

MIGUEL ALVAREZ

DIRECTOR

mig@migalvarez.com
www.migalvarez.com

EDUCATION

M.F.A., Film Production, University of Texas at Austin, Dept. of Radio-Television-Film, 2009
Bachelor of Science, Mechanical Engineering, University of Texas at Austin, Dept. of Mechanical Engineering, 1997

TEACHING & UNIVERSITY EXPERIENCE

Production Area Head, University of Texas at Austin, Dept. of Radio-Television-Film, Fall 2021 – Summer 2022, Fall 2023 - present

- Set departmental direction for undergraduate and graduate curriculum
- Manage faculty
- Hire new non-tenure instructors
- Liaison with Department Chair
- Manage Production/Screenwriting budget
- Liaison with College to set equipment and facilities policies

Assistant Professor, University of Texas at Austin, Dept. of Radio-Television-Film, Fall 2022 - Present
Courses: Graduate Pre-Thesis Film Production, Graduate Principles of Film and Television Production, Advanced Narrative Production, Directing Workshop, Narrative Production

- Serving on six Graduate Thesis committees currently

Assistant Professor of Practice, University of Texas at Austin, Dept. of Radio-Television-Film, Fall 2021 – Spring 2022

Courses: Graduate Pre-Thesis Film Production, Advanced Narrative Production, Directing Workshop, Introduction to Narrative Production

Lecturer, University of Texas at Austin, Dept. of Radio-Television-Film, Fall 2010 – Spring 2012, Fall 2015 – Spring 2021

Courses: Graduate Pre-Thesis Film Production, Advanced Narrative Production, Directing Workshop, Introduction to Narrative Production

Lecturer, Texas State University, Dept. of Theatre & Dance, Fall 2017

Courses: Advanced Directing

Teaching Assistant, University of Texas at Austin, Dept. of Radio-Television-Film, Fall 2005 – Fall 2009

Courses: Experimental Film Foundations, Intro to Image and Sound, Radio Fundamentals, Advanced Narrative Production, Introduction to Narrative Production, Directing Workshop, Undergraduate Film Production Thesis, Graduate Audio for Picture, Advanced Directing

Workshops, Speaking Events, Presentations, and Guest Lectures

- *Off the Shelf*, film script reading, 2024
- *The Return*, film script reading, Austin Film Festival, 2024
- *Representation in Film & Media*, panel discussion, Heman Sweatt Symposium, 2024
- *KID*, film screening, Luck presents Look West film screening, 2024
- *Vecinos*, film screening moderator, 2024
- *Chicano Stories*, film screening at FILUNI University Book Festival, Summer 2023
- *Horton Foote: The Road to Home*, film screening and discussion, Fall 2022
- *Script Analysis*, virtual class lecture, Karachi University, Fall 2022
- *Personal Stories*, film screenings and discussion, National College of the Arts, Lahore, Pakistan, UT-NCA Exchange program, Fall 2019
- *First Thursday*, Houston Film Commission, Houston, Texas, Fall 2019

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- *Director's Workshop*, Cinefestival & The Guadalupe Cultural Arts Center, San Antonio, Texas, Summer 2018
- *Young Filmmakers Lab*, Aspen Film Festival Educates, Aspen, Colorado, Spring 2018
- *Production & Post Production*, Austin Film Festival Roundtable, Winter 2018
- *Directing Workshop*, Southwest Alternative Media Project, Houston, Texas, Summer 2016
- *First Thursday*, Houston Film Commission, Houston, Texas, Spring 2016
- *Short Films*, The Big Read, Austin, Texas, Fall 2010
- *The German and The Mexican Tour*, Portland, Oregon, Los Angeles, California, San Francisco, California, Albuquerque, New Mexico, Summer 2007

AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS

- Houston in Action's **#HTownVotes** Artists & Cultural Workers grant recipient, 2020
- Lone Star Emmy, 2018
- Austin Film Society General Grant 2018
- Austin Film Society Collaborator Grant 2016
- Kodak + Kickstarter Filmmaker Award 2016
- Cinefestival/Sundance Latino Writers Lab Fellow 2013
- National Association of Latino Arts and Culture Fellowship 2010
- Directors Guild of America Student Award 2008
- National Hispanic Foundation for the Arts Scholarship 2006, 2007, 2008
- Panavision Emerging Filmmaker Award 2007
- Warren E. Skaaren Scholarship from the University of Texas at Austin, 2006
- Robert Rodriguez and Elizabeth Avéllan Scholarship from the University of Texas at Austin, 2005

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Director, Austin, Texas; Summer 2004 – present (selected works)

- **VERIZON INNOVATIVE LEARNING LAB** (director) commissioned web series
Short documentary profiles on schools in under-represented communities that have implemented technology labs for their students.
- **VERIZON SMALL BUSINESS DIGITAL READY PROGRAM** (director) commissioned web series
Short documentary profiles on entrepreneurs from under-represented communities that have utilized Verizon's online small business training program.
- **PEOPLE'S COMMUNITY CLINIC ANTICIPATORY GUIDANCE** (director, producer) commissioned animation
A multi-part, short, bilingual animated series that provides guidance to parents on health and well-being for their children.
- **VOTO 2020** (director, producer) documentary web series
A multi-part short documentary web series looking at issues affecting Latino communities before the 2020 election.
- **THE GIANT STILL SLEEPS** (director) short documentary.
Oscar del Toro is a former Mexican national turned American citizen who ran for city council in Pasadena, Texas after the districts were gerrymandered. Now he's on a crusade to get Latinos out to vote. For the Washington Post and PBS.
- **A SECOND CHANCE** (director) short documentary.
In Ft. Worth, Texas a judge has created a unique specialty court – the Veterans Court. Tasked with providing returning vets suffering from PTSD with mental health support, the Court also keeps them off the streets and out of jail. For the Mental Health Channel.
- **BRIGHT FUTURES** (director) short documentary.
A portrait of a remarkable mother from Mexico and her two daughters whose lives have been impacted by the Momentous Institute, an elementary school that teaches social-emotional learning. For the Mental Health Channel.

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Producer, Austin, Texas; Spring 2011 – present

- Cinematographer, **SHAKING IT UP: THE LIFE AND TIMES OF LIZ CARPENTER**, feature documentary
- Producer, **HORTON FOOTE: THE ROAD TO HOME**, feature documentary
- Executive Producer on 119 episodes of the PBS television show, *On Story*.

FILMOGRAPHY

TE QUIERO MAMI (writer/director) short documentary.

A portrait of the last summer between a first-generation teenager and her mother before she leaves for college.

Screenings & Awards

- FILUNI Book Festival, Mexico City

ATLANTIC CITY (writer/director) 16mm short narrative.

Two South Texas drifters come at odds when one wants to leave to look for his estranged mother in Atlantic City. A look at the idea of family through the eyes of two friends as close as brothers.

Screenings & Awards

- Premio Mesquite Award, Cinefestival Film Festival, San Antonio, Texas
- Best Narrative Short, Lighthouse International Film Festival, New Jersey
- Aspen Shortsfest, Aspen, Colorado
- PBS Online Film Festival
- IndieGrits Film Festival, Columbus, South Carolina
- Busan Short International Film Festival, Busan, South Korea
- Nantucket Film Festival, Nantucket, Massachusetts
- Houston Latino Film Festival, Houston, Texas
- Brooklyn Film Festival, Brooklyn, New York
- Indie Street Film Festival, Red Hook, New York
- Austin Film Festival, Austin, Texas
- DUMBO Film Festival, Brooklyn, New York
- Supported by Austin Film Society Grant
- Supported by Kodak + Kickstarter Filmmaker Award

SLACKER 2011 (director) 16mm/pixelvision short segment.

A re-imagining of Richard Linklater's *SLACKER* by twenty-six filmmakers. This particular segment was presented in Spanish, sans subtitles, to highlight the cultural diversity of Austin.

Screenings & Awards

- SXSW Film Festival, Austin, Texas
- Glasgow Film Festival, Glasgow, Scotland
- Lone Star International Film Festival, Ft. Worth, Texas
- Dallas Video Fest, Dallas, Texas
- Mar del Plata Film Festival, Mar del Plata, Argentina
- Loft Film Festival, Tucson, Arizona

MNEMOSYNE RISING (writer/director) 35mm short narrative.

A deep-space transmitter pilot begins to experience unusual flashbacks on his ship when he learns he's being sent back to Earth. A meditation on loss and regret in a science fiction setting that allowed me to explore different visual and narrative techniques than my previous films. Picked up by Dust Sci-fi platform and has amassed over 164,000 views on YouTube.

"...a mini feature... its look is ambitious, its truth sublime." – Austin Chronicle

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Screenings & Awards

- Narrative Short Honorable Mention, Cine Las Americas Film Festival, Austin, Texas
- Best Science Fiction Short Film, Dragon*Con International Film Festival, Atlanta, Georgia
- St. Petersburg Film Festival, St. Petersburg, Russia
- Gwacheon International Science Fiction Film Festival, Gwacheon, South Korea
- SXSW Film Festival, Austin, Texas
- Texas Filmmakers Showcase, Los Angeles, California
- CineSol Film Festival, South Padre Island, Texas
- Comicpalooza, Houston, Texas
- New England Festival of Ibero-American Cinema, Connecticut
- Dallas Video Fest, Dallas, Texas
- Lone Star International Film Festival, Ft. Worth, Texas
- Montreal International Black Film Festival, Montreal, Quebec, Canada
- New York International Latino Film Festival, New York, New York
- Rose Marine Latino Film Festival, Ft. Worth, Texas
- Supported by Texas Filmmakers Production Fund Award

KID (writer/director) 16mm short narrative.

A coming-of-age ritual defines the relationship between a thirteen-year-old boy and his estranged father. The film is an exploration of the cultural significance of an animal killing in the context of Latino rites-of-passage. I was interested in examining how exactly does a boy become a man in traditional Latino culture.

"A simple, yet beautiful film." – Bill Paxton

Screenings & Awards

- Directors' Guild of America Student Award
- Special Mention Award, Tirana International Film Festival, Tirana, Albania
- Limelight Award, Ojai Film Festival, Ojai, California
- Cine Las Americas Film Festival, Austin, Texas
- SXSW Film Festival, Austin, Texas
- Tribeca Film Festival, New York, New York
- New York International Latino Film Festival, New York, New York
- CineSol Film Festival, South Padre Island, Texas
- Cape May New Jersey State Film Festival, Cape May, New Jersey

SERVICE

Professional and Community Service

- Writing Mentor, Austin Film Festival Ghost Ranch Writers' Retreat, 2024
- Short Narrative Juror, Oak Cliff Film Festival, 2024
- University of Michigan Hopwood Screenplay Award judge, 2023
- Houston Arts Alliance Visual Arts Grant Panel, 2022
- Board Member, Austin Film Festival, 2013 - present
- Filmmaker Advisory Board Member, Austin Film Society, 2017
- Juror, USArtists Grant, 2011
- Juror, Cinefestival Film Festival, 2017 & 2019
- Juror, Cine Las Americas Film Festival
- Juror, SXSW Film Festival
- Juror, Austin Film Festival, 2018-2019
- Screener, Austin Film Society Grant, 2019
- Panelist, SXSW Film Festival
- Moderator, Austin Film Society Shorts-in-Progress, 2017
- Moderator, Austin Film Festival Conference panels, 2019

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University Service

- Affiliate of the Center for Mexican American Studies
- Voces Scholars Council
- Sports Broadcasting and Production Faculty Search Committee
- Production Area Head, Dept. of Radio-TV-Film
- Graduate Advisor, MFA programs, Dept. of Radio-TV-Film
- RTF Undergraduate Review Panel
- Diversity and Equity Committee
- Latino Media Arts & Studies Affiliate Faculty member
- Latino Media Arts & Studies Awards judge
- Gone To Texas 2020 freshman video judge

Graduate Thesis Committees

- Arturo Jiménez, MFA Film Production, Completed Summer 2020
- Chris Foito, MFA Film Production, Completed Summer 2021
- Matt Lennon, MFA Film Production, Completed Summer 2021
- Carlos Estrada, MFA Film Production, Completed Fall 2021
- Andrew Neylon, MFA Film Production, Completed Summer 2022
- Kathryn Van Buren, MFA Film Production, Expected Completion Fall 2022
- Sebastián Valdivieso, MFA Film Production, Expected Completion Fall 2022
- Veronica Maciel Acevedo, MFA Film Production, Expected Completion Spring 2023
- Camille Morales Zayas, MFA Film Production, Expected Completion Spring 2023
- Tania Cattebeke Laconich, Expected Completion Summer 2023
- Hang Nguyen, Expected Completion Summer 2023
- Mauricio Hernandez Serran, Expected Completion Summer 2024
- Fatima Wardy, Expected Completion Summer 2024
- Eva Chaitman, Expected Completion Summer 2024
- Liza Velasco, Expected Completion Summer 2025
- Matthew DeLeon, Expected Completion Summer 2025
- MJ Kiego, Expected Completion Summer 2025

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- NCFDD Faculty Success Program
- Sundance/Cinefestival Latino Screenwriters Lab
- NALIP Screenwriters Lab
- Member, Austin Film Society
- Member, National Association of Latino Independent Producers
- Member, National Association of Latino Arts and Culture
- Member, International Documentary Association