

EDUCATION

MFA in Film Production/Directing June 2011
University of California at Los Angeles
GPA: 3.9

B.A. Latin American Studies/French minor May 2007
Southwestern University
Magna Cum Laude

Universidad de Buenos Aires June 2006
Film Criticism and Theory, Documentary Production

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Assistant Professor (Tenure track) September 2020- Present
Radio, Film and TV Department at the University of Texas at Austin

Lecturer September 2019-May 2020
Communication Department at the University of Texas at El Paso

DOCUMENTARY EXPERIENCE

GOD SAVE TEXAS (TV documentary episode for HBO, English/Spanish) March 2022-Present
Director

Logline: Mexican-American filmmaker Iliana Sosa explores how *nepantla*, an embrace of in-between-ness, characterizes relations to both her family and her hometown of El Paso — and how that unique hybridity allowed the city to come together and heal in the wake of the 2019 Walmart shooting.

- Based on the book, *God Save Texas*, by the Pulitzer-Prize winning author, Lawrence Wright
- Jigsaw Production/HBO Production
- To be released on HBO in 2023

WHAT WE LEAVE BEHIND (Feature, English/Spanish) December 2017-September 2022
Director/Producer

Logline: After filmmaker Iliana Sosa's grandfather, Julián, is told that he can no longer travel to the US to visit family, he begins building a new house in his rural Mexican hometown that he says will be for the whole family once he's gone. The film follows Julián in the twilight of his life, as his granddaughter pieces together how their transnational family has built and rebuilt home over decades of separation.

- World Premiere at SXSW 2022, where it won two jury prizes: the Louis Black Award + Fandor New Voices Award
- Acquired by Ava Du Vernay's Array, Netflix release September 30, 2022
- [NY Times Critics Pick September 2022](#)
- Has screened in dozens of film festivals nationally and internationally including Full Frame, Camden, Guanajuato. Full list: <https://whatweleavebehindfilm.com/>
- Full press list: <https://whatweleavebehindfilm.com/all-press/>
- Selected for the inaugural 2018 Sundance Documentary Development Fellowship
- Funded by the Sundance, Ford Foundation, Field of Vision, Catapult, Austin Film Society, and International Documentary Association Sarowitz Completion Fund



- Participated in the Jacob Burns Residency, Logan Nonfiction Program, True False/Catapult Rough Cut retreat
- Winner of the Filmflow Award at 2020 IFP Week
- Participated in 2020 IFP Week and 2020 Gotham Documentary Lab
- Selected to participate in the Ji.hlava New Visions Forum 2021

AN UNCERTAIN FUTURE (Short, English/Spanish)

March-June 2017

Co-Director

Logline: In Austin, Texas, two expectant mothers—one undocumented and one US citizen—must contend with increased ICE raids and mounting hostility towards immigrants under President Trump.

- Co-directed and produced a short documentary for Field of Vision and Firelight Media
- Premiered on Fusion TV
- Screened at the 2017 New Orleans Film Festival, 2018 Seattle International Film Festival
- **Winner of the Best Texas Short at the 2018 SXSW Film Festival + Winner of Youth Jury Award at the 2018 Aspen ShortsFest**

DOCUMENTARY IMPACT PRODUCING EXPERIENCE

FUTBOLISTAS 4 LIFE (Short, Dir: Jun Stinson)

October 2018-April 2019

Impact Producer

Logline: A film about Oakland youth from undocumented families and the healing power of soccer.

- Planning and coordination of film screening events (scheduling, travel, catering, etc.)
- Partner cultivation (national networks, grassroots orgs, etc.)
- ID/outreach to distribution/outreach partners

THE UNAFRAID (Feature, Dirs: Anayansi Prado and Heather Courtney)

October 2018-January 2019

Impact Producer

Logline: The Unafraid is a feature length documentary that follows the personal lives of three DACA students in Georgia, a state that has banned them from attending their top state universities and disqualifies them from receiving in-state tuition at any other public college.

- Planning and coordination of film screening events that led to a national screening campaign implemented by Voto Latino
- Partner cultivation (national networks, grassroots orgs, etc.) that led to funding an impact campaign via Swing Issues Media
- Coordinating media asset development (discussion materials, story database, interviews, academic curriculum)
- ID/outreach to distribution/outreach partners

WHAT COUNTS (Short, Dir: Nicole Newnham)

January 2018-October 2018

Impact Producer

Logline: What Counts highlights the stories and experiences of a growing group of leaders who are taking critical steps to end health disparities among their patients. Spanning a diverse set of geographies and organizations, the film shows what's possible when we reimagine what counts as healthcare.

- Planning and coordination of film screening events (scheduling, travel, catering, etc.)
- Manage online film-based activities and action campaigns
- Lead in training and supporting event hosts in planning/facilitation of film discussions at a special screening hosted by the University of Chicago Medicine
- Partner cultivation (national networks, grassroots orgs, etc.)
- Coordinating media asset development (discussion materials, story database, interviews, academic curriculum)
- ID/outreach to distribution/outreach partners



- Supporting PR team, social media and other digital engagement

BUILDING THE AMERICAN DREAM (Feature, Dir: Chelsea Hernandez)
Co-Producer and Impact Producer

June 2017-March 2019

Logline: In Texas, construction workers face the deadliest conditions in the country. This feature documentary follows three immigrant families who are rising up to seek justice and equality in an industry rife with exploitation.

- Devise initial impact strategy
- Coordinate travel, shoots, organize an impact strategy session at the Ford Foundation offices in NYC
- Outreach to potential partner organizations and provide logistical aid for production and post-production
- Provide logistical support for the film's World Premiere at the 2019 SXSW Film Festival

DOLORES (Feature, Dir: Peter Bratt)

June-November 2017

Grassroots support for theatrical release led by PBS Distribution

Logline: Dolores is a 2017 American documentary directed by Peter Bratt, on the life of Chicana activist Dolores Huerta.

- Outreach to local organizations to support turn-out in the theaters in 10-15 cities nationwide
- Arrange theater talkbacks conversations
- Secure group sales from local organizations
- Set up promotions/ticket giveaways on a national scale

NARRATIVE FICTION EXPERIENCE

*Wrote, produced and directed various award-winning fiction films. Full list of films available upon request.

2007-Present

UNTITLED TX LATINA PROJECT (Feature, English/Spanish)
Creator

2018-Present

Logline: The Untitled Texas Latina Project is an intimate drama about five Mexican-American women across various cities in Texas who attempt to forge connections in familiar spaces while their identities are challenged.

- Project currently in development.
- Recipient of the Warner Media 150 grant, SFFILM Rainin Grant, and the Austin Film Society Grant.
- Selected to be 1 of 22 narrative fiction projects at the 2022 Gotham Project Market

DETAINED IN THE DESERT (Feature, English/Spanish)

2012

Co-Producer/Director

Logline: Two people on opposite sides of the immigration debate find each other lost in the desert and discover their humanity and the true plight of migrants crossing the Arizona desert.

- Directed and adapted the play to the screen. HD/Narrative, 90 min/Real Women Have Curves Studio
- Premiered at the 2012 Latino International Film Festival
- World Premiered at the 2013 Los Angeles Latino International Film Festival
- Official selection of the 2014 Philadelphia Independent Film Festival
- Official selection of the 30th Chicago Latino International Film Festival
- Official selection of the 2014 Native Women in Film and Television Film Festival
- Official selection and winner of Best Feature at the 2014 Los Angeles International Women's Film Festival
- Official selection of the 2014 San Diego Latino Film Festival
- Recipient of the 2012 Latino Film Fund Grant



CHILD OF THE DESERT (Short, English/Spanish)

2011

Writer/Producer/Director

Logline: A military mother, who has just suffered the loss of her son, meets an undocumented immigrant in the West Texas desert and befriends him.

- Wrote and directed this film as part of my MFA thesis. Shot on location in El Paso, Texas.
- Winner of the Best Short Film and Texas Award at the 2012 Oscar qualifying USA Film Festival
- Official Selection of the 2012 White Sands International Film Festival
- Official Selection of the 2012 Cine Festival Film Festival in San Antonio, Texas
- Official Selection of the 2012 San Diego Latino Film Festival
- Best Director Award at the 2012 Boyle Heights Latina Independent Film Extravaganza
- Winner of the “Award of Merit” in 2012 Accolade Competition
- Official Selection of the 2012 AMC Kansas City Film Festival
- Official Selection of the 2012 Ivy Film Festival at Brown University
- Official Selection of the 15th Annual Cine Las Americas International Film Festival in Austin, Texas
- Featured in 2017 Variety Magazine and Shadow and Act as part of the Femme Frontera Showcase

L&M (Short, German)

2010

Writer/Producer/Director

Logline: Shot on location in Cologne, Lisa comes from Berlin to see her girlfriend, Mahfuze, for the weekend. Lisa doesn't know, however, that Mahfuze has something to tell her that will test the very boundaries of their long distance relationship.

- Commissioned by the **IFS Film School** to write and direct a short inspired by Billy Wilder’s *People on Sunday*. Filmed on location in Cologne, Germany.

AWARDS/AFFILIATIONS

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| • 2023 Directors Guild of America Member | 2023 |
| • 2022 UCLA Distinguished Alumni Award | 2022 |
| • SXSW Louis Black Award + Fandor New Voices Award for What We Leave Behind | 2022 |
| • Emerging Filmmaker Award at Thin Line Fest | 2022 |
| • North by Northwest International Film Festival Best Feature Film Award for What We Leave Behind | 2022 |
| • DOC NYC’s 40 under 40 list | 2021 |
| • Women at Sundance Adobe Fellow | 2020 |
| • 25 New Faces of Independent Film (Filmmaker Magazine) | 2020 |
| • National Association of Latino Producers (NALIP) member | 2011-Present |
| • HSF/Vicente Fernandez Scholar | 2010 |
| • Edie and Lew Wasserman Fellowship | 2010 |
| • Carroll Sax Award | 2010 |
| • National Hispanic Foundation for the Arts Scholarship | 2009 |
| • Hollywood Foreign Press Award | 2009 |
| • Stephen Bochco Fellowship | 2009 |
| • Phi Beta Kappa member | 2007-Present |
| • Bill Gates Millennium Scholar Alumna | 2007-Present |



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- **Sundance, Latinx House & Shondaland Adelante Directors Fellowship** **2023**
The Adelante Directors Fellowship supports the selected directors' professional development and creates a pipeline to support independent filmmakers as they level up in their careers and learn more about directing on a series. The program includes the opportunity to shadow a Netflix episode of a series, a grant to support the artist for the duration of a four-week period while shadowing, a two-day orientation with masterclasses, and bespoke support from The Latinx House.
- **Gotham Documentary Lab Fellowship** **2020**
1 out of 26 projects selected to participate in the IFP Filmmaker Labs support first-time feature filmmakers through the completion, marketing, and distribution of their debut features, providing support from IFP Staff and mentorship from leading industry members and filmmakers.
- **Sundance Documentary Development Fellowship** **2018-2019**
Sundance awarded my first feature doc, Julian, with a \$30K grant and yearlong mentorship support. The project was 1 out of 2 projects chosen for this prestigious fellowship.
- **Berlinale Talents Documentary Fellowship** **2018**
Berlinale Talents brings 250 selected talents from all over the world (writers, directors, producers, cinematographers, actors, editors, production designers, composers, sound designers, sales agents and distributors, and film critics) together with professionals from the international film industry during the Berlin International Film Festival.
- **Firelight Media Impact Producer Fellowship** **2017**
Firelight Media's Impact Producer Fellowship, which launched in February 2017, is the first-ever training program dedicated to mentoring and training impact producers of color in the documentary industry.
- **Trans Atlantic Talent Lab Fellow** **2013**
Selected out of a competitive pool of international filmmakers to participate in this week-long Talent Lab as a directing fellow. Pitched a feature length project to producers and attended various seminars, workshops and industry meetings.
- **Film Independent Project Involve Fellow** **2013**
Selected to be one of the thirty filmmakers as part of Film Independent's signature diversity program dedicated to cultivating the careers of filmmakers from communities traditionally underrepresented in the industry. This competitive program selects filmmakers from diverse backgrounds and filmmaking tracks.

FILM FESTIVAL JURIES/CONSULTATIONS

- Reviewer for the 2023 Chicken & Egg Pictures (Egg)celerator Lab program
- Served on the 2023 SXSW Jury for Texas Shorts
- Served on the 2022 Monterey International Film Festival Jury to decide the best Mexican feature film in competition
- Served on 2018 SXSW Film Festival panel, *Whose Story? Exploring Filmmaker/Subject Relationships*
- Served on the 2016-2017 Sundance Feature Film Program's Alumni Diversity Outreach Committee
- Served as a jury member for the 2017 Cine Las Americas Short Documentary Competition, the 2016 San Diego Latino Film Festival Documentary Competition, and the 2015 Milwaukee Brico Film Fund

