

## **Writer/Director - Alyssa Toledo**

### **BIO**

*I grew up in a small, crime-ridden beach town on the central coast of CA. I can confidently say 'crime-ridden,' because a lot of the crime was at the hands of my constant juvie-bound gang banger cousins who I spent the early years of my dichotomous childhood growing up with and admiring. My parents split when I was one and I spent years bouncing back and fourth between a house full of Barbies, spelling tests, and spousal abuse to a house where I didn't speak the same language, starting getting garage tattoos at 13, and well...more spousal abuse. At eight I moved in full-time with my dad, the house where I didn't speak the same language as him and his family. I was suddenly a gay, female, and half-white kid living in an all spanish-speaking household with mostly Mexican men. Needless to say my early years were filled with this sense of not belonging anywhere-especially to myself. It was my deep curiosity, desire to better understand myself, and a fire-fueling sense of loneliness that propelled me to graduate early from high school and pursue my associates and then bachelors degree in film and video production.*

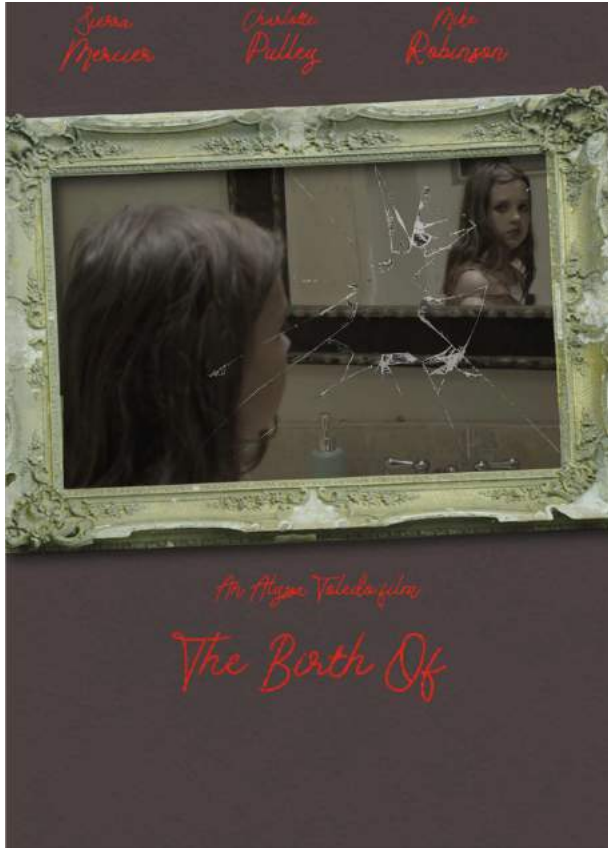
*During my time in college I wrote, directed, edited many of my own narrative short films as well as PA-ed on various projects through out Los Angeles. During my sophomore year of college I emailed a head at Netflix at the time introducing myself and continued to do so for about two years until being invited to Netflix's headquarters after graduating. I was offered a position to PA on Netflix's Outer Banks series where I met several crew/cast members that would help make my fourth short film 'Lift Off,' which would go on to be featured at festivals around the country and win several awards. Since 'Lift Off,' I have written three feature scripts, two pilots, directed two music videos, wrote/directed another short film 'Friends Call Us Unlucky,' and am currently prepping on shooting my sixth short film 'Toledo,'*



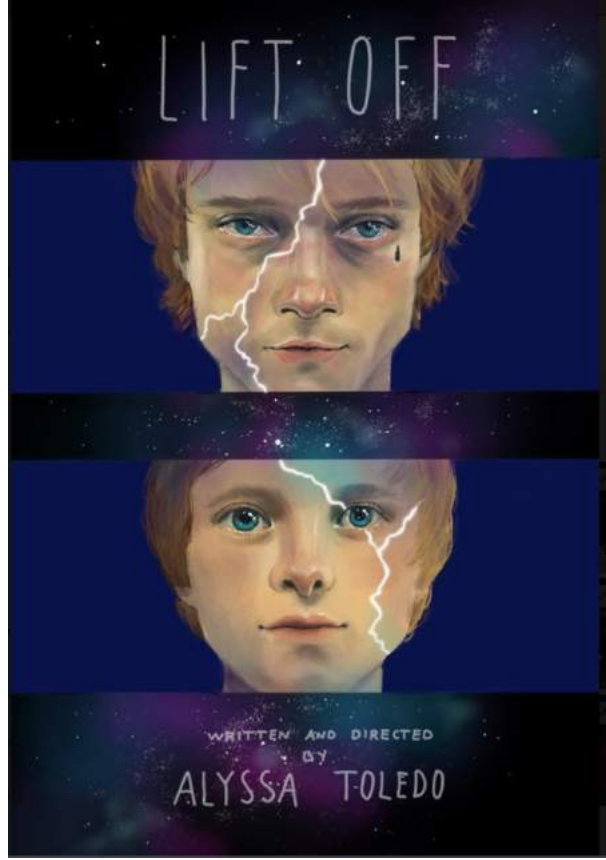
## **ARTIST STATEMENT**

*I'm the by-product of two, very opposing worlds. On one hand, my mother, a midwest pageant queen and on the other, my father, an immigrant who crossed the Mexican border at thirteen. Together they created me, an overly passionate Mexican-American who received a garage tattoo by an infamous gang member at twelve years old and two years prior couldn't decide which pink bathing suit to wear to Sam Strashoffer's BRATZ-themed pool party. I spent my formidable years bouncing back and forth between my parent's dysfunctional worlds. I lived in extremes but always from the outside looking in, never fitting into either culture. I'd find myself questioning whether I was White or Mexican, dissatisfied with being unable to fit into a clear-cut box. I viewed my inability to fit into these worlds as a weakness and was perceived as other. I saw it as a sign that I was an unfortunate glitch that would never find my place. Though I didn't quite see it at the time, being the outcast pushed me to be fiercely curious in how humans navigate their circumstances and communicate-or more accurately, miscommunicate. It was only when I found storytelling and the power behind it that I realized my lack of fitting in and multi-cultural background is and was my most-prized asset.*

## **IMAGES OF PREVIOUS WORK**



Writer and Director- Birth Of (2016)



Writer/Director/Editor- Lift Off (2020)



Writer/Director/Editor-Friends Call Us Unlucky (2022) Writer/Director/Editor- Toledo (2023)



## **PRESS COVERAGE**

NewFilmmakersLA Interview

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5XydPYQMIZA>

MovieMaker Magazine

<https://www.moviemaker.com/music-crosses-the-border-in-nfmlas-celebration-of-latinx-hispanic-cinema/amp/>

## **FESTIVALS/AWARDS**



**NEWFILMMAKERS LA**



NewFilmmakers Los Angeles 'Best Film Edit-*Lift Off*'  
Screencraft Diverse Voices Finalist  
Jellyfest season 6 Finalist

## **RECENT COLLABORATORS**

Elaine Siemek - *Virgo* Proof of Concept and *Lift Off*



Rudy Pankow - *Virgo* Proof of Concept and *Lift Off*



Gabriel Warburton - *Friends Call Us Unlucky*



Drew Starkey - *Virgo* Proof of Concept



## **CONTACT INFO**

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YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC5GfZP3JvhZNCksHlc6UZEg>

Clubhouse: @alyssatoledo