

## Matthew R. Ellis

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Matthew R. Ellis is a screenwriter currently pursuing his Master's of Fine Arts in Fiction at UC Riverside – Palm Desert. For nearly ten years, Matthew worked as a writer and script consultant for Neal Allen (IMAX productions Arabia & Pandas) and Frank Kostenko Jr. (We Were Soldiers and Man on Fire), eventually serving as their Story Development Executive when they launched Pacific Rim Media in 2015. His versatility as a writer is evident in his bodies of work that span numerous genres - comedy, war, espionage thriller, and drama/biopic.

Matthew's keen ability to approach projects from such diverse topics and genres comes from having lived an equally diverse life - ranging from accomplished classical musician to forensics investigator to multiple tour combat veteran to US diplomat in Latin America. Matthew is a retired Army Major and senior Department of Defense intelligence officer who draws heavily upon his personal experiences conducting operations in almost every region of the world in both peacetime and war. Matthew also served as a senior instructor at the top national level human intelligence school. He is also fluent in Spanish and conversant in Korean.

### WRITING WORK EXPERIENCE:

2018 – Commissioned by the estate of E. Howard Hunt (OSS and CIA veteran involved in Bay of Pigs and Watergate) to adapt the Creative Artists Agency represented book - "Undercover – Memoirs of an American Secret Agent" - into a television pilot, complete with a season bible. Although nearly completed, the estate withdrew from the project.

2017 – Commissioned by Lee Reynolds and Chris Noel to develop and write the feature screenplay "Date with Chris," based on the life story of Chris Noel.

**LOGLINE:** Model and rising film star Chris Noel sacrifices a promising career in Hollywood during the peak of the anti-war movement of the mid '60s for what became a lifetime of service to the forgotten veterans of Vietnam; a journey taking her from the war-torn jungles of Vietnam, where she had a \$10k bounty on her head, to personal tragedy and struggles with PTSD, to becoming an early champion of veterans rights.

2017 – Production Assistant for IMAX "Pandas (2018)", responsible for overseeing the successful transport and customs processing of over 1.5 million dollars of IMAX film equipment into China.

2015-2017 – Story Development Executive for Pacific Rim Media responsible for providing original content and concept development. Most notably served as script consultant (uncredited) for "We, The Marines," a joint Pacrim and Macgillivray Freeman short historical feature for the Marine Corps Heritage Museum.

2008-2015 – Writer and script consultant for Neal Allen and Frank Kostenko Jr., who later went on to create Pacific Rim Media.

NOTABLE WORKS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

-AMERICAN BAND (ACTION COMEDY SCREENPLAY) - Best Comedy Screenplay (2010) – ThrillSpy International Film Festival.

**LOGLINE:** Faced with an imminent but unclear threat from a Latin American dictatorship and the loss of their last operative behind the coconut curtain, the CIA must rely on a rock band of misfits to infiltrate the fictitious country of Salsipuedes during an upcoming music festival and stop an attack.

-CRUSHING TIDE (ACTION/WAR SCREENPLAY) – Korean War screenplay previously represented by Pacific Rim Media.

**LOGLINE:** The allied amphibious landing that turned the tide of the Korean War hinges on the success of a US Navy commando and an ad-hoc indigenous force during a desperate mission deep into enemy-held territory. Crushing tide could also work as a TV Pilot to include Marine invasion and struggle at the Chosin Reservoir – One of the bloodiest battles in Marine Corps history.

ADDITIONAL COMPLETED SCREENPLAYS:

-NARCS (SITCOM PILOT) - A burned CIA agent stumbles on an international conspiracy when he is banished to work with a decoy British MI-6 unit full of misfits and led by a legendary, but delusional, burned out super spy.