

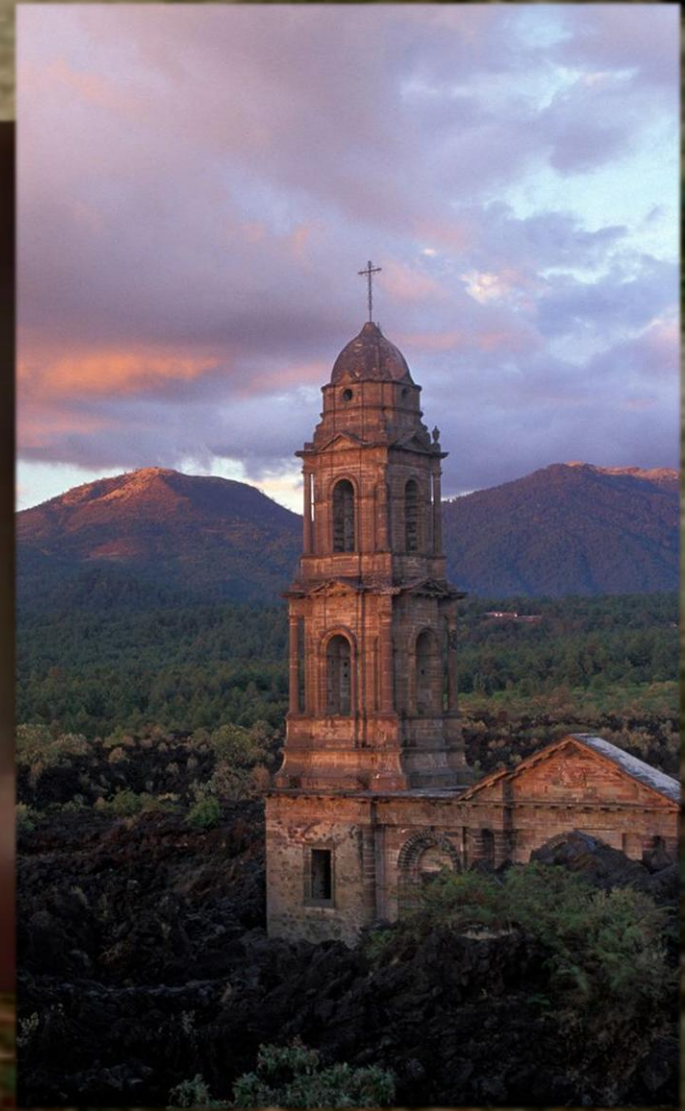
A FEATURE SCREENPLAY BY
**GABRIEL
MORA RODRIGUEZ**

**DRUMS
OF
FREEDOM**

LOGLINE



A humble, but brilliant "Drummer Boy" earns his nation's newly formed Army's "Drum Major" role in order to support the President and his Generals in the freedom fight against slavery, and the U.S. expansionist desires to annex Costa Rica.



SYNOPSIS

Drums of Freedom is a powerful dramatic retelling of the 1856 Filibuster War and the central role played by Costa Rica and its national hero, Juan Santamaría, while fighting against the United States Army, who used a combination of US soldiers and mercenaries known as filibusters, led by American William Walker. Walker's objective (an ideal based on a southern belief coined "Manifest Destiny"), was to conquer and annex Central America, starting with Costa Rica's neighbor Nicaragua, to establish a slave-holding state. This would have given his American backers control over the region's resources, including the booming coffee exports, and crucially, the "Gold Rush" route across Nicaragua that was the most sought-after transit for transporting travelers and gold between the U.S. East Coast and California (the "Accessory Transit Company" route).

The musician who became the lead drum was Juan Santamaría, whose drum served as a primary means of battlefield communication, his training compliments of Napoleon Bonaparte's nephew (Napoleon III), which was instrumental for Santamaria to organize and lead the professional Costa Rican army against Walker, employing modern European military tactics, all driven by the sound of Santamaria's drum.

The climax of this real-life conflict occurred during the Battle of Rivas on April 11, 1856, where Juan Santamaría volunteered for the suicidal mission of setting fire to the enemy stronghold, a key building known as Guerra's Inn, to dislodge the United States' filibusters. His act of heroism forced Walker's retreat and cemented Santamaría's place as Costa Rica's greatest national hero.

PRIMARY CHARACTERS



JUAN SANTAMARIA
24 (Adult) / 12 (Child)

Selfless, and wide-eyed, Juan embodies the spirit of patriotism and sacrifice.

Deeply loyal to his country, Juan is willing to risk everything to protect its freedom, as seen in his daring mission to burn down the enemy's stronghold despite overwhelming danger. His humility, discipline, and unwavering resolve make him a natural leader, earning the respect of his peers and superiors alike. Ultimately, Santamaria's symbolizes the power of individual bravery in the face of tyranny and the enduring fight for liberty.



WILLIAM WALKER
32

Cunning, ambitious, and ruthless U.S. Army self-proclaimed General (Dictator), driven by his vision of expansion and dominance under the guise of "Manifest Destiny", infamous for controlling the public while manipulating the news and infamous as a duelist.

Despite a strategic prowess and confidence, his arrogance ultimately leads to ruin, highlighting a flawed leadership and moral corruption.

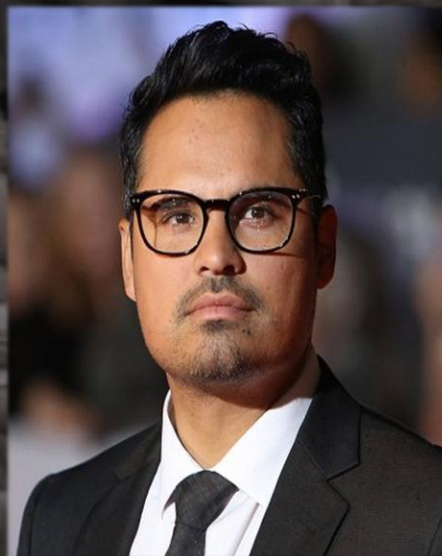
SUPPORTING CHARACTERS



GENERAL CANAS

47

The highest-ranking officer in the Costa Rican army, and President Mora's brother-in-law. Highly skilled in the art of war, shown to be respected by his men and is involved in crucial military decisions, from the formation of troops to the strategies used in the fight against Walker and his American filibusters.



PRESIDENT MORA

42

A proud leader of his nation, a man of the people. He is strategic, who knows the value of national resources and his country's sovereignty. Mora's interest extends to the importance of drums in military strategy.

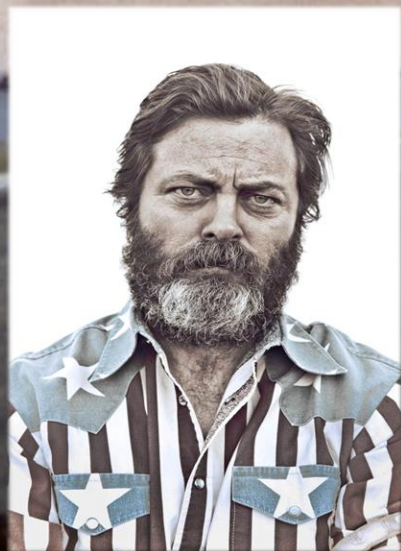


ELLEN

28

William Walker's deaf-mute fiancée, a well-positioned young woman, on account of her wealthy New Orleans parents, the Martins. Walker is shown to be very affectionate towards Ellen, as he values her intelligence and insight, a consequence of Manifest Destiny.

SUPPORTING CHARACTERS



U.S. SGT. "SMILEY"

55

A rugged man with dark, wooden teeth. A ruthless fighter with a pirate-like disposition. He's quick to follow orders under Walker's command and willing to kill without hesitation. He starts in the story as a Drunken Wharf rat with a marksmanship past, that quickly becomes a Sergeant in the Filibuster army, loyal to the death for Walker.



U.S. PRIVATE "ARKANSAS"

24

A private in the U.S. Filibuster army, and an excellent sharpshooter. Kills more Costa Ricans than any other U.S. soldier has ever shot, almost 100 in less than 12 hours. Arkansas' sharpshooting is emphasized as an expertise that increases throughout the course of 1 single day, as he is shown as the only U.S. soldier taking Costa Rican headshots during the battle, regardless of their running.



TO NE



"Drums of Freedom" is a historical war drama that blends intense action with deep emotional and patriotic undertones.

Set against the backdrop of 19th-century Costa Rica and the United States' "Manifest Destiny" as a doctrine, the story follows the heroic journey of Juan Santamaria, a Costa Rican drummer boy who rises to prominence as a leader during the battles against William Walker's U.S. filibusters in both Nicaragua and Costa Rica. The narrative intertwines themes of sacrifice, courage, and national pride, showcasing Santamaria's determination to protect his homeland and his people. The script vividly portrays the chaos of war, the strategic use of music as a tool for communication and morale, and the personal struggles of its characters, creating a gripping tale of resilience and unity.

The tone is both inspiring and somber, capturing the brutal realities of war while celebrating the indomitable spirit of those who fight for freedom. The story is rich in historical detail, with moments of tension, triumph, and tragedy that evoke a sense of urgency and emotional depth. The use of music, particularly the drum commands, adds a unique layer to the storytelling, symbolizing leadership and the rhythm of battle. Through its vivid imagery, dynamic characters, and powerful themes, "Drums of Freedom" delivers a compelling narrative that honors the legacy of historical figures and the sacrifices made in the pursuit of liberty.

VISUAL REFERENCES





PURDY'S NATIONAL THEATRE

Sole Lessee, Proprietor & Manager... A. H. PURDY Stage Manager... G. L. FOX
 Treasurer... Thos. C. STEERS.

Dress Circles..... 25 Cents. | Pit..... 13 1-2 Cents. | Orchestra Chairs..... 50 Cents
 Private Boxes, 2nd Circle..... \$5 exclusive, or \$1 for each person.
 Doors open at 7 o'clock, Curtain will rise at a quarter before 8, precisely.

Filibusters, Democrats and Patriots

NOW FOR FUN & INSTRUCTION

THIS MONDAY AND TUESDAY EVENINGS, JULY 21 AND 22, 1856.

First week of an entire New Drama of great interest, by E. F. Distin, Esq. written expressly for this Theatre, and founded on scenes of actual occurrence, & of much importance to the Nation, entitled

NICARAGUA

OR, GEN. WALKER'S VICTORIES.

Which has been gotten up regardless of expense, with New Scenery, Machinery, Properties, Music, Costumes, Implements of Warfare, and cast to the strength of the Company.

Scenery..... by Mr. Wm. Crane | Music..... by Mr. W. T. Peterschen
 Machinery..... by Mr. C. Kline | Costumes..... by Madame Lathrupp
 Properties..... by Mr. C. Kline | Costumes..... by Madame Lathrupp
 The Whole produced under the immediate direction of..... Mr. G. L. FOX, Stage Director.

DEMOCRATS AND FILIBUSTERS.

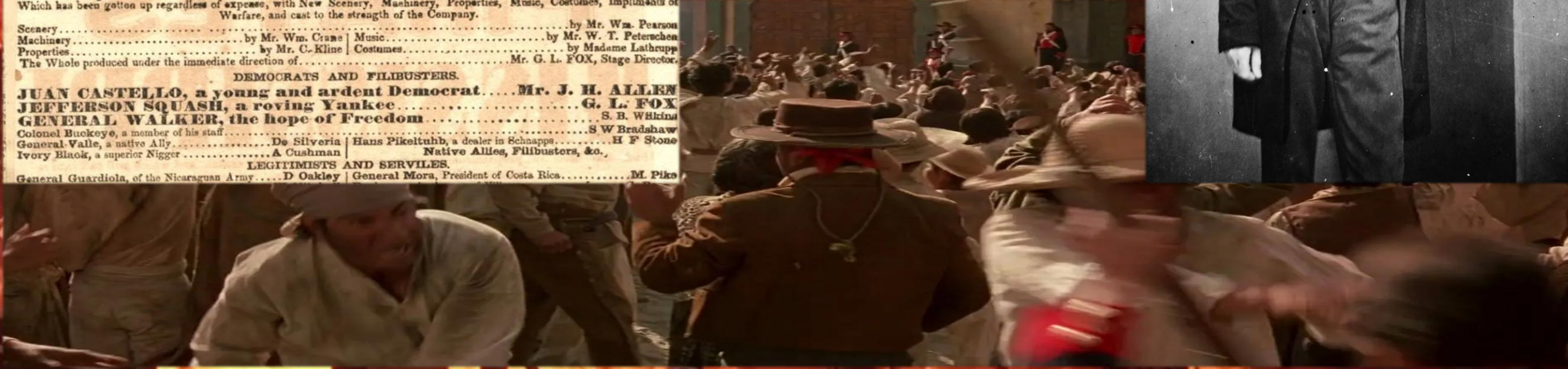
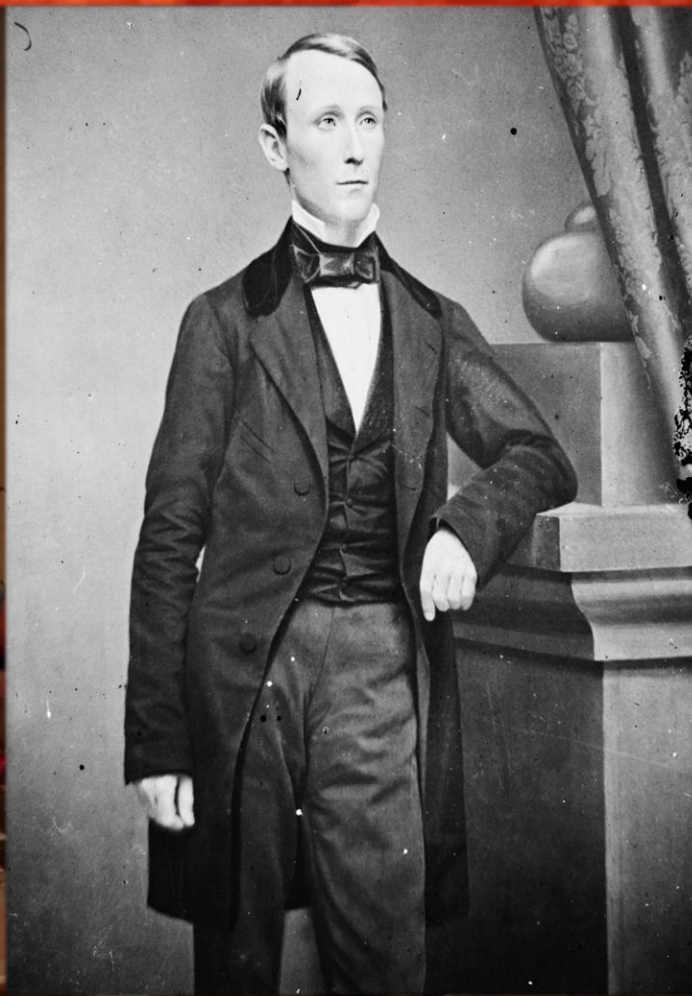
JUAN CASTELLO, a young and ardent Democrat..... Mr. J. H. ALLEN
 JEFFERSON SQUASH, a roving Yankee..... G. L. FOX

GENERAL WALKER, the hope of Freedom..... S. B. WILKINS

Colonel Buckeye, a member of his staff..... S. W. BRADSHAW
 General Valle, a native Ally..... De Silveria | Hans Pikeltuhb, a dealer in Schnapps..... H. F. STONE
 Ivory Black, a superior Nigger..... A. CUSHMAN | Native Allies, Filibusters, &c.,

LEGITIMISTS AND SERVILES.

General Guardiola, of the Nicaraguan Army..... D. OAKLEY | General Mora, President of Costa Rica..... M. PIKE



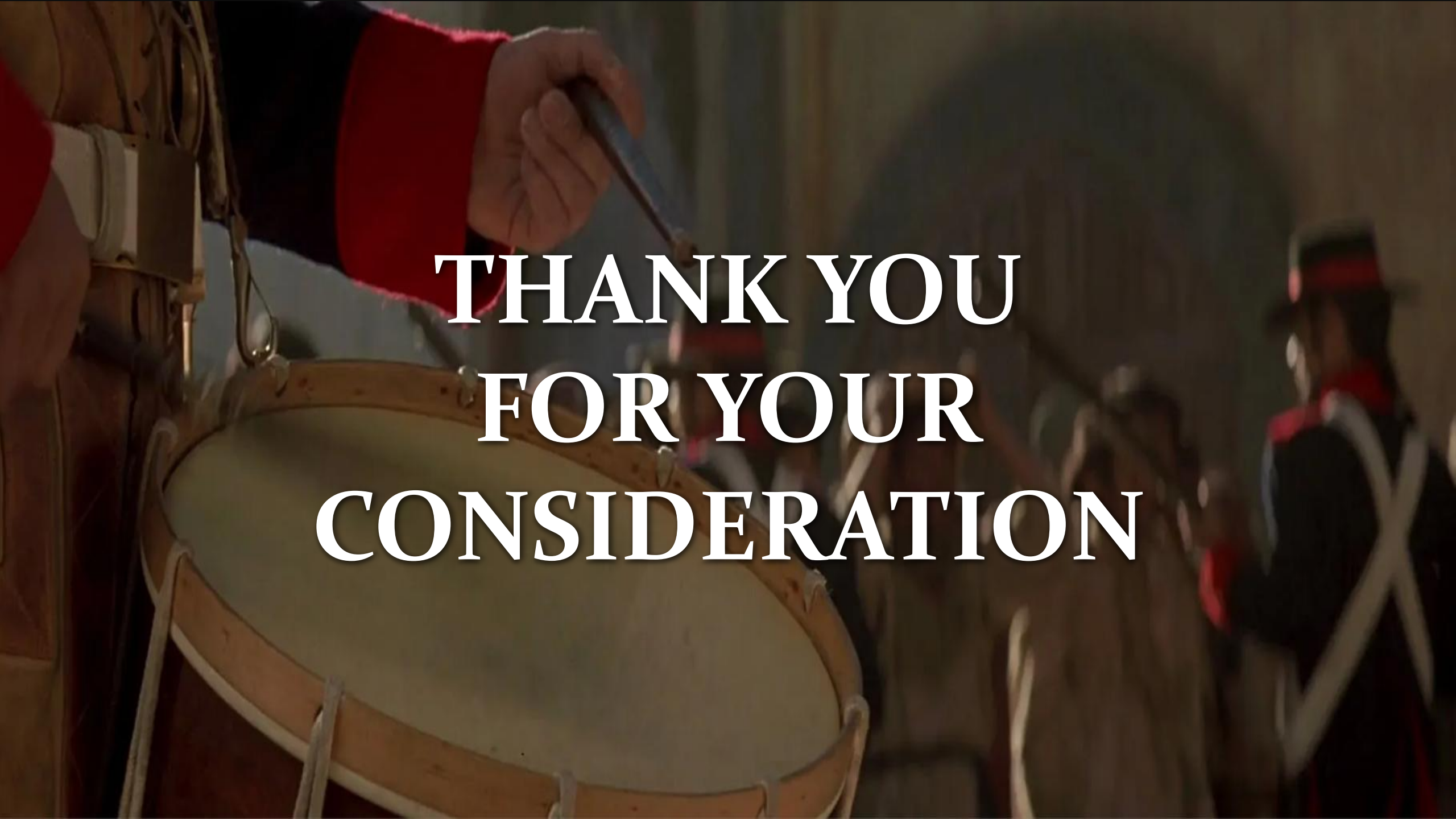
ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Gabriel Mora Rodríguez is a noteworthy screenwriter from Costa Rica, known for his award-winning work and ability to craft compelling narratives. His scripts often reflect the rich cultural backdrop of Costa Rica, blending authentic local experiences with universal themes that resonate widely. Though relatively new to the creative arts of filmmaking, Gabriel continues to inspire through his innovative writing and dedication to screenwriting.

In addition to scripts, Gabriel enjoys writing poetry, military analysis, and has hands-on experience in filming and editing skateboarding movies that have been showcased to audiences. His writing captures the raw essence of human experience, exploring themes like courage, passion, and loss. Gabriel's adventurous life and commitment to his craft inspires others to embrace simplicity, honesty, and resilience in their own storytelling

drums.of.freedom@outlook.com



A close-up photograph of a hand in a red sleeve holding a drumstick over a large drum. The background is blurred, showing a marching band in uniform. The text "THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION" is overlaid in white, bold, serif font.

**THANK YOU
FOR YOUR
CONSIDERATION**