

THE BALLAD OF
TITA
AND THE MACHINES

DIRECTED BY
MIGUEL ANGEL CABALLERO

WRITTEN BY
LUIS ANTONIO ALDANA AND MIGUEL ANGEL CABALLERO



FILM INFO

ORIGINAL TITLE THE BALLAD OF TITA AND THE MACHINES
SPANISH TITLE EL CORRIDO DE TITA Y LAS MAQUINAS

RUN TIME 15 MINUTES
GENRE SCI-FI DRAMA
PREMIERED AT 2023 TRIBECA FESTIVAL

WRITTEN BY LUIS ANTONIO ALDANA
..... MIGUEL ANGEL CABALLERO

DIRECTED BY MIGUEL ANGEL CABALLERO

PRODUCED BY HELENA SARDINHA
..... RAFAEL THOMASETO

STARRING LAURA PATALANO
..... NICO GREETHAM
..... LUIS ANTONIO ALDANA



THE BALLAD OF
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LOGLINE

When Tita, an elderly fieldworker, reluctantly hires an AI humanoid to fill in for her picking strawberries, she attracts the engineers' attention because their humanoids cannot do her back-breaking work.

Cuando Tita, una trabajadora de tercera edad, contrata a un humanoide de IA para que la sustituya en el campo pizcando fresas, atrae la atención de los ingenieros porque los humanoides no pueden hacer su trabajo agotador.



DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT



My family followed the seasons as immigrant field workers harvesting fields throughout the southwestern United States. For years, when they worked in the strawberry fields, I witnessed the job's brutal effects on my parents and older siblings. But despite the back-breaking nature of the work, their constant fatigue was always coupled with a sense of pride and strength. It was this basic understanding that went into the creative process of this story. "The Ballad of Tita and the Machines" is named in honor of my mother, "Tita."

The film presents a future where it's lawful for employers to utilize the metrics gathered by software that can quantify a worker's "presumed productivity" to determine if an employee's labor is, in fact, profitable. Though the film may seem to tease a dystopian sci-fi narrative, it was always my writing partner's and my aim to ground the story on our protagonist's independence, integrity, strength, and determination. Ultimately, Tita's story is symbolic of the struggles and triumphs the working-class communities we come from experience daily.

My goal was to celebrate and honor the myriad of workers that make up our working-class communities, from field workers to the many that clean houses, from fruit and rose vendors on the streets to nannies helping raise the children of the wealthy. This film shines a light on our unsung working-class heroes with authenticity and admiration.

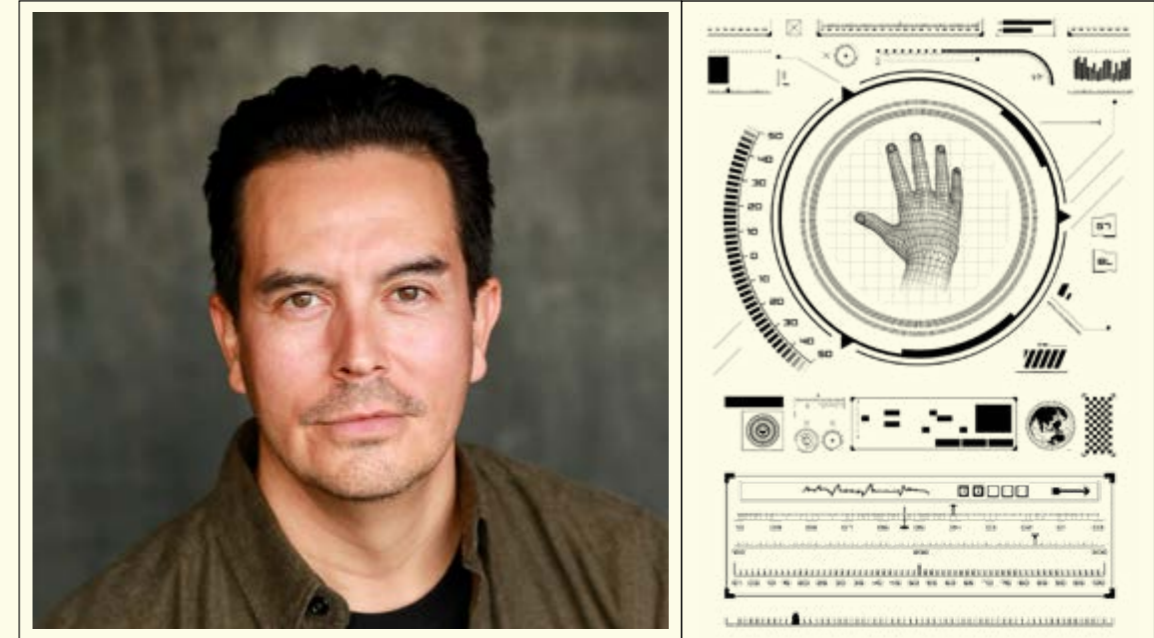
THE BALLAD OF
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MIGUEL ANGEL CABALLERO

DIRECTOR
/ WRITER

Miguel Angel is the son of Mexican immigrant farm workers and an award-winning Queer Mexican-American/Chicano writer, director, producer. He received his bachelor's degree from the school of Theater, Film & Television at UCLA. His latest short film, 'Acuitzeramo,' premiered at the Morelia International Film Festival and won 20 awards internationally, including 'Best LGBTQ Short' at the American Pavilion at the Cannes Film Festival. His previous film, 'Broken Sunflower Hearts,' was named by Remezcla Magazine as one of the year's 'Best Short Films' by U.S. Latino directors. He is an Outfest Screenwriting Lab Fellow and recipient of the Warner Bros. Discovery 150 Artist Grant. Miguel Angel was selected to take part in the 2022 inaugural Academy (Oscars) Accelerator Program. In 2023, Miguel Angel was selected to direct for Lena Waithe's Rising Voices Season 3.

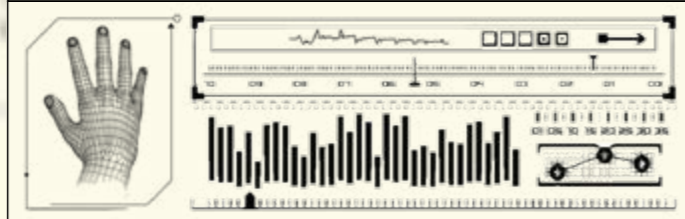


LUIS ANTONIO ALDANA

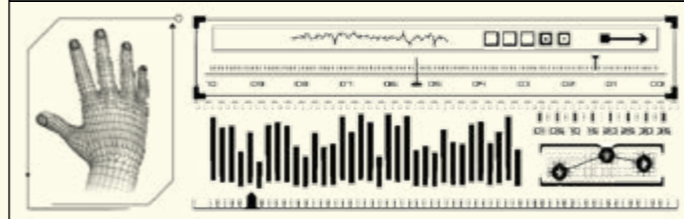
ACTOR
/ WRITER

Luis Antonio holds a BA in American Literature and Culture from UCLA and is a graduate of the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts. He later joined the Latino Theater Company's Laboratory, where he co-wrote the play Melancholia, which was nominated for Amnesty International's Freedom of Expression Award. Luis Antonio produced the feature film Cry Now (Urbanworld Official Selection). He produced the short films 'Acuitzeramo' (Morelia International Film Festival), Broken Sunflower Hearts (Outfest), and The Invitation (Showtime Network). Luis Antonio is an Outfest 2019 Screenwriting Lab Fellow, recipient of the 2021 WarnerMedia 150 Artist Grant, and co-founder of Cabaldana Alchemy. In 2023, his script was selected to be produced by Lena Waithe's Rising Voices Season 3.

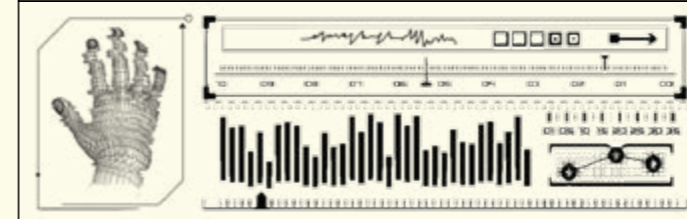
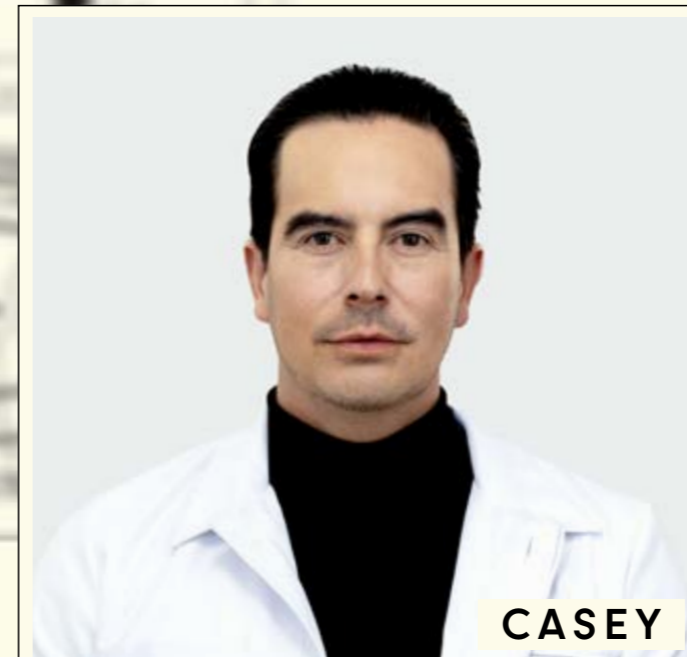
STARRING



**LAURA
PATALANO**



**NICO
GREETHAM**



**LUIS ANTONIO
ALDANA**

SUPPORTING CAST



GABBY

ROCÍO
LÓPEZ



LIDIA

CHERYL
UMANA



GERARDO

RAFAEL
COBOS DELGADO



ROBERTO

JUAN ALFONSO
GUERRERO



MARTA

ELIA
MORENO SALDANA



JEAN

JOAN
ALMEDILLA



JUSTINE

ARLENE
SANTANA



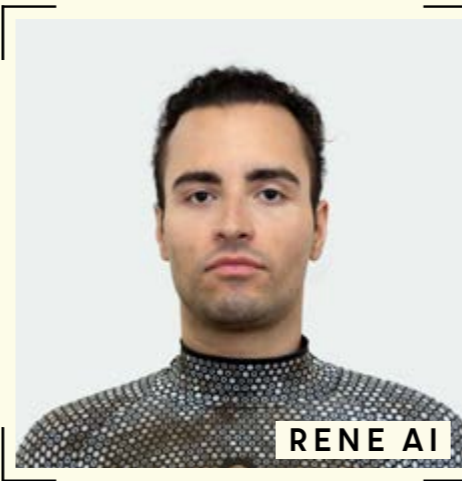
JOE

GEOFFREY
RIVAS



PETRA AI

KIARA
BELTRAN



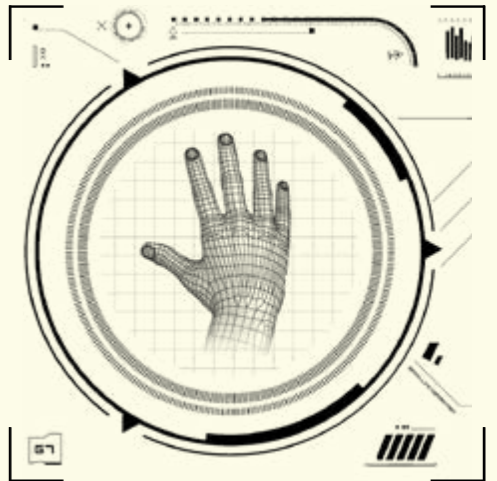
RENE AI

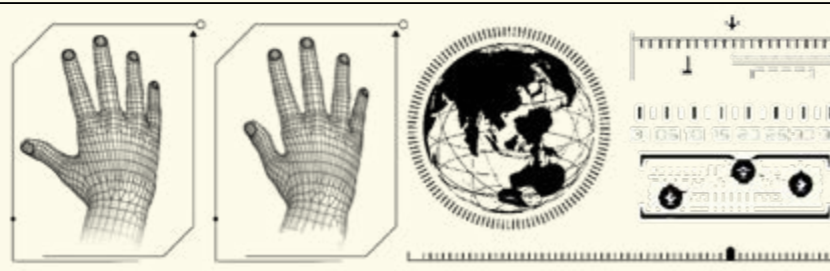
CHRISTIAN
JAIME GARCIA



LAB TECH

DAVID
RODRIGUEZ





HELENA SARDINHA

RAFAEL THOMASETO

PRODUCERS

Helena Sardinha and Rafael Thomaseto are a Brazilian producing duo and founders of Driven Equation, a boutique production company based in Los Angeles and São Paulo. As Latinxs, Queer-identifying, and advocates of gender equality, they have as their greatest mission the expansion of inclusion and representation in media. The company curates a refined selection of stories that highlight social issues and marginalized themes — aiming to foster dialogue and awareness about contemporary matters.

Their projects have gained recognition from festivals such as Sundance, Aspen Shortfest, Palm Springs, Fantastic Fest, and SeriesFest. The feature film, BARRY & JOAN, recently had a theatrical release in the UK, the Disney Launchpad project BEAUTIFUL, FL is set to premiere later in 2023. Their latest short, TITA is premiering at the Tribeca Festival 2023, as part of Lena Waithe's Indeed Rising Voices Initiative. Following the festival success of HUELLA, they are under development of its feature length with the support from the Sundance Institute through their Producers and Screenwriting Labs.

Helena Sardinha and Rafael Thomaseto are the lead producers of ANGEL IN RETROGRADE, a finalist film for the 2023 AT&T Untold Stories.

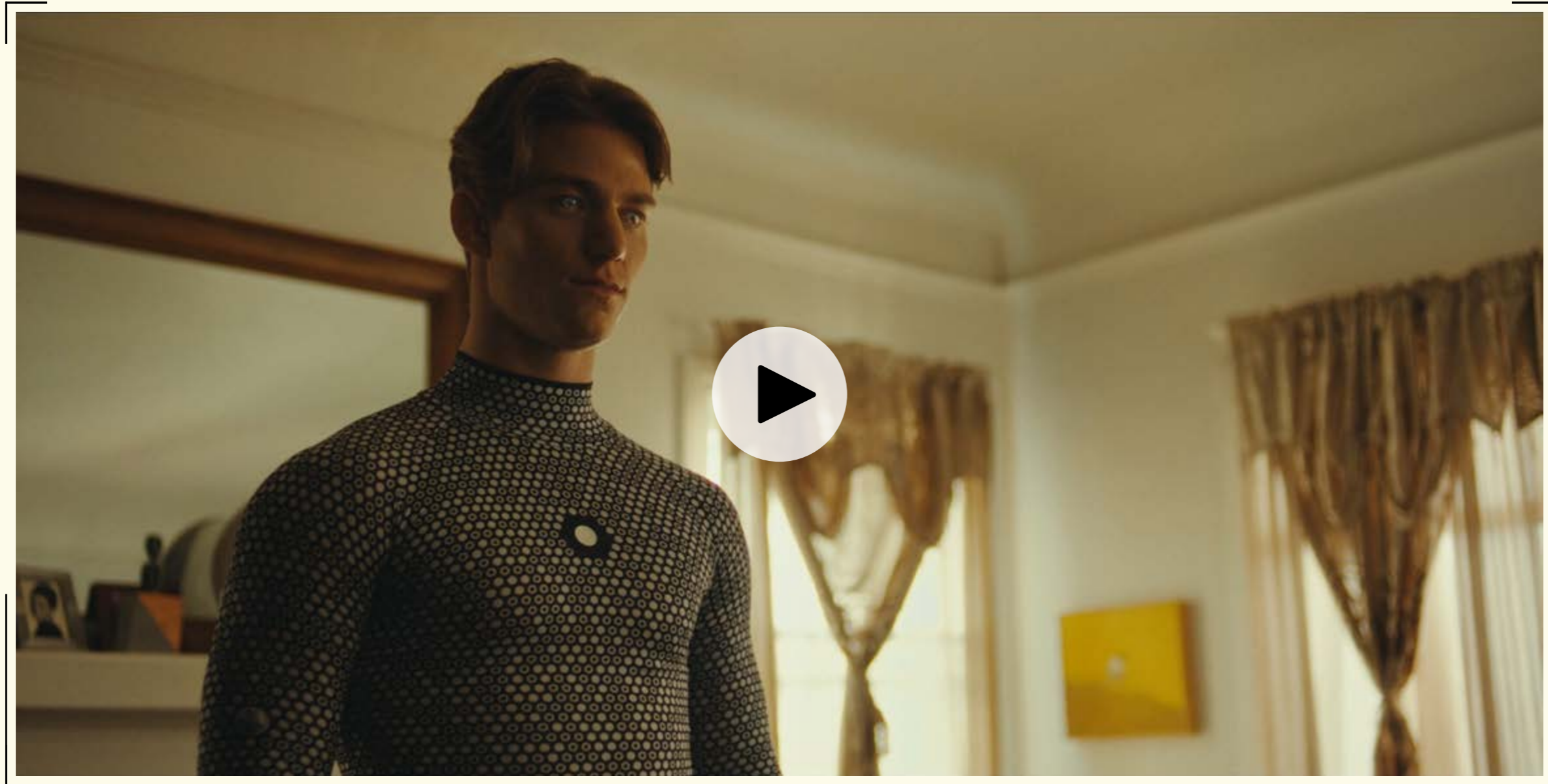
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SOCIAL IMPACT

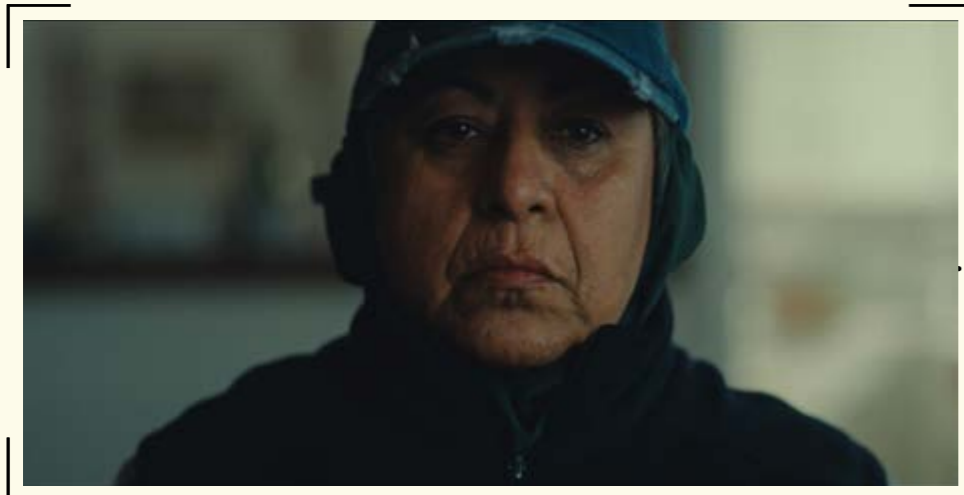
The goal of the film is to amplify sectors of our working-class communities that are often undervalued and rendered invisible. As artificial intelligence gets closer to becoming a tangible societal norm, we wanted to explore how one could affect the other. Though these are serious themes to consider, we also wanted to explore them in a comedic, almost absurdist manner. However, it was still essential for us to acknowledge the back-breaking reality of the job and the actual skill this type of work demands. Centering a labor force that reliably performs jobs and services that are easily dismissed in the context of looming technological advances is something we wanted to narratively mine. In colliding fieldwork with the notion of artificial intelligence, we utilize the science-fiction genre to explore the effects of the clash in an unanticipated and eye-opening way.



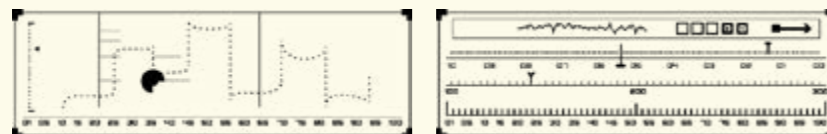
TRAILER



STILLS



BEHIND THE SCENES



PHOTOGRAPHY: PAULA NEVES (@TTLENS)

RISING VOICES

Indeed, in partnership with Emmy® Award-winning writer, creator and actor Lena Waithe and her company Hillman Grad Productions and 271 Films, created the fellowship Rising Voices. Indeed knows talent is universal but opportunity is not– and that’s why this program focuses on providing new opportunities to discover, invest in and amplify stories created by BIPOC filmmakers.

Ten filmmakers were selected from over 500 applicants to create short films around the singular theme “the future of work.” Indeed truly believes the world can work better and a key component of that vision is extending opportunity to all people.




LEARN MORE

[Indeed, Lena Waithe & Hillman Grad Set Filmmakers For Third Cycle Of 'Rising Voices' Program](#)

[Rising Voices launched in 2021 with more than 1,600 filmmakers applying for the opportunity to be a part of the program and more than 1,000 jobs created throughout the process](#)

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CREDITS

INDEED PRESENTS THE BALLAD OF TITA AND THE MACHINES
A RISING VOICES FILM

PRODUCTION HILLMAN GRAD
 271 FILMS
 TITA LAURA PALATANO
 CASEY LUIS ANTONIO ALDANA
 BOB AI NICO GREETHAM

CASTING ALAN LUNA
 BETH BLANKS

MUSIC ROBERT J. REVELL
 EDITOR JOSHUA COLE
 COSTUME DESIGN ANGELA TRIVINO

PRODUCTION DESIGN ROBERT BREČKO ACKLEN
 ALEXAH ACUÑA
 CINEMATOGRAPHY ROBERT L. HUNTER
 EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS LENA WAITHE
 RISHI RAJANI
 DOMÉNICA CASTRO
 CONSTANZA CASTRO
 NAOMI FUNABASHI
 PRODUCERS HELENA SARDINHA
 RAFAEL THOMASETO
 WRITER LUIS ANTONIO ALDANA
 MIGUEL ANGEL CABALLERO
 DIRECTOR MIGUEL ANGEL CABALLERO

CONTACT

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DIRECTOR

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