

**Wednesday, June 9, 4pm ET**

**MAKING THE INVISIBLE VISIBLE: FORGING A VISION OF REALITY**

Forging a vision of reality is easiest when you look through the lens of every kind of art. From hip-hop artists to teachers, art is in everything and it is important to use it to further the appreciation of our culture and history.

In this episode, we convoke artists of all forms to come together and share their advice and experiences. We got the chance to chat with our panelists: Perla de Leon, educator gone artist, the ex-board of ed teacher and trainer finds joy in her art and has her work permanently on display at the Smithsonian; Rico Pabón, the Bay Area legend, a dynamic mc who has shared the stage with the likes of Run-DMC, Wu-Tang, and The Fugees; Rosa Emmanuelli Gutiérrez, Director, and sociologist from Puerto Rico whose work focuses on the history and lived experience of Puerto Ricans. And lastly, panelist Ivan Vega is a multi-talented player, who founded his own theater company (Urban Theater Company), and actor who has made appearances in Chicago PD, Chicago Fire, and The Chi.

**Wednesday, June 30, 4pm ET**

**FILM FESTIVALS AND LATINX FILMMAKERS: HOW TO SUBMIT THE WINNING ENTRY**

We're back at it again! Bringing you our favorite episode yet: How to Submit the Winning Entry. Our experienced panelists came together to give the best advice as to how to enter your work in film festivals! If you were tuned in, you had the opportunity to be introduced to Carla Cavina, a queer multidisciplinary artist born in the archipelago of Puerto Rico where she lives, studied, and developed her passion and talent for the visual arts, science, and archaeology. She uses art to deconstruct gender and social norms, and her work has been featured in over 40 queer film festivals worldwide.

Alexis García, our favorite writer/director from the Bronx who has experience both in tv and film. Can most often be seen working behind the scenes. Brand strategist and voice of “pero like” before she started a show about quinceñearas The Niños Twins (we like to call them the masters of the arts), have cracked the code to storytelling and have thrived in the industry with 10+ years of experience. They put their experience to good use on their podcast, where they give beginning filmmakers a “cheat sheet” on how to produce great work.

**Wednesday, July 21, 4pm ET**

**EVOKING EMOTION: EXPLORING THE USE OF IMAGES AND SOUND**

Film is an immersive experience when blended well with sight and sound. From commercials to music videos, images and sound make moments memorable. In our recent installment of Tu Cuentas, we learn the relation to sound in film and how it plays a crucial part in making a film feel complete. This weeks episode included our panelists: Natasha Canepa born in pr, made ready to fight and magic fight, running multi-service studio Ben Guzman spend the past decade making anime for himself garnered over 1 billion views on his unique music videos Armando Vergara Puerto Rican Cuban graduated from the manhattan school of music in jazz arts, has performed and recorded with jazz legends like Maria Schneider, Maria Bacardi, and Sean Jones. Denes pagan currently focusing on film has a background in marketing and has worked on campaigns with giants like Claro, Wendy's, and Honda just to name a few. Together, our

panel collaboratively structures a conversation surrounding the importance of the little things, because the little things are what make the bigger picture.

**Wednesday, August 11, 4pm ET**

**WOMEN IN THE DIRECTOR'S CHAIR: OBSTACLES AND TRIUMPHS**

It was Women's Night at our live show yesterday! Our newest episode, titled, "Women In the Director's Chair: Obstacles and Triumphs" calls attention to the gender inequality that runs rampant within the film industry. We asked women directors to come together and talk about their experiences as well as give crucial advice that they wish they would have known when they were just starting out.

Our girl-squad panel on this week's episode consisted of:

Amneris Morales, a well-known actress from Puerto Rico who started her career reading poems on television, and at 14 she had her own show on Telemundo. She is a founding member of BIP( barrio independent productions), a nonprofit organization in New York that promotes the creation of art through different platforms. Mildred Amador: a Director that is the head of the TV and Radio Studio at Roberto Clemente Community Academy in Chicago. Lorena Guillen Castillo: a jack of all trades, who is not only a student at NYU majoring in drama and production, but also an influencer, an actress, and an entrepreneur. You might have recognized Jayleen Pérez, a former beauty queen, on our panel! Recently she's stepped away from the spotlight and moved behind the camera. You can catch her producing and directing her own films.

Don't forget to tune in to our next episode, Social Activism in Film: Tales from the Year That Was on September 1. Don't miss it!

**Wednesday, September 1st, 4pm ET**

**SOCIAL ACTIVISM IN FILM - TALES FROM THE YEAR THAT WAS**

This week's panel delved into the discussion of the different kinds of activism, and the message the individual panelists want to convey through their projects. Moderated by Jessie Fuentes, a well-known and respected activist from Chicago, Jessie has been active in human rights issues ranging from Gentrification to Voter Registration, from Puerto Rican self-determination to freedom for Oscar López Rivera. She is presently a co-chair for the Puerto Rican Agenda of Chicago, a leadership table that is over 20 years old. Guest speakers Sofía Gallisá Muriente, Matt McCanna, Raymond Arturo Pérez, and Steven Rivera joined the conversation with their unique insights into the questions posed by Jessie. Jessie introduced the panel by leading off with a short video remembrance of Alex Guzman, who passed away unexpectedly on February 16, 2021.

Prompted by Jessie to speak about what movie(s) moved them, Matt began with his impression of "Takeover" a short film combining original footage and recreated scenes of the Lincoln Hospital takeover by the Young Lords, and their fight for the most basic of human rights: the right to accessible, quality healthcare. Raymond Pérez emphasized that for him, television has the power to produce empathy through its shows and spark conversations. Sofia Gallisá Muriente clarified that although she did not consider herself a documentary producer, but a film series that had a profound impact on her was "The Battle of Chile". It is a chronicle of the political tension in Chile in 1973 and of the counter revolution against the government of

Salvador Allende. Steven Kruz Rivera, mentioned that he had recently seen during the pandemic, “Pa'lante, Siempre Pa'lante” and it moved him to start thinking about the documentary he would like to make on the history of bomba.

Raymond pushed the audience to think of a different understanding or representation in traditional media genres. His aim was to center queer Latinos/as in spaces we had not seen ourselves in, like domestic dramas and just let them “live”. Matt summed up his work at the moment by elaborating on his collaboration with Dr. Raquel Ortiz on children’s books and with the Urban Theater Company, based in Chicago. Sofia Gallisa Muriente brought it home by observing that the lack of resources shouldn’t hold anyone back from creating the projects they want. Jessie summed up the panel theme by observing that activism for them, was about sending a message. Check out this session on youtube if you haven’t already!

**Wednesday, September 22nd, 4pm ET**

### **COMPELLING DOCUMENTARIES - REAL STORIES FOR CHANGE**

Today’s panelists, Steven Vásquez, a filmmaker from Los Angeles, Jorge Xolapa, writer and director from Los Angeles, João Dall’Stella, also a writer and director from Los Angeles, and Jorge L. Rivera, assistant director from Los Angeles, discussed their personal experiences and how they have interacted with their work environments. Steve started by observing how the historical, cultural and political upheaval of the past 18 months — OscarsSoWhite,#MeToo, Black Lives Matter to name a few — have contributed to the opening of a necessary space for dialogue which in turn has led directly to an opening for the acceptance of radical creative ideas and their implementation. Streaming services paid attention and began to offer more diverse media. This in turn, gave rise to the opportunity for Latinx writers, directors, producers, etc, to create shows and get in front of these platforms. Jorge Rivera, assistant director, jumped in by adding he felt it also made it easier for him to “intervene in the moment” and make awkward situations, teachable moments. Jorge Xolapa felt “blessed” as he had arrived at filmmaking via a non-traditional route and was completely in charge of his stories. Joao also added that both the authenticity and the story format — cartoon, animation, drama — contributed to being able to deliver the story’s message.

Speaking on the content of his work, Jorge Xolopa did say that so far, how work — 5 finished films — had all been about social justice. Immigration, gay rights, gun control, etc and he was happy about that. When it came to seeing his projects out the door, i.e. completed and out for distribution, Jorge stated he was happy to “have no expectations” and “where it goes, it goes”. Steve answered the question, “How does your work become part of the national conversation?” by replying that it was a multi-pronged strategy that included understanding how to meet the audience by fitting the platform. All panelists agreed that “collaboration and research – from beginning to end— were key to success. Steve, speaking about the creation of short — 10 minutes or less — content, observed that first, the story, of the different elements involved, is primary, and second, you have to make sure you are telling a compelling story. Joao contributed a different perspective, stating that his process started with knowing the beginning and ending and then envisioning the pieces to make up the middle, and which of course, might impact the beginning and ending. To end, the panelists contributed their personnel lessons learned: Jorge L. Rivera “Don’t be that guy — the jerk— be a good guy and develop your relationships. Joao: “Do what you can do that is within your reach” — resource and capacity-wise. Jorge Xolopa: “don’t take anything personally — people will always have their own opinions”. And Steven Vasquez

added the unanimously agreed upon, “Say yes to everything. Don’t be particular at the beginning, say yes to everything for 1-2 years.”

**October 13th, 4pm ET**  
**TEARS, FEARS, AND LAUGHTER**

Our FINAL panel live stream! Hosted by the legendary artist Antonio Martorell, panelists Neyda Martinez, producer from New York, New York, Alex Ramirez, filmmaker from San Antonio, Texas, Dani Adeliz, actress and writer from Los Angeles, CA, and Bryan Cid Borrero, actor also from Los Angeles, dive into the difficulties of trying to establish a career in the film industry and the struggles, and weigh the obstacles, and emotions that come along with the journey. Neyda opened by saying that for her, it was essential to frame obstacles as opportunities; otherwise the artist runs the risk of thinking that everything is an insurmountable wall; she also recounted a moment where she didn’t the opportunity to present at a prestigious, large venue fell through; and her answer was to get up, organize some smaller opportunities using her network of friends and contacts — in other words being proactive —that led to two funding opportunities for her. Along with the recommendation to be proactive, Neyda also said it was helpful for her to meditate and consult with her team. Alex’s contributions were interesting enough, mostly from his first project in film school: how to work with people, how to create a good atmosphere on the set. It was “one of the most difficult things I’ve ever done in my life — dealing with harsh conditions, funding we expected didn’t come in, and the wrong mix of personalities.” Bryan added a different dimension by saying “I had to take a break.” His life was going, “off the rails” as he described it. He had been dropped by two agents, was briefly homeless, living month to month and felt as though he could not handle the pressure. But he felt that the break taught him several lessons, among them: how not to procrastinate, how to press the “reset” button, and most importantly, how not to be discouraged.

Alex, when asked about how the last 18 months, with all it’s concurrent issues, had impacted him, replied “it made me re-evaluate the way I do my art”; he consciously wanted to create art that had a safe process for the crew and participants. He also felt that he was doing the best to tell our truth — the result of empathy and creative choices he made and was willing to put out there publicly. In closing the panelists were if they were their biggest fans or critics? Bryan led by stating, “If you take things personally, then acting is probably not for you.” and “don’t quit, the dream is real.” Alex chimed in, “I’m my biggest fan during shooting, and my harshest critic while editing.” Martorell brought the panel to a close by thanking everyone and urging all to watch the Judges and Awards Show on Sunday, October 24, 2021 at 9:30m ET.

Each panelist talks about their obstacles and how hard it was to overcome them, and how the journey was absolutely worth it because it got them to where they are today. Check out this inspirational live stream on our Youtube channel if you haven’t already!