the arduous struggle in which our government was engaged for the preservation of its life by establishing a Catholic Empire in Mexico and had sent Maximilian, a Catholic prince, to reign over that unhappy people using the mighty armed forces of France against poor peasants. Perhaps this Infallible Pope did not realize that it was God Himself who frustrated that last grasp of a drowning man by preparing for his holiness and for Louis Napoleon the final loss of their grip on the throat of the free world! Ah, I think that Mr. Merrick here thought that the attitude of the Catholic clergy toward the assassination of President Lincoln could be hidden from public view by his fulsome eulogy. He was wrong! Justice must be served, justice for our poor dead president, justice for our poor dead soldiers who battled to set the Negroes free from their slave masters and the western world free of all tyranny, be it political or religious!”

All is in vain: The jury is hopelessly deadlocked and John H. Surratt is freed.

André and Natalie are married and begin their lives on the farm in accordance to their first desires. However, the strange noises they have been hearing are finally resolved: René has returned, albeit totally mad. Forgiving him and harboring him, they tend to him into their old age.

THE AUTHOR

Robert W. Morgan is a history buff who learned early in his ‘invisible’ career among America’s clandestine operatives that no one source holds all the keys to any story or event. While stationed in Washington DC, he found himself inexorably drawn into its hidden history. Being schooled in psychological warfare and undercover operations, he began to recognize that certain clues to the truth are often either overlooked or deliberately ignored.

Beginning as a mere mental exercise, Morgan began tracing the history of the assassination of Abraham Lincoln. Some things simply did not ring true. Then he read the transcript of the trial of J. H. Surratt, multiple accounts of disenchanted Jesuits, and a critical history of the Papacy. Sufficiently intrigued, he took advantage of a visit to his wife’s family deep in Quebec to delve into ‘Old Quebec City.’ While there, a chance meeting with the last Mother Superior of the Ursuline Convent began to open more doors. A second chance friendship he struck with a disillusioned Jesuit priest in Leesburg, Virginia, made him into a bloodhound.

The results of his research are expressed in a fictionalized story centering around the two priests who actually met John Harrison Surratt in Old Orchard Beach, Maine to smuggle him across the border into Canada. All of Morgan’s training while working among the CIA, FBI, and the DEA came into play when he realized what was probably the truth behind that infamous assassination.

The road is too murky, the trail too cold for a legitimate exposé. Instead, Morgan has elected to tell his story in the same way the *The Godfather* series unfolded, except that *The Accomplice I & II* are instead a great love story.

The screenplay to *The Accomplice Part I* is completed; the screenplay to *Part II* is fully outlined.