

**ITVfest / PopConLA**  
**- FILMMAKER INTERVIEWS**

A Q&A with Michael Tushaus

from the Action/Drama

“The Adventures of Loop & Rhett”



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**Michael, what is your background, where are you from and what motivated you to do a Action/Drama?:**

My background stems from an upbringing in the rural Midwest. I grew up watching westerns and adventure television shows such as The Lone Ranger, Zorro, Superman, Buck Rogers, Batman, Wild Wild West, The Dukes of Hazzard, and several more that established righteous heroes that children such as myself could look up to, admire, and aspire to be one day. Now that I am grown-up, as a professional actor and filmmaker, I want to give this generation shows on television which encourage families to sit around the television and share the adventures with their heroes.

**And your role in “The Adventures of Loop & Rhett” ?**

My first role in 'Loop & Rhett' is co-creator & Executive Producer, alongside my co-creators and Executive Producers Loop Rawlins and Karen Cornejo.

My acting role, Rhett Carson, is a character who very much personifies the essential action/adventure hero. He is conflicted with his past, but is centered in his morals. He is a take charge guy, but who ordinary people can relate to. He is flawed, but strong, intense, and yet unforcedly funny. His younger, more naive partner, Loop Rawlins, though very skilled in the western arts, gets him into difficult situations, and the two of them, with the help of new friends and allies, overcome the evil and corruption that they come across as they travel west in search of Rhett's wife's murderer. Rhett Carson has elements of Indiana Jones, Han Solo, Seth Bullock, Blondie, and Mal from "Firefly."

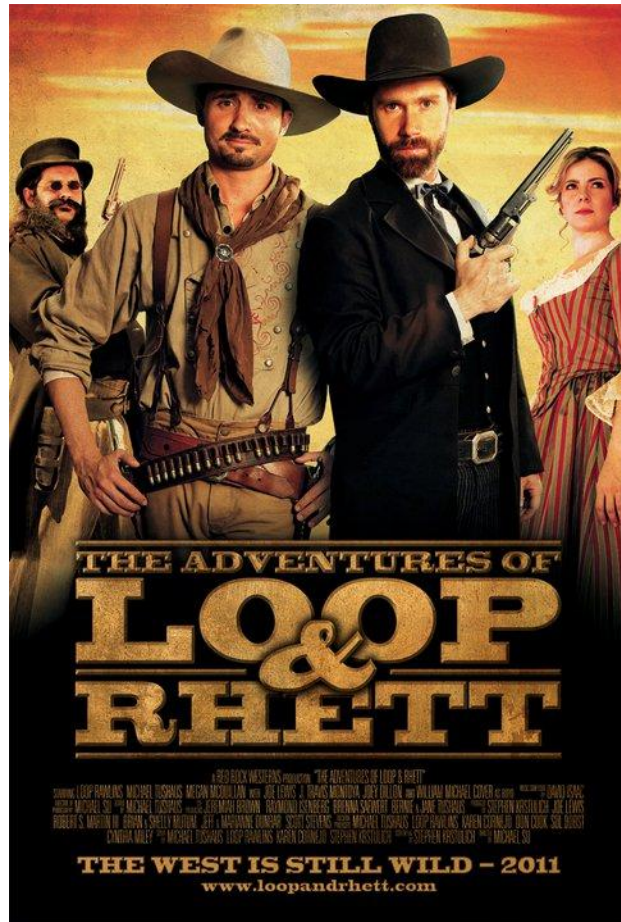
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## How would you best describe you Action/Drama?

"The Adventures of Loop & Rhett" is a dynamic action/adventure/drama western with just the right amount of comedy and excitement. Unlike most westerns of present day, this series would focus on being family-friendly, PG-rated material suited for most networks--something that does not exist as far as episodic westerns go. It would aim to be a 22-minute episodic series that would follow the adventures of Loop & Rhett as they travel west, in search of the gang who murdered Rhett's wife, who is also Loop's sister. Though the element of revenge is prevalent, there are many lighter, fun, and funny moments mixed with action, adventure, drama and more. What makes this series so marketable is that it would cater to all audiences of all ages. Smart enough for the adults, fun enough for the kids. And there would be several lessons and morals learned along the way without patronizing its audiences. The series would feature the Wild West in the 1880's, opening the door to historical events and figures who may cross our heroes paths within their fictional world. Also, the series would feature true wild west skills from its actors including gun-spinning, rope twirling, whip cracking, and stunts of every degree. 'Loop & Rhett' could be the next Brisco County Jr., or the 'Pirates of the Caribbean' of westerns. It would contain lots of colorful characters with a great core of actors who can carry the series along. Lots of opportunities for guest stars and guest roles for specialty performers.

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**What was the best moment, for you in creating “The Adventures of Loop & Rhett”?**

This project was very special, because it was a culmination of so many dedicated filmmakers and actors who donated their efforts in hopes of this project being a breakthrough for them. More so, everyone was involved because they believed so much in the project and for the love of their crafts they were contributing. The greatest moment for all of us-- after a year of preparation, writing, raising money on [Kickstarter.com](http://Kickstarter.com) and hundreds of phone calls to line up all the resources – it was the day we all arrived to Gammons Gulch, the western set where we were to film for a week to make this pilot. We had people showing up from California, New York, and everywhere in between. It was the moment that we had planned for, for so long, and finally, was becoming a reality. And then that deep reality set in that we were really

doing this, and the fear and panic that goes with it. That fear of failure drove us to successfully complete production and post, and ended up with a great product.

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### **And the worst moment?**

The worst moment, conversely, was the day that we had to leave set after we wrapped. We packed up and went off in our many different directions. It was such a magical moment we shared for that week in the Arizona desert, in the middle of nowhere, but we all had somewhere to return to. And many were going back to day jobs that were much less fulfilling. But for that week, we were truly creating a project we were so deeply passionate about. We were movie stars and filmmakers and the rest of the world did not exist.

### **If you had one message to get across to the WORLD with “The Adventures of Loop & Rhett”**

#### **– What would that message be?**

This series, "The Adventures of Loop & Rhett," is a great formula with so many possibilities. And, it is an opportunity to bring back an element from the past-- the Western, in a fresh, 22-minute episodic package. It combines everything people love-- action/adventure/fun/excitement/comedy/drama and much much more. It is one of those series that will appeal to ALL audiences, something that is so rare for television nowadays. Typically, shows are splitting demographics, or are too intense for children, or too kiddie for adults. This would truly be a series that has something for everyone. And, plain and simple, who doesn't like a feel-good western? In a day and age that is so stuck in gadgets and technology that divides people, wouldn't it be great to see a show where people have to deal with each other face to face again? It would be a throwback to something we all miss and want to see return, but it would come back

in a fresh and entertaining non-patronizing way? "The Adventures of Loop & Rhett" answers that call.

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**Everyone that enters a Festival wants to win an Award,  
What about your project makes it stand out?**

Well, our project has won 7 awards and counting, yet it is not what we seek for our reward. What will truly be rewarding for all involved in this project will be seeing the series come to life. So what makes it stand out? Again, it is a 22-minute episodic Action/Adventure dramatic western series with true Heroes and Villains, comedy, excitement and plenty of down-home stunts and action appealing to audiences of ALL AGES. Smart enough for adults, fun and entertaining for children, and good enough to keep the attention of all audiences. AND, it features actual skills from the actors involved, and opens the door for featured performances from stars and specialty acts. It truly will have it all-- and most important-- no one is doing this anywhere on television, yet audiences indeed want it.

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**and What is next for you?**

I am currently starring in a feature film in production, Territory 8, an independent existential sci-fi drama set to release in late 2012. I play a scientist who is developing a cure for a manmade bio chemical agent that is lethal when released into the water supply. He is forced to rush his research in order to save the lives of the people whom he meets who are infected. The film is high-paced, dramatic, and action-filled with twists and turns to keep it interesting.

I am also acting in several comedy web skits/short films/commercials in the Las Vegas area for projects such as the Will Edwards Talk Show, and for directors such as Sean Jackson, Michael Su, and Kelly Schwarze.

## Thank You, Michael Tushaus

### Any last words or something I forgotten to ask you?

'The Adventures of Loop & Rhett', as a T.V. series, needs to be made. Why? Think about this. When you were a kid, did you have a favorite T.V. show that you would watch with your family? Of course you did. Or at least even one or two that you watched on your own. But didn't you ever watch a show and look up to your favorite character or hero? Didn't you want to be just like them? Didn't you want to go out and buy anything they were part of-- such as action figures or breakfast cereals or decoder rings or even fast food meal toys?

Now, think about television right now. What shows are out there for our kids to truly look up to? What heroes are out there to inspire them? Are there any? And no, Barney doesn't count. Think about it. Television needs heroes again-- not train-wrecks of human beings who are anything but role models to the children who are our future. Let's give them the heroes they deserve-- just like we had when we were kids-- at least one show.



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### What are the credits for The Adventures of Loop & Rhett?

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| <b>Cast:</b><br>Loop Rawlins - "Loop Rawlins"<br>Michael Tushaus - "Rhett Carson"<br>William Michael Cover - "Harlan Boyd"<br>Megan McQuillan - "Lacey"<br>Joe Lewis - "Marshal Gus Pickett" | Sarah McIntosh - "Bath Girl"<br>Angela Rawlins - "Evelyn Carson"<br>Michael Su - "Cyrus Abernathy"<br>Justin Kreinbrink - "Cyrus's Thug"<br>Shelly Mutum - "Saloon Girl"<br>John Hiestand - "Old Miner" |
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| <p>Travis Montoya - "Ivan"<br/>         Joey Dillon - "Virgil"<br/>         Leah Taylor - "Petunia"<br/>         Bob Morgan - "Lawrence"<br/>         John Bernath - "Sid - Mine Thug #1"<br/>         Jerry Woods - "Johnny - Mine Thug #2"</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <p>Firecracker - himself<br/>         807 - himself<br/>         Rufus - Himself<br/>         Blackjack - Himself</p>                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <p><b>The People of Alacran (background):</b><br/>         Jackie Arthur<br/>         Leonard Batson<br/>         Steve Bondy<br/>         Darba Jo Butler<br/>         Chris Casey<br/>         Don Cook<br/>         Sandy Cooper<br/>         Steve W. Dodson<br/>         Ted Elenberger<br/>         David Finnigsmier<br/>         Jay Gammons<br/>         Reginald Garnett<br/>         David J. Griffiths<br/>         Rick Halquist<br/>         Don Hooper<br/>         Richard Ignarski<br/>         Justin Isenberg<br/>         Anthony Islas<br/>         Ron Johnson<br/>         Gene "Rock" Kurz<br/>         Abby Mutum<br/>         Isabella Rose Rawlins<br/>         Robyn Verkamp<br/>         Arthur J. Weisberger<br/>         John M. Bartish<br/>         Ken Bie<br/>         Bennie Boxx<br/>         Susan Cannalonga<br/>         Faye Coakley<br/>         Kent C. Cooksley<br/>         Bill Crouch<br/>         Sally Elenberger<br/>         Mickey Filiwuk<br/>         Sarah Finnigsmier<br/>         Joanne Gammons<br/>         Alan Gordon<br/>         Ron Hale<br/>         Kevin Holdorf<br/>         Brian Michael Horton</p> |  <p>Raymond Isenberg<br/>         June Johnson<br/>         Dennis Knill<br/>         Dave Mathis<br/>         Warren Neff<br/>         Judy Rudd<br/>         Daniel Frank Webster<br/>         Elen Zank</p> |



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| <p>Jeff Ingertson</p>                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                     |
| <p><b>Executive Producers &amp; Creators</b><br/> Loop Rawlins<br/> Michael Tushaus<br/> Karen Cornejo</p>                                                               |   |
| <p><b>Executive Producers</b><br/> Don Cook<br/> Sol Bobst<br/> Cynthia Miley</p>                                                                                        | <p><b>Created by:</b><br/> Loop Rawlins<br/> Michael Tushaus<br/> Karen Cornejo</p> |
|                                                                                        | <p><b>Screenplay by:</b><br/> Stephen Krstulich</p>                                 |
| <p><b>Producers</b><br/> Stephen Krstulich<br/> Joe Lewis<br/> Robert S. Martin III<br/> Brian &amp; Shelly Mutum<br/> Jeff &amp; Marianne Dunbar<br/> Scott Stevens</p> | <p><b>Directed by:</b><br/> Michael Su</p>                                          |
| <p><b>Co-Producers</b><br/> Brenna Saewert<br/> Bernie &amp; Jane Tushaus<br/> Jeremiah Brown<br/> Raymond Isenberg</p>                                                  | <p><b>1st Asst. Director:</b><br/> Justin Kreinbrink</p>                            |

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| <p><b>Associate Producers</b><br/> Joe Krstulich<br/> Blanca &amp; Julio Cornejo<br/> Theresa Brazee<br/> Jim Powers<br/> Jack &amp; Daria Turner<br/> Angelia Pitman<br/> Cade Edwards<br/> Kelsey Contois<br/> Mike &amp; Beth Dominiak<br/> Anne Q. Lewis<br/> John Liechty<br/> Catherine Krstulich<br/> Lionel Hamel<br/> Craig Horness<br/> Jeremy Headrick<br/> Bill &amp; Doris Duff<br/> Helen Burton</p> | <p><b>Cameras:</b><br/> Director of Photography/Gaffer:<br/> Michael Su</p> |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | <p><b>2nd Camera/1st Asst.Camera</b><br/> Jonathan Shrader</p>              |

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## Where and When is “The Adventures of Loop & Rhett”?

FaceBook: <http://www.facebook.com/loopandrhatt>

Web Site: [www.loopandrhatt.com](http://www.loopandrhatt.com)

Twitter: [@LoopandRhett](https://twitter.com/LoopandRhett)

YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/loopandrhatt>