



# Mara

## HAS THREE JOBS IN SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO

INDEED PRESENTS MARA HAS THREE JOBS IN SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO A RISING VOICES FILM  
IN ASSOCIATION WITH HILLMAN GRAD PRODUCTIONS, A 271 FILMS PRODUCTION  
STARRING KEREN LUGO, GABRIEL LEYVA, CASTING BY GARY HOMS MUSIC BY ALAIN EMILE EDITED BY MARIO FIERRO  
COSTUME DESIGNER BY SHAKIRA CALDERÓN PRODUCTION DESIGNER BY PATRIA AYALA CINEMATOGRAPHER BY JEANNICE MUSTAFÁ  
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS BY LENA WATHE, RISHI RAJANI, NAOMI FUNABASHI, DOMÉNICA CASTRO, CONSTANZA CASTRO  
PRODUCED BY LAUREN LUKOW, RAÚL ABNER SAMRAH, SAMARA PÉREZ-SANTIAGO  
WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY ANA VERDE

WATCH THE FILM AT [INDEED.COM/RISINGVOICES](https://www.indeed.com/risingvoices)





# LOGLINE

*After the loss of her father, a young woman takes on a third job to make ends meet in San Juan, Puerto Rico.*

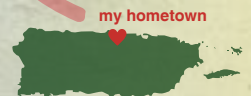




# DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Economists in Puerto Rico predict that in the near future, the island's economy will mostly be a service economy: hotel staff, tour guides, drivers. Imagine the Las Vegas of the Caribbean – a destination site for travelers to pass through, instead of a home for the locals. The alternative, of course, would be what Puerto Rico's economy once was, prior to the devastation of Hurricane Maria and COVID-19: a professional economy with pharmacists, engineers, and doctors. Our film takes place in the near future of Puerto Rico, where a young woman becomes a tour guide in order to be able to afford her family's Old San Juan apartment that her father died in. The short explores the future of work in Puerto Rico and what we are willing to do in order to hold onto our past.

Most of the time, I'm used to seeing Puerto Rican characters who are already stateside. I never know if they left out of an act of agency or a result of displacement, or perhaps a confusing mix of both... That moment, right before diaspora, is often where I meet my characters. I made this move myself, having grown up on the island and then left for New York for college. Every time I go back home, I question whether or not I made the right decision. I wonder if I gave up a part of myself by leaving, if I betrayed my people, if I can still even call it home. The main character of my story thinks about staying and leaving a lot, who will take her place if she ends up leaving, and what it means for her to be in service of people who come and go freely without moral consequence.





# THE TAÍNO MYTH OF DIEGO SALCEDO

**MARA HAS THREE JOBS IN SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO** is based on the indigenous myth of Diego Salcedo, one of the most famous folktales in Puerto Rican lore.

Diego Salcedo was a Spanish conquistador. According to legend, his death at the hands of the indigenous Taíno people ignited the Taíno rebellion of 1511.

## HISTORY REPEATS ITSELF

Puerto Rico is a nation that has never been independent since the invasion of the Spaniards in the 15th century. In 1898, the island was handed over to the United States in the Spanish-American war. To this day, Puerto Rico is a commonwealth of the United States, which is a modern term for colony.

Puerto Ricans often connect the relationship we have to the United States to the relationship we once had to Spain.



# THE TEAM



## **ANA VERDE** writer/director

Ana Verde is a Puerto Rican and Venezuelan writer and director. Ana is a 2023 Rising Voices fellow (Hillman Grad/Indeed), a 2022 Orchard Project Episodic Lab fellow (The Orchard Project), a 2022 WAVE Grant Recipient (Wavelength Productions), and she was a finalist for the 2022 Ya Tú Sabes Monologue Slam (Nosotros Org and NBCUniversal). For the past four years, Ana has worked at the Sundance Institute in artist support where she provides financial, developmental, and creative support to artists working in emerging media, music, theater, and film.



## **LAUREN LUKOW** producer

Lauren Lukow is an independent producer based in Los Angeles. Her film projects have screened at festivals around the world including the Sarasota Film Festival, Pan African Film Festival, and LA Shorts, and have been supported by organizations including Wavelength Productions and the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation. For 5 years, Lauren worked at the Sundance Institute, most recently as their Manager of Producing & Artist Support. In this role, she oversaw the Feature Film Producers Track, while collaborating on Sundance's flagship Screenwriters and Directors Labs and also providing ongoing creative and strategic support to 40+ artists/projects in fiction features annually. Before Sundance, Lauren worked in development at Pixar Animation Studios where she assisted their in-house filmmakers in the earliest phases of their creative process.



## **RAÚL ABNER SAMRAH** producer

Raúl Abner Samrah is a film producer, strategist, educator and writer based in Puerto Rico. His volume of work focuses on queer representation, uplifting new auteur voices, and creating socially-engaging content through unconventional production models. Raúl is also co-founder and executive producer of Filmes Casa, an independent queer-latinx production company unique for styling arthouse national cinema. Some of his notable industry projects include music videos, like Princess Nokia's "Diva", and award-winning short films, like "SAM" (Winner, Audience Award at 2018 Puerto Rico Queer Filmfest). Other recent producing credits include "Without Prescription" (Winner, Audience Award in the Global Category at 2022 SXSW Film Festival). Raúl is also a 2023 Southern Producers Lab fellow.



## **SAMARA PÉREZ-SANTIAGO** producer

Samara Pérez Santiago is a producer, screenwriter and director based in Bayamón, Puerto Rico. She is the co-founder and executive producer of Filmes Casa, the only Puerto Rican indie film production company led by Black and Queer filmmakers. Her recent productions include the feature film "Receta no incluida" (2022), winner of the Global Audience Award at South by Southwest Film Festival; the environmental short documentary "Chimenea de muerte" (2021) official selection of NALIP Media Summit; & the LGBTQ+ short "Mano santa" (2020), official selection at AFI Fest & Third Horizon Film Festival. Currently, she is the lead producer of the documentary feature "Nació Simón" (grantee of Firelight Media Documentary Lab Program 2022-2023) and is in post-production of her writing/directing comedy debut "La espera".



# THE TEAM



## JEANNICE MUSTAFÁ cinematographer

Jeannice Mustafá is a Director of Photography and Camera Operator based in San Juan, PR. She's been working in the film industry in Puerto Rico and USA for the past 14 years. She has a BA in Hispanic Studies and Audiovisual Communication from the University of Puerto Rico, and an MFA in Cinematography from Academy of Art University in San Francisco, CA. She is a member of IATSE's Local 600 as a Camera Operator and most recently was a part of the documentary crew for Bad Bunny's World's Hottest Tour. As a DP she has worked in narratives, documentaries, commercials and music videos with artists such as Villano Antillano, iLe and Ivy Queen. In 2022, she was nominated for a Suncoast Chapter Emmy for her work as Co-Director / Director of Photography on the live event documentation of "10mo Encuentro de Tambores" for the Institute of Puerto Rican Culture.



## MARIO FIERRO editor

Mario Fierro is a Mexican-American film editor who obtained his MFA from the AFI Conservatory in 2020. Since then, Mario has edited several projects including, A Place in the Field, which was acquired for distribution by Lionsgate, and Party O'Clock starring Matthew Daddario. In 2022, he edited two films that qualified for the Best Live Action Short Film at the Oscars, including Lux Noctis, which won the Grand Jury Award for Best Narrative Short at the Florida Film Festival.



## ALAIN EMILE composer

Alain Emile is a multi-instrumentalist film & media composer from Cabo Rojo, Puerto Rico based in Los Angeles, CA. Minimalistic and unconventional, his style brings an experimental and collaborative approach to film & media scoring. His work has premiered at national and international film festivals, including an Official Selection at the 2017 Festival de Cannes Short Film Corner, LALIFF, Pan African, Atlanta, San Francisco, Seattle and Aspen Film Festival, + others. His debut feature film 'A Place in The Field' premiered at the Santa Barbara Film Festival in 2022 and was acquired by Lionsgate's Grindstone Entertainment Group. The film is set for a theatrical release in 2023. Most recently, Alain scored a micro documentary on the origins of Salsa for Bad Bunny's headlining performance at Coachella 2023. He also scored Mara Has Three Jobs in San Juan, PR as part of Rising Voices S3 which premieres at the Tribeca Film Festival this summer. Alain also releases music independently under the moniker Pablo Swiss. His debut album was listed as one of Bandcamp's best ambient releases of that year.



**KEREN LUGO AS "MARA"**

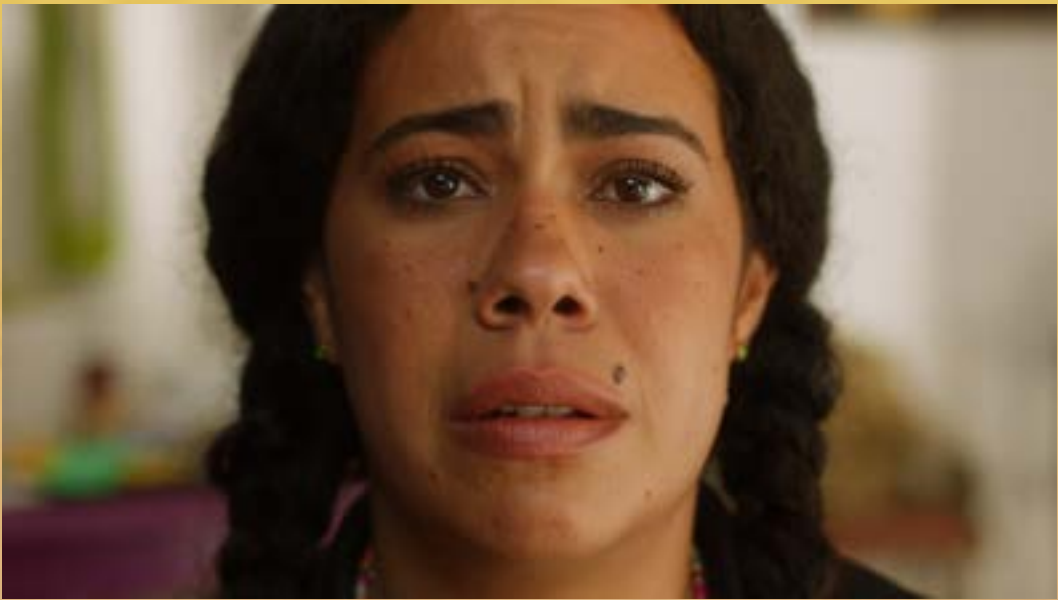
Keren's most recent credits include:  
*New Amsterdam, The Americans, and Orange is the New Black.*





**GABRIEL LEYVA AS "TOMÁS"**

Gabriel's most recent credits include:  
*Receta no incluida, Firelighting, and Melao*







## SPECS

- RUN TIME: 11 minutes, 14 seconds
- ASPECT RATIO: 16:9
- LANGUAGE: English & Spanish
- COUNTRY OF FILMING: Puerto Rico

## PRESS

- *Indeed, Lena Waithe & Hillman Grad Set Filmmakers For Third Cycle Of 'Rising Voices' Program (Deadline)*

## ADDITIONAL LINKS

- IMDB
- INSTAGRAM

# CONTACT

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