



Documentary Short:

# Del Mar, 2023

Runtime: 20mins

Director: Lucy Morales Carlisle

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## Synopsis:

A female surfer on the brink of adulthood navigates life between two worlds. Brenda, who has spent most of her life in El Zonte, El Salvador, a rural beach town renowned for its surf, is one of several women in her family celebrated for their surfing skills. As a member of the latest generation of Centeno/Alvarez women, she has mastered the waves with remarkable talent. Brenda began competing at the age of 15 and quickly rose through the ranks locally, making her dreams of traveling and surfing around the world seemingly more attainable. In 2017, however, Brenda moved to Maryland, a state not known for its waves, to reunite with her mother, whom she had never met. Now Brenda faces the challenge of reconciling the two worlds she inhabits. Back home in El Zonte, she's a respected surfer and an integral part of the community; in Maryland, she is just another immigrant to the United States. DelMar is a short documentary about displacement and inter-generational loss and triumph. It's about growing up and determining what truly matters. It's about finding ways to stay connected to home despite the distances.



## Brief Synopsis:

A surfer on the cusp of adulthood navigates life between two worlds. Brenda is one of several women in her family known locally in El Zonte for her surfing prowess. She began competing at the age of 15 and quickly rose through the ranks, making her dreams of traveling and surfing around the world more attainable. At the age of 17 however, she makes the decision to move to Maryland, a state far from beaches to reunite with her mother whom she has never met.



## **Directors Statement:**

As a child of immigration and Salvadoran civic turmoil, I have always been interested in the domino effect that continues to reverberate throughout my generation: how we are impacted by the difficult choices our parents made and make our own decisions in turn.

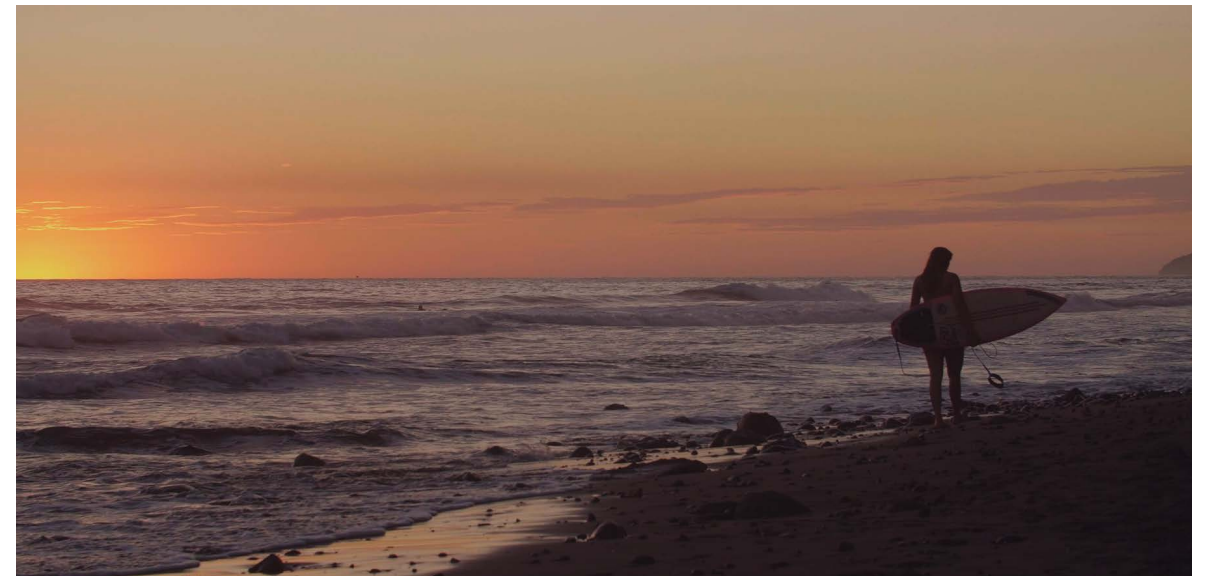
I am compelled to tell this story because of the parallels I see between myself and Brenda, and between us and the one million Salvadorans displaced by the civil war and its lasting repercussions. Although Brenda was born in 2001, long after the war ended, her mother immigrated to the United States due to local job scarcity, a byproduct of the prolonged, twelve-year civil conflict.

Through this short documentary, I aim to explore the decisions we make, the choices made for us, and how both shape our lives. The popular narrative disseminated by the media often portrays immigrants coming to the United States seeking a better life. Brenda's story intrigues me because it diverges from this narrative: she already had a fulfilling life in El Salvador, with dreams and goals she was actively pursuing. Her move to the United States

meant putting those aspirations on hold. I want viewers to see a more nuanced side of the American dream, one rarely discussed in news, television, or film. We come to the United States not by choice, but because of the enduring impact of past events and the limited options available to our generation. Representation matters, and showcasing a different perspective on this issue is crucial to untangling the immigrant narrative.

## **One Liner:**

A female surfer navigates life between a rural beach town in El Salvador and Maryland where she goes to live with a mother she has never met.





## **Director Bio:**

Lucy Morales Carlisle is an Emmy-nominated, two-time Webby winner and a multidisciplinary filmmaker with over a decade of experience in digital media and post-production. She holds a BFA from the School of Visual Arts and a MFA in Media Arts from The City College of New York. As an immigrant displaced by the Salvadoran Civil War, her work explores themes of identity and isolation, alternate universes, and the manipulation of time and space. Lucy is passionate about telling stories that resonate with the Latinx diaspora, focusing on women and culture. She currently resides in Rockville Maryland.

## Credits:

DIRECTOR:

LUCY MORALES CARLISLE

CINEMATOGRAPHY:

WARUT SNIDVONGS

PRODUCERS:

GRACE REMINGTON

LORENA DE MIRANDA MARQUES

ASSOCIATE PRODUCERS:

CARMEN SIMON RUBIO

LUCAS CARLISLE

EDITOR:

LUCY MORALES CARLISLE

PRODUCTION ASSISTANTS:

KEVIN GAITAN

CHRISTIAN SERVELLON

ADDITIONAL CAMERA:

KITO KRILL, PAULA RIVIERA

EVERTON AMARALL, ALDO LUNA

DRONE OPERATORS:

MARVIN ALVAREZ, CARLOS TEJADA

COLORIST:

NICK LEVANTI

SOUND ENGINEER:

DONNYSILK

SOUNDMIXER:

NAPAT SNIDVONGS