

# Huella

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY GABRIELA ORTEGA





# Logline

Cuando la muerte de su abuela desata una maldición generacional, una bailarina de flamenco resignada a un trabajo de oficina es visitada por sus ancestros femeninos que la empujan a conectar consigo misma.

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**When the death of her grandmother unleashes a generational curse, a disenchanted flamenco dancer resigned to a desk job is forced to experience the five stages of grief through a visit from her female ancestors, pushing her to finally break the cycle**





# Director's Statement

Crecí rodeada de mujeres fuertes. Mujeres que dicen lo que piensan, que se rebelan contra la injusticia y que trabajan hasta el cansancio por sus madres, sus hermanas, sus hijas. Si hoy estoy de pie es porque puedo apoyarme sobre sus hombros. Me enorgullece poder contar sus historias.

Huella es un trabajo que nace de la sanación, de la memoria colectiva, de romper cadenas ancestrales con la esperanza de conectar con esa parte sagrada que heredamos de quienes vinieron antes.

***Es una carta de amor a todas las mujeres que han dejado huella en mi vida.***

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I grew up surrounded by strong women. Women that spoke their mind, that rebelled against injustice, that worked themselves to the bone for their mothers, their sisters, their daughters. Today, I only stand because of their shoulders. Proud and ready to tell their stories

Huella is a work of healing, of memory, of releasing ancestral curses with the hopes of connecting to that sacred part of ourselves that we inherit from the ones that came before us.

***It's a love letter to all the women that have left a footprint in my life.***



Original Title **Huella** English Title **Footprint** Runtime **14 minutes**

Genre **Drama, Fantasy & Thriller**

Premiere **2021 Tribeca Film Festival**

Written & Directed by

**Gabriela Ortega**

Produced by

**Helena Sardinha  
& Rafael Thomaseto**

Starring

**Shakira Barrera, Denise Blasor  
& Carla Valentine**

Executive Producers

**Constanza Castro, Domenica Castro,  
Lena Waithe, Rishi Rajani & Natasha  
Wellesley**

Production Company

**271 Films, Hillman Grad Productions,  
Ventureland & Indeed**



# Gabriela Ortega

Director


**Gabriela** is a writer, director and actor born and raised in the **Dominican Rep.** She is a graduate of the University of Southern California and is currently based between Los Angeles and Santo Domingo.

Gabriela was selected as one of the ten writer/directors of the **2021 Rising Voices** fellowship created in partnership by Lena Waithe's Hillman Grad productions and Indeed. Her short film **HUELLA** premiered at the **2021 Tribeca Film Festival**.

She was the recipient of the **Best director of a live action short at the 2021 LALIFF film festival**. She is an Alumn of the Sundance Institute Playwrights Intensive and HBO's Tomorrow's Filmmakers Today Class of 2019 & 2020 and Semifinalist for the NBC Nosotros Monologue Slam. As a writer and performer, Gabriela has toured her one-woman show, Las Garcia, across sold-out venues in L.A., including the LATC, Google LA, The Bootleg Theatre, and the Hollywood Fringe.

Her work in film seeks to deconstruct Neocolonialism through ancestral personal stories and alternative forms of documentation. Her first feature film, **MORENITA**, won the 2020 FEST pitching forum in Portugal and is a finalist for the Sundance Institute 2021 Documentary grant. The film is supported by Women Make Movies in NYC and deals with theme of displacement, womanhood & modern-day immigration.

She is also developing her second narrative feature, **Piratas**, under the 2020 Cinema Femme mentorship. The film won funds in Dom. Rep. with the annual FONPROCINE contest and is currently in the works to be shot on the island under her production company: JEVITA FILMS. Gabriela is also writing a feature film for SONY PICTURES INTERNATIONAL and has a half-hour comedy tv show in development.

 @bygabrielaortega





# Shakira Barrera

Daniela García

**Shakira Barrera** is a first generation Nicaraguan-American actress, dancer, humanitarian, and philanthropist from New Jersey. Beginning dance at a young age has given her an extensive resume working with the likes of Jennifer Lopez, Pitbull, Daddy Yankee, Chiquis and others.

Her love for the camera began shortly after becoming a 'Fanta girl', in 2009, representing the international soda brand. With an insatiable work ethic, she moved to Los Angeles, with film and television in her sights, appearing on shows like, **"Shameless," "Animal Kingdom," "Lethal Weapon," "Agents of Shield" and "Queen of the South."**

But most prominently Netflix's **"Glow"**, which gave Shakira her first Screen Actors Guild nomination. Some of her film credits include **"High and Mighty"** an HBO Latino movie which premiered at the Sundance Film Festival."

While understanding the importance of her platform and heritage, Shakira quickly realized proper representation in media is vital to our growth, collectively. And instantly began tackling issues of diversity in all of her projects and daily life.

 @shakirabarrera







# Denise Blasor

Leonora Garcia



# Carla Valentine

Sister Ana





# Helena Sardinha & Rafael Thomaseto

## Producers

Driven Equation is an international production company that was founded to become the vessel of expression for selected work from **Helena Sardinha and Rafael Thomaseto**.

As **young professionals, Latinxs, Queer-identifying, and advocates of gender equality**, they have as their greatest mission the expansion of inclusion and representation in media.

Since 2018, Driven Equation was formed from the previous working years of Helena and Rafael, through the realization of sharing not only the same ideas but also the same values, approach to creation and synchronicities of life that brought them together.

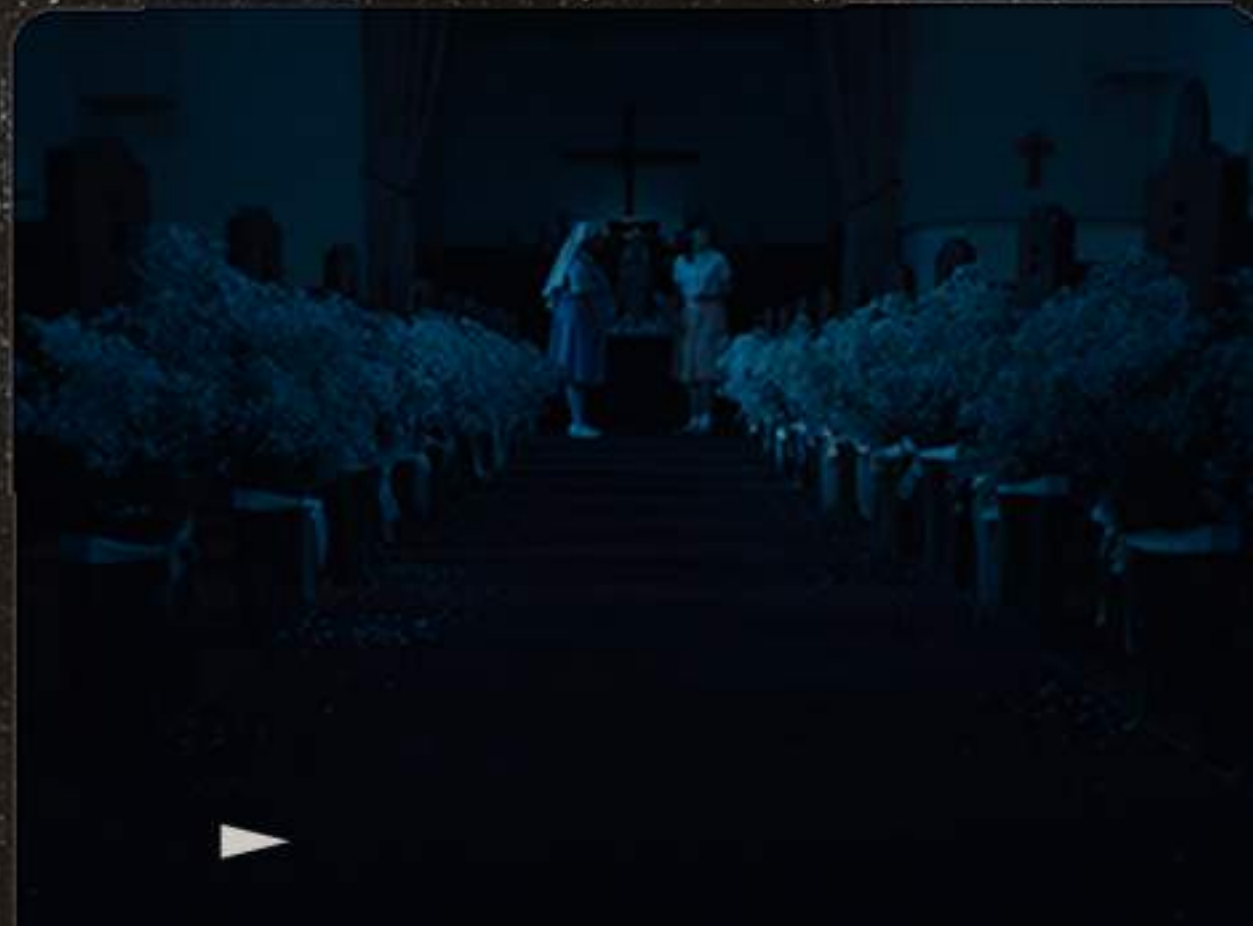
The company curates a refined **selection of stories that highlight social issues and marginalized themes** — aiming to foster dialogue and awareness about contemporary matters. Utilizing the mediums of narrative, documentary, music and branded content, Driven Equation creates creatively innovative work, with captivating storytelling and social responsibility.



 @drivenequation



# Film Stills





# Behind the scenes





# The Rising Voices Fellowship



**Rising Voices** is an initiative presented in collaboration with Indeed that aims to discover, invest in and share stories **created by Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC)** filmmaker & storytellers around the meaning of work and the idea that jobs have the power to change us all.

## Watch Trailer

<https://vimeo.com/564824140>

## Watch a short documentary on Indeed Rising Voices

<https://jobschangeus.com/risingvoices/>



“As generations pass,  
we inherit privileges from our ancestors.  
Work to them may have been a survival mechanism,  
while my work is my passion.  
In BIPOC communities, there’s a lot of pressure  
to work twice as hard”.

– Gabriela Ortega –

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**Lena Waithe: ‘Stories by Filmmakers of Color Aren’t  
Only Personal, They Can Also Be Profitable’**

Read the Variety Article:

<https://variety.com/2021/scene/news/lena-waithe-tribeca-festival-rising-voices-1234999419/>

**VARIETY**



# Credits

INDEED PRESENTS HUELLA A RISING VOICES FILM IN ASSOCIATION WITH HILLMAN GRAD PRODUCTIONS, VENTURELAND,  
271 FILMS STARRING SHAKIRA BARRERA DENISE BLASOR CARLA VALENTINE CASTING BY MICHAEL BEAUDRY  
CHOREOGRAPHY BY CELESTE LANUZA MUSIC BY JUAN COVARRUBIAS EDITED BY VICENTE MANZAN  
COSTUME DESIGN BY LAURA CRISTINA ORTIZ PRODUCTION DESIGN BY VES PHILLIPPI CINEMATOGRAPHY BY FRANCES KROON  
EXECUTIVE PRODUCED BY CONSTANZA CASTRO, DOMENICA CASTRO, LENA WAITHE, RISHI RAJANI  
PRODUCED BY HELENA SARDINHA, RAFAEL THOMASETO WRITTEN BY GABRIELA ORTEGA DIRECTED BY GABRIELA ORTEGA





# contact

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**Rafael Thomaseto** producer  
rafael@drivenequation.com

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