

Documentary Directing Experience

GOD SAVE TEXAS

March 2022 - Present

One-hour TV documentary for HBO, English/Spanish, Series Executive Producer: Alex Gibney

Director

Logline: Mexican American filmmaker Iliana Sosa explores how *nepantla*, meaning 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

December 2017 - September 2022

Feature, English/Spanish

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, awarded two jury prizes: the Louis Black Award + the Fandor New Voices Award
- Acquired by Ava Du Vernay's Array, Netflix released September 30, 2022
- Gotham Award Nominee for Best Documentary Feature 2022
- Has screened in dozens of film festivals nationally and internationally including Full Frame, Camden, Guanajuato.
- Full list: <https://whatweleavebehindfilm.com/>
- NY Times Critics Pick September 2022
- 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
- Winner of the Filmflow Award at 2020 IFP Week
- Participated in 2020 IFP Week and 2020 The Gotham Documentary Lab
- Selected to participate in the Ji.hlava New Visions Forum 2021, the Czech Republic

AN UNCERTAIN FUTURE

March 2017 - June 2017

Short, English/Spanish

Co-Director, with Chelsea Hernandez

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 Shorts Fest

Documentary Impact Producing

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.)
- Managed 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

June 2017 - March 2019

Co-Producer and Impact Producer

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.

- Devised initial impact strategy
- Coordinated travel, shoots, organized an impact strategy session at the Ford Foundation offices in NYC
- Outreach to potential partner organizations and provided logistical aid for production and post-production
- Provided logistical support for the film's World Premiere at the 2019 SXSW Film Festival

DOLORES
Feature, Dir: Peter Bratt

June 2017 - November 2017

Grassroots Impact Coordinator for Theatrical Release led by PBS

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
- Arranged theater talkbacks conversations
- Secured group sales from local organizations
- Set up promotions/ticket giveaways on a national scale

Narrative Fiction Experience

2007 - Present

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

UNTITLED TX LATINA PROJECT
Feature, Various Directors

2018 - Present

Creator, Co-Director and Co-Producer

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 one of 22 narrative fiction projects at the 2022 The Gotham Project

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
- 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 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 Internationale Filmschule Köln (IFS Film School) to write and direct a short inspired by Billy Wilder's *People on Sunday*. Filmed on location in Cologne, Germany.

Education

Assistant Professor Tenure Track Radio, Film and TV Department at the University of Texas at Austin	September 2020 - Present
Lecturer Communication Department at the University of Texas at El Paso	September 2019 - May 2020
MFA in Film Production/Directing University of California at Los Angeles - GPA: 3.9	June 2011
B.A. Latin American Studies/French Minor Southwestern University - Magna Cum Laude	May 2007
Universidad de Buenos Aires Film Criticism and Theory, Documentary Production	June 2006

Awards/Affiliations

2022 UCLA Distinguished Alumni Award	2022
SXSW Louis Black Award + Fandor New Voices Award for What We Leave Behind	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
Eddie 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

The Gotham Documentary Feature Lab Fellowship

2020

Mine was chosen as one of 26 projects selected to participate in the IFP Filmmaker Labs (renamed The Gotham Documentary Feature Lab Fellowship) supporting 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*, which became *What We Leave Behind*, with a \$30K grant and yearlong mentorship support. The project was one out of two 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 groundbreaking 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

- Served on the 2022 Monterey International Film Festival Jury to decide the best Mexican feature film in competition
- Served as a judge for the 2020 IDA Awards Best Short Documentary category
- Served on 2018 SXSW Film Festival panel, *Whose Story? Exploring Filmmaker/Subject Relationships*
- Served on the 2016-2017 Sundance Institute's Fiction 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