

Balada de un Inmigrante con Memoria

Ballad of an Immigrant with Memory

ELECTRONIC PRESS KIT

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OKEY





Ballad of an Immigrant with Memory (2025)

Logline: After submerging into a bowl of menudo, an undocumented Mexican immigrant in the U.S. embarks on a surreal journey through his memories in Mexico in search of the rosary his mother gave him before he left the country 30 years ago.

Medium: Live-Action Narrative Short Film

Genres: Fantasy, Adventure, Drama

Length: 12 minutes

Countries: México, United States

About the Director

Sergio Muñoz Esquer is an award-winning Mexican filmmaker, director, writer, and producer whose work explores the complexities of human connection, identity, and immigration through a Latinx lens.

His films, spanning both narrative fiction and documentary, have been screened at festivals such as the San Diego Latino Film Festival and the PBS Shorts Film Festival, and supported by institutions including the Austin Film Society and the Santa Fe Film Institute.

He earned his undergraduate degree in Digital Media Production from the University of Texas at El Paso, where he gained experience in filmmaking, radio, television, graphic design, journalism, and political research. He then pursued a Master's in Film Production at the University of Texas at Austin, where he has produced five short films.

Beyond his personal projects, Sergio has worked in development, production, and post-production with companies such as The Walt Disney Company, Rooster Teeth, and PBS.





Director's Statement

I was born and raised in Mexico, but for the past eight years I've lived in the United States, always packing, always crossing, never quite arriving. Every time I return to my hometown, I feel like a tourist in my own home, and the U.S.... Well, I don't have citizenship or residency, so I can't call it home either. So, where is my home? Where do I belong?

The question turned painful the last time I said goodbye to my mom. She hugged me and started crying. I asked her why she was crying, to which she responded, "I'm getting old. My body hurts more and more. And every time you leave, I don't know if I'll see you again."

From that feeling of otherness, and from my doubt about whether crossing the border was worth it, I wrote *Ballad of an Immigrant with Memory*. Alberto's journey is my own, and also the journey of countless people who uproot their lives in search of something better.

However, I didn't want to make a sad film. I wanted a thrill ride. Taking a tragic story and turning it into something fun and exciting. So I incorporated elements of fantasy, magical realism, and even horror to shape Alberto's journey. My goal was to keep the audience on the edge of their seats and leave them deliciously spent by the end. I aimed to honor the films I grew up with while telling an immigrant story. Our stories shouldn't be just tragedies; they should be a celebration of what we are and what we do.

This film isn't meant to resonate only with Latinos or with immigrants who cross national borders. This film is for everyone who keeps moving while leaving the people they love behind, and for the families and friends who wait at home, hoping the next reunion isn't the last.

Central Cast

Omar Leyva
Alberto



Mercedes Hernández
Mamá



Fernando Monroy
Immigration Officer



Core Creative Team



Sergio Muñoz Esquer
Director / Producer / Co-Writer



Karla Odette Armendariz
Producer



Pepe G.
Producer



Isabella Brodt
Co-Writer

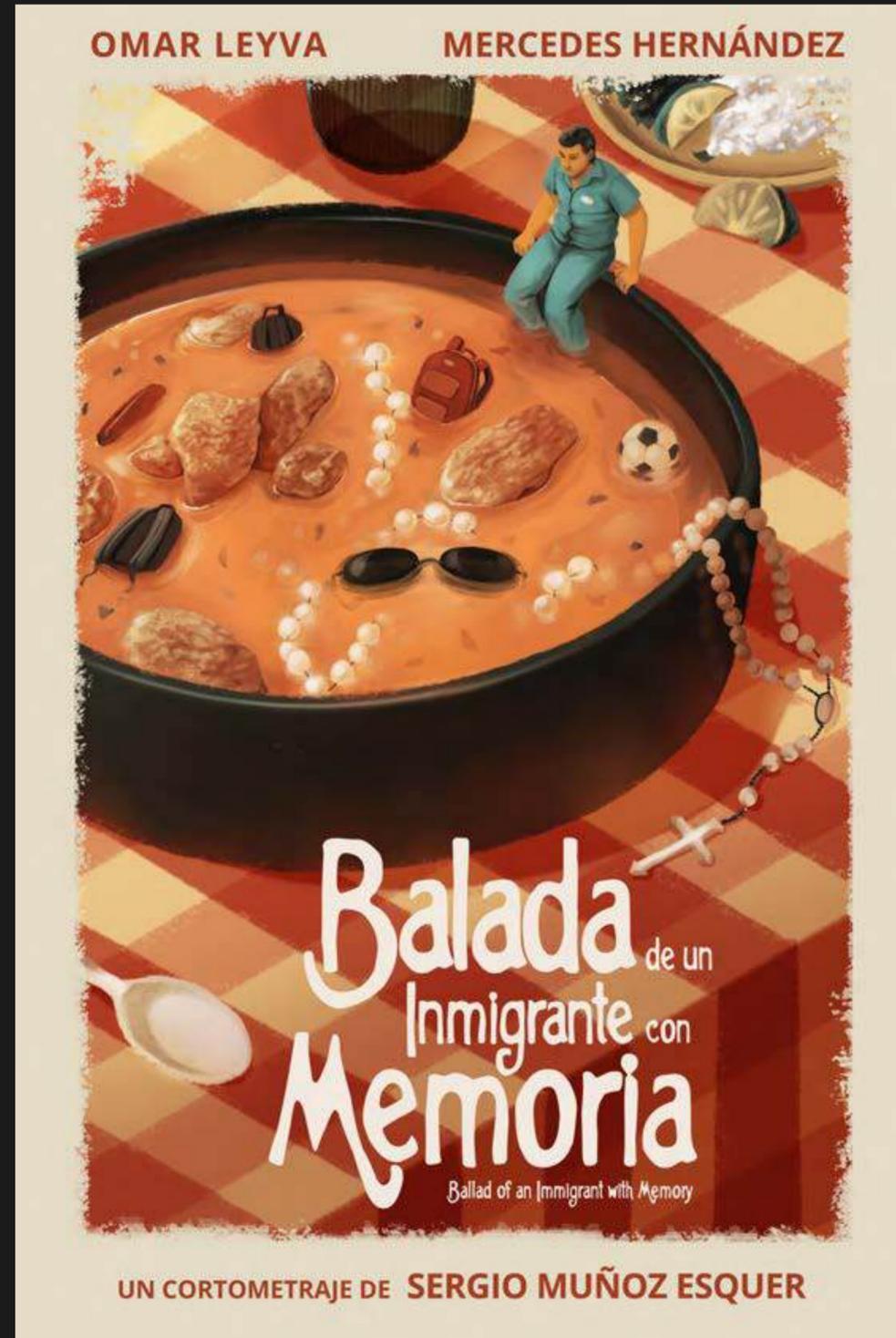


Carolina Bayon
Director of Photography



Karina Tostado
Art Director

POSTER & STILLS



Poster by **Karla Arzate**



STILLS



STILLS



Credits

DIRECTED BY
SERGIO MUÑOZ ESQUER

WRITTEN BY
SERGIO MUÑOZ ESQUER
ISABELLA BRODT

PRODUCED BY
KARLA ODETTE ARMENDARIZ
PEPE G.
SERGIO MUÑOZ ESQUER

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY
CAROLINA BAYON

ART DIRECTOR
KARINA TOSTADO

CASTING BY
SERGIO MUÑOZ ESQUER

FIRST ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
MICHAEL ZUMAYA

SECOND ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
JACK GROSS

SCRIPT SUPERVISOR
JAHAIRA DAGA

PRODUCTION COORDINATOR
KATE ROBINSON

CAST
OMAR LEYVA - ALBERTO
MERCEDES HERNÁNDEZ - MAMÁ
FERNANDO MONROY - IMMIGRATION OFFICER

ESTELLA PEREZ - WOMAN
CALEB RAMIREZ - KID 01
SEBASTIAN RAMIREZ - KID 02
J. MANZO - FANATIC 01
FABIANA MUÑOZ - FANATIC 02
ELIO MASCORRO - FANATIC 03
ANAHI PONCE - FANATIC 04
LUISA FERNANDA PEREZ - SERVER

CARLOS SOSA VAZQUEZ - IMMIGRANT (VOICE)
JUAN PABLO RAMÍREZ - IMMIGRANT (VOICE)
ERICK PIÑA - IMMIGRANT (VOICE)
JUAN DAVID ALVARADO - IMMIGRANT (VOICE)
GABRIEL JUÁREZ - IMMIGRANT (VOICE)
MAURICIO VARGAS - IMMIGRANT (VOICE)

NICO MARIN - STAND-IN
JONAH FUJIKAWA - STAND-IN

FIRST ASSISTANT CAMERA
ELISA MELENDEZ

FIRST & SECOND ASSISTANT CAMERA
GALEN SMITHHISLER

SECOND ASSISTANT CAMERA
ESHA NIDGUDKAR

GAFFER
SEBASTIAN VALDIVIESO

GRIPS
BRAYDEN READ
MASON HAGGERTY
JACL STARKS
CITLALLI MENDOZA

SOUND RECORDISTS
NICHOLAS MUÑIZ
TIMO NELSON

PROPS BY
ABBY ARMSTRONG

HAIR & MAKE-UP / PD ASSISTANT
LIZANNETTE VELASCO

WARDROBE / PD ASSISTANT
XIMENA SIFUENTES

ART ASSISTANTS
JIM ANDES
NOAH CLAWSON
FATIMA WARDY

PRODUCTION ASSISTANTS
PARKER FOREMAN
YUQI SUN

EDITED BY
SERGIO MUÑOZ ESQUER

ORIGINAL SCORE BY
DIEGO ROJAS

SOUND MIXING
MILES FOSTER-GREENWOOD

FOLEY RECORDING BY
ALYSSA YOUNG

FOLEY ARTISTS
EMMA CHEIN
OLIVIA CONDREAY

COLORING
DANIEL STUYCK

VFX & ANIMATION
SERGIO MUÑOZ ESQUER

VIRGIN OF GUADALUPE DESIGN BY
KARLA ARZATE

TECH SUPPORT BY
SUSANNE KRAFT

STUDIO MANAGER
JEREMY GRUY

BEHIND-THE-SCENES PHOTOGRAPHER
MUSILA MANUVE

PRODUCED BY

KOOL STUDIO
OKEY FILMS

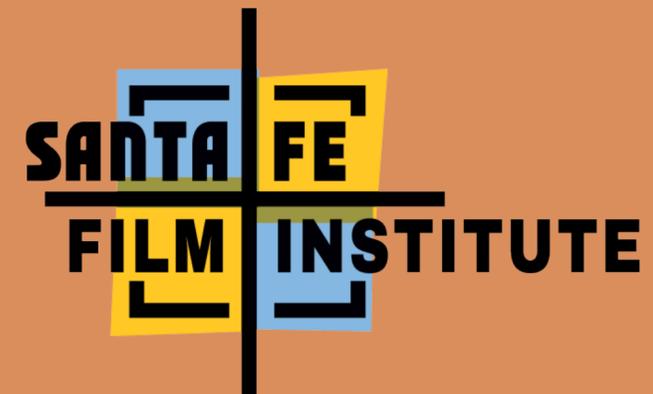


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