

a JON AYON film

# NIKI • TOMI • BETO



UN COLIBRÍ FILMS PRESENTS

A JON AYON FILM NATHANIEL NICHOLAS "NIKI • TOMI • BETO" SANTIAGO RAMOS SIMONE BRAZZINI EDISON MEDINA

SPECIAL APPEARANCE BY NATALIA DOMINGUEZ AND ANDREA HERNANDEZ PRODUCED BY ESTEVAN PADILLA ASSISTANT DIRECTOR KIARA BELTRAN

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY CELESTE YUMARA BARBOSA WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY JON AYON WITH MUSIC FROM SPEAK AND TELEBIT



UN COLIBRÍ FILMS

Haunted by the Nahua deity Tlazōlteōtl, 4 cousins in Northeast LA try to protect each other from the violence and family strife threatening to tear them apart.

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2025 | FICTION | USA | 18 MIN | COLOR | 1.45:1



UN COLIBRÍ FILMS

DIRECTOR of PHOTOGRAPHY — CELESTE YUMARA BARBOSA  
 WRITER, DIRECTOR, EDITOR, + COMPOSER — JON AYON  
 ASSISTANT DIRECTOR — KIARA BELTRAN  
 PRODUCER — ESTEVAN PADILLA

MiniDV Cinematography — MARILYN FLORES  
 Production Designer — JADE SPIERS  
 Art Assistant — STEELE O'NEAL  
 Wardrobe — ROSIE BENSON  
 Hair + Makeup — ASHLEY ALVAREZ  
 Sound — FIONA GAYE  
 Additional Sound — MATT LaCORTE  
 1st AC — BIHILIO BRIGGS  
 2nd AC — SAMANTHA ESPINOZA  
 Ronin OP — BENJAMIN STEEN  
 G+E Driver — JOSEPH MAGALLANES  
 Key PA — JIMMY HERNANDEZ  
 Production Assistant 1 — PEDRO GALVEZ  
 Production Assistant 2 — MANUEL SMITH  
 Gaffer — KEVIN WILLING  
 Key Grip — KEVIN PANIAGUA  
 Best Boy Electric — EDUARDO SAUCEDO  
 Best Boy Grip 1 — ZACH DOMINGO  
 Best Boy Grip 2 — ROBERTO PADILLA  
 Onset Photographer — VICTOR GROSSLING  
 Tag Art — DANNYMADRID  
 Sound Mix/Master — DAN OLMSTED  
 Color — DARREN HARTMAN  
 Story Editor — EMILY R SMITH  
 Assistant Editor — JOHN ORTIZ  
 Poster Art — NORMA MARTÍNEZ

# SYNOPSIS



Niki, Tomi, and Beto are 3 young cousins being cared for daily after school by Tomi's older brother, Ernie. Despite being in a gang, Ernie does his best to care for the boys and impart valuable life lessons, hoping they won't follow in his footsteps. After the arrival of Tlazōlteōtl, the Nahua goddess of refuse and regeneration, different aspects of the boys' world, including family strife, violence, and pressures from Ernie's gang, begin to disrupt their close familial bonds. A confluence of mysterious and unfortunate events leads to a tragedy that forces the family to choose between staying in Northeast LA or fleeing north to safety.



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# CAST



NIKI

.....  
SANTIAGO  
RAMOS RAMIREZ

Meet Niki, ambitious and fiercely loyal. Though he is a binding force for his family, Niki is conflicted by his desire to be like his older cousin Ernie and earn approval from his hardworking parents.



UN COLIBRÍ FILMS

# CAST



TOMI

.....

EDISON MEDINA

Tomi is a curly-haired, bad boy-wannabe, and self-proclaimed sugar fiend tagging all the NE LA walls he can find. Tomi is not only protective of his younger primos, he's also his older brother Ernie's #1 shadow.



UN COLIBRI FILMS

# CAST



BETO

.....

SIMONE  
BRAZZINI

Although they constantly feel out of place at school, Beto is an integral member of the primo gang. Played by Simone Brazzini. A non-binary primo coming into their own sense of self, Beto joins their cousins in lessons of self-discovery and acceptance.

# CAST



ERNIE

.....  
NATHANIEL  
NICHOLAS

Despite being in a gang, Ernie does his best to care for Niki, Tomi, and Beto. Imparting valuable life lessons in the hope that they won't follow in his footsteps. Even considering his ongoing troubles with the adult men in his life, Ernie adores his mother, auntie, and primos and will do anything for them.



# CAST



## JUANITA ..... NATALIA DOMINGUEZ

Juanita, Niki and Beto's mother and Ernie and Tomi's tia, is the glue holding both families together. Despite always working, she finds the time to hold it down at home with a husband who has inexplicably gone mute and teenagers partially raising themselves.



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# FEATURING

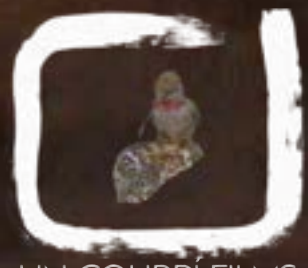


## TLAZŌLTEŌTL

.....  
**ANDREA  
HERNANDEZ**

Appearing as a force of chaos in the lives of our young protagonists, Tlazōlteōtl is more than just an agitator. As the deity of sexuality, refuse, regeneration, and purification, Tlazōlteōtl can both encourage "sin" and be central to its absolution.

Danza culture inspires our version of this Mexica deity, representing the urban-nahua/diasporic-mestize communities to which these primos belong.



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# FEATURING

Natalia Dominguez as JUANITA  
Santiago Ramos Ramirez as NIKI  
Edison Medina as TOMI  
Simone Brazzini as BETO  
Nathaniel Nicholas as ERNIE  
Saíd Gonzalez as ROBERTO  
Yanin Loza as CHICHA  
Javier Duran as DINO  
Hugo Mejia as ALFREDO

Mario "Scar" Ponce,  
Anthony Flores  
Pino Martinez  
Eddie R  
as ERNIE'S SET

Andrea Hernandez as  
TLAZŌLTEŌTL  
with  
THE VOICES OF  
Malinalli Milian Diaz  
Virginia Lozada Nochebuena

+ MUSIC FROM



SPEAK! & TELEBIT  
click the images to listen



UN COLIBRÍ FILMS

CINEMATOGRAPHY



ART DIRECTION



Production Designer  
JADE SPIERS





JON AYON

is a writer and director from Oakland, CA, by way of Northeast LA, where he was born and raised. Ayon is a native Spanish speaker and earned his bachelor's degree in cinema production with honors from San Francisco State University and his MFA in documentary film and video production from Stanford University.

As a Mestizo (Comcáac/Nahua-Salvadoreño/Xicano) son of Mexican and Salvadoran immigrants, Ayon grew up with a massive family split not only by political borders but also by cultural ones—Indigenous, Spanish, and African. Because of this, Ayon's work often focuses on the hybridizations and ruptures of ancestral and modern cultures that shape the urban Mestizo family representing a large percentage of immigrant households in North America. Ayon's documentary films have won awards like the Grand Prize in the 2018 Coppola Director's Short Competition, 2020 Best Documentary Short from NewFilmmakers LA, and 2022 Full Frame President's Award, among others. His work has also been nominated for awards from IDA, Screencraft, Nantucket Film Festival, and Slamdance. In 2022, he was awarded the North Star fellowship at Camden International Film Festival and a Filmhouse residency at SFFILM.

As a first-gen filmmaker, Jon Ayon is proudly devoted to telling immigrant stories in an anti-immigrant world.



# ADDITIONAL INFO

WATCH THE TRAILER

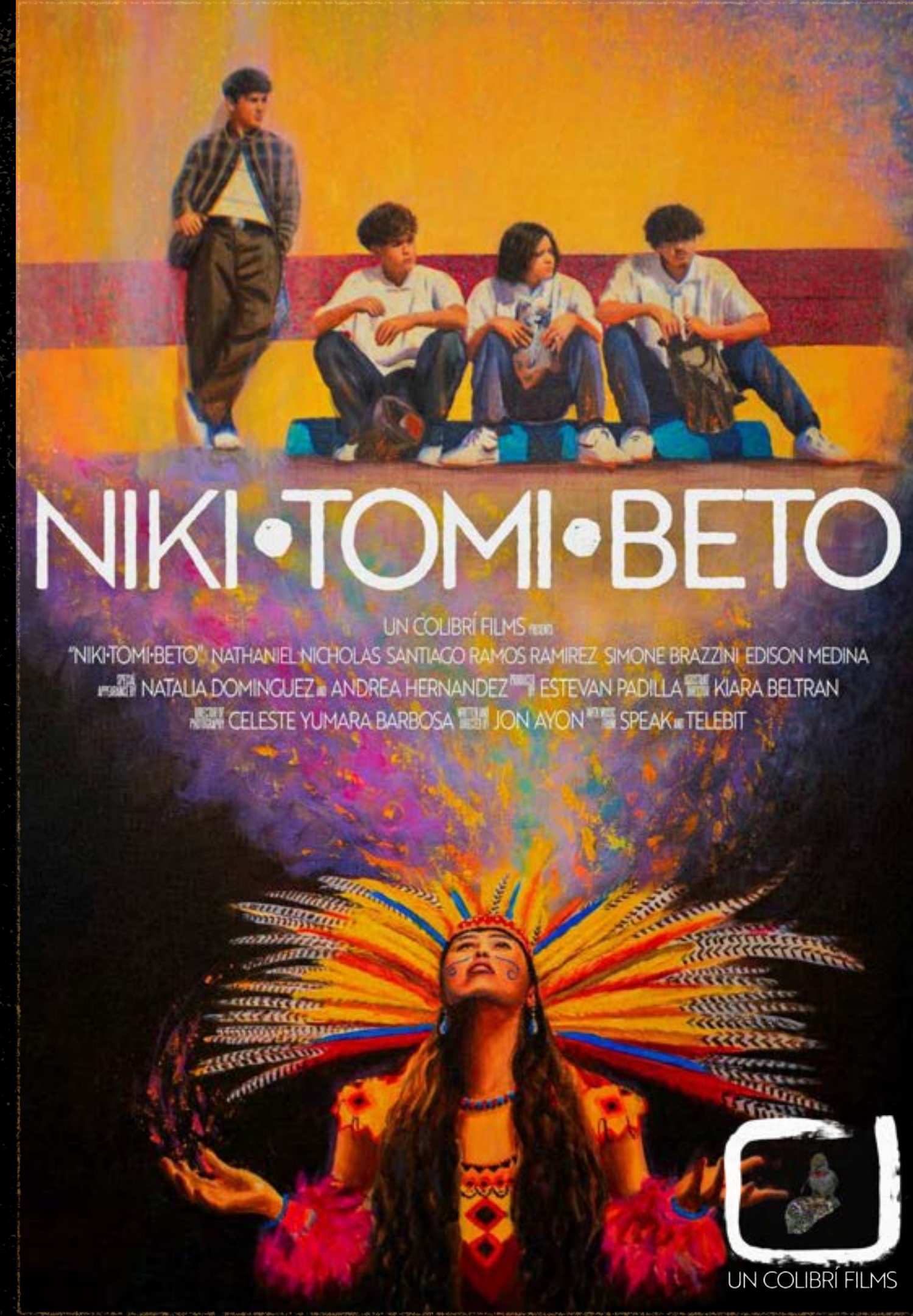
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# PRESS INQUIRIES

CONTACT: JON AYON  
EMAIL: [JON@JONAYON.COM](mailto:JON@JONAYON.COM)

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