

PRESENT

Manuel Del Valle, the young Mexican who captivates international festivals

Del Valle is one of the "ambassadors of Latino culture in entertainment" along with a group of filmmakers from Tomorrow Filmmakers Today.

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For **Sebastian Rincon**



Manuel Del Valle, Mexican filmmaker known for his short films Nahjum (2020) and El Triste (2021). Photo: private archive.

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At just 24 years old, Manuel Del Valle is revolutionizing film screenings around the world. Recently, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (AMPAS), the organization in charge of planning *the Oscars* , together with New Filmmakers Los Angeles, promoted his work in the annual exhibition entitled: InFocus: Latinx & Hispanic Cinema Festival . This was the second year in a row where one of his short films was screened: *Nahjum* (2020) and *El Triste* (2021).

[Manuel](#) , originally from San Luis Potosí, directed, together with his recurring producer Sebastián Torres Greene, the short film titled *Nahjum* . A piece that moves to a world of magical realism. A delivery with surprising visual result.

For Manuel Del Valle, *Nahjum* is a drama in which, giving way to a fictional culture and unpublished language, a universal and visceral story is revealed, highlighting the consequences of the male ego, recounting the desperate search of a tribe for a mythical source of life. That trip turns into tragedy when the obsessions and fears of the men in the family come to the surface.

Nahjum- Official Trailer (Dir- Manuel Del Valle & Sebastian Torr...

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After his screening, the Los Angeles Times called Nahjum "The most ambitious title of the show" and highlighted that the independent short film looks like "a great Hollywood production" in which he highlights the nature of his home state: San Luis Potosí.

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His next work entitled “El Triste” (2021), a short film that breaks the content formula starring puppets, in which Del Valle collaborated with Matt Scott and Caín Carías: two of the most eccentric puppeteers in California.

This installment (with a peculiar mix of genres) explores a drama that takes place behind the scenes of a puppet show in which we follow an old puppet on a journey of self-acceptance and discovery in which he decides to do everything possible to prove himself to him and his companions that he is valuable and worthy of admiration.

A film that portrays the aspects of self-esteem in the artistic medium from an angle and a style with a clear objective; promote mental health and diversity in an industry that is just beginning to evolve into a better place.

In an interview for Forbes, the director highlighted the importance of programs such as New Filmmakers Los Angeles (directed by Larry Laboe); that educate, encourage and promote emerging filmmakers.

Del Valle was recently called one of the "ambassadors of Latino culture in the world of entertainment" along with a group of filmmakers belonging to the Tomorrow Filmmakers Today initiative, taught by Samuel Douek, Diana Luna and Carlos Aguilar. On that same occasion, Manuel Del Valle offered a brief conference on entrepreneurship as a young emerging filmmaker and the challenges that this entails.

Some of the festivals where his short films have been awarded include Shorts Mexico film festival, HBO' Urbanworld Film festival, Hollyshorts Film festival and Bentonville film festival. The latter founded by Oscar and Emmy winner Geena Davis.

Currently, Manuel Del Valle is developing his debut film, while he continues to execute music videos, fashion films and short films as director and producer.

Next year Del Valle will launch his production company Nomad Heart Studios; with the commitment to generate content with a *Cautionary Tales* label that has a social and cultural impact. In this production company he will work with his constant collaborators: Edgar Cortés Campoy, Andrés Paredes Arroyo and Sebastián Torres Greene, to continue generating content with a daring character in concept and execution.