

Media Kit

From the author of *Muscle Cars* and *Rook* comes Stephen G. Eoannou's historical novel *Yesteryear*, based on the real-life and often controversial story of Fran Striker, the creator of the iconic Lone Ranger.

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About the Author

Stephen G. Eoannou is the author of the novels *After Pearl* (SFWP 2025), *Yesteryear* (SFWP 2023), *Rook* (Unsolicited Press 2022), and the short story collection *Muscle Cars* (SFWP 2015). He has been awarded an Honor Certificate from The Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators, the Best Short Screenplay Award at the 36th Starz Denver Film Festival, and the 2021 International Eyelands Award for Best Historical Novel. Eoannou holds an MFA from Queens University of Charlotte and an MA from Miami University. He lives and writes in his hometown of Buffalo, New York, the setting and inspiration for much of his work.



Praise for Yesteryear

"One of the most entertaining novels I've read in years, with memorable characters and an outstanding plot on so many levels. It's so much more than a page-turner; it will capture your imagination and not let it go!"

— Fred Leebron, author of Welcome To Christiania

"Yesteryear is a magical, magnificent novel strung on the threads of a real man's quest to fight evil, save the day, and lift the world from the clutches of The Great Depression. There's no way to read this book and not find yourself moved to tears. I absolutely loved it."

— Ashley Warlick, author of *The Arrangement*

Praise for Stephen G. Eoannou's other work

Praise for Muscle Cars:

"Part Richard Russo, part Bruce Springsteen, part OTB parlors and Cutlass Supremes, Eoannou's debut collection, *Muscle Cars*, is all heart. These are tough, ruminative, cunning and tough—did I say tough?—stories of people trying to make it, one way and another, for better and worse. A fine first collection, and I look forward to the next."

- Brett Lott, author of Jewel, an Oprah Book Club Selection

"Eoannou throws light on the mysterious interiors of husbands, fathers, sons, brothers, soldiers, compatriots, these streets of Buffalo past and present—all the while keeping track of the darker currents that run beneath the surface. *Muscle Cars* is a magnificent debut."

—Ashley Warlick, author of Seek The Living and The Summer After June

Praise for Rook:

"A terrific Technicolor Noir that lives and breathes in the period. If I hadn't been told, I would've thought I was reading a lost paperback classic from sixty years ago. Clever, literate, and fun, Rook is right down my dark alley."

—Ace Atkins, New York Times Bestselling author of The Revelators and The Heathens

"If Elmore Leonard wrote *The Queen's Gambit*, he'd have written *Rook*. Set aside some time when you start Eoannou's true tale of Tommy guns, small-time hoods, and high-stakes chess because you won't want to put it down until checkmate."

—Daren Wang, author of The Hidden Light of Northern Fires

Events

Buffalo, NY

- Book Launch at The Gypsy Parlor
- Reading Westside Stories Books
- Reading Fitz & Waffles Books
- Reading Talking Leaves Books
- Reading Dog Ear Books
- Reading Orchard Park Library
- Reading 20th Century Book Club
- Reading Buffalo Club Book Club
- Reading 20th Century Book Club
- Panel Burchfield Penny Art Center Book Club
- Q&A Sweet Home Book Club
- Buffalo Library Local Author Night
- Lecture SUNY Buffalo State College

Auburn, NY

- Panel Auburn Library Author Night
- O&A Auburn Book Club

Washington, DC

• Reading — Politics & Prose

Greenville, SC

• Page Pairing — M. Judson Books

Charleston, SC

• Panel — Buxton Books

Boone, NC

• Reading — Foggy Pine Books

Book Fairs

- AWP Albany Book Festival
- Pittsburgh Festival of Books Annapolis Book Festival

Appearances

The author has developed strong relationships with the following outlets:

TV

"Unknown Stories of WNY" (WGRZ)

Radio

 "On Target With Penny Wolfgang" (Audacity widely syndicated on NPR in the NEIBA sales region

Podcasts

- The After Show With McKensie Stewart and Amy Shannon
- Charlotte Readers Podcast
- Authors On The Air

Newspaper

• The National Herald

Ongoing Marketing and Publicity

Global distribution via IPG

National author tour

f @steve.eoannou (760 followers)

@StephenGEoannou (3,300 followers)

Blog sgeoannou.com (3,600 followers)

All of these accounts will comprise his primary social media platform for book promotion. Potential plans include participating in Q&As and live-chats, boosting pre-order links and re-sharing previously published essays (or excerpts).

Author website: sgeoannou.com

Continued outreach to literary publications and podcasts

Outreach to author community



Contact Information and Rights Availability

Publisher Contact

Andrew Gifford Santa Fe Writers Project agifford@sfwp.com 505-428-9045

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Rights Contacts

Linda Migalti, Rights Director Audio & Translation linda@schulmanagency.com

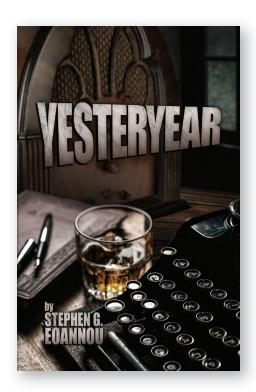
Susan Schulman
Film & Television
susan@schulmanagency.com

Susan Schulman Literary Agency 454 West 44th Street, New York, NY 10036 212-713-1633

Rights Availability

All Rights Available Worldwide





From the Cover

Return with us now to those thrilling days of yesteryear, when from out of the past come the thundering hoofbeats of the great horse Silver! The Lone Ranger rides again!

Who was the mind behind The Lone Ranger?

It's 1930s Buffalo, and the Great Depression rages. Playwright Fran Striker needs to write the pilot for a new radio show but, first, he must overcome writer's block, defeat a curse, foil a plot to assassinate FDR, and recover stolen diamond rings belonging to an alcoholic boxing champion.

Who was that masked man? Based on the controversial true-life story of Lone Ranger creator Fran Striker, *Yesteryear* takes us on a magical journey leading to an icon's debut, a show that provided hope to Americans during the country's darkest days. Populated by characters of the era—radio actor John Barrett, Mafioso Stefano Magaddino, former lightweight champion Jimmy Slattery, and president-elect Franklin D. Roosevelt—Eoannou's latest novel breathes new life into the immortal Lone Ranger, and the man who struggled to create him, echoing the spirit of W.P. Kinsella's *Shoeless Joe*, Bernard Malamud's *The Natural*, and Daniel Wallace's *Big Fish*.

Excerpt from Yesteryear

Striker pointed to Armbrewster, and Rossini filled the city from the Central Terminal to the Statler Hotel. Trombones rattled the bars at the Buffalo State Asylum for The Insane and the drums and cymbals woke illegitimate babies at the rebuilt Ingleside Home For Reclaiming The Erring. Bassoons and French horns drowned out Scaredy-Cat Floyd, Boom-Boom Bennett, and Kid Charlemagne at The Colored Musicians Club while piccolos, flutes and oboes bounced off the Blocher monument and Danek's empty cabin at Forest Lawn Cemetery. Even Don Stefano, huddled alone in a federal prison cell, heard the work of Gioachino Antonio Rossini, a fellow Italian, and wiped a tear.

Stunned families turned off their radios and looked at each other with hopeful eyes. There was someone out there helping those who needed it? Someone who righted wrongs? Who brought the guilty to justice? Maybe the crooked cops and the railroad bulls and those who had crashed the stock market would be made to answer for their crimes. Maybe houses and farms would be un-foreclosed and repossessed furniture returned. Maybe believing in this Lone Ranger and all he stood for would carry them through this Depression. They blinked and shook their heads and searched the floor, hoping that tossed silver bullet had landed in their lives and rolled toward their feet

Striker pressed the Off Air button and the studio erupted in cheers. Actors hugged and praised each other's performances. Trendle and Campbell shook hands, as if they had accomplished something. Striker tilted his head and released all the smoke he'd held in his lungs. He stared at the ceiling, imagining that all the stories and characters he'd ever write were above him, beyond the ceiling and roof, floating amongst the stars waiting to find him.

Then Barrett was dragging him out of the booth to the others, who pumped his hand and smacked his back. Darcy Menifee kissed his cheek, leaving lip prints. James Connolly opened champagne, the popping cork a gunshot, and poured into outstretched coffee cups. Charles Armbrewster left The Gold Room to retrieve his flask hidden in the Music Library. When he returned, he announced that the switchboard was lighting up with calls praising The Lone Ranger.

