

Bring *REMAKING RAIDERS* to your school

An educational, exciting, inspirational school event that *embodies* Project Based Learning from the director of the most acclaimed fan film ever made.

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"...Resourcefulness, perseverance, collaboration, solution seeking, creative thinking, goal setting, team-building, and the ability to prototype and iterate. Your story has all of these and yet, what kids notice is that none of this happened at school or under the direction of a teacher."

— Chip Houston, Head of Middle School, Mount Vernon Presbyterian School, Atlanta, Georgia

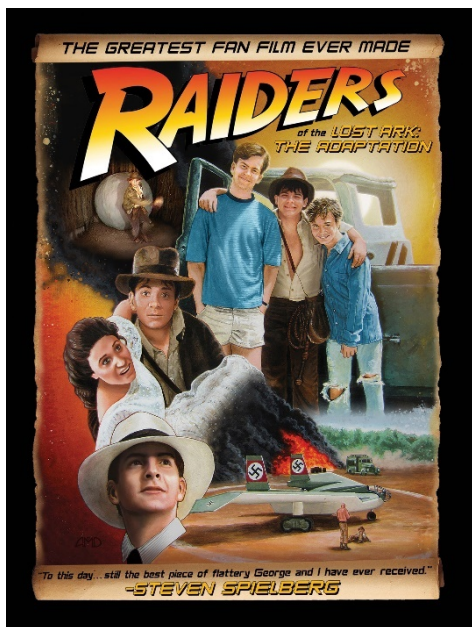
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["The best advice that anybody ever gave me"](#)

— Emily Hagins, who after seeing at age 10, went on to create 3 feature films before age 18.

BACKSTORY

In 1982, Eric Zala, age 12, and childhood friends embarked on a vision: They were determined to remake RAIDERS OF THE LOST ARK—every scene, every shot, every stunt—in their backyard and basement. They had no money, no camera... no clue. What they did have was sheer will, a shared passion, limitless imagination, and each other. Incredibly, they realized their dream. It took them 7 years.



[VIDEO: RAIDERS SIDE-BY-SIDE COMPARISON TRAILER](#)

15 years later, it was unexpectedly, discovered—and praised— by the director of the original RAIDERS, Steven Spielberg.

Dear Eric,

Wanted to write and let you know how impressed I was with your very loving and detailed tribute to our RAIDERS OF THE LOST ARK. From the hugely imaginative substitution of a dog for a monkey that your Indy carries around on his shoulder to the smallest detail of Indiana's voice rising when he says, "It's a date...you eat 'em." (Which, by the way, is something I asked Harrison to do when he had to recreate the line in the ADR room.)

But beyond all the mimicry of the original RAIDERS, I saw and appreciated the vast amounts of imagination and originality you put in your film. Again, congratulations. I'll be waiting to see your names someday on the big screen.

All my best,

Steven Spielberg

SS/sr



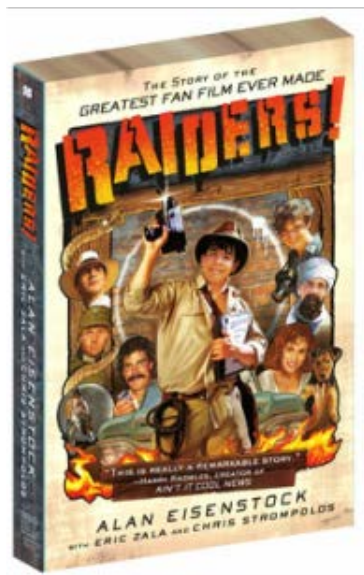
Steven Spielberg, Chris Stropoulos & Eric Zala

This low-on-budget / high-on-creativity 80's Betamax love letter to the original RAIDERS garnered the love of fans around the world. It was hailed as [the greatest fan film ever made](#) by notorious film critic Harry Knowles, [rated 100% on Rotten Tomatoes](#), covered on [The Today Show](#), [WIRED](#), [NPR](#), and even a [feature article in VANITY FAIR](#).

The story is of childhood obsessions, and friendships that have been tested, broken and strengthened. It is about being a teenager fraught with challenges, and how to overcome them. The story is a testament to the transcendental power of youth, art and the movies.



Perhaps because it does not bear the sophisticated, self-consciousness of adulthood, Eric's film, [RAIDERS OF THE LOST ARK: THE ADAPTATION](#) — the ultimate Do-It-Yourself success story—has deeply moved just about everyone who has seen it. The magic of this film is in its purity, in its authentic belief in the medium. It is a time machine that takes one back to a moment in life when everything is still possible; when friendship is something to be shared and not feared; when there is no “audience” except the one in the heart—the one that eats up everything that is good and true and powerful.



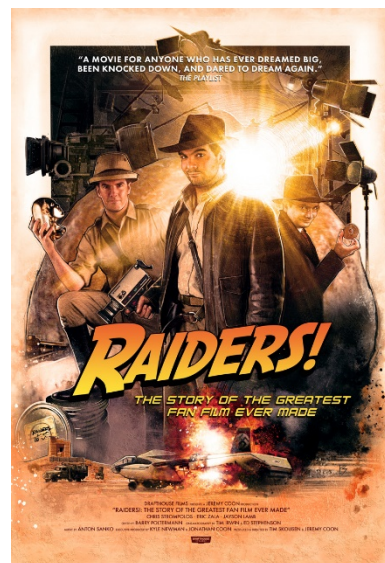
[VIEW BOOK TRAILER](#)

This spawned a [critically acclaimed](#) book by author Alan Eisenstock, published by St. Martin's Press.

As adults, they reunited original cast after 25 years to do the one final scene as kids they could never do: The Airplane Scene.

NAPOLEON DYNAMITE producer, Jeremy Coon, then produced the award-winning documentary that topped the [New York Times' recommended list of non-depressing documentaries on Netflix](#).

Jeremy is currently laying the groundwork to set the narrative feature film in motion.



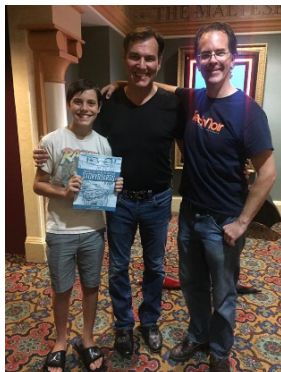
[VIEW DOC TRAILER](#)

During Eric's 65-city tour in support of the documentary's theatrical release, there was an overwhelming response from those who have seen the film, heard the stories... in particular from teachers and educators across the country, urging Eric to come share the film and its fascinating, inspirational, true story with their students.



[VIEW STANDING OVATION](#)

Witnessing the joyful excitement in the children's eyes at the screenings, brimming with the knowledge of what is possible, of what they can pull off, even as kids (because now, they've seen it), Eric developed presentations and curriculum that captures the magic of how "the greatest fan film ever made" — was made, outside a classroom, by children, over 7 years.



Eric travels to share the story – and its lessons -- of an impossible dream that came true against all odds.

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"Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire."
— William Butler Yeats

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PROGRAM DETAILS

BEFORE THE SCHOOL VISIT — RESOURCES PROVIDED

We provide digital teacher's guides with student worksheets, authored for use with Common Core state standards, available for related exercises in English Language Arts, Math, History, and Art/Music.

With two books, two films, countless print and video articles, educators have a wealth of material to reach and inspire children to find and follow their own passions. School bulk orders will receive discounts over retail.

VANITY FAIR: RAIDERS OF THE LOST BACKYARD

by Jim Windolf

Published: January 2, 2008

~10,000 words

This is a great non-fiction article that summarizes much of the action and development of the project in a shorter format. [READ VANITY FAIR ARTICLE](#)

RAIDERS!: THE STORY OF THE GREATEST FAN FILM EVER MADE

by Alan Eisenstock with Eric Zala and Chris Stropoulos

Paperback: 320 pages

Publisher: A Thomas Dunne Book for St. Martin's Griffin

ISBN-10: 1250129583

ISBN-13: 978-1250129581

This is a non-fiction book that chronicles the making of the fan film, while growing up in Mississippi in the 80's, ideal for robust literary classroom discussion: Their shared love of RAIDERS aside, you couldn't choose kids much more different than Eric and Chris, to team up in such an endeavor. How did these differences hinder — or help? Would you have given up, or kept going?

Imagine your students' empathy, of first reading the strangely-moving non-fiction book of an amazing, true, 35-year adventure... and then — the subject of the book *shows up in your classroom*, to share firsthand accounts and answer questions. What a way to tackle those non-fiction standards, inspire students and go deeper.

"An amazing, one-of-a-kind book about a triumphant, one-of-a-kind film production." — Booklist (starred review)

[READ REVIEWS](#) / [ORDER COPY](#)

RAIDERS OF THE LOST ARK: THE ADAPTATION STORYBOARDS

by Eric Zala with contributions from Chris Strompolos

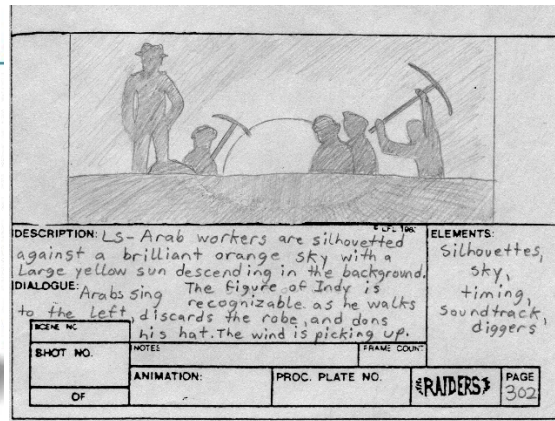
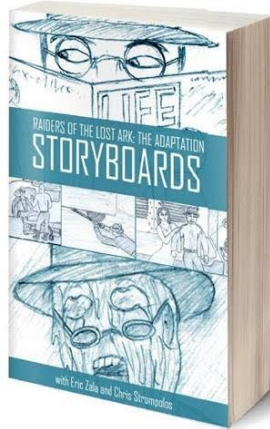
Paperback: 148 pages

Publisher: Rothman Creative LLC

ISBN-13: 978-0997594003

This book is a published compilation of storyboards drawn from memory of RAIDERS by 12-year-old Eric, his own "director's guide" in making ADAPTATION over the 6 years to follow. 602 storyboards are accompanied by firsthand accounts, production sketches, childhood correspondence, and behind-the-scenes photos, revealing how this unique project was organically planned and came together.

[READ REVIEW](#) / [ORDER COPY](#)



RAIDERS OF THE LOST ARK: THE ADAPTATION

The Fan Film

Produced by Eric Zala and Chris Strompolos / Rolling Boulder Films

Running time: 106 mins

This is the actual fan film itself, restored and with new Airplane Scene added. DVD includes audio commentary track by its makers, Eric Zala and Chris Strompolos.

[READ REVIEWS](#) / [ORDER COPY](#)

RAIDERS!: THE STORY OF THE GREATEST FAN FILM EVER MADE

A Documentary

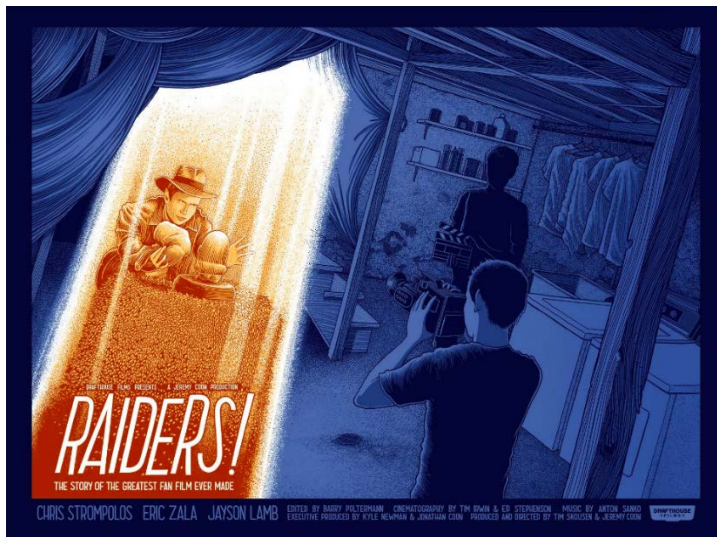
Produced by Jeremy Coon & Tim Skousen

Distributor: Drafthouse Films

Running time: 93 mins

This is the "absurdly entertaining" documentary that is available streaming from Netflix. Available also in Blu-Ray/DVD formats, which include dual audio commentary tracks by both the documentary's makers and subjects.

[READ REVIEW](#) / [ORDER COPY](#)



"Exhilarating... Awesomely triumphant..."

["a movie for anyone who has ever dreamed big, been knocked down, and dared to dream again."](#)

— IndieWire

Schools can email parents with the news of this exciting event coming to their school, including a [link to the trailer for the documentary](#), along with a [link to view on Netflix](#).

Students watching it beforehand will have not only *context* for classroom discussion — but also *investment*, both time and emotional.

That engagement will make this school visit one that they will always remember.

ERIC'S SCHOOL VISIT

A veteran speaker from touring over a decade, Eric draws the assembled students in — screening select clips from RAIDERS ADAPTATION — alternated with firsthand accounts of their making, vividly illustrating Project Based Learning in action. Eric grabs their attention— and holds it, sharing the lessons learned from his 35-year saga remaking RAIDERS.

Watch for the rolling fiberglass boulder! The heart-thudding truck sequence! The melting faces! Even witness the missing final scene — the Airplane Scene, completed with original cast reunited 25 years later!

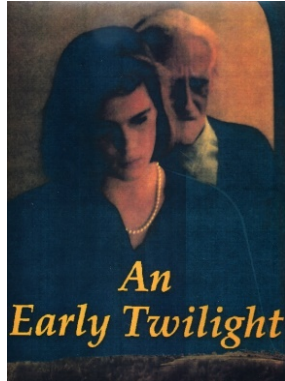
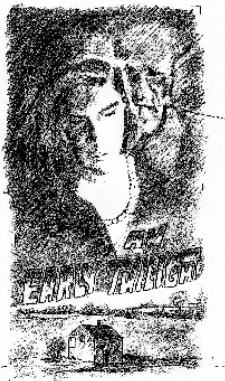


After seeing the clips, hearing the stories, students can ask Eric directly about his incredible experiences in remaking RAIDERS — without an available video copy. How they acquired real snakes, a real WWII submarine, how they did the stunts. How *do* you remake a \$26 million blockbuster, on your allowance?

After assembly, Eric does single class breakouts — ideal for say, a film class, film club, or simply a passionate class.

Options for breakout topics include:

- Taking on an ambitious project — whether it's remaking RAIDERS — or creating a video game QA department from the ground up (Eric worked for 15 years as senior QA management for Activision, Electronic Arts and 2K Games).
- Lighting the fire in the belly: Finding the inspiration that gives you the will and emotional stamina to see your project past challenge and ordeal, to completion.
- Organizing your project: How to take on daunting challenges that come with projects of ambitious scope and overcome them.
- Sharing the inspiration — and the vision — with others, to build your team.
- Choosing your project team wisely: The seeds of a project's success or failure are oft sown in these early calls.
- Screening of Eric 's 22-minute award-winning original drama [AN EARLY TWILIGHT](#) — followed by discussion of the overview process of writing, directing and editing one's own original work.



Beyond a single school visit... we even offer semester- and year-long programs, in which Eric helps a class to collaborate and produce their own short films. From inception to final cut, Eric provides structure and guidance, mentoring and feedback, for at each stage of production, via both in-person school visits and videoconference.

We are happy to customize a program format for your school.

FOR MORE INFORMATION / TO BOOK



eric@zaladetours.com

702.279.5284

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Eric has already screened [RAIDERS OF THE LOST ARK: THE ADAPTATION](#) for the following companies, at their invitation, for their employees to see the film and hear the stories:



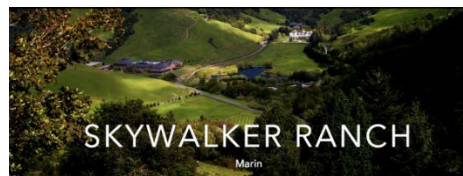
Microsoft



TED



Smithsonian
Institution



LINKS TO MORE PRESS

[ROLLING STONE piece — includes 11 min VICE video](#)

[TURNER CLASSIC MOVIES piece — 5 min video](#)

[NPR's Morning Edition with Steve Inskeep — 7 min radio interview](#)

[Eric published article with MOVIEMAKER - "HOW WE DID THE AIRPLANE SCENE"](#)

[COMMON SENSE MEDIA — 1 min video review of RAIDERS! Documentary](#)

[SEE MORE PRESS ON RAIDERS ADAPTATION](#)

