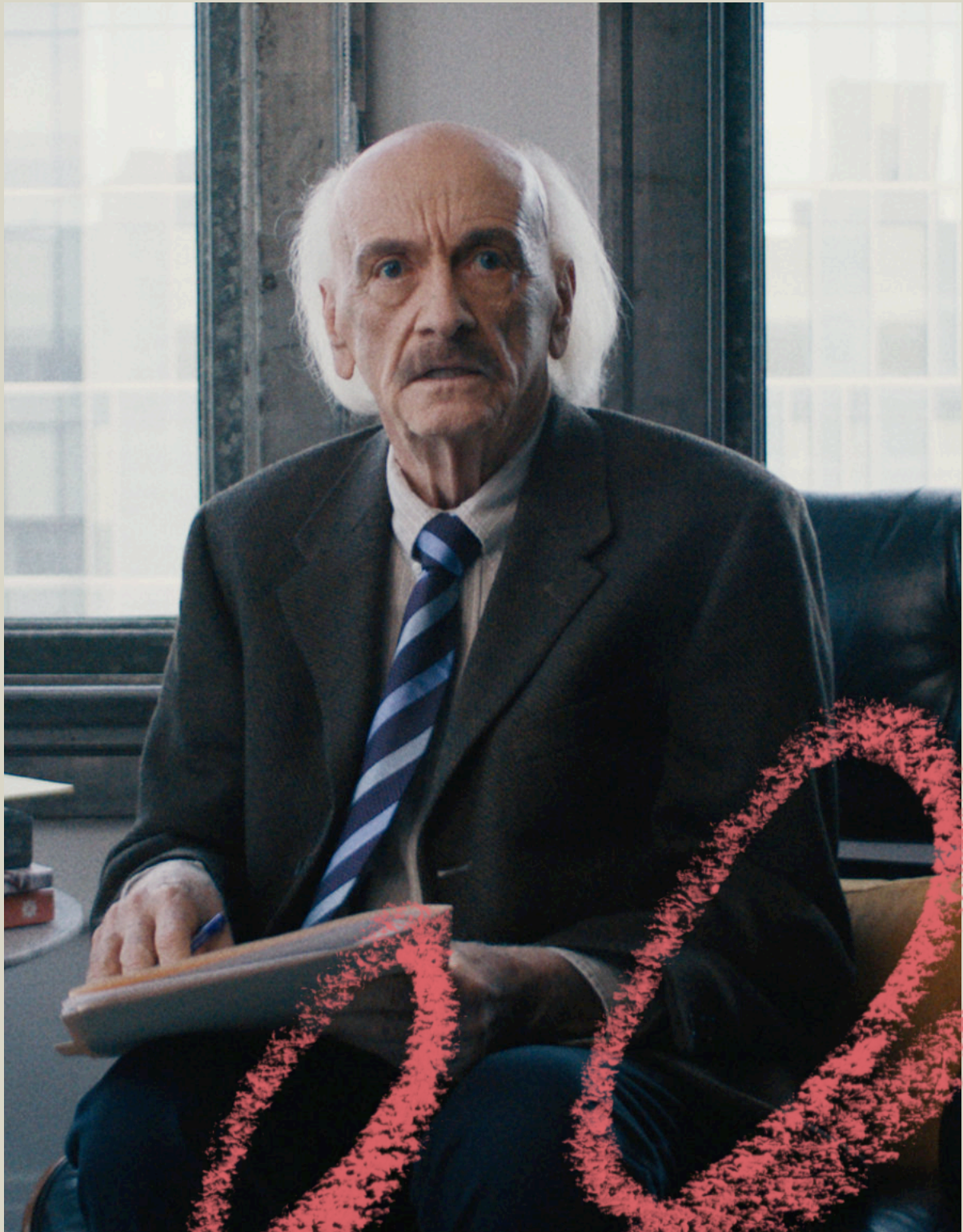


RUBEN RABASA
ASHLEY ALVAREZ
JUAN FRANCISCO VILLA

baby talk

A FILM BY
MICHAEL LEÓN





logline

As Juliana and Reynaldo meet to finalize their divorce, they struggle to say goodbye to their assets, relationship, and hardest of all, their imaginary children.





director statement

My wife and I have been together for nearly twenty years. From the beginning, we dreamed of building a creative life - and a family - together. You know... the cozy home, the joyful kids, the playful puppy. The whole shebang. Then, without warning, that hope was taken from us when we learned we couldn't have kids on our own. Just like that, the future we had imagined together vanished.

Grieving that loss - of the children we never had, of the life we thought we'd live - was the hardest thing we've ever faced. The thing about relationships is that you begin to fantasize about what the future will look like, and letting go of that can be heartbreaking. I became fascinated by directing a story that attempts to answer: What if a couple couldn't let go of the fantasy? What if that fantasy became something ritualistic? What if role-playing the child they lost became the one way they could still connect? Strange, yes - but also profoundly human.

Thus ***baby talk*** was born. It explores the tender, absurd, and sometimes uncomfortable ways we cope with loss. My hope is that audiences will see themselves in these characters - and that we can laugh, cringe, and cry together as we reflect on the fantasies we carry, and what it would mean to finally let them go.



cast

ruben
rabasa



Ruben Rabasa is a Cuban-American actor, director, and writer known for his work in mainstream theater, film, and television across New York, Miami, and Los Angeles. Ruben would like to mention his last three theater productions: The Amparo Experience (Bacardi), The Cubans (Miami New Drama), and Rubenology (Gablestage). Rubenology was based on his first experiences in America, where he made the audience laugh and cry, just like it happens in real life. Television: "I Think You Should Leave" (Netflix), "Criminal Minds" (CBS), "This is Us" (NBC), Films: The Ant-Man and Wasp, Father of the Bride, and Thelma. He was also chosen as the winner of the MMFM award for a television show called "Americano" for its innovation, creativity, and unique approach in uniting Hispanic and American communities, portraying the coexistence of a Cuban family with their American children in the USA. If you want to learn more about him, go to therubenrabasa.com. Instagram: [@rubenrabasa](https://www.instagram.com/rubenrabasa)



Ashley Alvarez is a Cuban-American actress and screenwriter. She's performed professionally all over the country and some of her favorite theater credits include: Derecho (La Jolla Playhouse), The Cubans (Miami New Drama), Anna in the Tropics (Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center), Peter and the Starcatcher (original workshop at Williamstown Theater Festival), and Carla's Quince (Drama League Nomination). She's heavily involved in new play development, collaborating with playwrights at prestigious theaters New York Theatre Workshop, LAByrinth, Women's Project and INTAR. TV/film credits include: "Search Party" (MAX), "Law & Order" (NBC), and "Law & Order SVU" (NBC) and the upcoming short, TIES. She co-wrote and stars in the short film CRABS IN A BARREL, which won the HBO Latinx Short Film Competition and garnered Ashley a Best Actress nomination. She's a 2022 Sundance Screenwriting Fellow and recipient of the Sundance Comedy and Latine Fellowship.

ashley
alvarez

j u a n
f r a n c i s c o
v i l l a

Juan Francisco Villa is an Actor, Writer and Director who has worked across the country on Film, TV and Theater. Recent highlights include Juan in the new season of Ryan Murphy's MONSTERS: THE MENENDEZ BROTHERS with Javier Bardem and with John Leguizamo on his newest play THE OTHER AMERICANS at Arena Stage. He had recurring TV roles on BLUE BLOODS, GENERAL HOSPITAL while making guest appearances on CHICAGO PD, MADAME SECRETARY, and THE OLD MAN. He's used his voice acting talents to work with Ethan Hawke, Judy Reyes, Toni Collette, Dania Ramirez, Minnie Driver, Danny Devito and Aubrey Plaza. Theater highlights include The Public Theater along with gracing the stages of Steppenwolf, The Goodman and Teatro Vista in Chicago. He took his talents to LA where he worked with Oscar Winner Jose Rivera at The Geffen Theater and was part of a sold out run as PABLO FU**ING ESCOBAR in OUR DEAR DEAD DRUG LORD at The Kirk Douglas. He is a company member of IAMA, The Playwrights Unit and a graduate of The Maggie Flanigan Studio (NYC).



team



Michael León (Co-Writer/Director) is a filmmaker and playwright who crafts Latiné stories where comedy gets personal, and the personal gets absurd. His short film, *CRABS IN A BARREL*, was an official selection at several festivals and eventually won the HBO Latinx Short Film Competition, streaming now on HBO MAX. He is the recipient of the Sundance Comedy and Latiné Fellowship and part of the 2022 Sundance Screenwriters and Directors Lab. His play, *THE CUBANS*, premiered at Miami New Drama. He co-created *CARLA'S QUINCE*, an immersive virtual play, which was nominated for the Drama League Award. Most recently, he provided translations and additional text to the new Broadway musical of *NEW YORK, NEW YORK*.



Justin Brock Schantz (Producer) is an independent theater and film producer and the Lead Producer of *CONVENTION*, a 50-actor immersive political play about the infamous 1944 Democratic National Convention.

His producing credits include *CHICKEN AND BISCUITS* (Broadway), *LITTLE GIRL BLUE* (Off-Broadway), *CRABS IN A BARREL* (short film), and *THE BOY AND THE LANDMINE* (animated short).

He is the founder of Left Brain Power, providing left-brain support to right-brain creatives.



Irvin Liu (Director of Photography) is a Los Angeles-based Taiwanese American Director of Photography whose work is grounded in story-driven, emotional visual storytelling. He received a Panavision nomination for Best Narrative Feature Cinematography for *Dealing With Dad*, and his short film *Query* premiered at Tribeca Film Festival, earning a nomination for Best Narrative Short. Most recently, Irvin shot the Emmy-nominated docuseries *The Swift Effect* for Peacock. His latest narrative feature, *How I Learned to Fly*, became the #1 film streaming on Starz following its theatrical release.

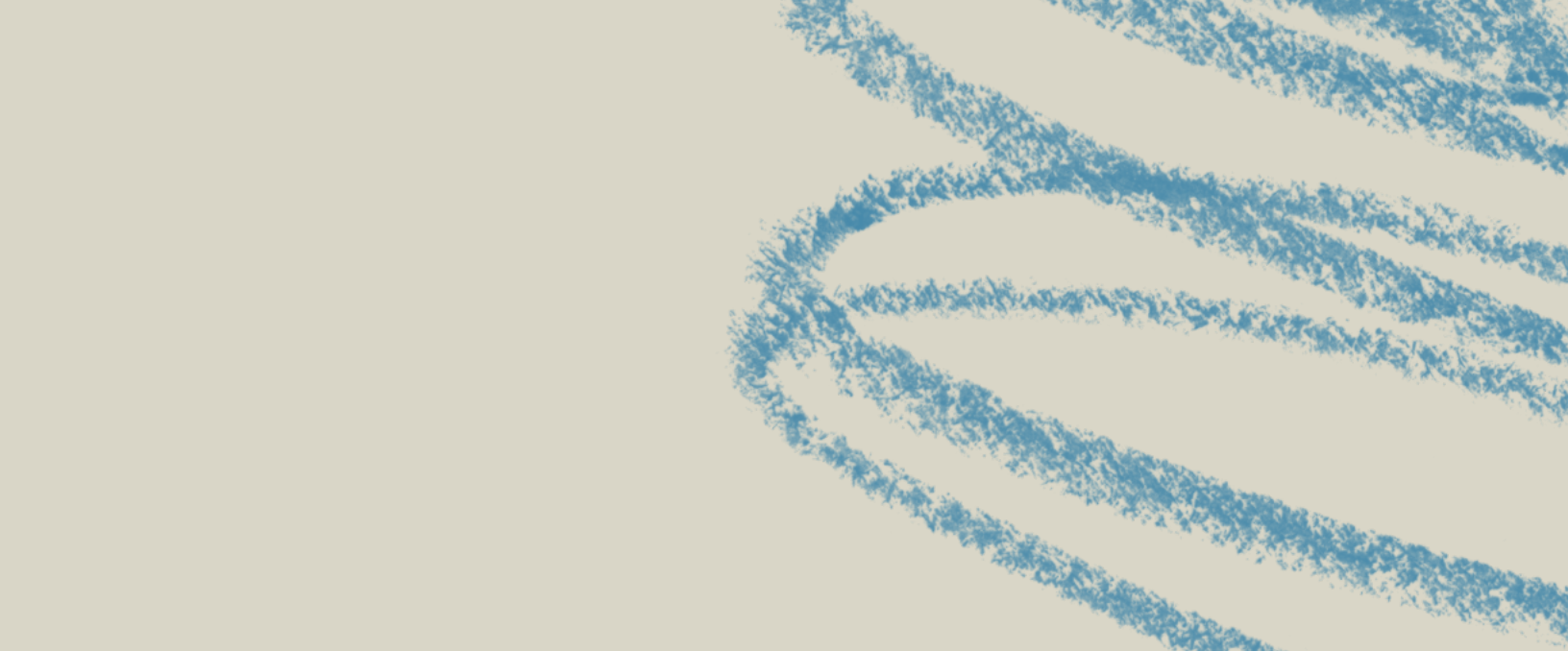


S. Roby Wilson (Editor) is an American film and television editor, based in Los Angeles, California. She is an alumna of San Francisco State University, where she graduated with a BA in Cinema with an emphasis in Writing and Directing. She won an Emmy Award for Outstanding Picture Editing for Variety Programming in 2022 for *A Black Lady Sketch Show*.



Nico Borromeo (Composer) is an Argentinian composer, producer, engineer and multi-instrumentalist based in Los Angeles. His musical work in film has been showcased at Sundance, Tribeca and Slamdance festivals. He also scored the best picture of the Barcelona Film Festival 2019.

Contributing to the two-time Oscar winner Gustavo Santaolalla and Juan Luqui's work, he participated in the Sundance awarded documentary *The Fight* and the Hulu series *Monsterland*. His relationship with Tree Adams (*Californication*, *The 100*) led him to co-compose for the documentary *God & Country*, as well as work on several seasons of the CBS *NCIS* series and the tv show *The Eight*.



contact

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michael león

director

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