At 34, Harold L. ‘Doc’ Humes (1926-1992) had co-founded The Paris Review and published two novels with Random House – The Underground City (1958) and Men Die (1959), when he turned his attention to the burgeoning experimental film scene in New York City. He filmed the no-budget Don Peyote, a black-and-white Greenwich Village updating of Don Quixote, in which the young protagonist (played by F. Cavitt Sharp aka Ojo de Vidrio) so loses himself in Kerouac’s On the Road that he decides to leave behind the Cold War Bringdowntown to seek adventures with his faithful sidekick (Roscoe Lee Browne). The film includes a cameo by Ornette Coleman. The voiceover soundtrack was to have been dubbed by spoken-word artist Lord Buckley, but after he died suddenly, Humes abandoned the project. The film disappeared for decades until his daughter, Immy Humes tracked it to F. Cavitt Sharp’s California toolshed. She has edited the film with a jazz soundtrack, making it possible for us to begin to imagine how Doc’s vision of a Beat Quixote circa 1960 might have looked and felt.

Immy Humes is a documentary filmmaker and producer. Her short A Little Vicious (1991) was nominated for an Academy Award. Her film portrait of her father, Doc, was produced by Independent Lens in 2008. She is currently working on a documentary about independent filmmaker Shirley Clarke.