



# CUANACAQUILITL

(DANDELION)

A film by Lorena R. Valencia

Contact:

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<https://www.instagram.com/cuanacaquilitl/>  
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2022 Mexico, USA | TRT: 16:45mins | Color  
Spanish w/English subtitles | Aspect ratio 1.85:1

# **CUANACAQUILITL**

**(DANDELION)**

## **SHORT SYNOPSIS**

Ingrid, a teenage girl who lives in a small town in Mexico, is helped by her best friend in her search for home remedies to stop an unwanted pregnancy, undeterred by the health risks that she may face. Together they discover that in spite of the vulnerable situations society places women in, sisterhood can help them flourish.

## **DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT**

Around the entire world, people are still fighting for basic rights such as making choices over their own bodies. My short film “Cuanacaquilitl” (Dandelion), aims to keep having conversations about the dangerous conditions that thousands of people with a capacity for pregnancy face practicing clandestine abortions.

This film portrays, through a fiction scenario, the lives of many females around the world who lack the resources to decide over their own bodies but it's also a film that honors the power of hope, resilience and sisterhood.

“Cuanacaquilitl” comes from the Nahuatl language, venerating my roots and my ancestry, and it means “Dandelion” in English. This narrative short film is written in honor to my grandmothers who despite living in tough conditions, showed strength and resilience raising a large number of children, and it's dedicated to all the people with a capacity for pregnancy who feel overwhelmed during these uncertain times.

# DIRECTOR'S BIO

**LORENA R. VALENCIA** is a Mexican filmmaker based in New York City. She holds an MFA in Film from the City College of New York and a BFA in Design and Visual Communication from the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM).

Her directorial debut and MFA thesis film *Cuanacaquiltil* (Dandelion, 2022) received the 2022 National Board of Review Student Award and is currently an Official Selection at various film festivals such as the Morelia International Film Festival (Mexico), Atlanta Film Festival (USA), and the Human Rights Arts & Film Festival (Australia). She is also a member of the New York Women in Film and TV organization (NYWIFT) and was a nominee for the 2021 BAFTA-NY Jeff Hunter Charitable Trust award as well as a recipient of the 2020 Dr. David M. Milch Foundation award and the 2021 Bert Saperstein Communication award.

Lorena is passionate about both narrative and documentary storytelling and is interested in addressing issues such as reproductive rights, identity and belonging, and motherhood. She is currently directing "Mi Ranchito," a documentary short film that explores the resilience and love of people in the countryside for their land, who choose to stay in their communities, seeing migration from a different perspective. Lorena is also developing her opera prima "Mayahuel," a narrative feature film that explores contemporary paganism and the benefits of ancestral knowledge associated with fertility and reproductive rights.

# CAST

**ABRIL MONTIEL (INGRID)** is a Mexican actress born and raised in Huejutla, Hidalgo. She is currently studying a B.A. in Theater at the Autonomous University of the State of Hidalgo. She made her debut in films acting in the movie “Naran” (2018) directed by Nubia J. Saldaña after acting in theater for years including plays like “Bodas de sangre” (2018) Dir. Alex Sanmar and “Caricias” (2019). CUANACAQUILITL is her debut as a lead actress in a film.

**ALEJANDRA HERRERA (BRENDA)** is a Mexican actress nominated for Best Actress by the 2020 Tribeca Film Festival for her role as Marisol in “Kokoloko” directed by Gerardo Naranjo, film that also won the award as BEST MEXICAN FILM at the 2020 Guadalajara International Film Festival. Alejandra has played several roles in films like “Roma” (2018) by Alfonso Cuarón, “Spider mouth butterfly” (2020) directed by Alexis Moh, “La diosa del asfalto” (2020) directed by Julián Hernandez, “Tiempo de lluvia” (2019) directed by Itandehui Jansen and “Yo Fausto” (2019) directed by Julio Berthely.

**JESUS ISLAS AMBRIZ (MAN)** is a Mexican Theater Director and actor. He holds a M.F.A. in Contemporary Art (2020) and a B.A. in Dramatic Arts (2007). Currently is Coordinator of the B.A. in Theater at the Autonomous University of the State of Hidalgo while teaching Staging in the same institution.

**JOSÉ LUIS CASTILLA LEÓN (FATHER)** was born and raised in Mexico and has spent over 25 years acting and directing theater. He is the Founder and Executive Director at Teatrubu, located in Tlaxcala. Jose Luis holds a M.F.A. in Mexican Literature for the BUAP and a B.A. in Performing Arts for the Universidad Veracruzana. He has played several roles in theater, TV and film including “Zapata Vive”, “Mirada de Mujer” and “El Violin” (2005).

# CREDITS

**Writer/Director:** Lorena R. Valencia

**Executive Producers:** Lorena R. Valencia, Dulce Rodriguez, Ricardo Ramirez, Aaron Rodriguez

**Producer:** Lorena R. Valencia

**Co-Producer:** Juanita Valencia

**Associate Producers:** Angie Danhaous, Melisa Rodriguez

**1st Assistant Director:** Julie Neira Campoverde

**Casting Director:** Casandra Chong

**Location Manager:** Erika A. Ávila Valencia

**Production Manager:** Estela Toledano Palmerin

**Production Assistant:** Daniel Ortiz

**Production Assistant:** Nabhani Rodriguez

**Director of Photography:** Nemo Allen

**1st AC:** Natalia Cáceres de la Teja

**2nd AC:** Fernanda Vázquez Alcántara

**G&E:** Edgar2 Film Rentals, Christian Gabriel Camacho García, Diego Antonio Camacho García

**Sound Recordist:** Sergio E. Cerecedo

**Production Designer:** Ricardo Salgado López

**Art Director:** Erika A. Ávila Valencia

**Wardrobe & Hair:** Tere Valencia

**VFX Make up:** Tere Valencia, Gerson Ortiz

**Set construction:** Joaquín Segura Nicolás, Samantha Olvera Gómez

**Sketch:** Tania Cruz

**Editor:** Marta Tenorio

**Colorist:** David Gamiño

**Sound mixer:** Joel Argüelles

**Composer:** Charlie Lavin

**Poster:** Bianca Rosendo Servin

**Translation:** Maria Mayo

**Special thanks to:** Annie Howell, Alan Berliner, Andrea Weiss, Antonio Tibaldi, Tal Lazar, JT Takagi, Jerry Carlson, Myna Joseph, Pam Ralat, David Briggs, Andrej Krakowski, Barbara Nevins, Nancy Gerstman, Rick Smigielski, Aaron Rodriguez, Family Valencia, CCNY MFA Program Class of 2022, Municipal Government of Epazoyucan, Santa Monica Church, Tinacal Mi Ranchito

## TECHNICAL DETAILS

**International title:** Dandelion **Original Title:** Cuanacaquilil **Genre:** Drama **Production Year:** 2022

**Month of start & end of shooting:** November 2021 **Shooting Locations:** Epazoyucan, Hidalgo, Mexico

**Language:** Spanish **Duration:** 16:45 **Shot On:** Panasonic EVA **Aspect Ratio:** 1.85:1 **Format:** 4K

**Sound Format:** 5.1

# OFFICIAL SELECTION - FILM FESTIVALS

2022 - Festival Internacional de Cine de Morelia - Worldwide Premiere (Mexico)

2023 - Atlanta Film Festival - USA Premiere

2023 - Human Rights Arts and Film Festival - Melbourne, Australia

2023 - Festival de Cine Oro Negro - Veracruz, Mexico

2023 - The Americas Film Festival of New York - New York City, USA

2023 - Festival de Cine Independiente de la Ciudad de México - Mexico City, Mexico

2023 - MICGénero - Mexico

2023 - Festival Internacional De Cine Por Los Derechos Humanos - Colombia

2023 - NewFilmmakersLA Film Festival - Los Angeles, USA.

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