



Leesette Glória  
Medina

Edgar  
de Santiago

# the vote

Written and Directed by **Sylvia Ray**

LATINO FILM INSTITUTE PRESENTS A DOURDOUNKH FILM HOUSE AND VICTORY CREATIVE PRODUCTION "THE VOTE" A FILM BY SYLVIA RAY STARRING LEESETTE GLÓRIA MEDINA AND EDGAR DE SANTIAGO  
CINEMATOGRAPHY BY MARISCELA MENDOZA CASTING BY JASMIN GUTIERREZ EDITED BY PATRICK LAWRENCE MUSIC BY JUAN CARLOS ENRIQUÉZ COSTUME DESIGNER TIVANTZIN BURGEO  
PRODUCTION DESIGNER CATERINA PICCARTO EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS ERIKA SABEL FLORES AXEL CABALLERO & JUAN SCHAFFI PRODUCED BY ANDREA PORRAS VALDERO AND ANNE HUONG



A young man with dark, curly hair and a green patterned shirt is shown in a close-up, looking down with a somber expression. The background is blurred, showing what appears to be a hospital bed and window blinds.

# Logline

Siblings Jessica and Robbie come face-to-face with the heart-wrenching decision of whether to keep their dying mother on life support, sparking a tense family vote.



# Synopsis

With their dying mother on life support, siblings Jessica and Robbie find themselves at odds over the difficult decision of whether to let her go. They gather their large family together at their aunt Carmen's home in hopes of settling the disagreement.

Amidst the emotionally charged potluck, they hold a tense family vote. Despite Robbie's protests, the family unites in Victoria's hospital room for a collective prayer before taking her off life support. As Victoria takes her last breaths, Jessica and Robbie find solace in one another, sharing an intense moment of grief.



# Directors Statement

Grief exists in many different forms. There is no one “right” way to do it. Whether it be losing someone you love or making the difficult decision of letting them go, grief is a universal feeling. **THE VOTE** is a personal story based on my own lived experiences with my father being on life support. At age 11, I was put in a serious family meeting with all of my uncles and aunties to come to a decision to end my father’s life support. It was an incredibly painful and emotional conversation that brought tears and disagreements. Through the narratives of the main characters, Jessica and Robbie, in this story, I wanted to portray how differences with family members can tear us apart and how we can also connect through our collective grief.

With **THE VOTE**, I hope to highlight the difficulty of making these life-changing decisions, especially one for your own parents. While these are often portrayed as financial or logistical problems to be resolved, they are so much more nuanced than that. While burial and estate plans help families come to decisions during these difficult times, the weight of making these decisions on our own is not an easy one to carry. Unfortunately, the price of care in the US also affects these decisions and puts underprivileged communities at a higher disadvantage. These decisions, then, no longer feel like choices, but almost like an order to move on.

As a Chicana/Korean-American director, I wanted to explore the concept of grief through the lens of my own roots and upbringing, along with all of its messiness and family drama. I hoped to deliver a powerful story that resonates with audiences, as well as to encourage reflection on the healing power of love, empathy, and understanding.





# Writer/Director Bio

Sylvia Ray is an award-winning Chicana/Korean-American director who focuses on telling stories about characters who overcome feelings of unworthiness. She was born and raised in Barstow, CA, and found her love for storytelling through her parents who watched bootleg Korean dramas and Star Trek while in separate rooms.

Her work pops with a feminine energy with underlying themes of empowerment, morality, and grief. Her film "PREGGERS" won Best Comedy Short at the Arizona International Film Festival and screened at The Academy through the LatinX InFocus program at New Filmmakers LA, among other festivals throughout the US. She was selected for HBO's Tomorrow's Filmmaker's Today program and, as a result, her film "LEN(N)Y" was streamed to audiences on Pantaya and DISH! Latino worldwide.

She's worked with critically acclaimed actors like Julio Macias from Netflix's On My Block and Victoria Moroles from Hulu's Plan B on her latest film "THE MIDDLE". A Satellite Collective Fellow, Sylvia is based in Los Angeles and pulls inspiration from her desert-town upbringing, travels abroad, and motherhood. As someone who has found comfort and pride in her mixed roots, she is motivated to forge a path that her ancestors only dreamed of while making a positive impact in representation in front of and behind the camera.



# Producers



## Andrea Porras Madero

A native of Torreón, Coah, México, is an accomplished filmmaker based in Los Angeles with a passion for fostering collaboration between artists across Latin America and the United States. Graduating as a Cohen Scholar from the USC School of Cinematic Arts' BFA Film & Television Production program, Andrea's impact extended beyond academics — she founded Acción Latine, the pioneering Latine student organization at the School of Cinematic Arts.

As a Sundance Ignite and Tomorrow's Filmmakers Today Fellow, Andrea has consistently contributed to the television and film industry, having worked on various TV shows for major platforms including Marvel, Starz, Netflix, Apple TV, Amazon, and Hulu. Amid her professional endeavors, she remains dedicated to her creative pursuits. In 2020, Andrea earned a Student Academy Award for the USC and Alfred P. Sloan Foundation short film, "Sweet Potatoes." She followed this up by producing "Dinner is Ready", a Dolby grant funded short-film, in 2021.

Her journey continued as she produced two more short films, a pilot, and a feature film entirely shot in Mexico. Currently, Andrea is immersed in post-production for a captivating documentary exploring the world of mezcal and the inspiring individuals shaping its narrative.

## Annie Huang (Co-Producer)

Annie Huang is a first-generation Asian American who grew up in Vietnam, Taiwan, and Hong Kong before immigrating to the States at age 11, where she started learning English as her 4th language with the help of American subtitled films. She has over 7 years of experience working in creative development, film production, and marketing strategy at Warner Bros. Studios, Universal Pictures, Searchlight Pictures, CBS Studios, and Sony Pictures. Annie is a producer on a slate of indie projects with creatives from across the globe, with the goal of leveraging her studio knowledge and relationships to help rising filmmakers break into the studio realm.

Annie is a member of the inaugural class of the Academy of Motion Pictures GOLD program, a Forbes 30 Under 30 Scholar, a Women In Film Fellow, a Soho House x Creative Futures Fellow, and an APIASF NBCUniversal Award recipient. Her work can be found at [Annie-huang.com](http://Annie-huang.com).





# Key Crew



## Director of Photography Mariscela Beatriz Méndez

Mariscela Beatriz Méndez is a Chicana Director of Photography from San Antonio, Texas. Her clients include Vanity Fair, Google, Slamdance, and Netflix.

Mariscela was selected to participate in the Women in Film INSIGHT Fellowship, Film Independent's Project Involve, The Hola Mexico Tomorrow's Filmmakers Today Fellowship, and The American Society of Cinematographer's Vision Mentor Program. She is also the recipient of The Peregrine Collective 2022 Grant. Mariscela has a deep connection to her Mexican-American roots and often works on projects involving LatinX identity, female driven films, and magical realism. Ms. Méndez is a member of ICG Local 600 based in Los Angeles and works worldwide.

## Editor Patrick Lawrence

Patrick Lawrence is a Los Angeles-based Editor and Director, originally from St. Louis, Missouri. He has edited 16 Feature Films since 2014, including "Scare Me" (Shudder/AMC) and "Clara's Ghost" (MGM/Orion), both of which world premiered at the Sundance Film Festival. In addition to having 7 films premiere at Sundance, projects that Patrick has edited have screened worldwide at SXSW, Tribeca, Cannes, Fantastic Fest, Outfest, Beyond Fest, and more!

Outside of theatrical, Patrick is also an accomplished Episodic editor, recently serving as Lead Editor on the short-form Netflix series "Bonding" for two seasons, as well as the second season of "This Close" for AMC/SundanceTV. Patrick is endorsed by Adobe for his use of Premiere Pro and the Creative Cloud suite.





## Casting Director Jasmine Gutierrez

With a passion for actors, Jasmine Gutierrez, has the creative eye, attention to detail, and energy needed to make the vision of a production come to life. Since 2008, she has had the privilege to work with some of the most talented and hard-working entertainment professionals. Jasmine loves what she does, and it shows.

She is dedicated to making sure each of her client's expectations are not only met, but exceeded. Jasmine works tirelessly to ensure every production is cast the best it can be. She prides herself on her practice of inclusive casting, attempting to be as diverse as possible when possible.



## Key Crew



## Costume Designer Tonantzin Borrego

Tonantzin Borrego is a queer Latinx costume designer who loves to showcase her culture in her work. Storytelling and character building are at the forefront of her design choices, making each character a love letter to the real people who make the world interesting and beautiful.

She went to school in Texas studying fashion. She moved to Los Angeles in 2018 to pursue fashion and design in film, and since has worked on a variety of television, commercial, music and film projects.



## Composer

# Juan Carlos Enriquez

Juan Carlos Enriquez is an US based composer from Guadalajara, Mexico. He is a four-time CLIO award-winner, a Hollywood Music In Media Awards winner, a CICLOPE Latino award winner, and a PRODU Award finalist. In addition, Juan Carlos has contributed music to Golden Globe and BAFTA nominated projects and scores such as Narcos (Netflix), Maya and the Three (Netflix), and Far Cry 6 (Ubisoft). In 2022 he scored NBCUniversal's first Spanish-speaking streaming show on Peacock, 'Til Jail Do Us Part (Armas de Mujer on HBO Max Latin America), starring Kate del Castillo (The Book of Life) as well as the Netflix thriller series The Secret of the Greco Family, starring Manuel Masalva (Narcos: Mexico).

Other notable credits include the Apple #ShotOniPhone campaign Huracán Ramírez vs. La Piñata Enchilada directed by Los Perez, the Diablo IV video game live action trailer directed by Academy award-winner Chloé Zhao (Nomadland), a Microsoft/Xbox produced promotional short film/campaign for Forza Horizon 5 starring Cristo Fernandez (Ted Lasso) and Colombian reggaeton star, Karol G, the ViX original film, ¿Quieres Ser Mi Hijo?, starring Juanpa Zurita (Luis Miguel: The Series), HBO Max's Colision, a drama series starring Macarena Achaga, and Disney's Mesa de Regalos, starring Jose Eduardo Derbez.

# Key Crew

## Production Designer

# Caterina Piccardo



Caterina Piccardo, born in Genoa in 1992, displayed a passion for the arts since childhood. Graduating with the highest honors in Theatrical Production Design from the Academy of Fine Arts, she embarked on a diverse career. From her early days with Teatro Scalzo to assisting at the Archivoltto Theater, she honed her skills in production design.

She curated exhibitions, collaborated on cultural projects, and contributed creatively to stage productions. Relocating to Los Angeles, she earned a Master's in Fine Arts for Filmmaking. Since 2017, she has excelled as a Production Designer, working on numerous films for streaming platforms. Selected for the prestigious Academy Gold Mentorship Program in 2020, she remains committed to excellence in her craft.



# Key Cast

## Jessica - Leesette Gloria Medina

Leesette Gloria Medina is a first generation Mexican-American actress and musician born and raised in Los Angeles.

She has been featured in several shorts that have premiered in prestigious festivals. Her recent stage credits include a workshop of "Flying While Dreaming" by Mando Alvarez and originating the role of Edna in an adaptation of Odets' "Waiting for Lefty" which took home four Fringe Awards including Best Drama.

She is currently class manager at The Last Acting Studio alongside Behzad Dabu (How to Get Away With Murder) and Desean Terry (The Morning Show). Leesette is a formally trained and versatile actress who has dedicated her career to ushering in a wave of authentic representation for Latinas in Hollywood.





## Key Cast

### Robbie - Edgar de Santiago

Edgar de Santiago is a first-generation Mexican-American, born and raised in Indiana with five siblings.

Edgar trained at a four year BFA program with a concentration in Acting, having worked on classical and contemporary plays. Edgar has since been working professionally in commercials, modeling, and stories that focus on the Latinx experience.

Now based in Los Angeles, his most recent bookings include S.W.A.T. (TV), RZR (TV), the feature film, Last Dollar, and Jesus Hopped the A-Train.





# Additional Cast

**Carmen**

Marilyn Ghigliotti

**Mike**

Jayd Swendseid

**Annie**

Isabella Feliciano

**Great Tia Lily**

Elizabeth Lamboy-Wilson

**Dom**

Manny Hernandez



# Additional Cast

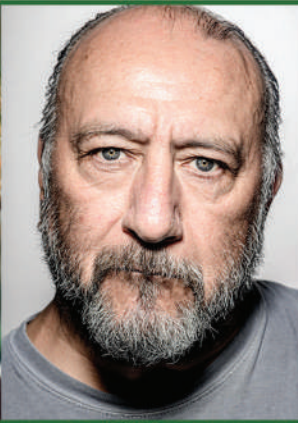
**Mia**

Taehee Kim



**Priest**

Miguel Perez



**Nurse Helen**

Lowam Eyasu



**Theo**

Fox Ryder



**Angelina**

Cassie Seo



**Victoria**

Magaly Castellanos







## Executive Producers

Erika Sabel Flores, Axel Caballero & John Schorg

Chayuda Sitthiphap - 1st AD

Raúl Galindo - 2nd AD

Destinee Stewart - Script Supervisor

Lydia Lou - Still Photography

Adrian Contreras - Production Assistant

Mick Cohen-Caroll - Production Assistant

Karyn Lopez - Production Assistant

Faith Nelson - Production Assistant

Leo Ritualo - Production Assistant

Maxime Collier - Production Assistant

Andrea Goldman - Studio Teacher

Aline Ballesterio - Cam A Operator

Shanele Alvarez - Cam B Operator

Sofia Gonzalez - 1st AC

Tiffany Null - 1st AC B Cam

Ness Bivens - 2nd AC

Pete Aguirre - DIT

Colin Pitt - Gaffer

Jenny Denton - Key Grip

Josh Birdsell - Best Boy

Joseph Bacelis - Swing

Nathaniel Pope - Sound Mixer

Brandon Sequeira - Boom Op

Sterling Pope - Set Dresser

Shari Gaynes - Art PA

Josh Kay - Art PA

Carly Barnette - Costume Designer Assistant

Itze De Jesus - HMU assistant

Dahae Lee - Assistant Editor

Roy Sun - Colorist

Kai Scheer - Sound Design/Mixer



## Behind the Scenes







## SATELLITE



## Contact