

# Acuitzeramo

WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY  
MIGUEL ANGEL CABALLERO

STARRING  
SAL LOPEZ LUIS ALDANA MATIAS PONCE

CABALDANA ALCHEMY PRESENTS "ACUITZERAMO" SAL LOPEZ LUIS ALDANA MATIAS PONCE  
COMPOSER ROBERT J REVELL EDITED BY MLADAN JURKOVIC DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY PHILIP ALEXANDER NARVAEZ COLORIST ANDRE RIVAS KEY ART ERBLIN NUSHI  
CO-EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS JOEL SERRATO ORNELLA JARAMILLO BILL FERGUSON EXECUTIVE PRODUCER LUIS ALDANA PRODUCED BY MIGUEL ANGEL CABALLERO  
WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY MIGUEL ANGEL CABALLERO

WWW.ACUITZERAMOFILM.COM



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A man in a grey coat is standing in profile, looking down at a red suitcase he is holding. He is positioned in front of a light blue brick wall. On the wall, there are several religious items: a small framed image of the Virgin Mary and Child Jesus, a small golden circular object, and some colorful paper decorations. To the right, a green wooden door frame is visible with a small pink tag hanging from it. In the foreground, the back of a person's head with reddish-brown hair is out of focus.

# ACUITZERAMO

WRITTEN, DIRECTED & PRODUCED BY MIGUEL ANGEL CABALLERO

CAST

SALVADOR	SAL LOPEZ
ANTHONY	LUIS ALDANA
SAM	MATIAS PONCE





# SYNOPSIS

Salvador, a gay Mexican elder who has lost his partner of 15 years, calls his partner's estranged son, Anthony, to tell him of his father's passing. Unaware of their relationship, Anthony travels from Chicago to a small rural town in Mexico to attend his father's funeral. Salvador invites Anthony to his home to pick up mementos his father wanted him to have. As family secrets are exposed, identities and perceptions are challenged.



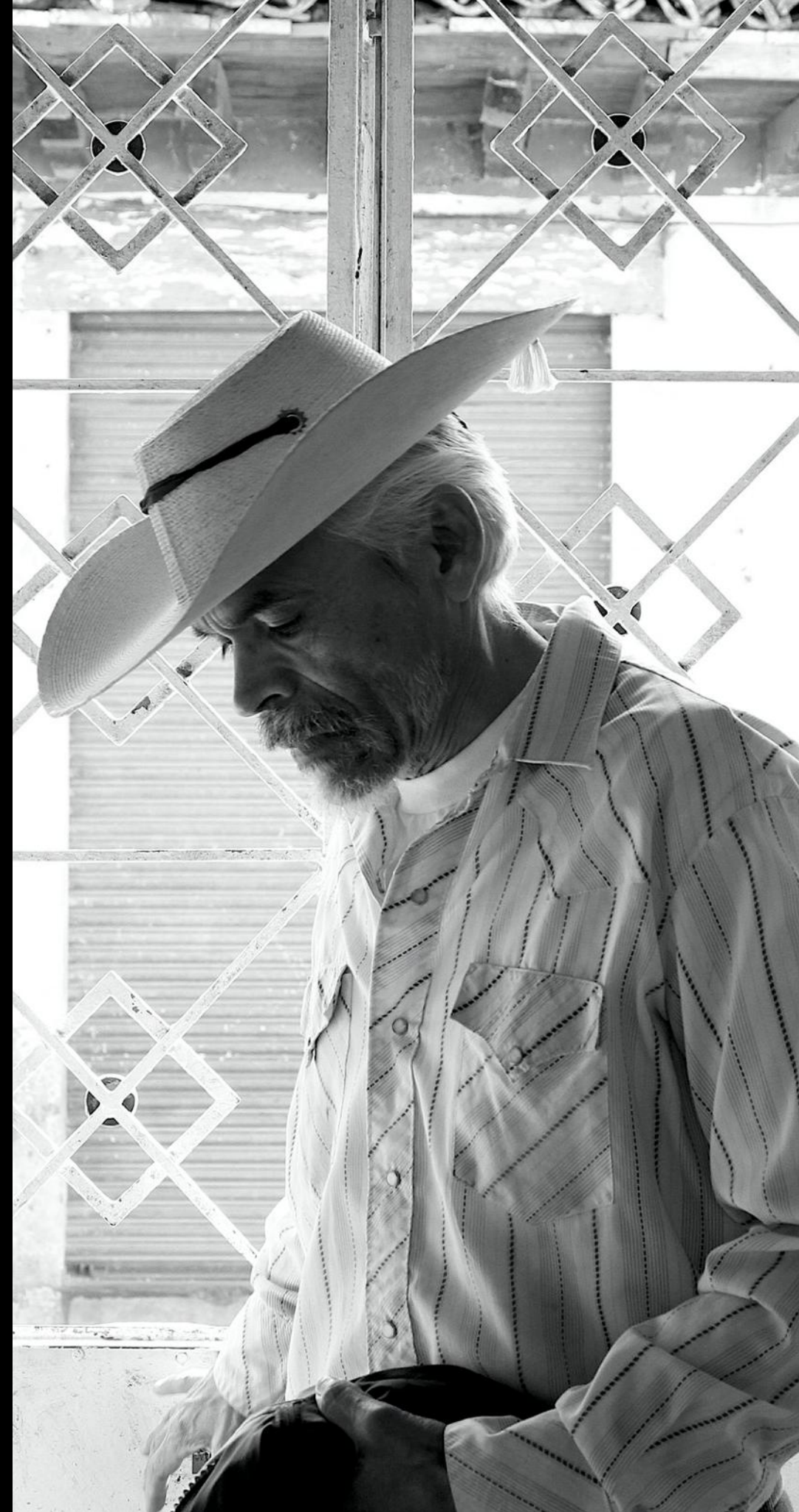
# DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

With "Acuitzeramo," I set out to explore a segment of our community that is rarely taken into account; gay Latinx elders.

I grew up bi-nationally, in Acuitzeramo, a small rural town in Michoacan, Mexico and in Pauma Valley, a small town in San Diego County in the U.S. I lived half a year in each country until the age of 13. As I grew older, I began to wonder how many men and women were gay in these small towns. And wondered how many were forced to go through the motions of heterosexual life. At a younger age, I do clearly remember some men and women that were single all their lives. I always thought they never married because they didn't find a mate; but then as I grew older, I realized that perhaps they did not feel comfortable being with the mate they truly wanted.

I began to explore a story of two elderly men living together in isolation because of fear of not being accepted by their families and children. Then I thought about what it would be like if one of the men passed away after a decades-long relationship. This film tells the story of Salvador, a gay elder in a small Mexican town who loses his partner of over 15 years. The story begins with the partner's estranged son, Anthony, showing up at Salvador's doorstep for his father's funeral. The situation immediately created an interesting dynamic where two strangers, an elderly gay man from Mexico and a young man from Chicago, were forced to interact. Both men are tested to see if through love, empathy, and tolerance they can bridge a generational, cultural, and class gap.

So often in many areas of society, it seems like our elders, especially our queer elders, are pushed aside and forgotten. I wanted to tell this story in hopes of reviving respect for this segment of our community and remind us that it is precisely at this time in their lives that they are need of compassion and love.







## LINKS

[FACEBOOK](#)

[WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/ACUITZERAMOFILM](http://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/ACUITZERAMOFILM)

[INSTAGRAM](#)

[@ACUITZERAMO\\_FILM](https://www.instagram.com/ACUITZERAMO_FILM)

[WEBSITE](#)

[WWW.ACUITZERAMOFILM.COM](http://WWW.ACUITZERAMOFILM.COM)

## PUBLICITY PHOTOS

[DOWNLOAD PUBLICITY PHOTOS](#)

[CLICK HERE](#)

## CONTACT

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# FUN FACTS

## A Vision / History

Miguel Angel Caballero (Director/ Writer/ Producer) and Luis Aldana (Actor/ Executive Producer) met at UCLA and they have a twenty-year shared trajectory in theater and film. Together they founded Cabaldana Alchemy, a company committed to tell Latinx, Chicano and Queer stories.

## Filmed In Director's Hometown In Mexico

The film was shot in Miguel Angel Caballero's hometown of Acuitzeramo in the state of Michoacan, Mexico. His father, other relatives and friends are part of the film in featured roles.

## Father Had First Theater In Town

In the 1970s and 1980s, the director's father had the first movie theater in the surrounding small towns in Mexico. Now, 2019, his son, Miguel Angel Caballero, filmed his father right in front of the dilapidated remains of the movie theater in a small role for the film Acuitzeramo, bringing his father's love for cinema full circle.

## Life Imitates Art, Imitates Life

The picture of the father and son that actor Luis Aldana who plays "Anthony" leaves for the character of "Salvador" is actually a picture of Luis and his own father who in real life disappeared when he was a child.

## "The Serpent Will Be King" - Meaning of Acuitzeramo

Acuitzeramo is a small town where the director grew up. Legend has it that it means "The serpent will be king." The director liked the name since a serpent, in a spiritual context, means transformation, shedding the past and new beginnings, which is precisely what the main character, Salvador, is doing in the town.







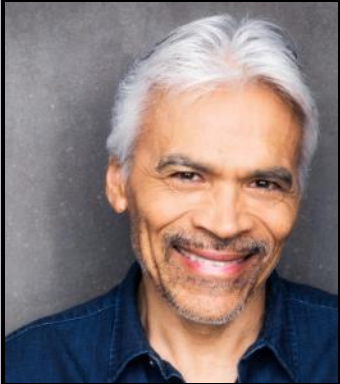




# CAST BIOS

## SAL LOPEZ

"SALVADOR"



Sal Lopez started his acting career after landing a key role in the hit play **Zoot Suit** which ran on Broadway. His film credits include **Full Metal Jacket** (Stanley Kubrick), **American Me** (Edward James Olmos) and **Silver City** (John Sayles). Other films include **The Astronaut Farmer** with Billy Bob Thorton, **The End Of Violence**, **Cold Heaven**, **Mr. Jones** and many others. For television Sal has been in numerous shows including, **Entourage**, **Nip/Tuck**, **Life**, **CSI Miami**, **The Shield**, **ER**, and many more.

## MATIAS PONCE

"SAM"

Matias Ponce is a theater and film actor. His theater credits include *Zoot Suit* (Mark Taper Forum), *Short Eyes*, *Faith: Part 1 of A Mexican Trilogy* (Los Angeles Theatre Center) *Handball*, *Dominica: The Fat Ugly Ho* (Urban Theatre Movement)

Film: *The Asylum's Flight World War II* (Netflix)

TV: *Criminal Minds: Beyond Borders*, *The Mindy Project*, *LOPEZ*, *Game Shakers*, *Sam & Cat*, *Victorious*, *Rizzoli & Isles* and *Lie To Me*.



## LUIS ALDANA

"ANTHONY"



Mr. Aldana is a graduate of UCLA and holds a BA in American Literature and Culture. During his time at UCLA, he spent a significant portion working within the school of Theater, Film and Television as a writer and actor. There he became a member of *ser undocumented*, a theater group that created, produced and performed original work. After graduating he worked with the Cornerstone Theater Company and director Peter Sellars. He later moved

to England and attended the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts (LAMDA) where he continued his writing and acting. Upon his return, he joined the Latino Theater Company's Laboratory where he co-wrote the critically acclaimed play *Melancholia*, which had a successful run in Los Angeles and at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in Scotland where it was nominated for an Amnesty International Award.

Luis has starred in a number of films, including *Crabgrass Manifesto*, which screened at the *Sundance Film Festival*, *The Silent Cross*, which was an audience favorite at the *San Francisco Film Festival – Cine Accion* and *Pelea de Gallos*, which won Best short at the *Los Angeles Latino International Film Festival* and *San Diego Latino Film Festival* and had a national debut on the *Showtime Network*. Some of Mr. Aldana's additional producing and writing credits include the film **The Invitation**, which aired on the Showtime Network, the nationally broadcast PSA **Know Your Rights** and a number of theater pieces produced in Los Angeles. Mr. Aldana is a founding member of Cabaldana Alchemy and Cinético Productions.



# STILLS





# CREW BIOS

## MIGUEL ANGEL CABALLERO

WRITER, DIRECTOR, PRODUCER

Son of Mexican immigrant farmworkers, Miguel Angel grew up both in the U.S. and in Mexico traveling back and forth each year and attending school in both countries. He received his bachelor's degree in Theater from UCLA.



Miguel Angel is an award winning writer/ director/ producer. He has won four awards and has been nominated 4 other times including 'Best Screenplay' for his film 'Broken Sunflower Hearts.' The film has screened at over a 20 festivals internationally. He co-wrote the critically acclaimed play 'Melancholia,' which had a successful run in Los Angeles and at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in Scotland where it was nominated for an 'Amnesty International Award.'

Miguel Angel has produced and starred in the feature film 'Cry Now.' He also produced and starred in the short film 'The Invitation,' which premiered at the Los Angeles Latino International Film Festival and aired on the Showtime Network. He wrote and produced the PSA 'Know Your Rights' for the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles (CHIRLA) which became one of the most widely distributed and viewed tool for Immigrant Rights in the U.S.

As an actor, he has the leading role for the recently released feature film 'Sleeping Dogs Lie,' and has worked on the American crime drama 'Too Old To Die Young' starring Miles Teller for Amazon Studios. Previously he's had a recurring role in the long running soap 'General Hospital' as Orlando Brooks and has appeared the film 'We Have Your Husband' for Lifetime. Miguel Angel has also appeared on many other TV shows including NCIS Los Angeles (CBS) and CSI:NY (CBS).

## LUIS ALDANA

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

Mr. Aldana is a graduate of UCLA and holds a BA in American Literature and Culture. During his time at UCLA, he spent a significant portion working within the school of Theater, Film and Television as a writer and actor. There he became a member of *ser undocumented*, a theater group that created, produced and performed original work. After graduating he worked with the Cornerstone Theater Company and director Peter Sellars. He later moved



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# CREW BIOS

## MLADAN JURKOVIC

EDITOR / SOUND MIXER / SOUND DESIGNER

Mladan Jurkovic was born in Croatia and grew up in Seattle, where he graduated from the University of Washington with a double degree in Biology and Spanish. After a period of time spent in language translation and music performance, he completed his MFA in Film from Ohio University, with a focus in directing, video editing, and audio recording.



Mladan has been a professional audio mixer since 2012, working in feature and short films and documentaries, corporate, commercial and experimental audio. Beside production audio, he also works in post-production: sound design, mix and ADR. Alongside industry experience in New York, and currently LA, Mladan has extensive international experience, spanning work in China, Vietnam, Haiti, Uganda, Serbia, Croatia and Canada.

## ROBERT J. REVELL

COMPOSER

Robert J. Revell has written and performed music for television shows such as **Gotham** (Fox), **Nikita** (CW), **The Tomorrow People** (CW), **Dark Blue** (TNT) as well as feature films **The Marine 3** (WWE Studios), **Shark Night 3D** (Incentive). He was born in Sydney, Australia and graduated with a BA in music from the California Institute of the Arts.



## PHILIP ALEXANDER NARVAEZ

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

Philip Alexander is a Mexican American Cinematographer with over 10 years experience working in multiple genres including narrative, commercial, fashion & promos. He studied filmmaking at San Diego State and has since gone on to work with major companies such as MTV, Playboy, Ugg, Victoria Secret and Polo. His main inspiration is Emmanuel Lubezki and Cesar Charlone who inspired him to become a master of lighting and adopt a more raw humanlike approach in regards to camera movement.



## FRANCISCO CORTINAS

1ST AC / SWING

Born in Southern California, Francisco Cortinas found the passion for filmmaking at Ventura Community College. Having had a photography background Francisco gravitated to Cinematography while taking the Film Program at Los Angeles City College. He was the cinematographer in the award winning film **Broken Sunflower Hearts** and has worked as a gaffer in a variety of award winning music videos, documentaries and shorts films including.





# CREW BIOS

## ORNELLA JARAMILLO

### CO-EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

Over 18 years of experience producing feature films, documentaries, commercials and TV series. Recent work includes Director Samuel Kishi's feature film **Los Lobos, Everybody Loves Somebody** with Karla Souza and the series **Run Coyote Run** (Fox Latin America). US producer of the feature film **La Jaula de Oro**, winner of Un Certain Talent at the Cannes Film Festival 2013.



## ANDRE RIVAS

### COLORIST / DCP

Andre Rivas has worked in the post-production industry for the past 20 years, starting with a role in picture finishing for a movie marketing firm. He later took a role at Deluxe's EFILM Hollywood facility where he has contributed work to numerous major film releases, including **Deadpool** and the **Fast & Furious** franchise. He has worked in broadcast, providing final color for the CBS pilots of **SWAT** and **Magnum PI**. He is originally from the Oakland Bay Area and enjoys thrash metal music.



## JEANETTE GODOY

### COSTUME DESIGNER

Jeanette Godoy is an Interdisciplinary Artist (Actor, Costume Designer, Producer and Social Justice Educator). She was raised in Inglewood, California and received her BA in Liberal Studies with a Specialization in Chicana/o Studies from San Diego State University. In addition, Jeanette holds a BCLAD Multiple Subject Teaching Credential and an MFA in Acting with a Specialization in Costume Design from UCLA's School of Theater, Film and Television. She is Associate Producer for Lone Stars Entertainment and owner of TIZAPAPALOTL Productions. Jeanette currently teaches at the Acting and Performance Summer Institute (APSI) at UCLA's School of Theater, Film and Television and is owner of LA PACHUCADA, which specializes in costume design, vintage and recycled clothing.



She has styled/designed costumes for **Skeleton Stories** (Theater of Note), **The Women of Juarez**, **Kiss of the Spiderwoman**, **Manzanita: A Violent Love Affair**, **I Killed Pancho Villa!** and **The Rifles of Carrar** (Frida Kahlo Theater), B.R.I.D.G.E Theater Company, Grand Performances: **Magic Fruit** Staged Reading (Cornerstone Theater Company), **Room No 9** in the Chrysalis Inn (Hollywood Fringe) and films **Whittier Boulevard** (Outfest Fusion), **Origin** (UCLA), and **Running Shadow** (AFI).

"Nimitz tlacuiquilia ica noche nohc yohlotzi, ome yocan"- OMETEOTL.