

A person wearing a wide-brimmed hat is aiming a rifle in a forest. The background shows a dense forest with green foliage and a white tent in the distance.

Let It End Here

A Feature-length Film by Michael Helms



Logline

A Patriot captain's mercy toward a Loyalist prisoner sets his company on a path of loss — and puts him on a collision course with the man who has fought beside him for years.

Synopsis

Let It End Here is set in the Carolina backcountry in 1780, at the height of the American Revolution's southern campaign. Captain Emory Miller leads a small, seasoned company of Patriot irregulars — farmers, frontiersmen, and fighters who have been together long enough to know each other's measure — on a reconnaissance mission deep into Loyalist territory. When Emory takes a Loyalist prisoner rather than executing him on the spot, a decision he cannot fully account for even to himself, he introduces a tension into the company that begins to pull it apart from the inside.

As the mission carries them through ambush, loss, and the slow erosion of the trust that has held them together for three years, Emory finds himself fighting two wars simultaneously — one against the Crown's forces gathering at a loyalist stronghold, and one against the fracturing loyalty of his own men, led by his most capable and most dangerous soldier. What the mission costs them in blood and in spirit, and whether what remains of the company is enough to see the fight through to its conclusion, is the question that drives every mile of the road ahead.



Why this film, and why now?

We are at the 250th anniversary !!!

The American Revolution story has rarely been told from the perspective of the men who fought it without uniforms, in the Carolina Backcountry, **where the war was actually won.**

Let It End Here tells the Revolution from inside the Carolina backcountry, in the dialect of the men who lived there, on the actual terrain of one of the war's most consequential and least-known engagements, the Battle of Ramsour's Mill.

It is a film about what men carry and what carries them. About the difference between a cause and the conduct it requires.

About a woman who picks up her dead husband's rifle and keeps walking. About a prisoner who tells the truth at the cost of his life. About a captain who plants seeds over graves because his wife taught him that burial is where life begins.

And, ultimately, it is a film that reflects the current political climate of our country—where families are divided, even to the point of intense hatred. This story shows how we are only a few events from our own neighbor vs neighbor violence of times past.

Director's Vision

I have loved history my entire life — not as dates and battles, but as the record of ordinary people making impossible choices. That love is what brought me to this story.

Let It End Here asks a question with no clean answer: **what does it cost a man to stay human in the middle of a war?**

Emory Miller cannot bring himself to execute his prisoner. That refusal fractures everything around him, including the closeness he shares with his comrades in war.

This film is about integrity under pressure. About the hardest kind of strength. History remembers the battles. I am interested in the men who fought them — and in what they had to surrender to do it.

Visual Style

The Revenant



The free-flowing wide angle poetic natural beauty. Handheld. Floating camera. Doesn't shy away from the visceral reality of the wilderness.



Barry Lyndon



The use of fore-middle-background to allow every part of the frame to tell a story. The creative use of the zoom lens to create multiple framings within one continuous shot.



Historical Immersion

There is a very particular immersive beauty to the 80s-90s historical epics. The films feel more like they belong to a long lost past. A far cry from the modern sleekness of today's images.



The Last of the Mohicans - 1992



The Settlers - 2023



Glory - 1989



Black Robe - 1991



The Mission - 1986

Characters

Emory - The Leader



Protagonist. Militia Captain. The film's moral center and its most opaque character. Emory has been fighting for three years with a record of zero losses — a record that ends the night of the ambush and does not recover. His defining characteristic is not courage or tactical intelligence, though he possesses both, but a capacity for restraint that the men around him read variously as wisdom, weakness, and cowardice.

William - The Challenger

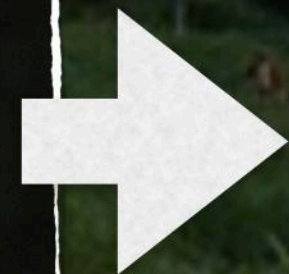
Antagonist. The film's most dangerous character and its most morally consistent one. William believes in direct action, clear accountability, and the elimination of problems before they compound. He profoundly disagrees with Emory's decision to keep a prisoner alive.



Characters

Nicolas - The Prisoner

Nicolas is a Loyalist not by ideology but by circumstance — his family was harassed by Patriot forces, and he defended what was his in the only direction available. As a prisoner he is the most honest voice in the company, a voice that raises doubt and fears amongst his captors.



Mercy - The Widow

Mercy begins as a frontier woman who tends wounds without sentiment and ends as a woman who has crossed a threshold she did not intend to cross and cannot uncross.

Proof of Concept - Short Film

The short film was produced in 2022, on a very small budget of \$5,000. We had many historical resources at our disposal, along with cooperation from SAR/DAR, the local historical society, and re-enactors. This helped greatly with budget and the period immersion. The feature film will use the same resources. The film was kept grounded in realism, with each actor having spent countless hours immersed in this time period, dressed in period clothing, firing period-accurate rifles, and even performing in stage productions set during the events of the film.

Short Film Trailer Link

<https://youtu.be/d09okrLGQzQ>



Short Film Link

https://youtu.be/z1Te_tvoTfk



Audience & Reach

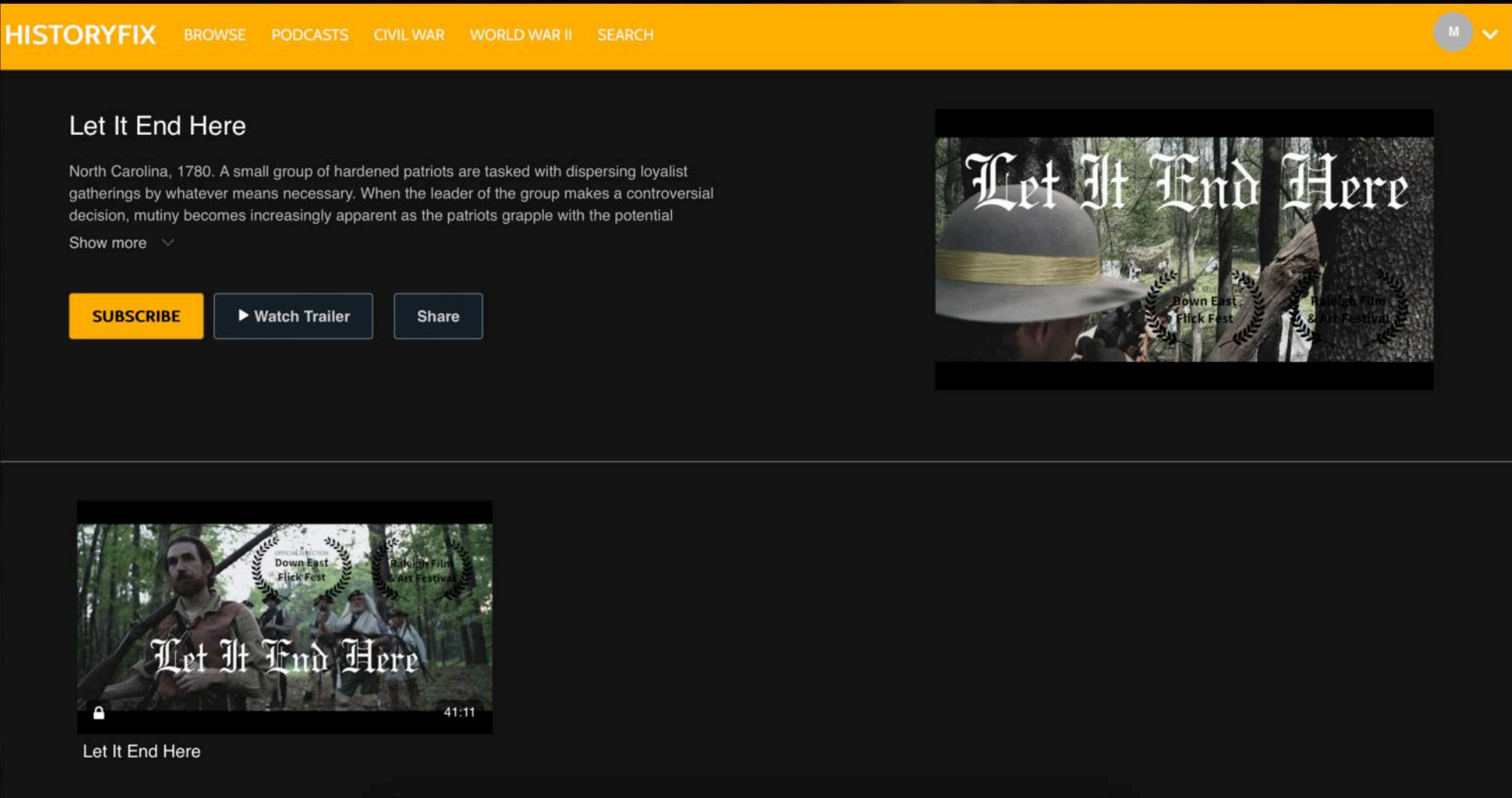
After capturing 36,000 views in its first month on YouTube, we signed a deal to

Stream Exclusively on [HistoryFix.com](#)

The Southern Campaign of the American Revolution has an incredible amount of loyal followers and students. There are history buffs everywhere lobbying for films that tell this seldom-explored portion of the war—that is the people that fought without uniforms, that quite literally battled on their own farms, and changed the course of the war in favor of the American colonies.

We want this film to go wide - not just online, but to play to film festival audiences around the world. To be picked up for distribution and potential theatrical release.

There is a built-in audience for immersive historical films like this, and we know how to find them and get it to them. We also have a desire to educate the general population on the rigors of the war in the south.



More than 36,000 views on YouTube

Video	Visibility	Restrictions	Date ↓	Views
 Let It End Here - An American Revoluti... North Carolina, 1780. A small group of hardened patriots are tasked with...	 Public	None	Jan 2, 2024 Published	36,220

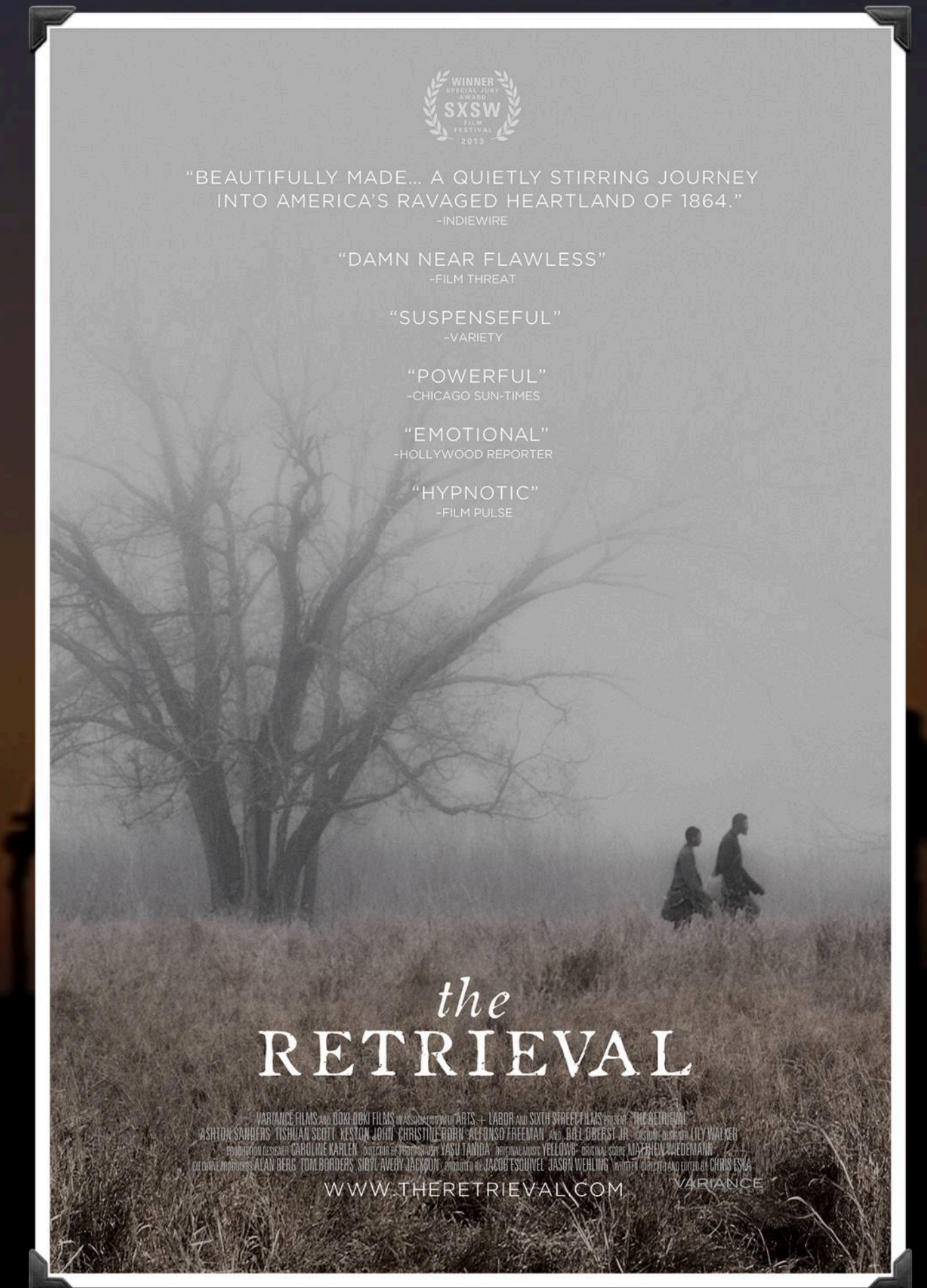
Successful Low-Budget Historical Films

Men Go to Battle has found steady long-term success on ad-supported digital platforms such as Pluto TV, Tubi, and Plex.

The film won Best New Narrative Director at Tribeca Film Festival in 2015

The Retrieval achieved an enduring, profitable afterlife by anchoring itself as a permanent fixture on prestigious educational streaming networks like Kanopy and premium digital VOD storefronts.

It won many audience awards throughout it's long festival run.



Michael Helms is a writer, director, and producer based in the Carolinas. He earned his BFA in Filmmaking from the University of North Carolina School of the Arts. He has written, directed, produced, and edited a wide range of short films, while also crewing and acting in numerous roles on feature and short productions.

His original Western screenplay, *The Pleasant Moon*, was named a semifinalist at the 2026 Austin Film Festival, placing in the top 2% of more than 12,500 scripts submitted from 112 countries.

Through his company, Helms Productions, Michael also works as a professional videographer specializing in wedding cinematography, commercial work, and narrative filmmaking.



Michael **Helms**

Writer / Producer/Director / Editor

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S'alfrico is a Director of Photography with a history of working in the Motion Picture and Film Industry. He has a passion for visual storytelling, and is skilled in Cinematography for feature and short films, TV commercials, and documentaries. S'alfrico earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the UNCSA - School of Filmmaking, with a concentration in Cinematography.

He has worked on visual content across the United States and Jamaica, in various capacities, with major production houses such as HBO, Hulu, Amazon, and Paramount. This has made him a well rounded filmmaker with a greater understanding of overall film production, management and storytelling.



S'alfrico Watson-Grant
Director of Photography
Producer

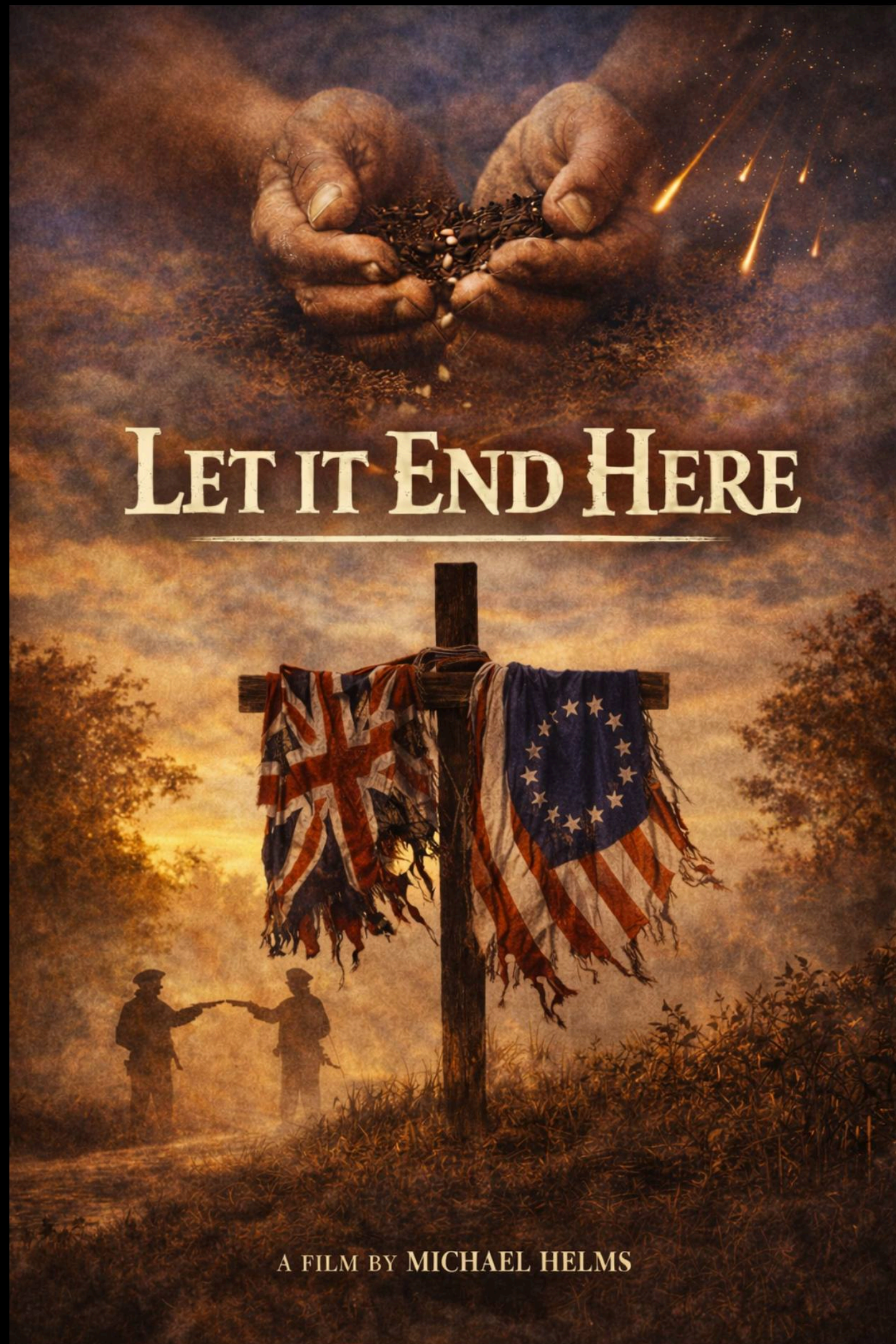
Web: www.salfrico.com • IMDb: <https://rb.gy/wu5i8> • Instagram: www.instagram.com/salfrico

Bernice is a Winston-Salem-based film and television producer with more than 15 years of experience in the entertainment industry. She has worked across scripted and unscripted projects for major networks and platforms including HBO, Netflix, A&E, Hallmark, and TLC, where she has produced My Big Fat Fabulous Life for nine seasons. Most recently, Bernice served as Associate Producer on The Bard, directed by Academy Award-winning filmmaker Kevin Willmott, and an Executive Producer of Widow, directed by Don Handfield.

Represented by Heroes & Villains Entertainment, Bernice holds a BA in Journalism and Mass Communications with a concentration in Business Administration from the University of South Carolina and studied producing and screenwriting at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts.



Bernice **Miller**
Producer



Mock Poster via AI prompt

Director's Statement

This isn't a random idea for a film. It was seeded by years of immersion in the local historical scene, countless hours amongst Revolutionary War re-enactors, and in-depth study of this crucial time period in America's history. I am a student of history, but even more, I am a lover of history.

Prior to this, I made three short films that take place in the same time period and same geographical area. This film touches on the trials of the little-taught Southern Campaign of America's fight against the mother country. It's our civil war before Our Civil War.

As someone who lives and breathes this history in his own back yard, I am the man to bring this unique story to life.