



CINE LAS
AMERICAS

INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

28°

13-17, MAYO 2026
AUSTIN, TEJAS
CINELASAMERICAS.ORG



ABOUT

Cine Las Americas is a multicultural nonprofit based in Austin, Texas, dedicated to uplifting the voices and visions of Latine/x and Indigenous filmmakers. Through our annual film festival, youth education programs, and year-round events, we create a cinematic experience that spans the Americas and beyond — building community, fostering collaboration, and ensuring that diverse stories are celebrated locally, nationally, and internationally.



ACERCA



Cine Las Americas es una organización sin fines de lucro multicultural con sede en Austin, Texas, dedicada a elevar las voces y visiones de los cineastas latine/x e indígenas. A través de nuestro festival de cine anual, programas de educación juvenil y eventos durante todo el año, creamos una experiencia cinematográfica que abarca las Américas y más allá — construyendo comunidad, fomentando la colaboración y asegurando que las historias diversas sean celebrados y reconocidos a nivel local, nacional e internacional.



A LETTER FROM CINE LAS AMERICAS

Welcome to the 28th Annual Cine Las Americas International Film Festival!

For nearly three decades, this festival has brought communities together through stories that inspire, challenge, and connect us across borders, generations, and cultures. We are proud to celebrate Latine/x and Indigenous filmmakers whose work reflects the richness, resilience, creativity, and complexity of our communities and their lasting contributions to this country and beyond.



Over the next five days, immerse yourself in Cine Las Americas through an exciting lineup of films, conversations, and celebrations. Representing nearly 25 countries, these stories are meant to entertain, engage and move audiences. The festival creates space for artists and audiences to come together in community and experience stories that deserve to be seen and shared.

We always are honored when filmmakers join us. This year, we are especially excited to welcome acclaimed actor and filmmaker Lou Diamond Phillips, alongside Emmy Award-winning actor and writer Sonia Manzano, beloved to many as Maria from Sesame Street. We are also proud to open the festival with American Pachuco: The Legend of Luis Valdez, honoring the groundbreaking legacy of playwright, director, and cultural icon Luis Valdez. These moments remind us that storytelling shapes identity, preserves history, and strengthens our sense of belonging.

Cine Las Americas has always been more than a film festival. It is a gathering place for artists, students, families, activists, and film lovers. Whether this is your first festival or your twenty-eighth, thank you for being part of our community. And to our filmmakers, volunteers, sponsors, partners, members, and audiences: thank you for making this festival possible year after year.



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INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL



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NARRATIVE FEATURE JURY



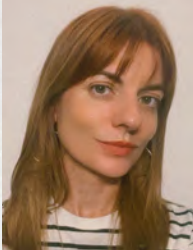
Rodrigo Alvarez Flores is a Mexican border-based filmmaker whose short films include *Al otro lado* (2016), winner of the Honorable Jury Prize at Outfest LA, and *Al final de la noche* (2019), presented at the Huesca International Film Festival. His debut feature *Soy lo que nunca fui* (*Broken Borders*) has screened at over 20 festivals, earning awards at the Guanajuato International Film Festival, *Hola México* Los Angeles Film Festival, and *Cine Las Americas*. He is currently preparing *Rancheros* as his second feature.



Angela Chen is a Texas-born filmmaker known for emotionally resonant storytelling and visually captivating style. Her narrative feature received the Russo Brothers' AGBO and AFI Development Grant and was a finalist for Tribeca Film Institute's Untold Stories. Her films have screened at over 100 festivals, with premieres at SXSW, Tribeca, and the Austin Film Festival. She has directed commercial projects for Sony Pictures, Google, Audi, and Kia, amassing over 15 million views. An AFI Conservatory MFA graduate, she also studied Film and Television at UT Austin.



DOCUMENTARY FEATURE JURY



Luz Orlando Brennan is an Argentine film and theater director, screenwriter, and producer trained at ENERC and the University of Buenos Aires. Her debut feature *La estrella que perdí* (2024) won Best Narrative Feature at *Cine Las Américas* and Best Director at the Chelsea Film Festival, and has screened at prestigious festivals including the Berlinale, San Sebastián, AFI, and BFI London. As a screenwriter, she has collaborated with directors Natalia Meta, Bárbara Cerro, and Diego Fried.



Mario Troncoso is an Emmy Award-winning filmmaker, creative entrepreneur, and founder of Doculab. With over 18 years of experience across advertising, documentary, and fiction, his work explores the intersections of art, culture, and community. He has contributed to *Billboard*, *The Hollywood Reporter*, *Rolling Stone*, *TIME*, *NPR*, and *PBS*. His latest project, *City of Songs*, follows musician and actor Stephanie Hunt on a global journey uncovering the sounds and stories that define iconic cities including Mexico City, Tokyo, and Barcelona.

SHORTS JURY



Val Florez is a Colombian-American film and television professional and writer based in Los Angeles. She graduated from the University of Texas at Austin in 2019, earned a Producing Certificate from UCLA Extension, and participated in the California Film Commission Accounting Training Program. She currently works in production accounting, with experience on projects for Lucasfilm, Warner Bros., Apple TV+, and Amazon MGM Studios. She enjoys attending and supporting film festivals that showcase Latinx stories and filmmakers.



Steve (Esteban) Mines is an Austin-based translator, interpreter, and UT Austin-trained lawyer whose lifelong connection to cinema has shaped how he understands language, culture, and storytelling. Raised in Argentina, he developed a deep appreciation for film long before streaming existed. He has attended festivals including Toronto, Cannes, SXSW, and the Austin Film Festival, and has been a Cine Las Americas devotee from its earliest days, where it bridges his Texas roots with the sounds and stories of the South.



HECHO EN TEJAS JURY



Minerva Villa (she/her/ella) is a dynamic theatre director, performer, and photographer committed to inclusivity, diversity, and the transformative power of collaborative storytelling. With a B.F.A. in Acting from Texas Tech University and an M.Ed. in Education from the University of Illinois, she brings a rich artistic and educational background to her work. She is also the owner of Lens of Athena Photography, a studio dedicated to creating an inclusive space where every client feels valued, seen, and celebrated.



Jenny De La Fuente is a Mexican-born, Meisner-trained filmmaker, actor, and producer based in Austin, Texas. She studied Theatre at UT Austin and co-owns Pink Mud Productions, dedicated to raw, human-centered storytelling. As an actor, she appeared in the political drama *Unknown Enemy* on Amazon Prime Mexico. She wrote, starred in, and produced the award-winning short *Somewhere You Feel Free*, part of the 2025 Hecho en Tejas selection. Jenny is deeply committed to community-building and supporting the independent filmmaking community in Texas.

VIDEOS MUSICALES JURY



Gina Chavez (she/they) is a Latin Grammy nominee, internationally acclaimed recording artist, wife and philanthropist. Born in Austin, she is a 16-time Austin Music Award winner. Gina's first all-Spanish language album, *La Que Manda*, was nominated for a 2020 Latin Grammy in Best Pop/Rock, making them the third Latine born in the continental U.S. to ever be nominated in history of the category (and the first queer Texan). Gina's NPR Tiny Desk concert has more than 1.3 million views and she is featured on Brené Brown's hit podcast, *Unlocking Us*, for which she co-wrote the theme music. Gina tours internationally as a cultural ambassador with the U.S. State Department and runs *Niñas Arriba* a college fund Gina and their wife founded for young women in gang-dominated El Salvador.

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FEATURE SHOWCASE

CINE LAS AMERICAS PRESENTS A CAREFULLY CURATED SELECTION OF NARRATIVE AND DOCUMENTARY FEATURES CHOSEN BY OUR PROGRAMMERS TO REFLECT THE FULL BREADTH OF LATINE/X AND INDIGENOUS CINEMA TODAY. THIS YEAR'S LINEUP SPANS 11 COUNTRIES, WEAVING TOGETHER STORIES OF RESISTANCE, RESILIENCE, IDENTITY, AND ARTISTRY. TOGETHER, THESE FILMS AFFIRM WHAT HAS ALWAYS BEEN AT THE HEART OF CINE LAS AMERICAS: THAT OUR STORIES, IN ALL THEIR COMPLEXITY AND BEAUTY, DESERVE TO BE SEEN.



**OPENING
NIGHT**

AMERICAN PACHUCO

THE LEGEND OF LUIS VALDEZ

Austin Premiere

A film by: David Alvarado

United States 2026

Documentary,
Arts, Social Justice,
Biography

Languages: English,
Spanish

Subtitles: English

Duration: 92 min

Venue: AFS Cinema

Day: May 13th

Time: 7:00 PM

Content Warning:

This film includes archival footage of Cesar Chavez to provide historical context about the farmworker movement and the cultural moment that shaped Valdez's work. We acknowledge the allegations of sexual misconduct against Chavez.

Synopsis

From migrant farmworker to revolutionary artist, Luis Valdez changed American culture. His production *Zoot Suit* was the first Chicano play on Broadway. Despite critical rejection that killed the show, he persevered, creating *La Bamba*, a breakout blockbuster that authentically depicted Mexican-American life to the world. 60 years later, *El Teatro* continues to be a beacon for Latino/a creators. This is the story of an artist who gave voice to the overlooked and opened pathways for generations.

Director Bio

David Alvarado

is a Chicano documentary filmmaker and Stanford MFA graduate focused on science, technology, and human rights. Co-founder of Structure Films and a 2022 DOC NYC/HBO 40 Under 40 honoree. His films include *American Pachuco* (2026), *We Are As Gods* (2022, adapted as an Audible Originals podcast), *Bill Nye: Science Guy* (2017, Netflix), *True Conviction* (2017, PBS), and *The Immortalists* (2014, BFI-nominated, Netflix).

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VERSAILLES

VERSAILLES

Austin Premiere

A film by: Andrés Clariond

México 2025

Drama, Politics, Class, Satire

Languages: Spanish

Subtitles: English

Duration: 180 min

Venue: AFS Cinema

Day: May 17th

Time: 7:00 PM

Synopsis

When a young Mexican politician loses his presidential bid, he retreats with his wife to their countryside estate. There, their lust for power festers, and they reinvent themselves as monarchs; ruling over their employees with cruelty, delusion, and decadence.

Director Bio

Andrés Clariond

was born in Monterrey in 1977. He trained at Columbia University's MFA program and holds a law degree from UDEM. He has directed award-winning films including *Hilda* and *Territorio*, both acquired by HBO Max, Netflix, and Amazon Prime. He co-directed *Camino a Roma*, the Netflix documentary on Alfonso Cuarón's *Roma*, and is a columnist for *Grupo Reforma*.





CASAS MUERTAS

US Premiere

A film by:
Rosana Matecki
Venezuela, Ecuador,
Canada, Germany
2025

Documentary, Politics,
Female-Directed

Languages: Spanish

Subtitles: English

Duration: 83 min

Venue: Violet Crown

Day: May 14th

Time: 10:00 PM

Synopsis

Three generations of Venezuelans exiled inside their own country-trapped and submerged at the whim of the barbarians who govern it. Isabel, Jesús, Darwin and Juan Pablo's parents survive by resisting, desperate and cornered between flight, hunger for justice, and resilience.

Director Bio

Rosana Matcki

is a Venezuelan-Canadian documentary writer, director and producer with 30+ years of experience. Her award-winning work explores experimental forms across Latin America and Canada. Her recent work includes the short *Saturday Night* (NFB), and her fourth feature, *Casas Muertas*, premiered at Hot Docs 2025. Founder of Kiiskakuna Producciones, she has produced over a dozen films screened at leading festivals and markets.





HIEDRA

THE IVY

Southwest Premiere

A film by:

**Ana Cristina
Barragán**

**Ecuador, Mexico,
France, Spain 2025**

**Drama, Coming-of-
Age, Female-Directed**

Languages: Spanish

Subtitles: English

Duration: 99 min

Venue: AFS Cinema

Day: May 15th

Time: 2:00 PM

Synopsis

Azucena, a woman in her thirties, approaches Julio, a teenage boy living in a group home, for reasons he doesn't understand. As they spend time together, an uneasy closeness grows, changing the shape of a bond neither expected to find.

Director Bio

Ana Cristina Barragán (Quito, 1987) is a screenwriter and director. Her debut, *Alba* (2016), premiered at Rotterdam, won over 35 awards, and was Ecuador's Oscar submission. Her second feature, *The Octopus Skin* (2022), premiered at San Sebastián and received six Colibrí Awards. In 2025, she premiered *The Ivy* at Venice Orizzonti, winning the Best Screenplay award, and is developing new film, TV, and documentary projects.





KEEP QUIET

Austin Premiere

A film by:

Vincent Grashaw
United States 2025

Crime, Action,
Indigenous

Languages: English

Subtitles: Closed

Captions in English

Duration: 104 min

Venue: AFS Cinema

Day: May 16th

Time: 7:30 PM

Synopsis

A weathered tribal cop (Lou Diamond Phillips) and his new trainee (Dana Namerode) must find a ruthless fugitive, whose return to their rural Indigenous reservation has exposed its darkest secrets and could ignite a violent gang war. Featuring a predominantly Indigenous cast including Irene Bedard, Lane Factor, and Elisha Pratt.

Director Bio

Vincent Grashaw broke out producing *Bellflower*, a Sundance 2011 hit that earned several awards, including two Film Independent Spirit Award nominations. He wrote and directed his debut *Coldwater* (SXSW 2013), followed by *And Then I Go* (LA Film Festival 2017). His third feature, *What Josiah Saw* (Fantasia IFF 2021), holds a 91% Rotten Tomatoes rating. His fourth film, *Bang Bang*, premiered at the 2024 Tribeca Film Festival.



LA BAMBA: 35MM

Special Presentation

A film by:

Luis Valdez

United States 1987

Drama, Biography,
Arts

Languages:

English, Spanish

Subtitles: English

Duration: 108 min

Venue: ASF Cinemas

Day: May 16th

Time: 10:00 PM

Synopsis

Born in the fields of Pacoima and raised on dreams, Ritchie Valens rises from a young Chicano farmworker to a rock 'n' roll pioneer, the first to bring a Spanish-language song to mainstream American audiences. But as his star rises, tensions with his older brother Bob intensify, and a recurring nightmare of a plane crash looms over his first national tour. Luis Valdez's love letter to Chicano resilience, culture, and the cost of the American dream.

Director Bio

Luis Valdez, one of America's most influential playwrights and directors, founded El Teatro Campesino with Cesar Chavez and the United Farm Workers in 1965, wrote the first Chicano production on Broadway (*Zoot Suit*), and wrote and directed the breakout 1987 blockbuster *La Bamba*. His many honors include the Presidential Medal of the Arts and Mexico's prestigious *Aguila Azteca Award*.





OCA

Texas Premiere

A film by:

Karla Badillo

**Mexico, Argentina
2025**

Drama, Experimental,
Comedy, Spirituality,
Female-Directed

Languages: Spanish

Subtitles: English

Duration: 109 min

Venue: AFS Cinema

Day: May 14th

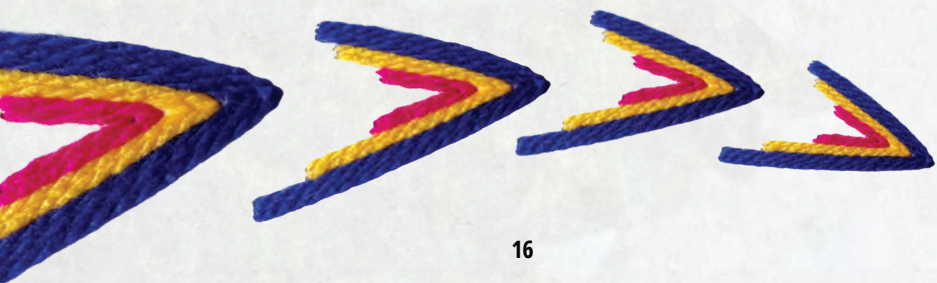
Time: 6:00 PM

Synopsis

Rafaela, a young nun in a precarious congregation, is haunted by a recurring dream. When she is sent to a nearby town in search of the new archbishop, she encounters people whose struggles with faith, wealth, and purpose mirror her own. Each meeting pulls her closer to — or further from — her path. A quiet, spiritual journey through a broken world in search of something sacred.

Director Bio

Karla Badillo is a director, producer, and screenwriter. She is the director of the short film *No Returns* (2019), an Official Selection in Competition at the Guadalajara International Film Festival FIGC (2019) and an Official Selection at the Dumbo Film Festival, NY (2019). As a producer, her films have premiered at Cannes and San Sebastian.





SOÑÉ SU NOMBRE

**Southwest
Premiere**

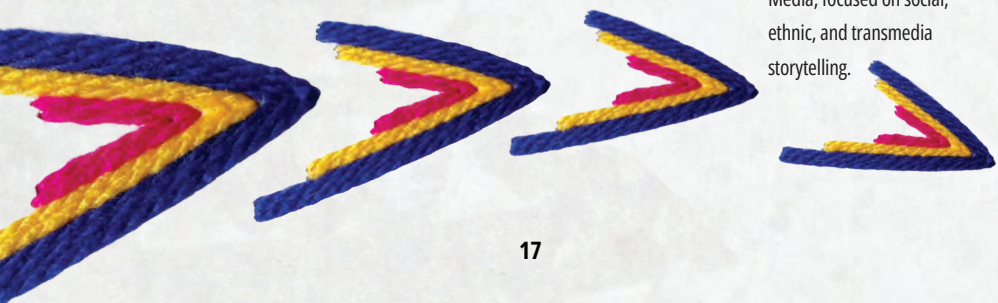
A film by:
Ángela Carabalí
Colombia 2026
Documentary,
Afro-Latinx,
Indigenous,
Spirituality,
Female-Directed
Languages: Spanish
Subtitles: English
Duration: 86 min
Venue: AFS Cinema
Day: May 15th
Time: 6:00 PM

Synopsis

Angela is confronted by her past when her father appears to her in a dream, asking her to find him. With her sister Juliana, she embarks on a trip across Colombia to the Indigenous lands where their father, a farmer of Afro-descent, became a victim of forced disappearance. The journey from Medellín to Caloto, in the challenging Cauca province, confronts the sisters with paradoxes of the land, family emotions, and the Indigenous spirituality that will connect Ángela with her father's activism.

Director Bio

Ángela Carabalí is an Afro-Colombian filmmaker with a master's degrees in Documentary Film and Documentary Photography. *I Dreamed His Name* is her first feature. She directed, wrote, and co-produced the acclaimed interactive documentary *Pregoneros de Medellín*. A fellow of Sundance Institute, Firelight Media, and SSP:LATAM, she co-founded Carabalí Films & New Media, focused on social, ethnic, and transmedia storytelling.





STREET SMART: LESSONS FROM A TV ICON

Austin Premiere
A film by:
Ernie Bustamante
United States 2025
Documentary, Arts,
Biography
Languages: English
Subtitles: Closed
Captions in English
Duration: 83 min
Venue: AFS Cinema
Day: May 14th
Time: 8:30 PM



Synopsis

STREET SMART: Lessons from a TV Icon tells the story of Sonia Manzano, known to millions as “Maria” from *Sesame Street*. From young girl in the South Bronx finding refuge in television, to becoming the first Latina on American TV in a regular role, the film explores Sonia’s 44 years on screen and now as the creator of Alma’s Way. Featuring interviews, original animation, and scripted scenes, this inspirational documentary invites viewers to learn once again from this beloved icon.

Director Bio

Ernie Bustamante is an Emmy-nominated TV writer turned indie filmmaker. He has written for multiple series, developed pilots for major studios, and created the award-winning satirical web series *Border Patrol*. *STREET SMART: Lessons from a TV Icon* is his debut feature documentary. Based in West Hollywood, Ernie serves as an Assistant Professor of Screenwriting at LMU, holds a BA from Stanford and an MFA from UCLA.





TRABAJO PARA CÉSAR

THE BLINDMAN

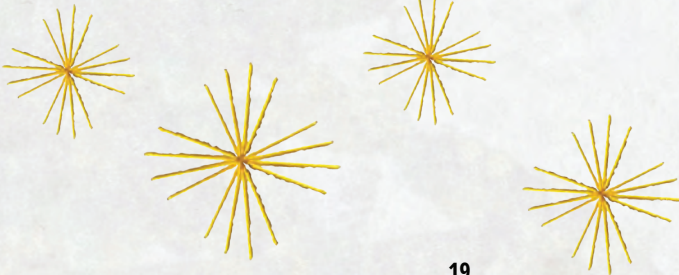
**Southwest
Premiere**
A film by:
Braian Brown
Argentina 2025
Crime, Drama, Action
Languages: Spanish
Subtitles: English
Duration: 60 min
Venue: Violet Crown
Day: May 15th
Time: 10:00 PM

Synopsis

It's hot, and the public hospital is the worst place to spend the afternoon. But El Ciego has a terrible headache, and it's been going on for a while. Discharged from the police force, he lives off his sister's charity. His friend Román offers him a way out: work for Cesar. With no time for doctors anymore, he spends his days in the neighborhoods of Buenos Aires taking care of his new boss's business. But this afternoon, his work ends up being a real headache.

Director Bio

Braian Brown was born in Capitán Sarmiento, Buenos Aires in 1986. He graduated with a degree in Film Directing in 2007. In 2008, he began working for the Argentine audiovisual industry. Since 2016, he has worked as an Assistant Director in Film and Advertising, and has over 20 fiction projects to his credit as a technician, including series and feature films. In 2025, his debut feature film, *Trabajo para César*, premiered at FICUBA and received a special mention at FESAALP.





UYARIY

LISTEN

Austin Premiere

A film by:

Javier Corcuera

Peru, Spain 2025

Activism, Documentary,
Indigenous

Languages: Aymara,
Spanish, Quechua

Subtitles: English

Duration: 90 min

Venue: AFS Cinema

Day: May 14th

Time: 1:30 PM

Synopsis

On January 9, 2023, Peruvian police opened fire on Indigenous Quechua and Aymara protesters in Juliaca, killing at least 18 civilians. *Uyariy* responds to this massacre through the music and song of Andean artists, taking us on a journey through the Puno region and its long history of repression and Indigenous uprising. Weaving in testimonies from victims' families, the film becomes a meditation on memory, identity, and justice.

Director Bio

Javier Corcuera is a Peruvian documentary filmmaker born in Lima in 1967. He studied film in Peru and graduated from Universidad Complutense de Madrid. His debut feature *La espalda del mundo* won the International Critics Prize at San Sebastián (2000). His Goya Award-winning *Invisibles* was produced by Javier Bardem. He is also the founder of FISahara, the International Sahara Film Festival, established in 2003.



NARRATIVE FEATURE COMPETITION

CINE LAS AMERICAS PRESENTS THREE FILMS COMPETING FOR THE FESTIVAL'S JURY AWARD AND AUDIENCE AWARD, SELECTED FROM A FIELD OF CONTEMPORARY WORKS MADE BY AND ABOUT LATINE/X AND INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE AMERICAS AND BEYOND. THIS YEAR'S COMPETITION REPRESENTS FOUR COUNTRIES, BRINGING TOGETHER STORIES OF LOYALTY, SURVIVAL, AND THE COMPLEX BONDS BETWEEN GENERATIONS, INTIMATE IN SCALE, URGENT IN FEELING, AND DEEPLY HUMAN IN THEIR TELLING.



CAPO

PERMIT

US Premiere

A film by:

Robert Kwilman
Poland, Colombia
2025

Drama, Labor,
Immigration, Crime
Languages: Polish,
Spanish

Subtitles: English

Duration: 83 min

Venue: AFS Cinema

Day: May 15th

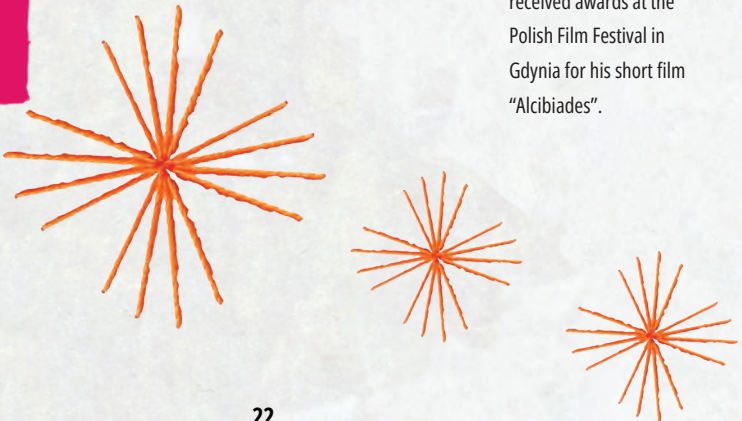
Time: 8:00 PM

Synopsis

Adrián works far from home, mediating between the company that employs him and the workers who trust him. He believes he can balance both worlds — until a workplace accident uncovers the quiet brutality beneath the surface. Adrián must decide where his loyalty truly lies. Featuring CLAIFF alum Alejandra Herrera.

Director Bio

Robert Kwilman is a director, screenwriter, and editor. He studied Film at Université Paris VII Denis Diderot, Philosophy at the University of Warsaw, and Directing at the Łódź Film School. He co-wrote U311 Cherkasy (Odessa IFF 2019), received awards at the Polish Film Festival in Gdynia for his short film "Alcibiades".





PUCALLPA LA EUROPEA

US Premiere

A film by:
Santi Zegarra
Peru 2025

Romance, LGBTQ+,
Sexuality, Spirituality
Languages: Spanish,
French

Subtitles: English
Duration: 106 min
Venue: AFS Cinema
Day: May 16th
Time: 2:30 PM

Content Warning:
Content Warning: This film contains nudity and depictions of sexual violence against trans women.

Synopsis

Elsa, a trans woman born in the Peruvian jungle, is deported from Paris to Lima after surviving prison, where she was enslaved by Sergio, whose obsession follows her even after release. Back home, she finds refuge with friends and meets Yena and Aymeric, a couple whose attraction to Elsa upends all three lives. As Sergio's threats close in, Elsa must choose between love, survival, and returning to Pucallpa to reclaim herself.

Director Bio

Santi Zegarra is a filmmaker based between Lima and Paris. His work blends personal exploration with a strong political and social consciousness. His films address urgent contemporary issues such as migration, sexual minorities, and the silenced voices of marginalized communities. He has directed two feature films, *Rebirths* (2018) and *Pucallpa* (2025), and is currently in post-production on his new documentary *The Unknown Hero*.





TRES TIEMPOS

THREE TIMES

US Premiere

A film by:
Marlene Grinberg
Argentina 2025

Drama, Arts,
Relationships,
Coming-of-Age,
Female-Directed
Languages: Spanish,
French

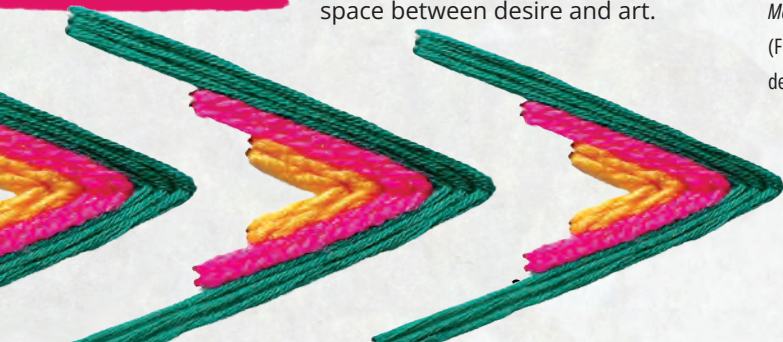
Subtitles: English
Duration: 98 min
Venue: AFS Cinema
Day: May 16th
Time: 5:00 PM

Synopsis

In the heart of Argentine Patagonia, Emma and her teenage granddaughter Alicia share a life built around dance — a bond as beautiful as it is controlling. The sudden arrival of Barbara, Alicia's mother, from a psychiatric facility disrupts their quiet world. As tensions, desires, and secrets surface among three generations of women, the film becomes a fairy tale of sorts — a reflection on motherhood, happiness, and the space between desire and art.

Director Bio

Marlene Grinberg is an Argentine director and screenwriter. She has been working in the film industry since 2012. She made the short films *Mi reina* (Montevideo Film Festival, Ventana Sur), *Hoy empieza otra vez* (Bafici, La mujer y el cine), and *Todas mis Lolás* (Marché du film, Primeiro Plano Brasil). She also co-directed the documentary *Me gusta cuando hablas* (Fidba). *Tres tiempos* is her debut feature film.





DOCUMENTARY FEATURE COMPETITION

CINE LAS AMERICAS PRESENTS THREE DOCUMENTARY FEATURES COMPETING FOR THE FESTIVAL'S JURY AWARD AND AUDIENCE AWARD, EACH BEARING WITNESS TO STRUGGLES FOR JUSTICE, HEALING, AND RECLAMATION.

THIS YEAR'S COMPETITION SPANS 3 COUNTRIES, BRINGING TOGETHER STORIES OF COMMUNITIES WHO REFUSE TO BE ERASED, WOMEN WHO TRANSFORM GRIEF INTO COLLECTIVE POWER, AND THE LONG, UNFINISHED WORK OF REPAIR ACROSS GENERATIONS.





COMPARSA

Texas Premiere

A film by:

**Vickie Curtis,
Doug Anderson**
Guatemala, United
States 2025

Documentary,
Social Justice, Arts,
Relationships

Languages: Spanish

Subtitles: English

Duration: 79 min

Venue: AFS Cinema

Day: May 17th

Time: 12:00 PM

Synopsis

In Ciudad Peronia, Guatemala, sisters Lesli and Lupe use art and performance to inspire local youth and heal deep wounds. After 41 girls are killed in a State-run “Safe Home” and the government refuses to act, they respond with a community comparsa — towering puppets, fire-breathing stilt walkers, and thundering drums. With brave vulnerability, they expose a system that permits violence against women while confronting their own survival. Their youth movement takes to the streets, reclaiming public space through joy and community care.

Director Bio

Vickie Curtis, Emmy-winning writer of Netflix Originals *The Social Dilemma* makes her directorial debut with *Comparsa*. Her work explores social and ecological crises, with writing credits on films for Sundance, Tribeca, Berlinale, and SXSW. Doug Anderson, New York-based founder of Paper Moth Media, creates politically engaged nonfiction. Sound and cinematography credits include *To The End*, *The Providers*, & *Predators*.





RETURN OF THE SACRED RED ROCK

Texas Premiere

A film by:
Jeremy Charles
United States 2025
Documentary,
Indigenous, Land,
Social Justice
Languages:
English, Kaw
Subtitles: Closed
Captions in English
Duration: 56 min
Venue: AFS Cinema
Day: May 17th
Time: 2:00 PM

Synopsis

After being separated from their sacred stone for nearly a century, the Kaw (Kanza) Nation reunites with In'zhújé waxóbe, a 28 ton quartzite boulder, marking a new era of accountability for the city of Lawrence, Kansas and healing for the Kaw people. This film documents the honorable cooperation between community and governmental stakeholders in Lawrence, Kansas and the Kaw people in rematriating In'zhújé waxóbe. The film follows the events leading up to and culmination of the Red Rock's relocation to Allegawaho Memorial Heritage Park in Council Grove, Kansas.

Director Bio

Santi Zegarra Jeremy Charles is a Cherokee filmmaker, writer, director, and founder of Pursuit Films, dedicated to Indigenous representation in cinema. He co-created *Osiyo, Voices of the Cherokee People*, earning 16 regional Emmys. His short *Totsu (Redbird)* won top honors at multiple festivals. He recently co-executive produced *The Girl Scout Murders* on FOX. His daughter Wren Talitama asked to be mentioned. She's the best!



VIDAS EN LA ORILLA

LIVES ON THE BORDER

Texas Premiere

A film by:

Lucía Gajá

Mexico 2025

Documentary, Social
Justice, Immigration,
Female-Directed

Languages:

Spanish, English

Subtitles: English

Duration: 107 min

Venue: AFS Cinema

Day: May 16th

Time: 12:00 PM

Synopsis

Twenty years after *Mi vida dentro* (2007), filmmaker Lucía Gajá revisits Rosa Estela Olvera's story. *Vidas en la orilla* portrays the flaws of the criminal justice system in the United States and the tragic consequences of a wrongful conviction. Two interconnected narratives revealed what *Rosa Estela Olvera (My life inside, 2007)* had to endure in prison for 18 years: a psychoemotional exploration of the loneliness of confinement; and the long and arduous legal battle to clear her name.

Director Bio

Lucía studied film at CUEC specializing in directing, and is a member of the Mexican film academy and AMPAS. Her films have been nominated 8 times for the AMACC Ariel award which she won after her first nomination in 2005. Her documentary *Mi vida dentro* received numerous awards, and was central in the release of Rosa Jimenez. *Batallas íntimas* (2017), her second feature film addresses domestic violence from 5 perspectives.





NARRATIVE SHORT COMPETITION

FROM THE JUNGLES OF GUATEMALA TO THE BORDERLANDS OF THE US SOUTHWEST, THIS YEAR'S NARRATIVE SHORTS COMPETITION GATHERS FICTION FILMMAKERS WHO PROVE THAT THE SHORT FORM IS ANYTHING BUT SMALL. THESE ARE COMPLETE WORLDS, TOLD WITH INTENTION AND PRECISION: LOVE, LOSS, RESISTANCE, AND THE EVERYDAY COURAGE OF ORDINARY PEOPLE.





LA ESTRELLA

Texas Premiere

A film by: Gabriela Díaz Arp

United States 2026

Drama, Community and
Wellness

Languages: English, Spanish

Subtitles: English

Duration: 22 min

Venue: AFS Cinema

Day: May 15th

Time: 4:00 PM

Synopsis A tender portrait of a tight-knit Mexican American family grappling with the entrance of fentanyl into their community.



ASTRONAUTA

Texas Premiere

A film by: Giorgio Giampà

Italy, Mexico, Guatemala,

France 2025

Drama, Relationships,
Environment

Languages: Spanish

Subtitles: English

Duration: 16 min

Venue: AFS Cinema

Day: May 15th

Time: 4:00 PM

Synopsis Audely, 39, works as a lumberjack in the Guatemalan jungle. At home, his daughter Carol, 11, dreams of entering that same forest. Audely thinks about it, then goes to the moon.



PRAZER, ESTELA MY PLEASURE, ESTELA

Texas Premiere

A film by: Mauro Baptistella

Brazil 2026

Drama, Thriller

Languages: Portuguese

Subtitles: English

Duration: 18 min

Venue: AFS Cinema

Day: May 15th

Time: 4:00 PM

Synopsis Estela goes out for a revealing walk to the market and there, like a daydream, she meets the lustful gaze of the butcher Adamastor.



DOMINGO FAMILIAR FAMILY SUNDAY

Austin Premiere

A film by: Gerardo Del Razo

Italy, Mexico 2025

Drama, Crime

Languages: Spanish

Subtitles: English

Duration: 18 min

Venue: AFS Cinema

Day: May 15th

Time: 4:00 PM

Synopsis In a forgotten housing unit in Mexico City, two scheming scoundrels attempt to extort local merchants, but the fed-up neighbors band together to fight back against their relentless abuses.



EL MANDADO THE FAVOUR

US Premiere

A film by: Ingrid Paola
Bonilla Rodriguez
Colombia 2026

Youth, Class

Languages: Spanish
Subtitles: English

Duration: 20 min

Venue: AFS Cinema
Day: May 15th
Time: 4:00 PM

Synopsis Staying true to your roots is an act of courage.

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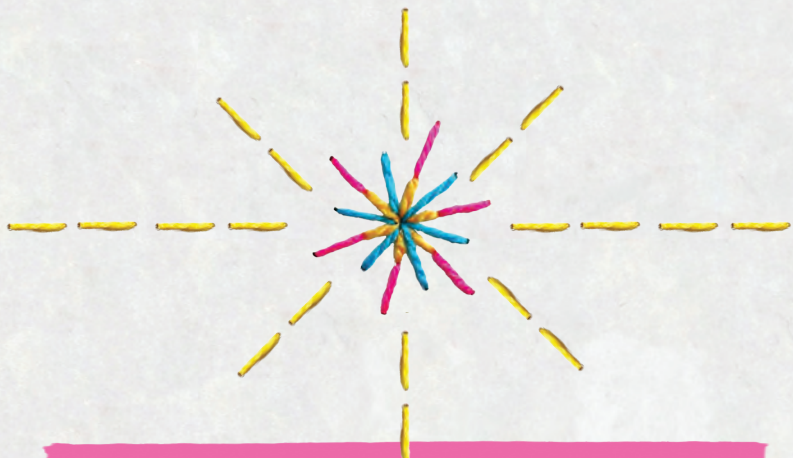
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DOCUMENTARY SHORT COMPETITION

WHAT DO WE CARRY, WHAT DO WE PROTECT, AND WHAT DO WE PASS ON? THIS YEAR'S DOCUMENTARY SHORTS COMPETITION SPANS THE AMERICAS IN SEARCH OF ANSWERS. FOUR FILMS EXPLORE TRADITION, SURVIVAL, MEMORY, AND THE TRANSFORMATIVE POWER OF ART ACROSS CHILE, ARGENTINA, CUBA, AND THE UNITED STATES.





EL ÚLTIMO PUESTERO THE LAST PUESTERO

Southwest Premiere

A film by: Belle Casares

Argentina, United States 2025

Documentary, History, Environment,

Culture, Indigenous

Languages: Spanish

Subtitles: English

Duration: 27 min

Venue: AFS Cinema

Day: May 14th

Time: 3:30 PM

Synopsis A gaucho in Patagonia protects cattle and tradition, as a changing world threatens the way of life he hopes to pass on to the next generation.



OUTLIER: COMMON

Texas Premiere

A film by: Dani Reyes-Acosta

United States, Canada 2024

Documentary, Culture,

Sports, Environment

Languages: English, Spanish

Subtitles: English

Duration: 26 min

Venue: AFS Cinema

Day: May 14th

Time: 3:30 PM

Synopsis "What happens if we survive all this chaos?" OUTLIER: Common is a documentary film that follows three Latina athletes as they navigate life in remote mountains alongside the unpredictable forces of Mother Nature.



RESONANCIA RESONANCE

Southwest Premiere

A film by: Ted Nash,

Cathy Barbash

Cuba 2026

Arts, Education

Languages: Spanish, English

Subtitles: English

Duration: 38 min

Venue: AFS Cinema

Day: May 14th

Time: 3:30 PM

Synopsis In the heart of Havana, Grammy-winning composer Ted Nash invites young Cuban musicians to find inspiration in the colors and forms of a museum's paintings. What begins as a search for melody becomes an awakening, as students uncover hidden voices within themselves.



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US Premiere

A film by: Catalina "Yupi"

Covarrubias

Chile 2025

Documentary, Wellness

Languages: Spanish

Subtitles: English

Duration: 20 min

Venue: AFS Cinema

Day: May 14th

Time: 3:30 PM

Synopsis Four voices cross paths in the Santiago metro, where their memories and lived experiences expose the hidden impact of suicides within its stations.

Content Warning: This film contains discussions of suicide and self-harm.



DEVELOP

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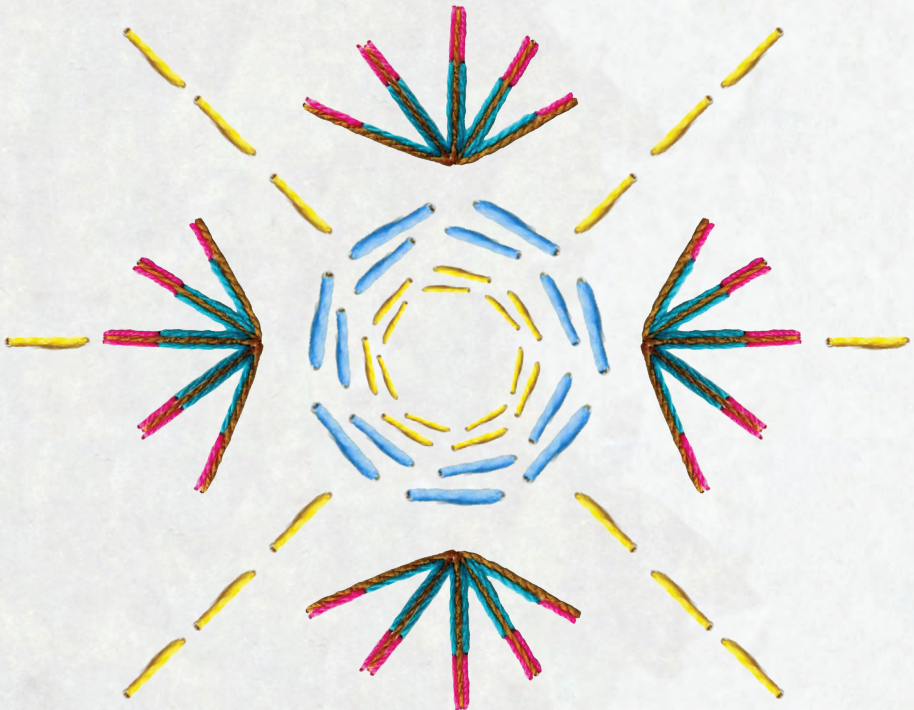
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HECHO EN TEJAS

THIS YEAR'S HECHO EN TEJAS COMPETITION CELEBRATES TEXAS FILMMAKERS CAPTURING LIVES RARELY SEEN ON SCREEN. INTIMATE, URGENT, AND ROOTED IN REAL COMMUNITIES, THESE FILMS ASK WHAT IT MEANS TO SURVIVE, REMEMBER, AND RESIST. THE FILMS IN THIS SHOWCASE ARE ELIGIBLE FOR BOTH AN AUDIENCE AWARD AND A JURY AWARD, PRESENTED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE TEXAS ARCHIVE OF THE MOVING IMAGE (TAMI). MEET THE DIRECTORS, CAST YOUR VOTE, AND STAY FOR THE PARTY!





TITO RITMO GRANDFATHER RHYTHM

Texas Premiere

A film by: Ulises Cordova

Argentina, United States 2026

Drama, Comedy,

History, Arts

Languages: Spanish, English

Subtitles: English

Duration: 15 min

Venue: AFS Cinema

Day: May 17th

Time: 4:00 PM

Synopsis In early 1941, a zoot suit toting mechanic enters a “dance till you drop” competition in order to win a new car. In 2009, the car is now in the family lineage, and his grandson attempts to sell the classic car out of financial desperation.



LESSONS LEARNED IN COTULLA

Austin Premiere

A film by: Oddett Garza

United States, Canada 2025

Documentary,

Education

Languages: English

Subtitles: None

Duration: 13 min

Venue: AFS Cinema

Day: May 17th

Time: 4:00 PM

Synopsis Four Mexican American women reflect on their journeys to pursue higher education despite the systemic barriers of their time.



SUBTRACT NINE SUNDAYS SUBTRACT NINE SUNDAYS

Southwest Premiere

A film by: Julia Jara

United States 2025

Drama, Class

Languages: English

Subtitles: None

Duration: 15 min

Venue: AFS Cinema

Day: May 17th

Time: 4:00 PM

Synopsis An affluent employer calls in his live-in nanny to settle unpaid wages; his unquestioned authority meets her resolute agency. Adapted from an Anton Chekhov short story and set in contemporary Texas, *Subtract Nine Sundays* explores the dynamics of power.



MARISOL'S BOUTIQUE

World Premiere

A film by: Mia Chiessa

United States 2026

Documentary, Labor

Languages: Spanish

Subtitles: English

Duration: 9 min

Venue: AFS Cinema

Day: May 17th

Time: 4:00 PM

Synopsis A woman reflects on the obstacles in starting her quinceañera dress shop, and the traditions she wants to preserve with the shop moving forward.



LE FALTA SAL IT NEEDS SALT

World Premiere

A film by: Mayra Estrada

United States 2026

Animation, Comedy, Drama,

Relationships

Languages: Spanish, English

Subtitles: None

Duration: 5 min

Venue: AFS Cinema

Day: May 17th

Time: 4:00 PM

Synopsis As her son says goodbye, a dying woman's hand begins to cook a final meal.



LA PLAYA DE LA GENTE THE PEOPLE'S BEACH

Southwest Premiere

A film by: C. Díaz

United States, Canada 2024

Documentary,

History, Land

Languages: English

Subtitles: None

Duration: 4 min

Venue: AFS Cinema

Day: May 17th

Time: 4:00 PM

Synopsis On August 31, 2024, ENTRE Film Center & Regional Archive hosted Playa de Memorias, a beach happening at Boca Chica Beach, a humble yet deeply historical coastline that reaches the mouth of the Rio Grande River. Boca Chica Beach has long served as a community beach and sanctuary, now at risk of erasure as private corporations harm this fragile ecosystem and restrict access to public land.



¡AY, DIOS!

World Premiere

A film by: Eduardo

Meza-Roquebert

United States 2026

Comedy, Drama, Coming-of-Age

Languages: English, Spanish

Subtitles: English

Duration: 12 min

Venue: AFS Cinema

Day: May 17th

Time: 4:00 PM

Synopsis A young man struggles to save face with his friends and family after a revelation at a community gathering.

Content Warning: Strong Language



GRIN

Austin Premiere

A film by: Camilo Montoya

United States, Colombia 2026

Drama, Coming-of-Age,

Immigration

Languages: English, Spanish

Subtitles: English

Duration: 13 min

Venue: AFS Cinema

Day: May 17th

Time: 4:00 PM

Synopsis A young immigrant's day delivering food takes an unexpected turn when he finds a stuffed animal and the girl who's looking for it.



UNA NAVE FRÁGIL A FRAGILE VESSEL

World Premiere

A film by: **Samuel Díaz Fernández**

United States 2026

Documentary, Environment

Languages: Spanish, English

Subtitles: English

Duration: 16 min

Venue: AFS Cinema

Day: May 17th

Time: 4:00 PM

Synopsis As the world around them scorches under record heat, a family walks into the woods, asking what the future holds in this thermal dystopia. Their conversations map survival in a world reshaped by heat.



EL LLORÓN

Southwest Premiere

A film by: **Rodrigo**

Moreno-Fernandez

United States, Mexico 2025

Comedy, Drama

Languages: English, Spanish

Subtitles: English

Duration: 17 min

Venue: AFS Cinema

Day: May 17th

Time: 4:00 PM

Synopsis Felipe is a professional mourner. He is compensated for lamenting and comforting grieving families during funerals.



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¡VIDEOS MÚSICALES!


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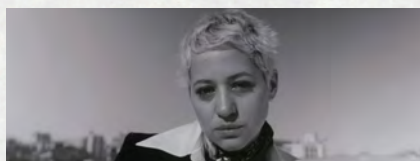
LATIN GRAMMY NOMINEE GINA CHAVEZ CURATES THIS YEAR'S SELECTION. WATCH, DANCE, VOTE, AND STAY FOR THE PARTY.





GINA CHÁVEZ

Que orgullo! I'm deeply honored that Cine invited me to be their first-ever guest music video curator for the festival! Not only because it's their 28th year celebrating the vision of Latine/x and Indigenous filmmakers, but because through community and art Cine has helping to build the kind of world that so many of us want to -- deserve to -- live in. At a time when so many are being attacked for who we are, Cine has the antidote: building community through the tapestry of shared story, culture and community. Thank you, Cine Las Americas, for allowing me to play a small part in this wonderful work!



El Duelo • Director: Maco Diaz & Ella Bric • Artis: Ella Bric • United States, Venezuela 2026 • Venezuelan Folk • Languages: Spanish • Duration: 3 min • Venue: Luster Pearl East • Day: May 15th • Time: 9:00 PM



Antónima / Antonym • Director: Sofia Rei • Artist: Diego Ricardo • Argentina, Colombia, United States 2026 • Latin Alternative, Latin Art Pop, South American, Contemporary Latin • Languages: Spanish • Duration: 4 min • Venue: Luster Pearl East • Day: May 15th • Time: 9:00 PM



Lamento • Director: Diego Contreras • Artista: Gaby Moreno • Guatemala 2025 • Alternative Latin Folk • Languages: Spanish and English • Duration: 13 min • Venue: Luster Pearl East • Day: May 15th • Time: 9:00 PM



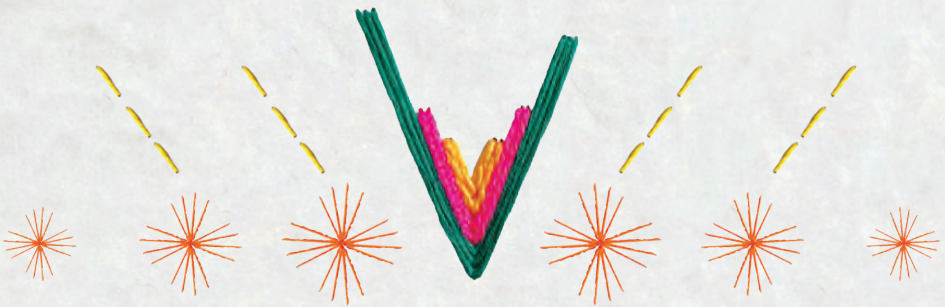
Mis Regalos • Director: Billy Fortier • Artis: Xiuhtezcatl • Mexico 2025 • Hip Hop, Indigen • Languages: Spanish, Nahuatl, English • Duration: 3 min • Venue: Luster Pearl East • Day: May 15th • Time: 9:00 PM



Chiquilinda / Little Girl • Director: Xinger Xanger & Cain Culto • Artist: Cain Culto • Colombia, United States 2025 • Hip Hop • Languages: Spanish • Duration: 2 min • Venue: Luster Pearl East • Day: May 15th • Time: 9:00 PM



PELAME LA PAPA / Peel the Potato • Director: MAMA • Artist: Jarina De Marco ft. Mediopicky • Dominican Republic 2025 • Latin Alternative, Latin Art Pop, South American, Contemporary Latin • Languages: Spanish • Duration: 3 min • Venue: Luster Pearl East • Day: May 15th • Time: 9:00 PM



A Donde Llegar • Director: Dante Ponzanelli • Artist: Chicosefíe • United States 2026 • Latin, Pop, Rock • Languages: Spanish • Duration: 6 min • Venue: Luster Pearl East • Day: May 15th • Time: 9:00 PM



Chonies • Director: Adelaide Pilar Benavides • Artist: Adelaide Pilar • United States 2024 • Latin Hip Hop • Languages: English and Spanish • Duration: 3 min • Venue: Luster Pearl East • Day: May 15th • Time: 9:00 PM



Cumbia Espiritual / Spiritual Cumbia • Director: Luis Miguel Ramirez • Artist: Miguel St. Michael • United States 2025 • Cumbia, Regional Mexican • Languages: Spanish • Duration: 5 min • Venue: Luster Pearl East • Day: May 15th • Time: 9:00 PM



Es Por Ti / It's for you • Director: Dante Ponzanelli • Artist: Nelson Valente Aguilar, Como Las Movies • United States 2026 • Latin • Languages: Spanish • Duration: 6 min • Venue: Luster Pearl East • Day: May 15th • Time: 9:00 PM



Lelia • Director: Josh Cannon, Brody Kuhar • Artist: Marcella Simien • United States 2024 • Folk, American Roots, Zydeco, Louisiana Creole Zydeco • Languages: French, English • Duration: 6 min • Venue: Luster Pearl East • Day: May 15th • Time: 9:00 PM



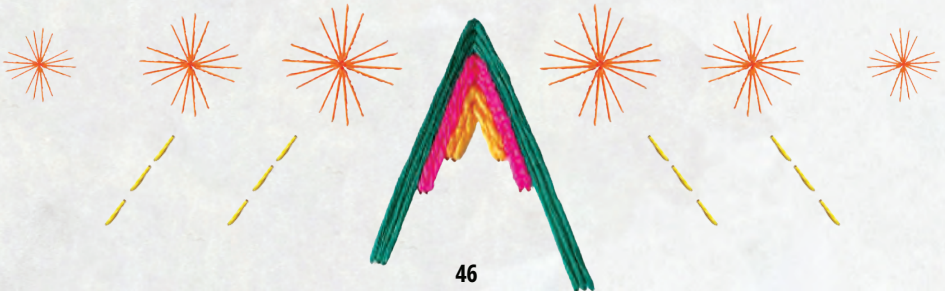
Los Chucos Suaves • Director: Adelaide Pilar Benavides • Artist: Adelaide Pilar • United States 2026 • Latin • Languages: Spanish • Duration: 3 min • Venue: Luster Pearl East • Day: May 15th • Time: 9:00 PM



Siboney • Director: Kaylyn Caudillo • Artist: Ana Barajas • United States 2026 • Latin, Soul, Rock • Languages: Spanish • Duration: 4 min • Venue: Luster Pearl East • Day: May 15th • Time: 9:00 PM



The Rocky Cumbia • Director: Adelaide Pilar Benavides • Artist: Adelaide Pilar • United States 2025 • Cumbia • Languages: English • Duration: 3 min • Venue: Luster Pearl East • Day: May 15th • Time: 9:00 PM



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ARTIVISM - NOT GOING QUIETLY INTO THE NIGHT

Duration: 60 min • Venue: Holiday Inn Midtown • Day: May 16th • Time: 12:00 PM TO 1:00 PM

How do we show up for our gente and stand up to erasure with our art and films in 2026?

Moderated by

Panelists



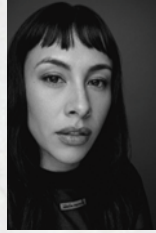
Santiago Suarez Ruiz



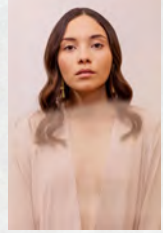
Miguel Alvarez



Monica Sosa



Yamel Thompson



Yarisel Estrada



THE ABSOLUTE BEST VERSION OF YOUR PITCH DECK - A FUNDRAISING WORKSHOP

Duration: 60 min • Venue: Holiday Inn Midtown • Day: May 16th • Time: 1:15 PM TO 2:15

The quest for funds is constant. Join us for a workshop on what decks have actually worked and the feedback panelists have given and received on their most successful pitches, including looks at fundraising avenues, tax incentives, investors, and more.

Moderated by

Panelists



Holly Herrick



Trish Vasquez



Fernando Rocha



Leigh Davis



Bethiael Alemayoh

FINDING/PROTECTING YOUR PEACE - A MENTAL HEALTH PANEL

Duration: 60 min • Venue: Holiday Inn Midtown • Day: May 16th • Time: 2:30 PM TO 3:30

Filmmaking is hard! The toll it can take on you mentally can be harder. How do you find a way to stay grounded while you prep a project, film a project, finish a project, or all of the above?

Moderated by

Panelists



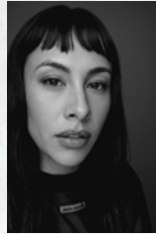
Patrick Salazar



Jenny De La Fuente



Vanessa Flores Newton



Yamel Thompson



Eddy Rivas Estrada



CONVERSANDO CON MARTA MENDEZ CROSS

Duration: 75 min • Venue: Holiday Inn Midtown • Day: May 16th • Time: 3:45 PM TO 5:00 PM

Join us for a fireside chat with Director/Writer/Producer/Actress Marta Mendez Cross as she talks about her journey from Panama to UT-Austin to Hollywood. Whether on network television (NCIS: Los Angeles, Criminal Minds, Castle) or cinema screens (Las Tres Sisters, The Bounce Back), Marta will share what it's like to act, write, and direct as a Latina in Hollywood. Exclusive: Marta will also share her new award-winning short film *lchild*, which she is currently expanding into a feature film.

Moderated by

Speaker



Trish Vasquez



Marta Méndez Cross



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Cine Las Americas thanks the generous donors and members, those listed here and those who wish to remain anonymous, for their support during the 2025-2026 season.

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Diana Patricia Guisado
Dino Costa
Elena Bessire
Elias López
Erin Campbell
Joseph Ornelas
Nick Dauster
Paul Smith
Val Florez

Emergente Youth Intl Film Festival

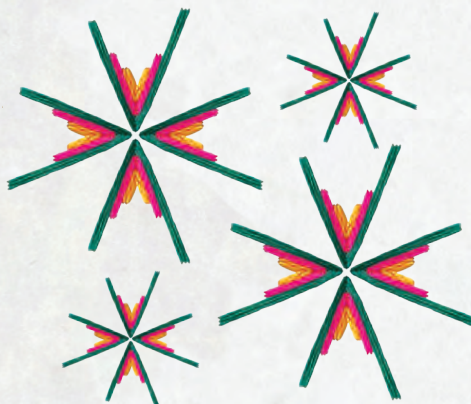
Christian D. Nelson - Festival Director
Cerise Saucedo - Festival Director

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Fabiana Montenegro - Program Director
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Cerise Saucedo - Instructor
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Museum of the American Indian

Charles Ramirez Berg - The University of
Texas at Austin

Jason Borge - The University of Texas
at Austin

AJ Johnson - Nettie Lee Benson Latin

American Collection - The University of
Texas at Austin

Chale Nafus - Austin Film Society (ret.)

Daniel Northway-Frank - Northway-
Frank Consulting

David Rice - Author, Film Producer, Lecturer



AUSTIN FILM COMMISSION



31%

State of Texas Cash Rebate
with Evergreen Funding

+ 2.5%

City of Austin Incentive

+ 8.25%

Sales Tax Exemption

+ Diverse locations

+ Experienced crew-base

+ Streamlined permitting

+ Established studio facilities

+ Local industry vendors



FIESTAS

**Opening Night
Film & Reception**
Wednesday, May 13

7-10pm

AFS Cinema



**¡Videos Musicales!
Showcase & Party (FREE!)**

Friday, May 15

9-11pm

Lustre Pearl East



**Hecho en Tejas
Showcase & Reception**

Sunday, May 17

3-6:30pm

AFS Cinema



**Closing Night
Film & Reception**
Wednesday, May 13

7-10:30pm

AFS Cinema

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RETAIL & PROMOTIONAL PACKAGING, LARGE FORMAT

PRINTING, LABELS, STICKERS & DECALS. **SIGNAGE &**

DISPLAYS BANNERS, TABLE THROWS, TRADE SHOW

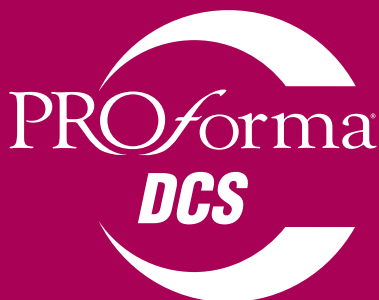
DISPLAYS, POINT-OF-PURCHASE DISPLAYS. **FULFILLMENT**

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EMERGENTE YOUTH

2ND EMERGENTE YOUTH INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL
MAY 23, 2026 AUSTIN TEJAS

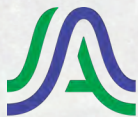
Dedicated exclusively to celebrating filmmakers under the age of 19. This festival will showcase an inspiring selection of youth-created films from around the world. The festival grants a Jury Award and Audience Award for Best Emergente Youth Film.

FREE FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!



Millennium Youth
Entertainment Complex
1156 Hargrave St,
Austin, TX 78702
May 23 2026
11:30am - 3pm

This project is supported in part by a Thrive Grant of



Austin

**Arts, Culture, Music
and Entertainment**