



CAN BOYS FLY

Series Created by
Michael Angeli & Charles P. Ries

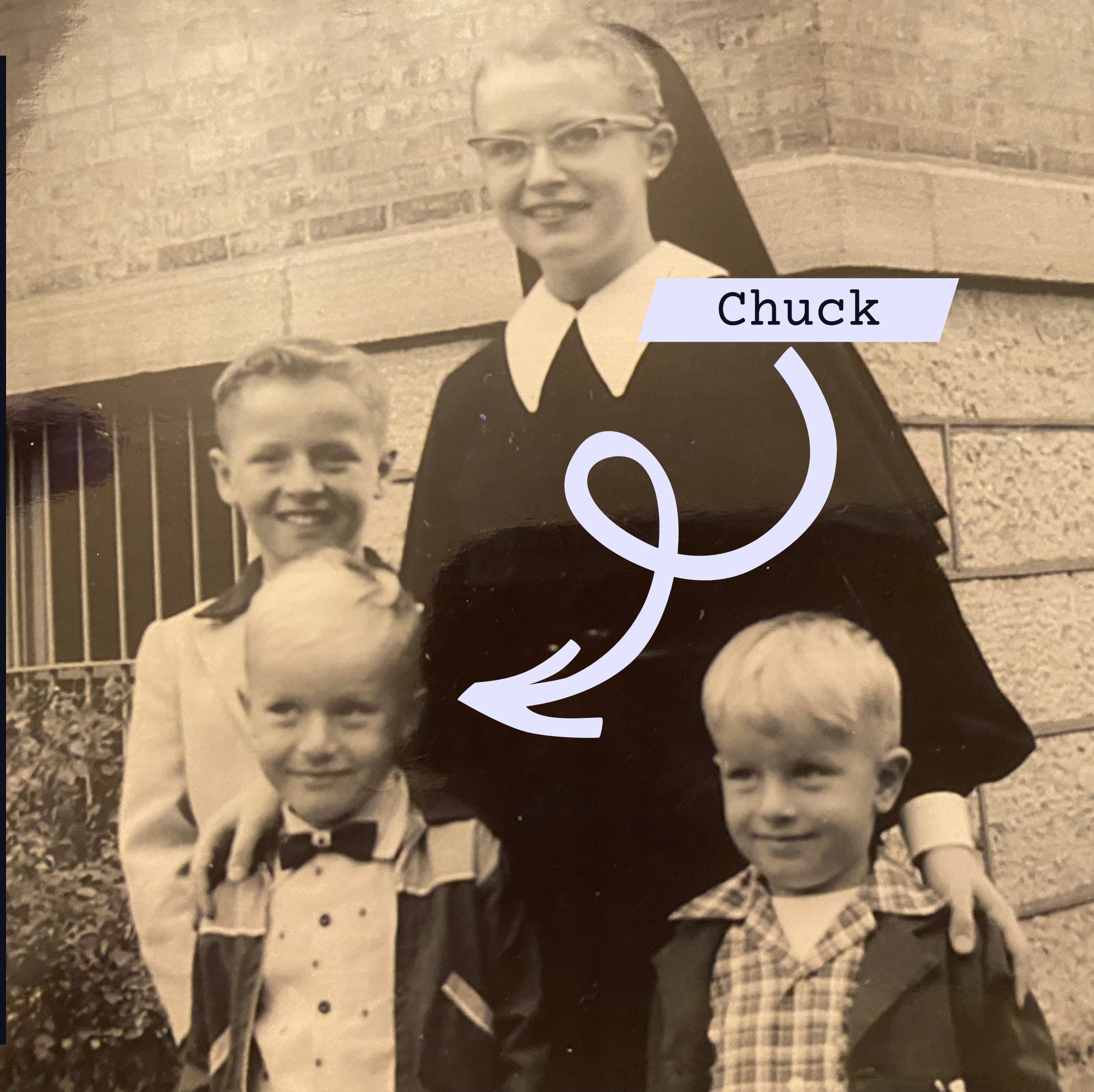


A 13-year-old boy searches for true self beyond the confines of a mink farm in rural Wisconsin, leading him on an enlightening global journey centered in the haute couture and jazz culture of New York City.

Synopsis

Set on a mink farm in central Wisconsin during the 1960's at the height of the domestic mink fur trade in the U.S., *Can Boys Fly* is a provocative and illuminating journey of a citizen philosopher named Chuck Diedrich. The second youngest of seven children born to Carl and Helen Diedrich, he is their only child who does not attend the seminary or convent after 8th grade. There are only two career paths in the Diedrich family: become a nun or priest, or become a mink farmer. The choice was obvious to Chuck's six siblings. Not so for Chuck.

Can Boys Fly chronicles Chuck's fumbling his way to enlightenment with the guidance of a delightful collection of mentors, angels, therapists, girlfriends, fashion models, gurus, jazz artists, priests, nuns, farm hands, and local yokels who all play a role in guiding a remarkable soul on his worldwide journey of becoming.



Timeline

It's 1965. Chuck is 13.

The counterculture is emerging, Woodstock is four years in the future. The Vietnam War, and Civil Rights are in the mix. The feminist movement is afoot, and rock and roll continues its evolution from the 50's to something edgier and louder. It's time to break out, burn your bra, smoke dope, turn on and drop out. Flash-forwards will be used to peek at what lies ahead. The quiet revolution has begun. But not here, not in Sheboygan.

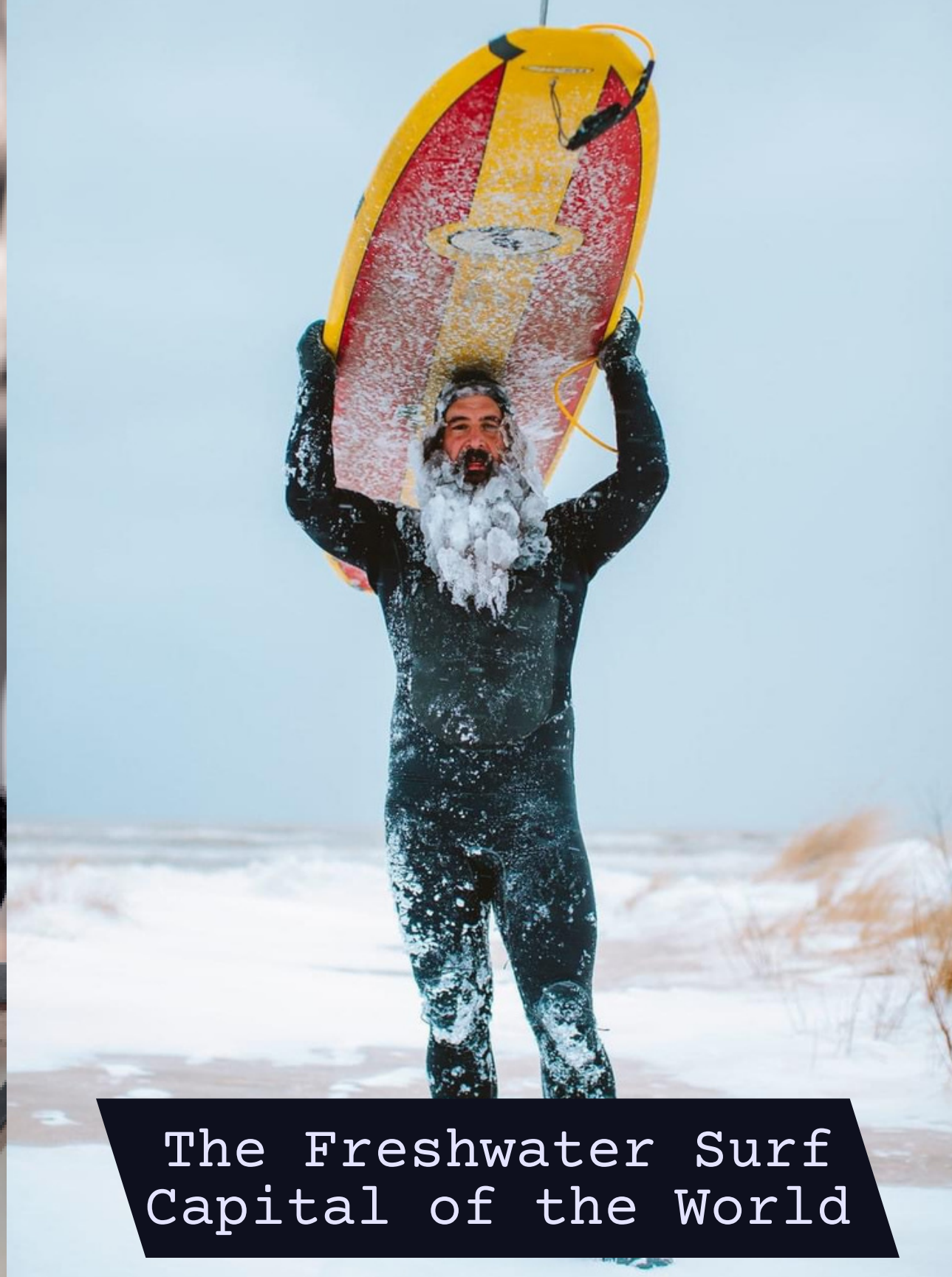
The earliest days of Chuck's life were without surprise, pain, or feeling. That is until the day his eyes started to open and, as natural as life itself, he started to see, and the life that was calling to him wrapped him in its arms.



Sheboygan, Wisconsin

A woman with blonde, curly hair is wearing a black fur coat with a wide collar and a black belt. She is looking directly at the camera with a slight smile.

Mink Capital
of the U.S.

A man with a long white beard and a wetsuit is standing in the snow, holding a large, colorful surfboard (yellow, red, and white) above his head. The background shows a snowy landscape with some trees.

The Freshwater Surf
Capital of the World

A black and white photograph of a parade float. The float features a large, realistic-looking sausage. A sign on the float reads "TONITE Ralph Marzetti and Orchestra 8 P.M. SHEBOYGAN ARCADE BETTING 10¢". Another sign below it says "14,000 of BRATWURST DAY PROFITS ARE GOING TO DEVELOPEMENT OF QUARRY". A crowd of people is visible in the background.

The Bratwurst
Capital of the World

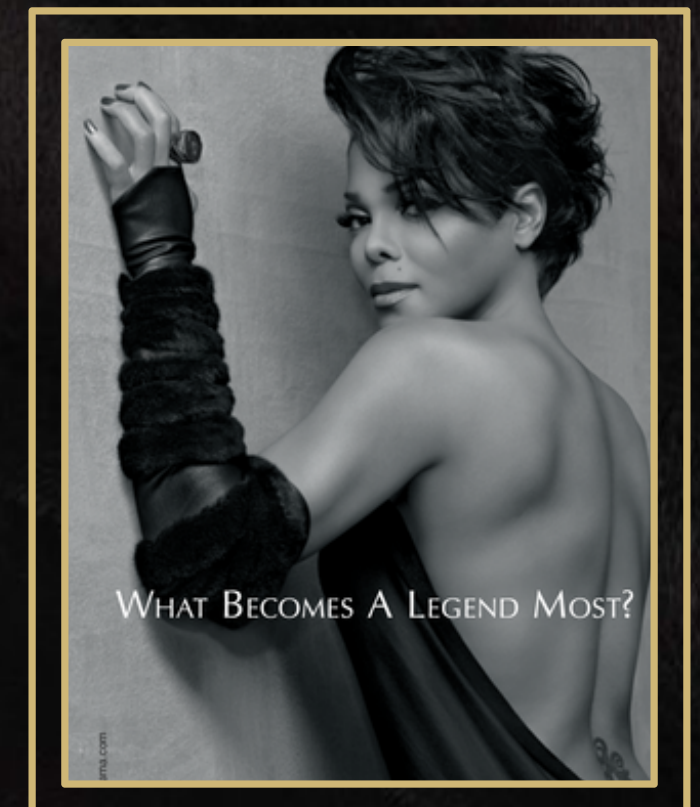
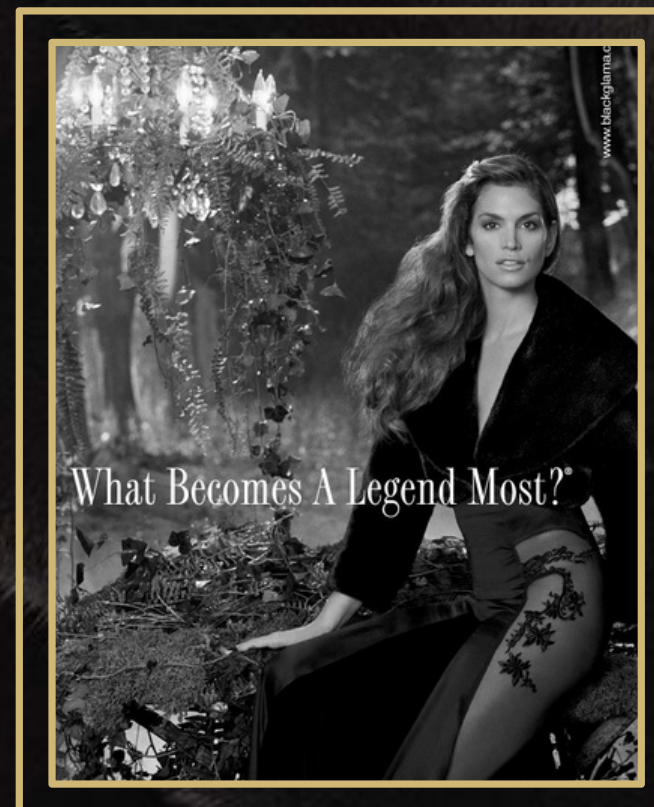
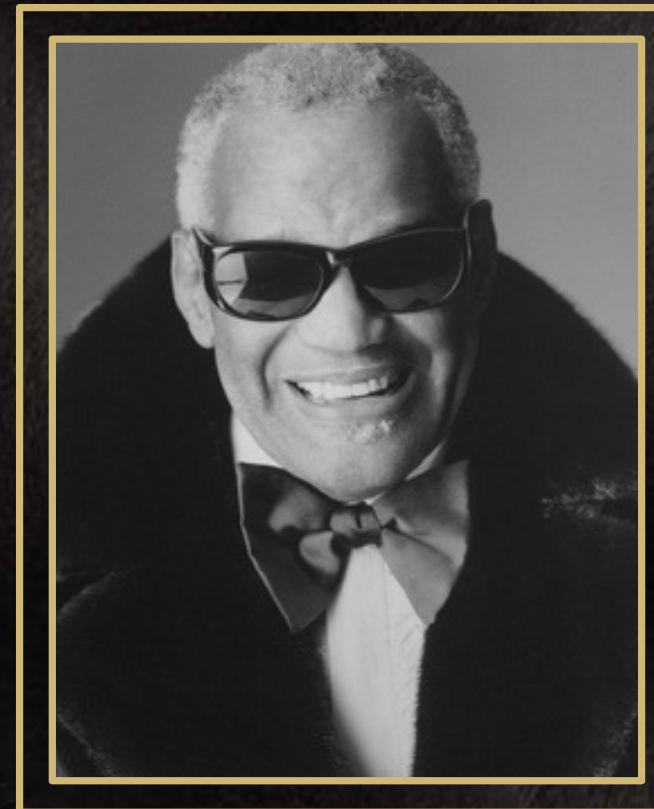
What Becomes A Legend Most?

Carl Diedrich raised the finest and most sought-after mink in the world. 95% of his ranch dark mink (black in color) were graded Blackglama.

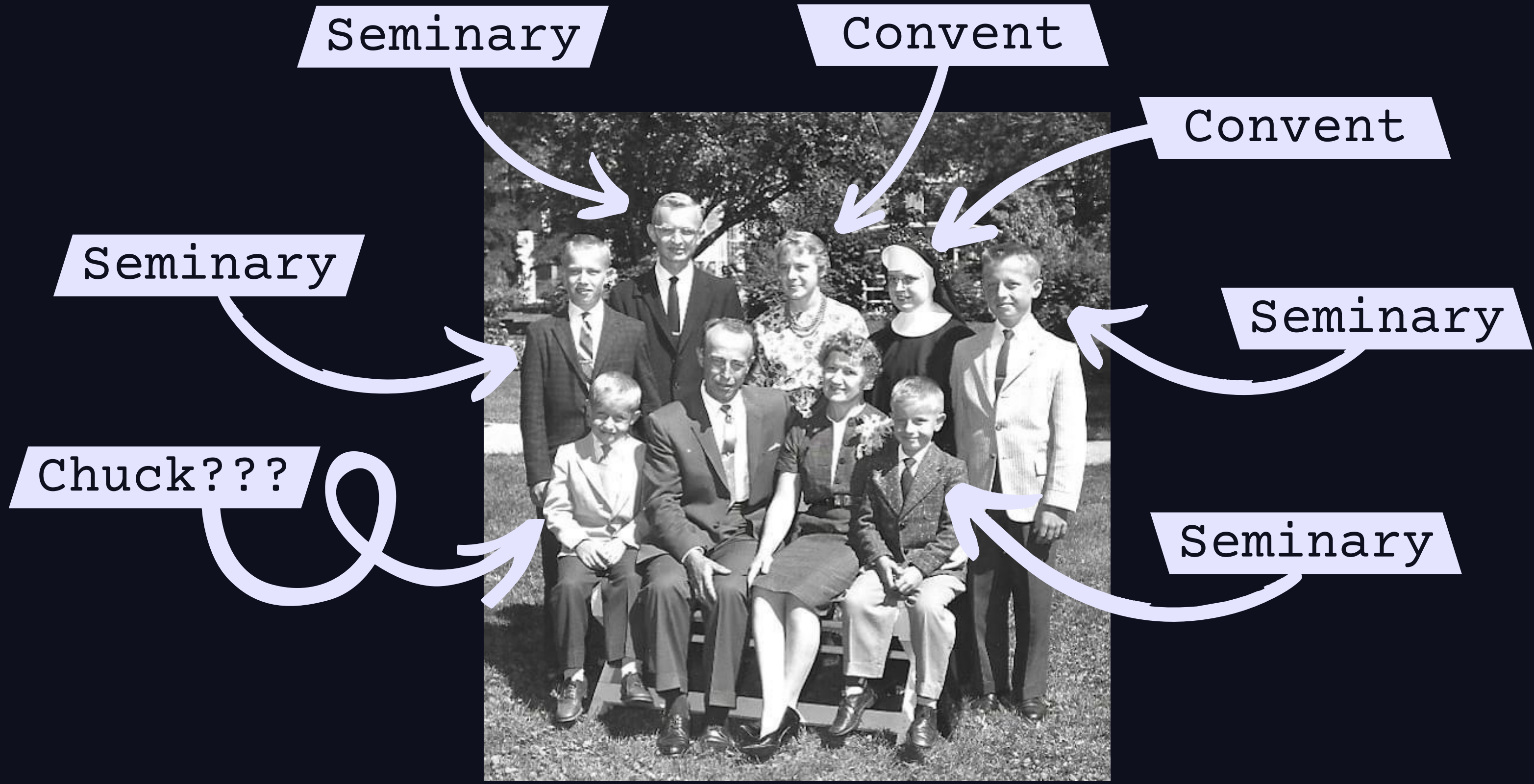
GLAMA stands for - Great Lakes Mink Association. It was an acronym that became a fashion metaphor.

Blackglama mink are of such high quality that less than 2% of the world's ranch dark mink may earn the Blackglama label. One might think of them as the 100 Pt. Bordeaux or the perfect diamond.

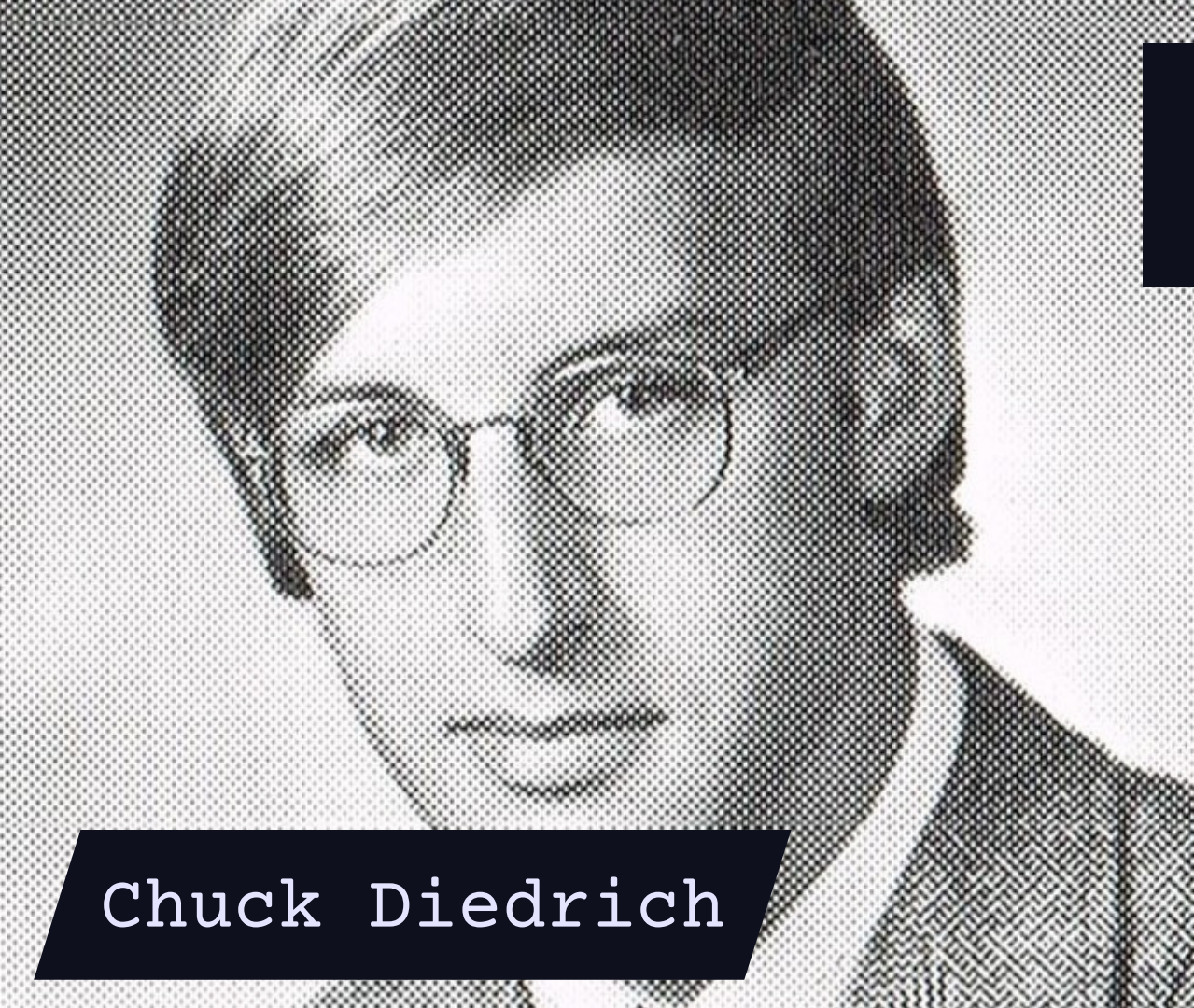
While many consumers associate Blackglama with the beauty of the garments bearing that label, Blackglama refers to the mink and not the designer or manufacturer.



The Diedrich Holy Family



Characters

A black and white halftone portrait of a man with glasses and a mustache, wearing a suit and tie.

Chuck Diedrich

A color photograph of a man with a shaved head, wearing a light-colored shirt, holding a lit cigarette in his mouth.

Carl Diedrich

A black and white photograph of a woman with short, wavy blonde hair, wearing a pearl necklace and holding a small, ornate glass.

Helen Diedrich

A color photograph of a young man with short brown hair, wearing a red and white plaid shirt, holding a dark-furred animal.

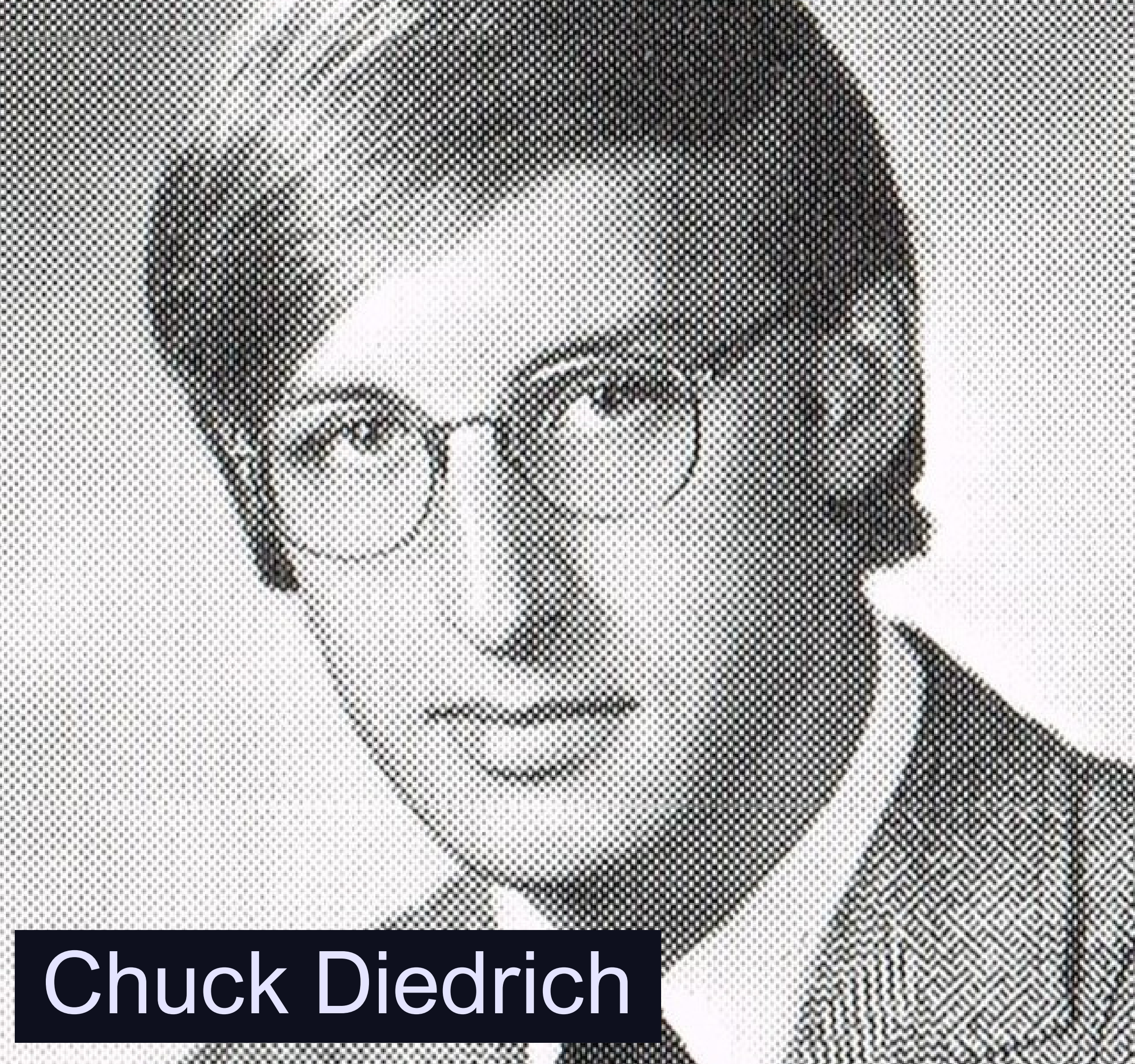
Marvin Rammer

A black and white photograph of a man with glasses and a mustache, wearing a suit and tie, holding a trumpet.

Dizzy Gillespie

A color photograph of a woman with long, wavy brown hair, wearing a dark fur coat and a patterned top, posing dramatically.

Fashion Alien



Chuck Diedrich

Chuck Diedrich is the fish, who looks bemused and confused in the fishbowl of life and realizes he is not a fish at all. His mind and heart are as big as an ocean. An ocean rapidly filling up with an array of experiences, people, and choices. People seem to love something about him. They want to help him. So, Chuck is getting what he has prayed for, the guidance to discover what it is he loves most. Why God made him? He will climb any mountain. He just can't figure out which one it is.



Stephanie Campbell

Stephanie is an explosive paradox. Intelligent, cunning, perceptive, and determined. Naturally beautiful and sophisticated, she lives with confident assurance, while Chuck struggles to find simple direction. He is a curiosity to her. She is big city. He is rural small town. She has lived in a wide world. He has never been out of Sheboygan. She's not sure what to make of him, but she wants more of him.



Fashion Alien

FASHION ALIEN: Tall, thin, gorgeous, but with the lights on. She knows who she is, and she knows who you are. She makes money because of her looks, but it's just a day job. She is grounded and from the Midwest. She loves to dress up and make a "point", while working toward a Ph.D. in Philosophy at Columbia University.

CHUCK

Wearing that coat? Does it make you feel different- better?

FASHION ALIEN

I guess it does. Do you like how I look in mink?

CHUCK

I think I do. I mean, my relationship to mink fur is when they're living and not dead.

FASHION ALIEN

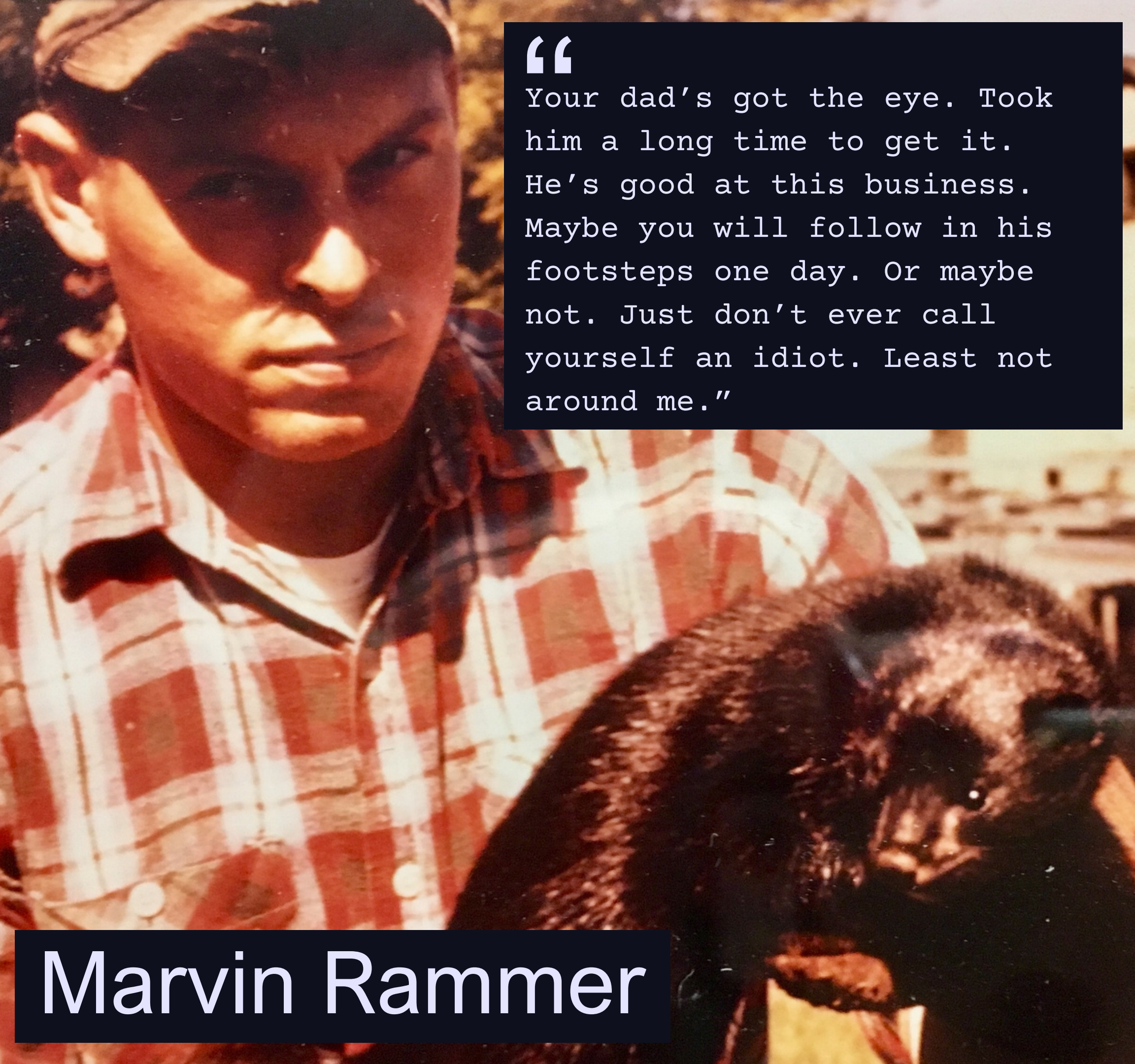
(smiling at this paradox) How do you like them best- living or dead?

CHUCK

No question about it, dead.

FASHION ALIEN

Well then, I am in luck.



“

Your dad's got the eye. Took him a long time to get it. He's good at this business. Maybe you will follow in his footsteps one day. Or maybe not. Just don't ever call yourself an idiot. Least not around me.”

Marvin Rammer

So much sex appeal and charm, he could have been in the movies. There seemed to be nothing about life he didn't know and didn't want to share. Whistled while he worked. Wisecracks and words of wisdom fell from him. 6'2", broad-shouldered, and built like a bull. Brown eyes, tanned skin, and full head of dark hair. Looks like Errol Flynn. He would have laughed at the concept of "emotional intelligence". He barely graduated from high school, but his IQ about people and life was genius.

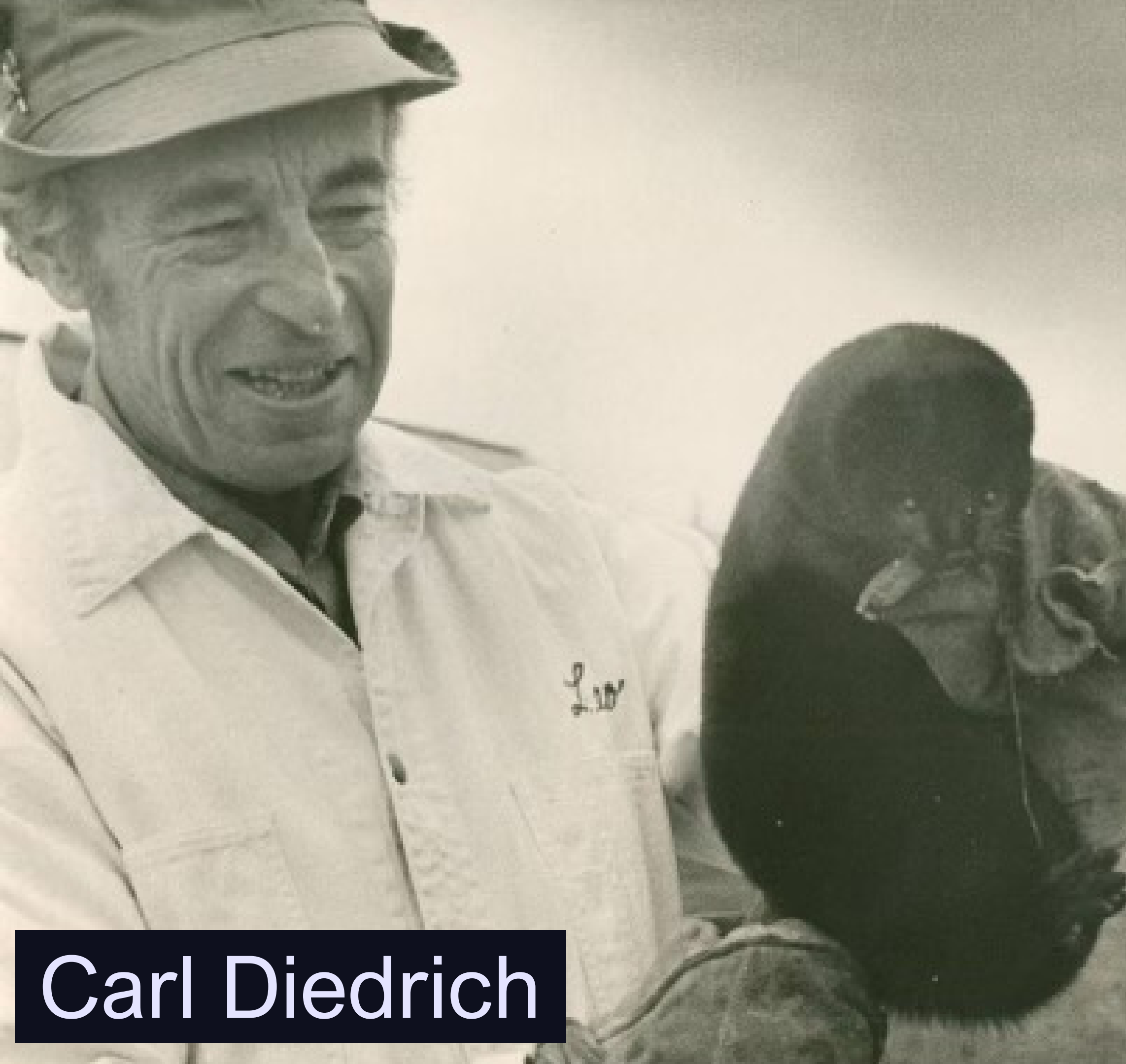


Dizzy Gillespie

From Episode 2: Brilliant, world-famous jazz trumpeter, composer, and singer Dizzy Gillespie meets and saves Chuck at the Blue Note Jazz Club in NYC.

“

In a complicated way, there is something you love, and there is something loving you back. When you find that; well, you just got to jump!”



Carl Diedrich

*From Episode 1: Carl
Diedrich (Dad) Grading
Season*

“

“It’s soft to the touch. I mean like velvet. Look at the sheen. What a beautiful animal. Give it a four. And bring me a dozen more where she came from. She’s a money maker.”



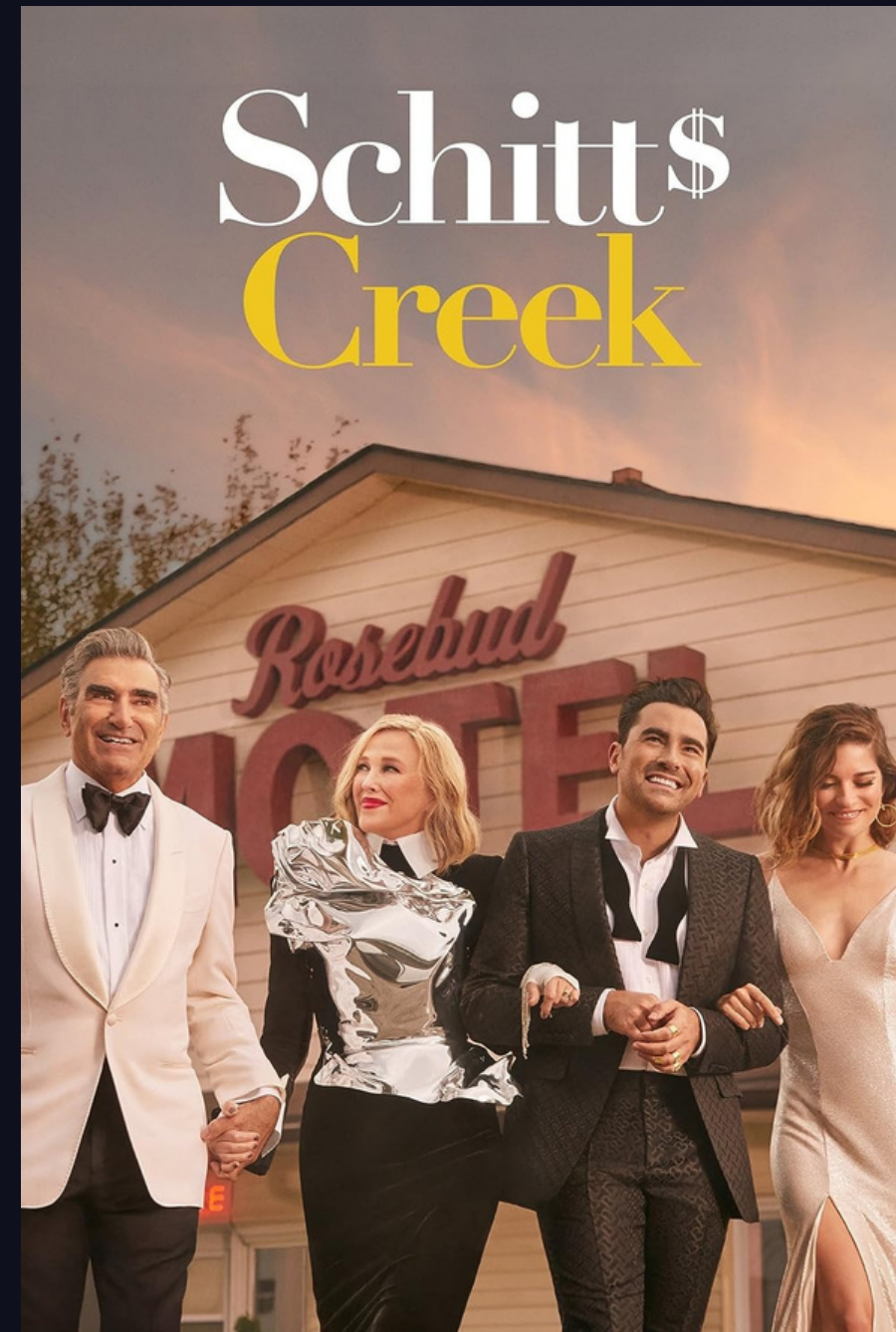
Helen Diedrich

*From Episode 1: Helen
Diedrich (Mom) After the
Smash*

“

God does not care
how ugly we look.
He still loves us.
You're going to
church. You're not
sick or dead...you
go to church. God
will lift you out
of this mess you
got yourself in.”

Like-Spirited Properties



Potential Actors

for Chuck and Stephanie



Iain Armitage

Age 15

Acting Credits:

Young Sheldon, Big Little Lies



Walker Scobell

Age 15

Acting Credits:

*Percy Jackson & the Olympians,
Secret Headquarters*



Julia Butters

Age 14

Acting Credits:

*Once Upon a Time in Hollywood,
American Housewife*



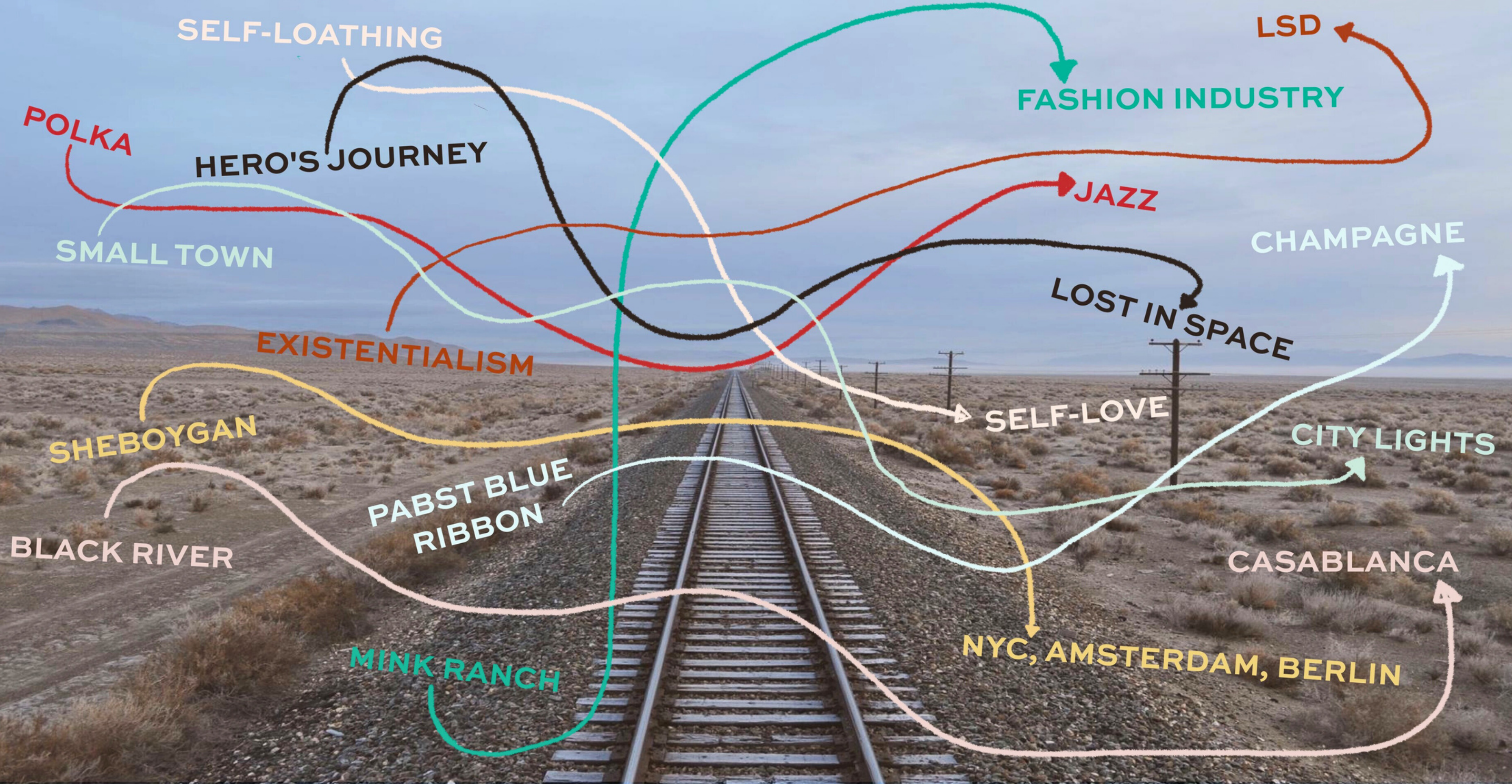
Ariana Greenblatt

Age 16

Acting Credits:

Barbie, Stuck in the Middle

Chuck's Matrix



The Minktronics

Charles P. Ries & The Minktronics become the Greek Chorus of *Can Boys Fly*. The Wisconsin Art Band, formed in 2016, creates thematic music to the poetry of Ries, and Ries writes lyrics to the music of the Mink Collective. Just as *Can Boys Fly* is based on *The Fathers We Find*, it is also rooted in the songs, lyrics, and laments of The Minktronics.

Ries is both the lyricist and the voice of the band. Ron Baake is both drummer and producer of all Minktronics music. Together, Baake and Ries, with the Mink Collective, add layers of storytelling and meaning to *Can Boys Fly*.



Listen on Spotify:



Read more about the band:

Shepherd
Est. 1982 EXPRESS

The Creators

Michael Angeli is an American writer and television producer, best known for his award-nominated work on television series including *Monk* and the remake of *Battlestar Galactica*, a show for which he was also a co-executive producer. Angeli was co-executive producer on *Black Sails*, a pirate adventure drama that premiered on the Starz Network in January 2014.

As a journalist, he wrote for *Esquire*, *The New York Times*, and several other publications. During his time as contributing editor & writer for *Esquire*, he employed his outstanding writing skills and interviewed high-profile celebrities including Brad Pitt, Angelina Jolie, Joaquin Phoenix, River Phoenix, Michael J. Fox and more.

Angeli is currently in pre-production on *The Confessions of Al McGuire*, a biopic with Anthony Hemingway.



Michael Angeli

The Creators

Can Boys Fly is based on a memoir written by Charles P. Ries, titled *The Fathers We Find*, and an unpublished novel based on memory titled *A Life By Invitation*, also by Charles P. Ries. Ries is also an award-winning poet. He is both the lyricist and voice for the art band Charles P. Ries & the Minktronics.

After college, Ries lived in London and North Africa where he studied the mystical teachings of Islam called Sufism. In 1989, he worked with the Dalai Lama on a program that brought American religious leaders and psychotherapists together for a weeklong dialogue. It was during this same week that the Dalai Lama was awarded his Nobel Peace Prize. Ries has done extensive work with men's groups and worked with a Jungian psychotherapist for over five years during which time he recorded five hundred dreams and learned to find the meanings in small things.



Charles P. Ries

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Chuck