



PRODUCED BY LA TIGRESSA PRODUCTIONS
DISTRIBUTED BY BLACK WEALTH MEDIA

A FILM BY CHRISTINE RODRIGUEZ

FUEGO

DANNY BLANCO-HALL DAVIDE CHIAZZESE AND DANIEL LOYER

ORIGINAL MUSIC BY **GIOVANY ARTEAGA VALDES**

SOUND DESIGN **ROB DENTON**

EDITOR **JULIETTE CRYTES**

ART DIRECTOR **HALO SOYINI BRUCE**

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY **LAURA TORRES**

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY **CHRISTINE RODRIGUEZ**

WITH THE SUPPORT OF HERITAGE CANADA



LOGLINE

“Cambia por que se te va, se te va la vida.”

SYNOPSIS

Lonely, isolated and disconnected from his roots, Manolo is an Afro-Cuban man who has reached a low point in his life. But he'll find new hope after a chance meeting in the community centre where he works. A short film set in Montreal (Tio'tia:ke), Canada, in English, French and Spanish.

"FUEGO by Christine Rodriguez a stand out short film at ABFF."
Lapacazo Sandoval, Amsterdam News

A photograph of a man with a beard and bald head, wearing a dark blue button-down shirt, looking off to the side with a serious expression. In the background, another person is seen from behind, holding a white sign with handwritten text. The sign reads "OUT OF ORDER" on the top line and "HORS SERVICE" on the bottom line. The scene is indoors with a plain wall and a door visible in the background.

Director's Statement

"Fuego" was born out of Black Wealth Media's Black Ink Mentorship program which was designed to give voice to emerging Afro-descended creators in Québec. Christine Rodriguez, who wrote, directed and produced the short film, explains:

"I wanted to bring attention to the crossroads between blackness and latinidad, something sorely missing on our screens. Working on obtaining a Major in Hispanic Studies at Université de Montréal, I learned that few courses go in depth into the Afrolatinx experience. In the two Hispanic film courses that I took, out of almost two dozen films I had to watch, there was only one Black character --a maid who only had a couple of lines in a film. It made me wonder: where are the people who look like me, who look like my afrolatinx ancestors? So I decided, why wait for others to do it when I can do it myself?

The rising anti-immigrant rhetoric of the past few years is also something that I wanted to address. It's important for me to affirm that Black and Brown people contribute to Québec as much as any other immigrants. I wanted to show the sacrifice people make when they decide to move north: the loss of community, culture and familial bonds. "Fuego" is the light I hope we can all find within ourselves to persevere and persist."

CAST

Danny Blanco-Hall, who plays the lead character, Manolo, is a Canadian actor and singer born in Montreal to a Cuban-Haitian father and a Colombian mother. He began singing at the age of 19. As an actor, he's been featured in numerous television and film productions, including "Dark Phoenix", "Riddick" and "19-2", as well as doing voice work for "Assassin's Creed." You can often catch him performing live with some of Montreal's best musicians.



DANNYBLANCO-HALL

OTHER CAST

DANIEL LOYER (JEAN)



DAVIDE CHIAZZESE (MATTEO)



KATHERINE SIDERIS (ESME)



A close-up portrait of Christine Rodriguez, a woman with dark, curly hair, looking directly at the camera with a slight smile. The background is dark and out of focus.

Christine Rodriguez

WRITER, DIRECTOR, PRODUCER

B I O

Christine's first short film "Fuego" was part of the 2021 American Black Film Festival as well as many other festivals in Cannes (Marché du Film), Toronto and the United States. The film earned her a nomination for Best Filmmaker of the Year by Gala Dynastie, which recognizes Black excellence in Québec. In 2021, Christine participated in the Warner Bros. Discovery Access x Canadian Academy Writers Program, working on the feature screenplay of "Fuego." Most recently, she received a grant from the Rogers - Black Screen Office Development Fund to write the pilot for her TV series "Nina's '80s." Christine is joining the Norman Jewison Writers' Lab at the Canadian Film Centre in July. She holds a Certificate of Professional Screenwriting from UCLA. She's continuously inspired by her multicultural environment and her mixed-race, Afro-Trinidadian heritage.

MUSICAL DIRECTOR

Giovany Arteaga Valdes is a musical virtuoso who can play the piano, the flute, the saxophone and the guitar. He composes music with striking Afro-Cuban rhythms and performs around town with his band, The Cuban Connexion. Hailing from La Habana, he's played with the greats, including Omara Portuondo. Most recently, he toured and performed with Corneille. "Fuego" is his first composition for film. He's currently studying writing music for film at Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM).



GIOVANY ARTEAGA VALDES

Theme song for Fuego:

Composed and arranged by Giovany Arteaga Valdes

Lyrics: Giovany Arteaga Valdes & Rusdell Nuñez

Lead Vocals: Danny Blanco-Hall

Chorus: Rusdell Nuñez And Adán De Dios

Musicians on the recording:

Bass: Giovanni Cofiño

Congas And Percussion: Jorge Luis Papiosco

Flute: Giovany Arteaga Valdes

Piano: Willy Barreto

Timbales: Arturo Zegarra

Tres: Pablosky Rosales

Trombone: Serge Arsenault

Trumpet: Eduardo Sanchez



WWW.FUEGOASHORTFILM.COM

PARTIAL CREDITS

Director of Photography

Laura Torres

Art Direction and Design, Poster Design

Nalo Soyini Bruce

Film Editor

Juliette Crytes

Sound Director, Mixing and Editing

Rob Denton

Colour Mixing

Pablo Perugorria



Technical Information

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Runtime: 15:51 (includes credits)

Sound Mix: Stereo

Colour: Colour

Aspect Ratio: 16:9

Camera: Panasonic Lumix GH5

Subtitles: English

