

# SYDNEY A. VILLA

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## FILMMAKER | DIRECTOR | PRODUCER

Experienced entertainment professional actively pursuing opportunities within the vibrant San Diego area. Acknowledged for exceptional interpersonal abilities, a strong work ethic, and an unwavering dedication to the arts. A committed team collaborator and diligent individual accomplished at thriving in a fast-paced and dynamic setting.

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## WORK EXPERIENCE

### VISUAL MEDIA

#### DIRECTOR

2024

##### ***Barrio Narrative, CA***

Embark on a journey inspired by real-life events of my dad and tio during their youth. Growing up, I listened eagerly as my dad shared stories of their countless adventures and mischief. Now, driven by my passion for filmmaking and storytelling, I'm excited to retell their story and shine a light on our vibrant Chicano community.

Summary: Two best friends, Carlos and Jamie navigate the complexities of growing up. Their paths begin to separate, testing the strength of their friendship against the backdrop of 1990's Barrio Logan.

#### CINEMATOGRAPHER

2024

##### ***Mama CHIA Documentary, VT***

*Finalist in the My Hero International Film Festival*

During my journey to Vietnam with Actuality Abroad, serving as the cinematographer, I discovered the transformative power of my voice. Through my lens, I realized I could empower travelers to navigate their experiences, leading them towards profound understanding and personal growth.

Summary: How far would you go for your child? How far would you go for someone else's child? Stories of love, compassion, heartbreak and hope from inside Children's Hope in Action (CHIA) - a Hoi An Vietnam based NGO.

#### DIRECTOR

2023

##### ***For The Streets Documentary, CA***

*Awarded Best Cinematography in SDSU Emerging Filmmakers Festival*

As a Latina woman in the film industry, I deeply feel the responsibility to champion diversity and inclusion. With a passion for storytelling, I am passionate about bringing underrepresented voices and sharing diverse narratives to create a more inclusive cinematic landscape.

Summary: Street vendors are like the beating heart of San Diego's nightlife. Three vendors share their story working in the middle of such an energetic atmosphere and we get a glimpse into their life.

## PRODUCER

2023

### ***Saturnia Narrative, CA***

Summary: Welcome to Saturnia the most beautiful place on earth. In this FIB reenactment of the Saturnia cult we gain more insight into the fraud and corruption within.

## STUDENT ORGANIZATION | THEATRE

### **PRESIDENT | FRONT OF HOUSE MANAGER**

**Aug 2021 - May 2024**

***Little Woman | Clean | Medea | The Crucible - CA***

***Skull and Dagger Dramatic Society Student Run Theatre Organization***

- Spearheaded the strategic direction and overall management of the Skull and Dagger Dramatic Society, overseeing all operational aspects and ensuring the organization's mission and goals were met.
- Facilitated collaborative efforts among members, fostering a creative and inclusive environment conducive to theatrical innovation and excellence.
- Implemented hospitality-focused strategies to enhance the overall guest experience, including personalized customer service, attentive communication, and anticipating customer needs.
- Developed and maintained positive relationships with patrons, providing assistance, resolving issues, and ensuring satisfaction during events.

## HOSPITALITY

### **OPERATIONS LEAD CONFERENCE SERVICES ASSISTANT**

**May 2022 - Current**

***Conference Services, Aztec Shops Ltd - CA***

- Demonstrated exceptional leadership by overseeing conferences/events operations, resulting in over 5,000 happy and satisfied guests.
- Main point of contact for one of the largest conferences of the summer at San Diego State University.
- Conducted "Mass Check Ins and Check Outs" for a group of over 600 religious youths aged 12 - 17 years old during a weeklong stay on campus.
- Provided on-site support during their stay, helped troubleshooting issues and ensuring client needs were met during tight deadlines.

### **HOSTESS | TO GO SPECIALIST**

**July 2021 - October 2021**

***Applebees- CA***

- Greeted and seated guests promptly, managing the flow of customer traffic to ensure a smooth and efficient dining experience.
- Provided exceptional customer service by addressing guest inquiries, resolving issues, and ensuring a welcoming atmosphere.
- Managed the to-go orders process, including taking phone orders, assembling and packaging meals accurately and efficiently.

## EDUCATION AND AWARDS

**Bachelor of Television, Film, and New Media Production, Cum Laude – San Diego State University**  
(May 2024)

**Finalist in the MY HERO International Film Festival for Mama CHIA Documentary**  
(July 2024)

**Skull and Dagger Dramatic Society 100 year recognition – San Diego State University**  
(May 2024)

**Best Cinematography For *The Streets* – San Diego State University**  
(May 2023)

## PROFESSIONAL REFERENCES

Kimberly Chinchilla  
**Conference Services Operations Manager**  
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