

Heal yourself, heal the future.



MOTHER of COLOR

A feature film by Dawn Jones Redstone



AN EERIE SOCIAL DRAMA

Run Time: 87 minutes

Written and Directed By: Dawn Jones Redstone

Produced By: Tara Johnson-Medinger, p.g.a., Ashley Song, p.g.a., Dawn Jones Redstone, p.g.a.

Starring: Ana del Rocío, Patricia Alvitez, Kasey Tinoco, Julian Hernandez, with special appearances by Luz Elena Mendoza, and former Portland City Commissioner Jo Ann Hardesty

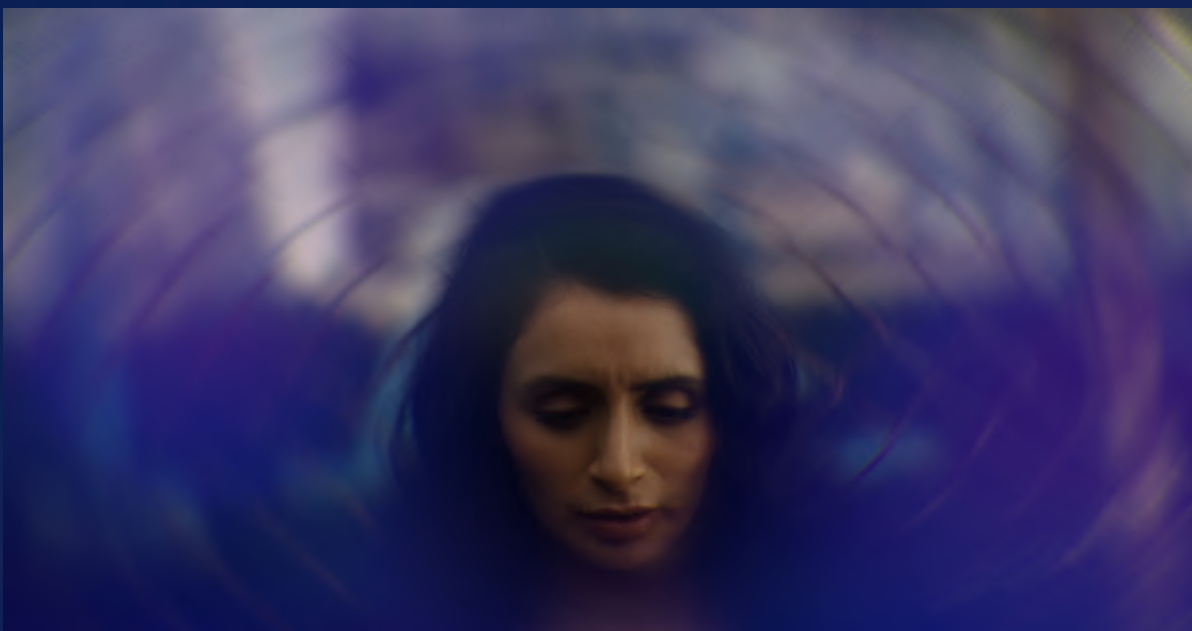
LOGLINE

A single mother of two, begins receiving messages from her ancestors as she sets out to make it to a life-changing job interview.



SYNOPSIS

In a tumultuous world, Noelia is a whip-smart community organizer and single mother of two, constantly has to make hard choices between her kids and her career. When she's offered the chance to interview for a position that could change everything, she begins receiving mysterious messages from her ancestors. Noelia senses that something bigger is at play as she works through a series of obstacles to get to the interview and follow her dreams.





Dawn Jones Redstone

Writer/Director

Dawn Jones Redstone is an award-winning queer, Mexican American writer/director whose short films have screened around the globe including the acclaimed *Sista in the Brotherhood* distributed by Collective Eye. Her work often features women of color (cast and crew) and explores themes of resistance, feminism and the internal machinations that help us transform into the people we want to become.

She believes in using her hiring decisions to help create an inclusive filmmaking community that reflects and brings needed perspective to the world we live in. In 2017, she was selected to shadow Debra Granik on the set of *Leave No Trace*. She has been named a Woman of Vision by the Daily Journal of Commerce, was a Lynn Shelton grant nominee, and is the recipient of OMPA's Inspiration and Service Award for her work helping to bring equity to the state film incentives.

Grant awards include Regional Arts and Culture Council, Portland Art Museum, Seeding Justice, Oregon Futures Lab, Story Changes Culture, Prosper Portland and more. *Mother of Color* is her feature film debut. She resides with her wife and daughter in Portland, Oregon.

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IG: @dawnjonesredstone

TW: @dawnamo



DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

The film was inspired by its star, Ana del Rocío, and was initially a straightforward indie drama about a woman's attempt to get to a job interview while struggling with childcare. She's smart, ambitious and woke to a fault, but somehow still perpetuating the systems that are rigged against her as a single mother of color. But as the pandemic set in and protests unfolded in the wake of George Floyd's murder (particularly in Portland, where I live), I wanted to tell a story that connected this mother's journey with the modern reckoning of our colonial past.

From immigrant children in cages and police brutality to the more subtle forms of racism, people of color are asked to endure the destructive world order of white supremacy our country was built on. Our ancestors have survived to bring us to this moment, but not without passing on the wounds of their suffering. Talk of trauma has surged during the pandemic, but I want to go beyond "resiliency" to talk about what comes next. The film ultimately asks us all to consider how we can acknowledge our wounds and heal in order to see the world more clearly and become the people we need to be in order to usher in a better future.

KEY CAST BIOS



Ana del Rocío as Noelia

Ana del Rocío is a former community organizer and nonprofit executive director who helped increase the representation of Black, Indigenous, and other people of color in public office. Ana spent ten years in the public sector as a teacher, policy and research director, and chief of staff to Oregon's first Latina state representative. Ana also enjoys managing her small team of organizers-in-training: Tupac and Inti. Mother of Color is her feature film debut. Ana is also an Associate Producer on the film.



Patricia Alvitez as Elena

Patricia Alvitez was born in Peru where she studied Ballet at La Escuela Nacional de Ballet en el Peru and acting at La Asociacion de Artistas Aficionados and El Club de Teatro de Lima. When she moved to the States in the late 80s, she joined The Peninsula Ballet Theatre in the San Francisco Bay Area as a company member. Here in Portland she started dancing Ballroom in 2008 and has competed Pro-Am in Portland, Seattle and Los Angeles. She also works as a freelance artist specializing in animal portraits.



Luz Elena Mendoza as Che

Y La Bamba has been many things, but at the heart of it is singer-songwriter Luz Elena Mendoza's inquisitive sense of self. Their fifth record, Mujeres, carries on the Portland-based band's affinity for spiritual contemplation, but goes a step further in telling a story with a full emotional spectrum. Coming off Ojos Del Sol, one of NPR's Top 50 Albums of 2016, Mujeres exhibits the scope of Mendoza's artistic voice like never before. "Music is an extension of everything I have inside. It's how I emote," Mendoza says.



Commissioner Jo Ann Hardesty - The Commissioner

Commissioner Jo Ann Hardesty is the first and only Black woman elected to the Portland City Council in our city's 176 year history. She grew up in Baltimore as the daughter of a longshoreman and one of ten children. Not long after serving in the Navy, Jo Ann moved to Oregon as her permanent home, where she has remained for the last 30+ years. Prior to being elected as a Portland City Commissioner, she served in the Oregon House of Representatives and as a leader of numerous advocacy groups, including the Portland NAACP.

KEY TEAM BIOS



Tara Johnson-Medinger - Producer, p.g.a.

Tara is a film director, producer, parent and champion of gender equality in the entertainment industry. A member of the Producers Guild of America, and over 25 years in the television and film industries, her producing credits include: THE WINDING STREAM, CITY BABY, ROCK N ROLL MAMAS and several short films. Her feature film directorial debut, MY SUMMER AS A GOTH was released in 2020 and she is currently in development with her latest feature, US - YOU = ME. An advocate for women in film, Johnson-Medinger honors groundbreaking female and non-binary filmmakers as Executive Director of the international Power of Women in Film Festival (POW Film Fest), while developing the next generation of media makers through POWGirls. www.littlemissanomaly.com IG: @littlemissanomaly



Ashley Song - Producer, p.g.a

As an artist and filmmaker, Ashley Song (she/her) is committed to re-imagining traditional narratives and including underrepresented voices. She is an award-winning half-Korean writer and producer who co-founded Desert Island Studios to increase affordability and accessibility to film resources. Recent producing credits include: See Me (premiered at 2021 Portland International Film Festival); Borrufa (premiered at 2020 Portland International Film Festival); L'Ortolan (Best Experimental Short at the European Short Film Festival and Most Original Concept at Portland Shorts Fest); and Private Chat (as part of Portland Playhouse's 2020 "Wonderland" series). Song is also a working actor and has starred in numerous films and stage productions



Sean Conley - Director of Photography

Sean Conley is an award-winning Director of Photography based in Portland, Oregon. At the age of 17, Sean picked up his Dad's 35 mm film camera and fell in love with photography and the ability to capture a moment in time. This informed his transition into cinematography where he shot skate videos with friends and eventually short films, music videos, commercials and narrative & documentary features. He's worked with Netflix, A24, Nike, Fender, and Adidas and his work has screened in Europe, Korea and the United States. Sean loves collaborating with directors to tell visually meaningful stories and is committed to being an ally for underrepresented voices in the industry.

WEBSITE, TRAILER, AND SOCIALS

(Click or copy links)

Website: www.motherofcolorfilm.com

Trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dIR1FBm9i6E>

Imdb: <https://www.imdb.com/title/tt14342896/>

Film Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/motherofcolorfilm>

Director Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/dawnjonesredstone>

Film Twitter: <https://twitter.com/motherofcolor>

Director Twitter: <https://twitter.com/dawnamo>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/motherofcolorfilm/>

LINK TO IMAGES

[Hi Res Still, Title Images and Dawn directing on set](#)





PRESS

(Click or copy links)

February 5, 2023

[Reconciling what you deserve with the way the world actually operates in “Mother of Color”](#)
- Winter Film Awards International Film Festival

October 21, 2022

[The highly anticipated local film is about a single mother who dreams of running for office](#) - Willamette Week

October 28, 2022

[Dawn Jones Redstone Interview: Reflecting on a Film Career Centered on Transformational Journeys](#) - Redefine Magazine

November 2, 2022

[Don't Call Mother of Color Magical Realism](#) - Portland Mercury

November 2, 2022

[A woman balancing community activism and raising children](#) - Oregon Artswatch

August 29, 2022

[Star Ana del Rocío in New York Times article about quitting her job, mention of film](#)

May 11, 2022

[Lights, Camera, Revolution, Dawn Jones Redstone](#) - cover of Willamette Week

June 30, 2021

[A Filmmaking Leap of Faith](#) - Cover of Opportunity Magazine

May 25, 2021

[New film addresses race, ancestral trauma and women at work](#) - Story Changes Culture



Q and A with Dawn Jones Redstone

You've been making shorts for the past six years, what was it like to make the leap into a feature film?

Shorts are a great way to gain experience, but I knew that if I wanted to grow into telling bigger stories, I would have to level up. People say you're supposed to make your first feature with two people talking in a room; this is not that! So many people and locations, visual effects, a protest scene. We were ambitious. And then we were also doing it with COVID.

But I think because this story has urgency and speaks to this moment in time, my community showed up to support me in so many ways. My producers, Tara and Ashley, said that I would just start walking, and they would be there laying down the tracks ahead of me. It was incredible.

You have a long history of advocating for diversity and inclusion. Tell us about it.

With all of my films going back to 2016, I have sought to have casts and crews that consisted mostly of women/nonbinary folks of color. With the feature, this was not an easy task, and it often meant the team had to go out of our way to find folks as well as provide mentorship or additional support for crew members. Really, it just meant, giving people a chance.

We also had three director shadows, an experience that was important to me to offer after I had the chance to shadow Debra Granik on the set of *Leave No Trace* when it filmed in Portland.

You can learn more about who we hired and how at the bottom of our team page [here](#). (click or visit Team page at motherofcolorfilm.com)

END CREDITS

Written/Directed By Dawn Jones Redstone

Produced By Tara Johnson-Medinger, p.g.a.
Ashley Song, p.g.a.
Dawn Jones Redstone, p.g.a.

Starring Ana del Rocío
Patricia Alvitez
Kasey Tinoco
Julian Hernandez
Jo Ann Hardesty
Luz Elena Mendoza

Cast in order of appearance

Charlie	Michael Mendelson
Janet	Shilpa Sunthakar
Cynthia	Stacey Dunbar
Mrs. Williams	Eve Jones
Emilia	GerRee Hinshaw
Lead Protester	Andrea Vernae
Woman in Park	Julie Elizabeth Knell
Receptionist	Adriana Gantzer
Isabel	Blanca Forzan
Jeff	Jonathan Miles
Co-Worker	Thyra Hartshorn
Driver 1	Mahesh Madhav
Receptionist 1	Ruth Jenkins
Store Clerk	Tim Vergano
Man in line	Rollyn Stafford
Woman in line	Amy Nieto
Receptionist 2	Adriana Gantzer

Childcare 1 Background Actors

Aspen Guerra, Obi Hughes, Luna Padilla-Spradling, Erin Hernandez

Karla's Kids Background Actors

Carmen Barcelo, Annoah Davis, Joshua Guerra, Rumi Hunte Pool Max Hunte Pool, Abigail Merlos, Carlos Merlos, David Merlos, Jeffrey Merlos

-Cast Continued-

Bus Stop Background Actors

Jarratt Taylor, Crystal Galicia, Alexander Yareth Reyes, Leonardo-Gael Reyes, Eric Stachon

Women's Class Background Actors

Faviana Che, Neify Lavadores, Gustavo Bentanzos

Office Background Actors

Mikyla Bordner, Bailey Milner, Bobby Nove

School Background Actors

Anastasia Espinoza, Carrie Anne Honeycutt, Cleo Westby

Street Background Actors

Ada Gene Folz, Linus Folz, Carie Weisenbach-Folz

Store Background Actors

Mikyla Bordner, Robert Martinez, Zoe Dobbins, John Zwaschka

Park Background Actors

Ashley Bos, Lewis Bos, Alice Bos, Sascha Blocker

Protester Background Actors

Renee Allums, Jami Baker, Lucila Cejas, Lisa Chiem, Morgan French, Mare Good, Gabe Gutierrez, Ivan Gutierrez, Elysa Gutierrez, Abi Gutierrez, Claudia Hernandez, Isis, Ilias-Gutierrez, Diona Jackson, Tamera Lyn, Ciara Lynsey, Berke Moore, Dominique Murphy, Stephan Nance, Akela Phillips-Freytag, Courday Rose, Jeff Selby, Abie Valenzuela, Tim Vergano

Commissioner's Office Background Actors

Aurelie Attard Espinosa, Caetano Attard Espinosa, Jeff Walker, Stephan Nance, Oliver Alexander

END CREDITS continued

Crew

Director of Photography	Sean Conley
Production Designer	Vaughn Kimmons
Wardrobe Stylist	Diona Jackson
Casting Director	Barbie Wu
Editor	James Jones
Music Composer	Jake Hull
Additional Dialogue	Ana del Rocio
First Assistant Directors	Kanani Koster
Second Assistant Directors	Kamryn Fall
1st AC	Candace Fields
1st AC	Gabe Twigg
1st AC	Liz Moughon
2nd AC	Julie Nhem
2nd AC	Makayla Caldwell
2nd AC	Jeanette Li
2nd AC	Casey Grosso
DIT/Camera PA	Tamera Lyn
B Camera	Thisara Pinto
Sound Mixer & Operator	Rachel Saldivar
Gaffer	Robert Martinez
Key Grip	Camrin Sanchez
Company Grip	Haley McCoy
Swing	Naike Swai
Tow-Bar Grip/Driver	Sean Devine
Art Director	Diana Suarez
Set Dresser	Mattie Ngo
Hair and Makeup	Angela Foster
Wardrobe Assistant	Lydia Wade-Sully
Script Supervisor	Lyn Loo
Production Coordinator	Pearson Kunz
Medic/COVID Compliance	A. Davis
Production Secretary	Leah Benson
Communications	Kenya Juarez
Production PA	Mikyla Bordner
Production PA	Marcie Caddell
Production PA	Bailey Milner
Production PA	Coral Worley
Production PA	Lou Haney
Production PA	Lilyann Banuelos
Childcare Provider	Danielle Green

-Crew Continued-

Colorist	Jasmine Vazquez
Butterfly in Mouth VFX	Leif Peterson
Re-Recording Mixer	Corey Crawford
Foley Artist	Jenstar Hacker
Sound Design	James Jones
Additional Sound	Betty Alcaraz
Additional Sound	Kai Tillman
<u>Flying Butterfly VFX</u>	
Executive Producer	Roland Gauthier
Producer	Mark Axton
Animation Director	Alex Tysowsky
Compositing Lead	Terell Seitz
Lighting/Textures	Ken Kurras
Animator	Ian Farmer

"Ceniza"

Written & performed by Luz Elena Mendoza
By arrangement with Terrorbird Media

Mt. Hood Timelapse generously provided by
Andrew Studer Photography

The film received developmental support from
Artists Repertory Theatre's new works program:
Table/Room/Stage

Thank you to US Works in Progress

Mother of Color was made possible through
support from Ronnie Lacroute, Carmen Perez,
Regional Arts and Culture Council, NW Film
Center/ Portland Art Museum, Oregon Future
Labs, City of Portland/Prosper Portland, Oregon
Film and 304 Kickstarter Backers including Story
Changes Culture Media, Sandy Bacharach, Rene
Chiara, Katie Coulson, Shilpa Sunthakar and Ben
Adams, Siobhan Gray and Danny Thomas.