



king of games

A coming-of-age drama about a young boy's journey to accept change.

Director, Producer, and Story by
Tyler Cino Maradiaga

Starring
Emperor Kaioyus
Mildred R. Gil
Annie Henk
Joshua Garcia
Bryan Fitzgerald
Rigo Garay
Brandy Ochoa
and Miriam Cruz

Running time: 9 min, 17 secs | Genre: Coming-of-Age Drama

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@kingofgamesfilm | #kingofgamesshort
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AWARDS AND FESTIVALS

CHELSEA FILM FESTIVAL - World Premiere, New York Premiere

Winner, Best Cinematography in a US Short

October 15th - 19th, 2025

AUSTIN FILM FESTIVAL - Texas Premiere

Nominee, The Enderby Entertainment Filmmaking Fellowship Award

October 23rd - 30th, 2025

DANCES WITH FILMS, LOS ANGELES - West Coast Premiere

June 19th - 28th, 2026

NEWFILMMAKERS LOS ANGELES - Official Acceptance

September 19th, 2026



THE STORY

LOGLINE: A young child loses his prized deck of playing cards amidst a life-changing day for him and his family.

SYNOPSIS: *King of Games* is a domestic drama and a late 1990s period piece that places the audience in the perspective of an eight-year-old, Hector, on the day he moves out of his home. Right before he and his family need to leave, he realizes he lost his prized deck of "King of Games" cards - a game based on his favorite television show. As he begins to search his home and interacts with members of his multigenerational household, from his edgy rocker older brother to his faith-loving great-abuela, the audience discovers this is not just any ordinary move, but that this is the final time this family will be together as his parents are getting divorced.

DIRECTOR STATEMENT

King of Games is my graduate thesis film, and it is a story I have wanted to bring to life since I began my journey as a filmmaker. It was an opportunity to explore the interdynamics of multicultural families like my own - one composed of my mom's side, who are refugees from Nicaragua, and my Italian American father. As a child of divorce, I've noticed many divorce narratives are not usually told from the point of view of a child, and are not about families of color. Not only did I want this film to tackle this subject from an underrepresented viewpoint, but I wanted to present the universal idea that growing up is learning to cope with loss. Whether it is a deck of playing cards, a home, or even a family, change is not "a problem to be solved"; it is just an inevitable part of life.

SELECT CAST CREDITS

Emperor Kaioyus as Hector (Run Nixon, The Equalizer)
Mildred R. Gil as Luna (To B., Loved and Lost)
Annie Henk as Bianca (Ponyboi, Alma's Way)
Joshua Garcia as Miguel (In the Heights, Mike)
Bryan Fitzgerald as Paul (13 Reasons Why, What Breaks the Ice)
Rigo Garay as Head Mover (Crumbcatcher, Blackout)
Brandy Ochoa as Reiko (Director's Cut)
and **Miriam Cruz** as Ana Luna "Mami" (Alma's Way, Dora the Explorer)

CREATIVE TEAM BIOS:

Tyler Cino Maradiaga (Director, Producer, and Story by) is a Nicaraguan American writer, director and producer based in Brooklyn. Tyler has carried a passion for social justice since their undergraduate years at UC Berkeley and through a decade of working in the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion field. Believing storytelling is a catalyst for change, Tyler obtained a Master of Fine Arts in film directing at the Feirstein Graduate School of Cinema. Tyler's work utilizes drama, comedy, and fantastical genres to explore themes of identity and social issues. Their films have shown at Austin Film Festival, Chelsea Film Festival, NewFilmmakers Los Angeles, amongst others.

Nicole Fernandez (Producer) is a Colombian filmmaker based in New York City. As a creative producer, she is passionate about telling stories that raise awareness of social issues and explore the ways we interact as humans. She has experience producing documentaries, independent films, and music videos. In 2019, she founded Somondoco Films, the production company under which she signs her work. She graduated from the MFA program in producing at Feirstein Graduate School of Cinema and works as a visual artist at ID Studios, a theater company in the Bronx that serves Latino and immigrant communities.

Yuanwei Wang (Producer), is a New York-based Chinese American screenwriter and producer. A graduate with a B.A. in Screenwriting and an M.F.A. in Film Producing, he has worked in Film Development at Intrinsic Value, contributing to feature projects Out of Order and The Oath. Yuanwei has produced and production-managed numerous short films, currently making their festival rounds in 2025. As Studio Manager at 100 Sutton Studios in Brooklyn, he supports commercial and film productions. An advocate for Asian representation, Yuanwei helps bring to life stories about the Asian diaspora, focusing on culture, personal struggles, and identity challenges.

Gabriella Bartley (Screenplay by) is a filmmaker based in Staten Island, New York. She earned her production degree at the College of Staten Island and her M.F.A at the Feirstein Graduate School of Cinema. Her passion lies in writing animations, but also live-action films revolving around coming of age, comedy, and mental health. She's written and directed several films, including the short Lotus Green, which won the 2023 National Board of Review Award, Best Narrative at the Washington DC Film Festival, and Best Student Narrative Short at the CUNY Film Festival. Her most recent film, Lemon Bars, which will soon enter the festival circuit.

Luisa F. Madrid (Cinematographer) is a rising cinematographer and first-generation Peruvian/Colombian American filmmaker, celebrated for her ability to craft visually striking and emotionally resonant narratives. With a blend of technical mastery and artistic intuition, Luisa specializes in capturing emotional intimacy and grounding stories in relatable, humanistic moments.

Johnny Taranto (Production Designer) is a director, screenwriter, and production designer, dividing his time between Brooklyn and Stockholm. He graduated with honors from Parsons, The New School for Design in New York City, and with an MFA in Cinema Arts, with a concentration in Directing, at the Feirstein Graduate School of Cinema at Brooklyn College, in 2024. His work is darkly humorous, gritty, kinetic, and combines a general sense of apathy colored by childlike wonder.

SOCIAL MEDIA & HELPFUL LINKS

Screener Link:

Upon Request

Film Instagram Page:

<https://www.instagram.com/kingofgamesfilm>

IMDB:

https://www.imdb.com/title/tt38057339/?ref_=nm_film_job_1_unrel_cdt_c_1

Website:

<https://www.tcmradiaga.com/king-of-games>

Trailer (Downloadable):

<https://vimeo.com/1048647911>

Poster (Downloadable):

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1po9G7w7pnI0nOR5lyroZkduQuvQofH7k?usp=drive_link

Stills (Downloadable):

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1ZtrPkj7u6WgtlgpY-peoc2_Sn2GzJMC?usp=drive_link

Tyler Cino Maradiaga (Director) Instagram:

<https://www.instagram.com/yourfavnica/>