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LATINO REEL

Under the rich, creative environment of the Sundance Film Festival, Latino Reel is a showcase event held during the festival where Latino film is celebrated in a forum of networking and storytelling. The annual event features panel discussions on a variety of topics from industry leaders and trailblazers, who share their experiences, expertise and advice. The purpose of Latino Reel is to provide a forum in which both aspiring and established Latino artists can network and share their knowledge and experiences while working to hone their filmmaking skills.

LatinoReel.com



PROGRAM

**Friday,
January 19, 2018,
10:15-11:30 AM
Venue: Latino Reel
at Bodega**

Join PBS executives for a wide-ranging conversation about pitching and producing films for PBS and the larger public television network. As America becomes even more multicultural, how is this change affecting PBS' programming plans for the future? Hear about upcoming PBS content plans and get your questions answered first hand.

MODERATOR:

Ricardo Flores, Marketing and Creative Executive, Utah Film Commission

PANELISTS:

Beth Hoppe, PBS Chief Programming Executive and General Manager, General Audience Programming.

Amy Letourneau, Sr. Vice President, PBS Distribution.

Marie Nelson, PBS Vice President News and Independent Film.

**Friday, January 19,
2018, 12:00-1:15 PM
Venue: Latino Reel
at Bodega**

Panel: What are the issues affecting Latino actors, producers, directors, and writers in the film and television industry? Is the film and television industry telling the stories of all communities and cultures? How are diverse communities portrayed, and is the content an accurate representation of the culture?

This panel discussion will look into content as it relates to the Latino experience. It will address the topics of the industry and how artists from diverse backgrounds are able to connect with audiences in sharing their stories.

MODERATOR:

Robyn Moreno, Co-President of Latina Media Ventures, Latina Magazine

PANELISTS:

Cristina Costantini, Journalist / Filmmaker

Josefina Lopez, Screenwriter/Producer/Director

Rudy Valdez, Filmmaker

**Friday, January 19,
2018, 1:30-3:00 PM
Venue: Latino Reel at
Bodega**

Panel: Diverse storytelling in Utah is growing. How can we keep diverse stories alive and ensure their presence in the film industry in Utah?

MODERATOR:

Virginia Pearce, Director, Utah Film Commission

PANELISTS:

Jared Ruga, President, Media & Entertainment, Sentry Financial

Amanda Stoddard, Writer/Director/Producer

Nancy Rivera, Artes de México

Kasandra Verbrugghen, Executive Director, SpyHop Productions

**Friday, January 19,
2018, 3:15-4:45 PM
Venue: Latino Reel at
Bodega**

Panel: The evolution of Latina roles in media. Join us for an exclusive conversation about the evolution of Latina roles. From the big screen to behind the camera, we all play an important part in ensuring the positive portrayal of Latinas.

MODERATOR:

Celeste Carrasco, Director of Federal Public Affairs for AT&T

PANELISTS:

Eli Vazquez, Director and Creative Producer at BuzzFeed Motion Pictures

María Agui Carter, Director, SCIGIRLS Latina and The MARIPOSA project

David Ortiz, head of mitú's long-form development, talent and production teams

BIOS

2018 LATINO REEL PANELIST & MODERATOR BIOS

**Sunday, January 21,
2017, 9:00-11:00 AM
Venue: Utah Film
Commission on Main**

Panel: Latinx in Hollywood had the worst year in 2016 in terms of on screen visibility though we account for about 23 percent of ticket sales. While we have more Latinas on and behind the big and small screens, are we really where we ought to be when it comes to opportunity, diversity, and representation? Our celebrated panel of Latina talent (on and behind the scenes) will discuss where we are in the entertainment industry; where we need to go, and why we must support each other along the way.”

MODERATOR:

Robyn Moreno, Co-President of Latina Media Ventures, Latina Magazine

PANELISTS:

Carmen Rita Wong, Founder and CEO of Malecon Productions

Ben Lopez, Executive Director, NALIP

Tanya Saracho, Playwright

Yvette Yates, Actress/Filmmaker

SUNDAY PROGRAM SPONSORS:

Latino Reel, Latina Magazine, Utah Film Commission and VOX Creative

RICARDO FLORES

Ricardo Flores is currently the Marketing and Creative Executive with the Utah Film Commission. In his time with the Film Commission, along with his peers, he has facilitated numerous productions coming to the state of Utah, including features such as 127 Hours and Wind River, as well as series that include Disney Channel's Andi Mack and Yellowstone for the Paramount Network. Ricardo is a native Utahn earning his degree in Film Studies from the University of Utah.

BETH HOPPE

Beth Hoppe is Chief Programming Executive and General Manager, General Audience Programming at PBS. In that role she has overseen PBS' growth from the 12th most watched in primetime to the 5th most watched among all broadcast and cable networks.

In just over three years in this position, Ms. Hoppe has overseen the return to PBS of original American drama with Mercy Street, a civil war medical drama set in Alexandria, VA; entered a co-production agreement with the BBC, which has generated science and natural history specials for both networks including Big Blue Live; and helped position PBS as the home for independent film with multi-platform projects like the Oscar-nominated Last Days in Vietnam from American Experience and The Black Panthers: Vanguard of the Revolution from Independent Lens. Ms. Hoppe oversees the entire primetime content strategy and budget and works closely with the Executive Producers of PBS' award winning series Frontline, Masterpiece, NOVA, Nature, American Masters and Great Performances. She has brought numerous new series and specials across multiple genres to PBS including history programs Finding Your Roots with Henry Louis Gates, Jr., Genealogy Roadshow and In Their Own Words; and dramas Call the Midwife, Last Tango in Halifax and Vicious. Working with Ken Burns, Ms. Hoppe developed a multi-platform "epic binge" scheduling strategy, which resulted in The Roosevelts: An Intimate History being the most watched factual program on PBS since The Civil War more than two decades ago. She has also brought timely specials and events to PBS including a block of programming commemorating the anniversary of the assassination of JFK, a special on The March on Washington, and Year In Space, a partnership with TIME magazine, scheduled to coincide with Mark Kelly's return from the International Space Station. Before taking on the top programming job at PBS, Ms. Hoppe spent just over a year as Vice President, Programming, during which she oversaw all natural history, science, history, and news and public affairs programming. Before PBS, Ms. Hoppe spent more than eight years on the commercial side of the business. She came to PBS from Discovery where she oversaw Curiosity and

BIOS

developed and produced science projects for Discovery Studios. Prior to Discovery, Ms. Hoppe was President and CEO of Optomen Productions (USA), a Soho, New York-based television production company known for science, reality and factual programming, which she started from the ground up. Under her leadership, Optomen produced numerous successful programs and series for Discovery Channel, Animal Planet, Travel Channel, PBS and the Food Network. Productions she created which went on to be long running series included Monsters Inside Me for Animal Planet, Most Evil for Discovery and I.D, Worst Cooks in America for Food Network, and Mysteries of the Museum for Travel Channel. Additional series and specials included the Emmy-nominated Evolve for The History Channel, Mars: The Quest for Life and Are We Alone? for Discovery and Science Channel, Can Animals Predict Disaster? for PBS' Nature strand, and Gangland Graveyard for Secrets of the Dead.

Prior to joining Optomen, Ms. Hoppe was Thirteen/WNET's Executive Producer of PBS' ground-breaking Frontier House and Colonial House, both of which were nominated for primetime Emmys, and, while Director of Science Programs at Thirteen/WNET, two projects, DNA and The Secret Life of the Brain, won the Emmy award for Outstanding Science Program. Working with Channel 4 in the UK, she created the long running strand Secrets of the Dead, and oversaw numerous productions and co-productions including 1900 House, Savage Seas, Savage Earth, Savage Planet and Innovation. At WGBH she was series producer of NOVA, and directed and produced several episodes of the series, including Great Moments from NOVA, and Avalanche! Before NOVA, Ms. Hoppe directed the Ten O'Clock News. She got her start in production at New Hampshire Public Television where she directed and edited New Hampshire Journal, floor managed Granite State Challenge, and ran camera for many productions including UNH Wildcat Hockey.

Ms. Hoppe serves on the Board of the World Congress of Science and Factual Producers, and has frequently participated in panels there and at RealScreen, IDA, the Jackson Hole Wildlife Film Festival, the New York Television Festival, and other industry events. She has served as a jury member for the Japan Prize and has been a judge for the News and Documentary Emmy Awards. She also has served on National Science Foundation grant review panels and has privately reviewed grants for other organizations, including the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation.

AMY LETOURNEAU

Amy Letourneau is Senior Vice President for PBS Distribution (PBSd), a full-service distribution company that specializes in sales of public television programming in the US & abroad. Amy oversees acquisitions, marketing and strategy for factual, drama, and children's programming. In 2017, she led PBSd's launch of a theatrical releasing unit which has created multiplatform campaigns for several high profile documentaries including DOLORES and ABACUS: SMALL ENOUGH TO JAIL prior to their PBS broadcast. Prior to joining PBS Distribution, she held various roles in production and administration at WGBH (PBS/NPR) and WHDH (NBC). Amy holds an MBA from Yale School of Management and is a graduate of the S.I. Newhouse School at Syracuse University.

MARIE NELSON

As Vice President, News & Public Affairs for PBS, Marie Nelson is responsible for collaborating with executive producers of acclaimed PBS news and public affairs series, as well as independent producers, to develop and direct innovative approaches to engage audiences in current events across these programs and platforms.

Ms. Nelson is a seasoned content developer with experience in public media and other broadcast and cable organizations. Prior to PBS, she served as executive producer of national programs at PBS member station WGBH. At WGBH, she oversaw the production of AMERICA BY THE NUMBERS, an eight-part documentary series that explores the impact of America's changing demographics.

Prior to WGBH, Ms. Nelson was the acting vice president of news & original programming for BET Networks, where she oversaw a range of cross-platform projects, including Battleground 2012, a yearlong politics initiative. She also served as the founding executive producer for NPR's "Tell Me More" and as a producer for "Nightline" with Ted Koppel and "World News Tonight" at ABC News. Nelson has also served in public affairs and international development roles with the U.S. Department of State, the Rainbow/PUSH Coalition and Africare.

ROBYN MORENO

Robyn Moreno is the Co-President of Latina Media Ventures, the largest media property aimed at acculturated Latinas in the U.S.

She's also a well-known lifestyle expert, Emmy-nominated TV host, author, and blogger at RobynMoreno.com—a weekly newsletter and blog that helps women easily infuse beauty and joy into everyday life.

As a sought-after lifestyle expert, Robyn appears regularly on The Today Show, Wendy Williams, Extra, CBS Early Morning Show, The Steve Harvey Show, Fox and Friends, CNN, and CNBC, among other national and local outlets. She hosted her own show, Pockets of Pretty, on the iHeart Radio Talk network.

Robyn believes that personal style can be easily achieved in all areas of life, regardless of budget—a philosophy she touts in her book, Practically Posh: The Smart Girl's Guide to a Glam Life (HarperCollins). A proud Latina of Mexican-American heritage, Robyn has co-written and co-edited two Latino-centric books: Suave: The Latin Male (Rizzoli), a fashion book about Latino style icons; and Border-line Personalities: A New Generation of Latinas Dish on Sex, Sass, and Cultural Shifting (HarperCollins), an honest and irreverent anthology about life as a modern Latina.

She was nominated for an Emmy as the host of Plum Daily Hamptons, a daily lifestyle show on the Plum Network, and her work has been featured in Elle, InStyle, Glamour, Cosmo for Latinas, Latina, Woman's Day & Woman's Day Latina, Manhattan, Beach, USA TODAY, The New York Daily News, Redbook.com, Jetsetter.com, Aloha.com, SheKnows.com, TheLatinKitchen.com, and About.com. Robyn is a popular keynote speaker and has presented at the Sundance Film Festival, SXSW Interactive, Hispanicize, The Omega Institute, BlogHer, Pennsylvania Conference for Women, Texas Conference for Women, and Yale University among others.

A native Texan and certified yoga teacher, Robyn lives in Cold Spring, New York with her two daughters and hubby.

CRISTINA COSTANTINI

SCIENCE FAIR is Cristina's first feature and second collaboration with Darren Foster. The pair previously partnered on "Death by Fentanyl," a 2017 duPont Award-winning investigation about an opiate that's making the worst drug epidemic in U.S. history even deadlier. Long before Cristina was an investigative journalist, she was a science fair nerd. As a dweeby high school kid from Wisconsin, the international science fair is where she found her tribe. The documentary SCIENCE FAIR is a love letter to a world that validated her during the dark years that are high school. As a freshman, she placed fourth and it changed her life forever. After attending Yale University, she reported and produced for the New Haven Independent, The Huffington Post, ABC News, Univision and Fusion. Her first TV documentary, which looked at sex trafficking in Mexico, was nominated for two Emmys

and her reporting on immigration has won awards from GLAAD and the National Association of Hispanic Journalists. She now lives in Los Angeles with her husband Alfie and a pug dog named Harriet.

JOSEFINA LOPEZ

Josefina Lopez is an award-winning Screenwriter/Producer/Director who co-wrote the screenplay to the Sundance Audience Award winner *Real Women Have Curves*. She is the Founder and Artistic Director of CASA 0101 Theater Art Space in Boyle Heights where she presents plays, film festivals and teaches and empowers a new generation of Latino and women writers. She has produced two films, a drama titled *Detained in the Desert*, which won for Best Drama at the Los Angeles International Women's Film in 2014, and her second film, a horror film, which she also directed, titled *5150* and which won her a Best Director award at the Latina Film Festival in Ventura in 2013. She is the founder of the Latin@ Screenwriting Academy and is going to be teaching a week long crash course in February to save aspiring Latino screenwriters the cost of going to get an MFA in Screenwriting. You can follow her on Twitter at JosefinaLopez and at casa0101.org

RUDY VALDEZ

Rudy Valdez is a Michigan-raised, Brooklyn-based filmmaker committed to making cinematic, meaningful documentary films about social, cultural and political issues. Rudy got his start as a camera operator on the Peabody Award-winning, Sundance series *Brick City*, and other credits include: Cinematographer for Academy Award-nominated Director Sebastian Junger's film *The Last Patrol* (HBO); Director of Photography for Whoopi Goldberg presents *Moms Mabley: I Got Something To Tell You* produced and directed by Whoopi Goldberg, premiered at the 2013 Tribeca Film Festival and aired on HBO; Director of Photography for *Remembering the Artist, Robert De Niro, Sr.*, that premiered at the 2014 Sundance Film Festival and aired on HBO; Director of Photography on *The Conversation Series*, a New York Times OpDoc; Cinematographer for the BET series *Second Coming?: Will Black America Decide the 2012 Election?*; Director of Photography for *Prison Dogs*, directed by Geeta Gandbhir and Perri Peltz and premiered at the 2015 Tribeca Film Festival; Cinematographer for *Buried Above Ground*, directed by Ben Selkow and premiered at the Woodstock Film Festival; *The Talk a Sam Pollard* documentary for PBS. And, a true passion project, *The Sentence*, a documentary about mandatory minimums and sentencing reform that Valdez has shot and directed over the course of a decade will premiere in competition at the 2018 Sundance Film Festival. When he's not working, you can find Rudy at the park with his wife and daughter.

VIRGINIA PEARCE

With over 15 years of experience in marketing and external relations in the film industry, Virginia Pearce has been the Film Commissioner for the state of Utah since October 2014. Working closely with the Governor's Offices of Economic Development and Tourism, Pearce has cultivated key industry relationships and is working to build the state's reputation as a filmmaking destination.

Under Pearce's leadership, Utah secured its first major network series to shoot in Utah since 2005 and the number of outside productions filming in Utah doubled in 2016. Pearce emphasizes economic growth and talent development, with an expanded interest in cultivating emerging markets in the entertainment industry.

Formerly the Director of Marketing & Community Programs at Spy Hop, a nonprofit youth media organization that mentors teens in digital media creation. She joined Spy Hop in 2010 after serving as the Associate Director of Artist Relations at Sundance Institute since 1998. While there, she managed relationships with the Institute's film, music and theatre artists, managed the Institute's artist labs program and created the Sundance Institute Alumni program. Pearce began her career as a commercial photographer, working in Seattle, Maine, Boston and Paris.

Pearce serves on several boards including Sundance Institute Utah Advisory Board, Salt Lake Community College Workforce & Economic Development Advisory Board, the Association of Film Commissioners International (AFCI) Board of Directors, Utah Valley University's Digital Media Advisory Board and the Motion Picture Association of Utah Board of Directors.

AMANDA STODDARD

A creative to the core, Amanda Stoddard writes, directs, and produces as a way of life. *QUIET HEROES*, premiering at the 2018 Sundance Film Festival, is Amanda's second documentary feature. Her other current projects include a documentary short (*GLASS TEMPLES*) and several feature and episodic narrative projects in development at Vavani, a production company based in Salt Lake City, Utah. She also serves as the Director of Content for Film & Television in Sentry Financial's Media & Entertainment division.

JARED RUGA

Jared Ruga is an entertainment executive with a penchant for screenwriting who develops and produces narrative and documentary projects. He is driven by the guiding ethos of Vavani (the production company he founded and manages): to tell timely, compelling, authentic, and socially conscious stories from underrepresented perspectives. He also serves as President of Media & Entertainment at Sentry Financial, and is a founding board member of The Lightspark Foundation. His other community engagement includes LGBT advocacy and serving on the board of Voterise.

NANCY RIVERA

Nancy Rivera is a Mexican artist based in Salt Lake City. She earned her MFA in Art/Photography from the University of Utah in 2016 and is currently an Artist-in-Residence at the Utah Museum of Contemporary Art. She serves on the board of Artes de México en Utah and is the Development and Events Coordinator for the Utah Film Center.

KASANDRA VERBRUGGHEN

Kasandra VerBruggen is the executive director of Spy Hop Productions, a youth media organization in Salt Lake City, Utah that mentors young people in the digital media arts to help them find their voice, tell their stories, and be empowered to affect positive change in their lives, their communities, and the World. Kasandra joined Spy Hop in 2008, has over 25 years of experience working for nonprofit

education and youth development organizations, and has a BA in Political Science from the University of Arizona and a Masters in Public Administration from the University of Washington.

CELESTE CARRASCO

Celeste Carrasco, Director of Federal Public Affairs for AT&T, is responsible for executing national strategies that achieve corporate legislative and regulatory objectives, presenting company positions to external stakeholders in key issue areas and managing community partnerships with non-profit organizations in the Latino, corporate social responsibility and consumer advocacy communities.

A dynamic and engaging leader, Celeste is coalition builder at heart, always looking for ways to partner, engage and execute plans.

Celeste was honored as City Year Idealist of the Year in 2015 and was honored to receive the herMANA award in 2016 by the MANA organization. She has also been the recipient of the President’s Volunteer Service Award multiple years running. All recognitions highlight her passion for volunteerism and commitment to the communities she represents. A native of Argentina, Celeste and her family live in Washington, D.C.

ELI VAZQUEZ

Eli Vazquez is a director and creative producer at BuzzFeed Motion Pictures. Focusing on the development of series and long-form projects in digital media. During his time at BuzzFeed, Eli generated over 100+ million views across all social platforms including Facebook, Go90, and Watchable.

Eli was raised in Chicago, IL receiving his BA at Columbia in film studies. As a social justice activist, he led social issue workshops and political outreach campaigns while serving on the board of Women In Film Chicago. A non-profit organization focusing on opportunities for women in media. Relocating to Los Angeles, Vazquez also runs his own production company with a focus on pushing the opportunity to tell stories from people of color in the traditional film and the digital ad space.

MARÍA AGUI CARTER

María Agui Carter is a screenwriter, director, producer, and the founder of Iguana Films, LLC. She is also an Assistant Professor of Visual and Media Arts at Emerson College. She has won George Peabody Gardner, Warren, and Rockefeller Awards, and served as a visiting scholar at Harvard, Tulane and Brandeis.

Over a dozen of her documentaries have broadcast nationally and internationally, and premiered at festivals from Tribeca to Frameline. Selected recent projects include the PBS documentary film Rebel (rebeldocumentary.com), winner of a 2014 Erik Barnouw Award for best historical films in America (writer/producer/director); and the upcoming SciGirls Latina (scigirlspress.org) national PBS broadcast and trans-media series (director, opening episode, and series advisor) premiering Feb. 2018.

Ms. Agui Carter has been a member of the Writer’s Guild of America since 2000 and serves on its Diversity Alliance. She is a former Board Chair of NALIP, the National Association of Latino Independent Producers, and is co-author of the 2017 “White

Paper on Gender Inequality in Film and Television.” She is now working on an upcoming 2018 White Paper on Diversity and Inclusion in the Film and TV Industry.

Ms. Agui Carter is now developing THE MARIPOSA PROJECT, a theatrical film, print, and new media venture. She workshopped her magical realism script, called The Secret Life of La Mariposa, as a Sundance Screenwriter’s Lab Intensive Fellow, and is slated to direct the theatrical feature film. In this coming-of-age story about immigrant girls and environmental stewardship, Ms. Agui Carter draws on her own experience growing up an undocumented student in America who graduated from Harvard College.

DAVID ORTIZ

David Ortiz is the head of mitú’s long-form development, talent and production teams. In his current role, Ortiz oversees mitú’s scripted and unscripted content strategy, development slate and talent partnerships. Previously, Ortiz oversaw projects for Pitbull’s production company, HONEY, I’M HOME, which was founded by Pitbull under his EndemolShine production deal. Ortiz also served as a SVP at EndemolShine USA under North American co-CEO’s Cris Abrego & Charlie Corwin. There he developed scripted, unscripted and digital content for EndemolShine, most notably three successful seasons of Pitbull’s New Year’s Eve special on Fox. Prior to EndemolShine, David served as an executive for Vin Diesel’s banner One Race Films whose 1st-look production deal is at Universal Pictures. David oversaw development for the company which included FAST FIVE, FAST SIX and FURIOUS 7 which grossed over \$2.5B+ combined worldwide. Additionally, David was a producer on RIDDICK which grossed \$120M+ in the box office. Before joining One Race, Ortiz was mentored by Donna Langley as a development executive for Universal Pictures. There he co-oversaw the 4th film FAST & FURIOUS bringing back Vin Diesel & Paul Walker, WANTED starring Angelina Jolie & James McAvoy, HELLBOY 2, written and directed by Guillermo del Toro, ROLE MODELS, starring Paul Rudd and Seann William Scott, DEATH RACE starring Jason Statham and ACCEPTED starring Justin Long, Jonah Hill & Blake Lively. Prior to his time at Universal, David spent two years at Warner Bros. Pictures working on Tim Burton’s CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY starring Johnny Depp and Steve Gaghan’s SYRIANA, starring George Clooney and Matt Damon and produced by Steven Soderbergh.

David started at William Morris in the motion picture talent department before switching to the development track. Originally hailing from New York City, David graduated from the University of Chicago with a B.A. in Public Policy. He is proficient in Spanish and French.

CARMEN RITA WONG

Carmen Rita Wong is the Founder and CEO of Malecon Productions. She is a writer, producer, and is the former co-creator and host of the daily television show, On the Money, on CNBC. A former editor at MONEY magazine, Carmen was also a national advice columnist for Glamour, Latina, Essence and Good Housekeeping as well as an expert with NBC’s TODAY Show, MSNBC, CNN, CBS This Morning, ABC’s The View, and has written for The New York Times and “O” Magazine. A member of President Obama’s ‘Business Forward’ initiative to further African-American, Latino and Asian business owners, Carmen was also a faculty professor of behavior economics at New York University and is the author of two best-selling financial advice books. A seasoned speaker and moderator, Carmen serves on the board of several nonprofit organizations including the Planned Parenthood Federation of America, Dress for Success and The Futuro Media Group. She is the author of a novel series and invests in female-led and owned businesses and film productions.

B I O S

TANYA SARACHO

Tanya Saracho was born in Los Mochis, Sinaloa, México. She is a Chicago playwright who currently writes for Television (HBO's "Looking," "Girls," and "Devious Maids."). Named "Best New Playwright" by Chicago Magazine, Saracho has had plays produced at: Oregon Shakespeare Festival, The Goodman Theater, Steppenwolf Theater, Teatro Vista, Teatro Luna, Fountain Theater, Clubbed Thumb, NEXT Theater and 16th Street Theater. Saracho was named one of nine national Latino "Luminarios" by Café magazine and given the first "Revolucionario" Award in Theater by the National Museum of Mexican Art. Tanya is currently one of the few Latina showrunners in Hollywood, overseeing the upcoming "Vida" on Starz, and "Brujas" with Big Beach Films. Tanya Saracho was born in Los Mochis, Sinaloa, México. She is a Chicago playwright who currently writes for Television (HBO's "Looking," "Girls," and "Devious Maids."). Named "Best New Playwright" by Chicago Magazine, Saracho has had plays produced at: Oregon Shakespeare Festival, The Goodman Theater, Steppenwolf Theater, Teatro Vista, Teatro Luna, Fountain Theater, Clubbed Thumb, NEXT Theater and 16th Street Theater. Saracho was named one of nine national Latino "Luminarios" by Café magazine and given the first "Revolucionario" Award in Theater by the National Museum of Mexican Art. Tanya is currently one of the few Latina showrunners in Hollywood, overseeing the upcoming "Vida" on Starz, and "Brujas" with Big Beach Films.

YVETTE YATES

Born in El Paso, Texas, Yvette Yates grew up both between the border town and in Cd. Juarez, Chihuahua. She attended U.C.L.A., receiving a B.S. in Physiological Science and published in the Journal of Molecular Immunology.

As an acclaimed actress, her credits include: the action film, El Gringo, After Dark Action alongside Christian Slater; the comedy Without Men, starring opposite Eva Longoria, Kate Del Castillo & Christian Slater. She can also be seen in the films: Free Ride alongside Academy Award winner Anna Paquin; Water & Power based on Mark Taper play; and Sorority Party Massacre.

With a strong commitment to giving back, Yvette dedicates her time in between work to her hometown of El Paso, TX/Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua where she participates in discussions and panels in high schools, synagogues, churches, theatre groups, the El Paso film commission, community colleges, UTEP to the Plaza Classic Film Festival.

She is a partner in the newly launched Impossible Dream Entertainment, a new production and finance company.

"We have been building this new platform to make critical decisions in voicing how Latinos and the new majority want to be represented," said Yates. "Diversity will be a constant in the forefront of conversations in all aspects of our television series and films. We will keep a lot of attention on packaging and producing Latino-inspired feature films and television series for the growing American market."

BEN LOPEZ

Ben Lopez (@vientofuego) is responsible for the overall design, strategic planning and execution of all programs for the National Association of Latino Independent Producers (NALIP). Prior to becoming Executive Director, he was Projects Director where he supervised the selection process and management of the Latino Media Market, a highly curated market that takes place during the NALIP Media Summit, the largest and most important gathering of

Latinxs in media nationwide. In addition, Ben oversees the Diverse Women in Media Initiative, the Latino Media Fest and Latino Lens. Latino Lens is an exclusive incubation and media content production program as well as a distribution model of Latinx media screenings, festivals and speaker showcases designed to develop, nurture and produce a series of Latino creators' and filmmakers' projects and showcase their talents in Film, Digital, Streaming, Doc, TV and Tech Arts. As part of the Latino Lens Mentorship Series, Ben serves as the year-round industry liaison for content creators in the Latino Lens programs, curating and matching them with creative executives, agents, managers, producers and key industry professionals who can mentor and move their careers forward.



Every dream has a starting point

Connected communities are strong communities. By advancing our technologies and services, we're helping to create the opportunities that keep the dream alive.

We're honored to support Latino Reel - Sundance 2018

