

# Miguel Alvarez

## **Education:**

**The University of Texas at Austin**, Sept 2004 – Dec 2009

- MFA Film Production, Department of Radio, TV, and Film

**The University of Texas at Austin**, Sept 1992 – May 1997

- Bachelor of Science, Mechanical Engineering

## **Professional Experience:**

**Director**, Austin, Texas; June 2004 – present

Director of several short films and documentaries.

**Lecturer**, University of Texas at Austin, Austin, Texas; 2010-2012; 2015 – present

Facilitate and teach undergraduate courses on Introduction to 16mm narrative/visual filmmaking, Directing Actors, and Advanced Narrative Production.

**Producer**, Austin, Texas; March 2011 – present

Producer of the television show, *On Story*.

**Camera Operator**, Austin, Texas; June 2006 – present

Camera operator for several documentaries, live music performances, reality television series, industrials, and commercials.

**Media Educator**, Austin, Texas; Sept 2005 – Sept 2010

Facilitate and teach filmmaking workshops for elementary through high school age children for the Austin Film Festival, Cine Las Americas Film Festival, and the University of Texas at Austin.

**Teaching Assistant**, University of Texas, Austin, Texas; Aug 2005 – Dec 2008

Courses taught include undergraduate level narrative and experimental film production, 16mm film production & editing, audio production & editing, and video editing.

## **Technical Skills:**

- Experienced with multiple film and video formats, including 35mm, 16mm and Super 8mm film, HD & HDV, miniDV, Beta, DigiBeta, DVCam, Hi-8 and VHS video.
- Capable of using any of the above in service of narrative, documentary, animation, and other project types.
- Familiar with both using and teaching Final Cut Pro and Adobe Premiere, a digital nonlinear editing platform.

## **Awards, Fellowships, Grants:**

- **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 in 2006.
- **Robert Rodriguez and Elizabeth Avéllan Scholarship** from the University of Texas at Austin in 2005.

### **Film and Video Projects:**

**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.

**THE SLEEPING GIANT** (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.

**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.

- Narrative Short Honorable Mention – Cine Las Americas Film Festival
- Texas Filmmakers Production Fund Grant
- Best Science Fiction Short Film – Dragon\*Con International Film Festival

**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.

- Directors' Guild of America Student Award
- Special Mention Award – Tirana International Film Festival
- Limelight Award – Ojai Film Festival

**VETERANS** (writer/director) Super 8mm short documentary.

Tales of my grandfather as told by my father. A documentary portrait of my father and grandfather, based on the stories my father told me as a child. It is the story of two men whose lives are ultimately defined by the wars they've waged both abroad and within themselves.

- Texas Filmmakers Production Fund Grant

**TADPOLES** (writer/director) 16mm short narrative.

A young boy's curiosity leads him to discover a mysterious pit hidden within the woods – bringing him face to face with the terrible realities of war. An allegorical reaction to human rights abuses that have become all too common in today's geopolitical landscape.

- Best Graduate Student Film – Hamptons International Film Festival