



bi-go-te

or
(the happy anarchy of bureaucracy)

produced by arden dimanno, starring:
alejandra molina-ríos, chacha tahng,
maximus hernandez, jared perez,
janice tanaka, rory leech, & jerry sosa
a film by rafael a. lópez

2025

Form S-318-00-8

2026

BIGOTE or (The Happy Anarchy of Bureaucracy)

A Bureaucratic Press Kit

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Technical specs.**Language:** English / Spanish**Completion Year:** 2026**Country:** U.S.A.**Duration:** 10 min, 53 secs**Genre:** Political Satire, Drama**Key crew****Writer/Director/Editor:** Rafael A. López**Cinematographer:** Riley H. Shen**Producer:** Arden DiManno**Set Designer:** Alexa Orovitz**SFX Artist:** Justine Fang**Costume Designer:** Nishtha Tyagi**Project progress (as of August 2026)**

- **Houston Latino Film Festival**
March 18-22, 2026
- Official selection
(Texas premiere)



- **Dances With Films, Los Angeles**
June 18-28, 2026
- Official selection
(West Coast premiere)



- **New York Latino Film Festival**
September 15-20, 2026
- Official selection
(East Coast premiere)



- **NFMLA**
September 19, 2026
- Official selection

**Gallery exhibition (video installation)**

- **The Open Door Gallery, B.T.S., (MATCH)**
Midtown Arts and Theater Center, Houston
March 18-22, 2026

Links **Screener:** *Upon request***Instagram:** <https://www.instagram.com/ralopez.work/>**Website:** <https://ralopez.work/>**IMDB:** https://www.imdb.com/title/tt31315093/?ref_=nm_knf_t_4**Downloadable assets****Stills:** https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1gDox27oh6UQQ3mhE_9WrdTmg8RWvvzyC?usp=drive_link**Poster:** https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1x3g1Xct3sl25C5v2NXBEhwbxog2YxV6o?usp=drive_link**Trailer:** <https://vimeo.com/ralopez/bigotetrailer>**Film excerpt:** <https://vimeo.com/ralopez/excerptbigote>**Graphic Novel (Download available upon request):**https://drive.google.com/file/d/1MU2hbQ9qV_WnqjfCLBWOd_B5diD6FJpi/view?usp=sharing

- Logline

Bureaucratic violence, families facing hunger and the president in red spandex.

– based on real events.

- Synopsis

When a single mother's struggle for government food rations results in being handed a plastic superhero toy of the president, her reality slowly bleeds into the absurd world of a real-life propaganda cartoon.

Bigote or (The Happy Anarchy Of Bureaucracy) is a narrative short film and graphic novel, based on real events.

Director statement

Bigote is a direct response to the standardized "violence/misery-porn" representation of the Venezuelan crisis. Through the exploration of lesser-known events leading up to today's situation, the film proposes a different approach to depicting humanitarian crises by focusing on a universal third form of violence: bureaucracy.

Rather than leaning into the codes of a traditional narrative drama, the film turns the weapons of state control—television, toys, and comics—against themselves. *Bigote* operates on a strict structural axis: a slow-burn study of systemic starvation, fractured by a hyper-saturated camp live-action re-enactment of an actual Venezuelan state cartoon, exposing how childhood innocence is exploited and manipulated through vessels of soft power.

By rejecting a conventional resolution, the film mirrors the open nature of everyday life and challenges the cinematic oversimplification of real-world, ongoing humanitarian crises.

This project was engineered from the ground up as a rogue multimedia ecosystem: the film's trailer acts as a satirical toy commercial, while the narrative directly expands into a traditionally hand-inked companion graphic novel. *Bigote* is a Trojan Horse designed to prove that too often, reality is far more absurd than propaganda.

Main cast

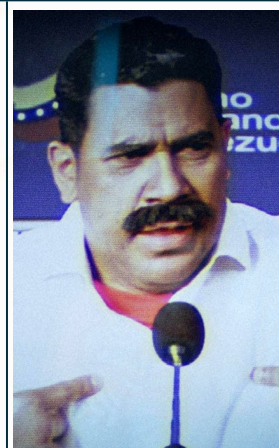
Reality



**Alejandra
Molina-Ríos**
Tía



**Chacha
Tahng**
Office Clerk



**Jerry
Sosa**
Nicolas Maduro



**Jared
Perez**
Mingo



**Maximus
Hernandez**
Luís

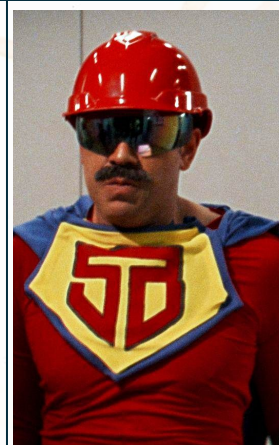
Telenovela



**Janice
Tanaka**
TV Lady



**Rory
James Leech**
TV Clerk



**Jerry
Sosa**
Bigote



**Kit
Mateer**
Alien



**The
Embargo
Monster**

Writer / Director / Editor Illustrator



Rafael Alejandro López is a Venezuelan-Swiss filmmaker and visual artist based in Los Angeles.

Working at the intersection of film, sequential art, and political satire, López combines refined technical execution with raw, DIY counter-culture aesthetics, creating distinct cinematic universes that expand across both the screen and the printed comic book page. Their work has been exhibited at institutions ranging from the Museum of Art and Design in NYC to the TCL Chinese Theatres in Hollywood.

A graduate of CalArts, López's creative pursuit strives to center humanity over entertainment by dismantling how media fictionalizes reality into a form of ironic realism that seems incapable of self-recognition.

Director of Photography



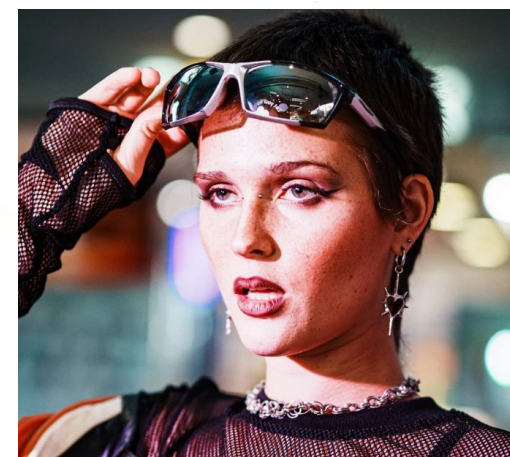
Riley Hanyue Shen grew up in Xi'an, China but managed to find pieces of themselves throughout the world.

In 2012, Riley left their homeland and moved to the US to pursue a BFA degree in Film/Video at the California Institute of the Arts. Later, focusing on cinematography, they graduated from the American Film Institute with an MFA degree in June of 2019. They have shot shorts in both China and US, as well as their feature in the green mountains of Nepal.

As a gay-sian non-binary cinematographer they are most attracted to the wilder side of humanity and not deterred by marginalized stories and subcultures.

Riley is a mentee of the ASC Vision Program.

Producer



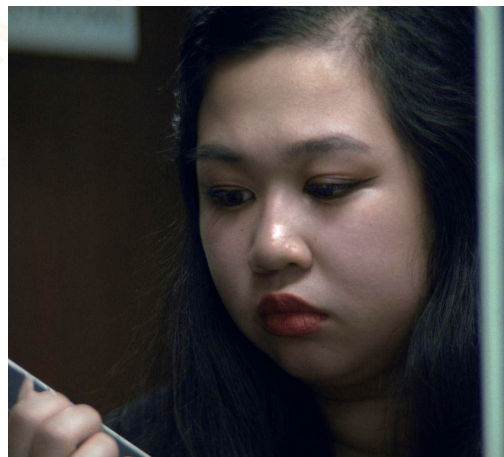
Arden DiManno is a recent CalArts grad with a serious drive and a track record of getting things done. Her time at CalArts opened her world to all kinds of art and expression, sparking a love for experimentation and fresh perspectives. With real experience across a range of film and video projects, she's a seasoned producer as well as creative director. A producer of projects that have gone to festivals such as Santa Barbara International, Fantasia, Indie Shorts Fest, Los Angeles Film Awards, and more.

Key cast bios



Alejandra Molina is a Mexican sound artist, teacher, and filmmaker based in Spain since 2003. She is one of Spain's most recognized sound designers, both for non-fiction and fiction films.

Her extensive career as a sound recordist, mixer, and designer expands over 25 years and all genres, from her early days as a boom operator in Mexican soap operas to her work as a sound designer in some of the most innovative independent films being released in the Spanish market today, including the multi-Goya-winning *Las Niñas* (2020). She holds advanced degrees in both Sound Art and Creative Documentary and taught at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona from 2004 to 2019.



Chacha Tahng (she/they) is a queer thai-american actor and writer from the san francisco bay area. She has been acting since the age of fifteen, and is a recent graduate of the BFA acting program at CalArts. She is currently based in New York City. She studied shakespeare in london at the royal academy of dramatic art, and trained at the american academy of dramatic arts and t. schreiber studio.

They can be seen in the recent Focus Features film, *Song Sung Blue*, written and directed by Craig Brewer.

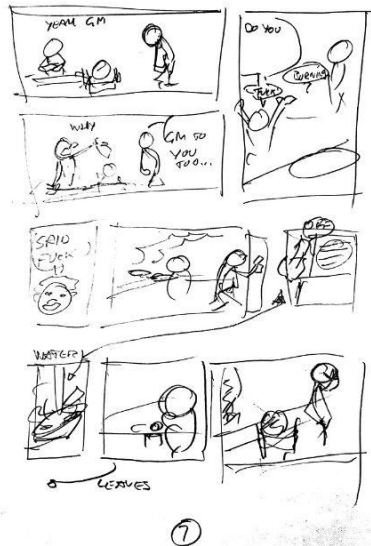
Chacha is drawn to magic realism, mysticism, and the beauty and mess within all of us. Through her work in the arts, she aims to shed light on stories that are often untold, and to hold spaces where all voices can be heard.



Jerry Sosa, a New York City native, is a multi-disciplinary artist and performer. He has been active in the creative arts professionally since 2015, though his passion for storytelling and performance has been a lifelong driving force. Sosa has appeared in short films from institutions such as Chapman University, USC, and CalArts. Beyond his creative work, Jerry serves the community as a Deputy with the San Diego County Sheriff's Department.

For your consideration: Bigote - Graphic Novel

[Read it HERE \(download available upon request\)](#)



The official graphic novel acts as the film's companion and key promotional material, echoing *Bigote*'s themes of propaganda and soft power.

This slide offers a glimpse into the creative process behind the making of a single page. Traditionally drawn and hand-inked by Rafael A. López on 11x17 bristol boards, the graphic novel's overall art style is inspired by pre-code era comic books, merged with the more realist look of 90's European "Bande Dessinee".

These aesthetic inspirations reflect the film's concern with politically driven censorship while hinting at the author's dual heritage.

Left: early thumbnails and final layout

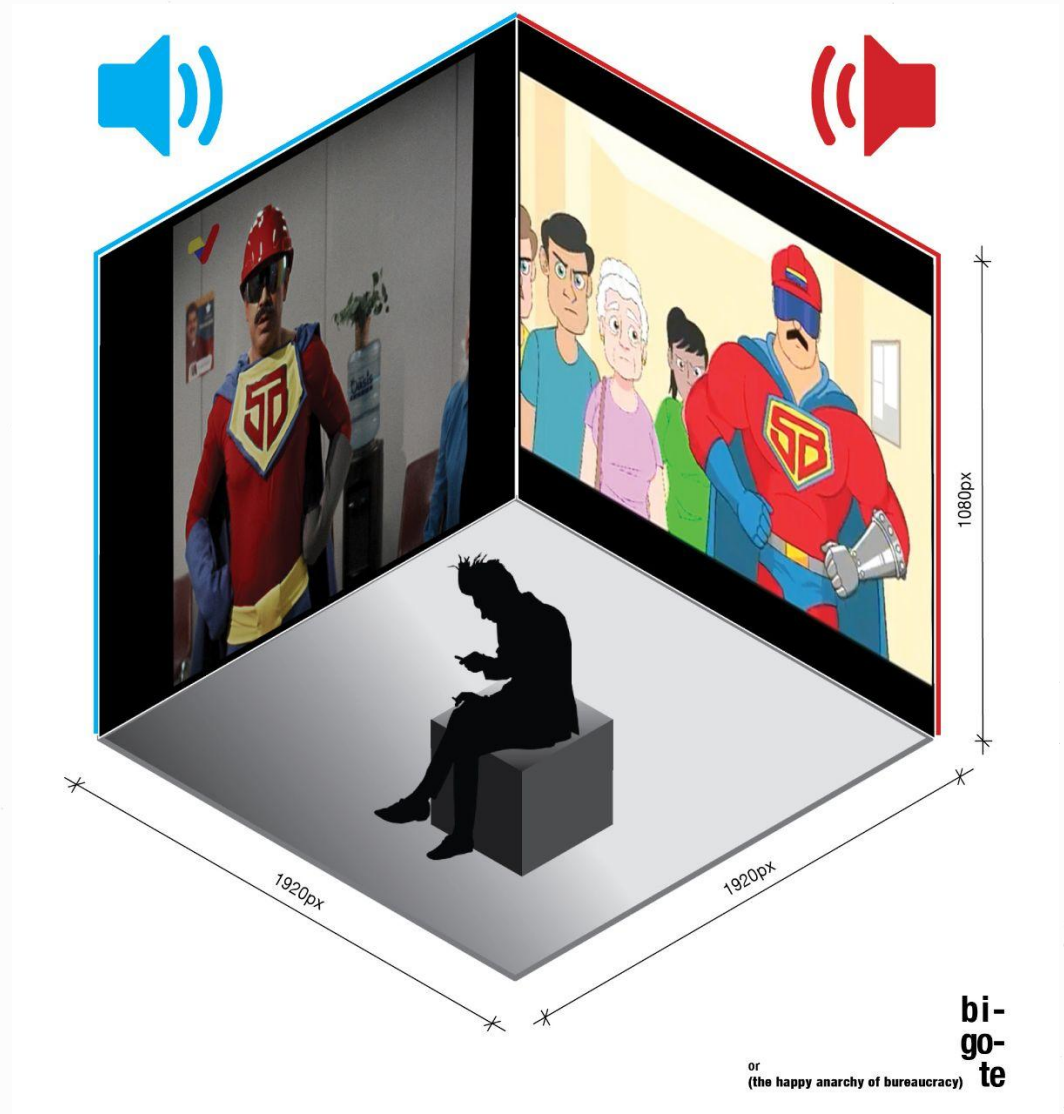
For your consideration: Bigote - 2 channel video installation (00:01:21)

[Watch HERE](#)

This two-channel video installation offers a glimpse into the original SuperBigote 2D animation (an official cartoon aired by the Venezuelan government) synched up with the re-enacted live-action version as seen in *Bigote*.

Each video is played with mono audio from individual speaker sets. The placement of the audio devices in the room emulate a stereo playback, thus placing the viewer in the middle of a seemingly chaotic yet synched up sensorial experience of propaganda: *The Happy Anarchy of Bureaucracy*.

****Alternatively, audio headsets and a stereo mix can be used to accommodate the gallery environment.****



Thank you

Contact:
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