

A Short Film

The Audition



Background

Tony Mendes is a Latino actor who doesn't fit the Hollywood stereotype. He has to go to great lengths to get casting directors to look beyond the surface to notice his talent.

Inspired by true events, many Latino actors are passed over as too ethnic or too "Latino" for a non-Hispanic character. This also includes not being brown enough for explicitly Hispanic roles. The Audition describes the rampant use of stereotypes portraying people of color in film and television. The goal is to highlight the glaring lack of



Isaias Perez as Tony Mendes

diversity in roles for Latinos depicted by the film and television industry.

This film not only brings awareness to the issue but also inspires other Latinos to create their own content and tell their stories.



Polly Cassiday Kain and Derek Denton

New York Times: Latinos Are Underrepresented in Hollywood, Study Finds By Laura M. Holson

“The Annenberg Inclusion Initiative at the University of Southern California released a study on Monday that found that of the 100 top-grossing films each year from 2007 to 2018, only three percent featured Latino actors in lead or co-lead roles. Producers and casting executives fared badly, too, with Latinos making up only three percent. And they were equally rare in the director’s chair, helming four percent of movies studied during the 12-year period. In all, only 4.5 percent of the 47,268 speaking roles studied by researchers went to Latino actors.”

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/08/26/movies/latinos-hollywood-underrepresented.html>

Research

The numbers

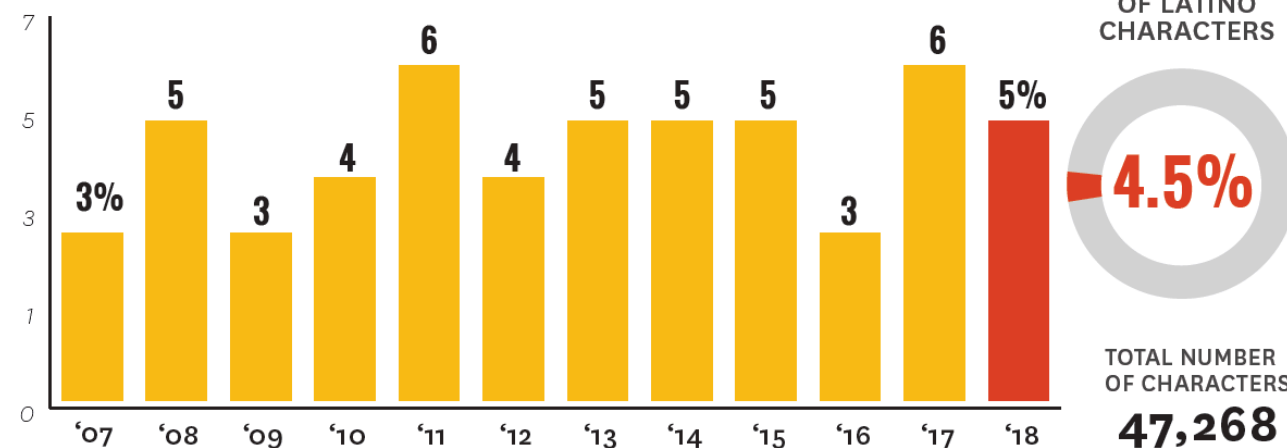
Latinos in Film: Erasure On Screen & Behind the Camera Across 1,200 Popular Movies

Dr. Stacy L. Smith, Marc Choueiti, Ariana Case Dr. Katherine Pieper, Hannah Clark, Karla Hernandez & Jacqueline Martinez

<http://assets.uscannenberg.org/docs/aii-study-latinos-in-film-2019.pdf>

LATINO CHARACTERS ARE MISSING IN FILM

Prevalence of Latino speaking characters across 1,200 films in percentages



Eric Liberacki

Director

Eric Liberacki found his start in Detroit, Michigan. During the day he would shoot movies on MiniDV tape, and at night he would make experimental 16mm films in the basement of the Detroit Film Center. After studying Cinematography, Eric began working freelance as Camera Operator and Assistant Camera while shooting projects. He shot the feature films Your Holy Eyes, Redemption Way, The Pale Man, A Chance in the World, and Rucker along with numerous short films. The projects he has lensed have played at Chicago International, Cleveland International, New Directors Showcase at the Directors Guild of America, and many others.

In 2015, Eric directed his first short film: “ANTI-BODY.” The film played numerous festivals, starting in Eric’s hometown before moving to Chicago, and across the rest of the country. Eric’s feature film debut The Lurker had its world premiere at Cinepocalypse. Shot in Chicago, the film centers on a group of high school students stalked by a maniacal killer. It stars Scout Taylor-Compton (Rob Zombie’s Halloween I & II, The Runaways) and Naomi Grossman (American Horror Story). The Lurker is distributed via Indican Pictures and released in April 2020.



Isaias Perez

Writer/Producer

Isaias Perez born in Texas and raised in Puerto Rico is an actor and writer living in Chicago, Illinois. Graduating from Northeastern Illinois University with a Bachelor degree in Theater Communication and Media. Isaias discovered his passion for film when he was six years old. He use to save every penny given to him from his parents to go to the movies. He wrote his first play when he was twenty two years old for his local church which led him to write other professional theater productions and radio series. During his first year of college he volunteered to work as a production assistant for a TV show on Telemundo in Puerto Rico leading him to other productions assistant positions on other networks such as Syfy channel. He also served as a high school theater instructor working with different non-profit organizations for many years in Chicago. Previews credits include: Caos (Trébol Productions), Dreamer (Alder Productions),Joan of Arc (The Sigman Brothers Theater Co.), Happiness and Tears (Gorilla Tango Theater Co.), Not For Sale (Urban Theater Co.). ! Que Gente mi Gente! (Family Bridges),The Secrets of Santa Monica (Family Bridges). Isaias is excited to present his first work as a screen writer 'The Audition' short film directed by Eric Liberacki.



Matt Campbell

Producer

Matt Campbell, born in Park Ridge, Illinois, is a Chicago-based Actor, Producer, & Casting Director. Matt was a 3 sport athlete at Maine South High School and went on to play football at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette where he graduated with a Bachelors Degree in 2012. Matt started making movies with his friends when he was in middle school. In high school he was a top student in the TV/Film and Broadcasting courses. Matt was nominated for an Emmy for his work on the first show he ever produced, Case Files Chicago, a crime show profiling local unsolved homicides featuring innocent victims. They were able to help the Chicago Police get a charge on a number of unsolved cases through their show, which offered a tip line at the end. Since then, he has went on to own his own casting company, M.C. Chicago Casting LLC, and his own production company, Mobula Productions. He works on anything from films to TV shows to commercials but he says his favorite area is Film and TV. As an actor, Matt recently starred in the Amazon Prime hit comedy feature , Granny Shot. It's a film about 3 guys trying to make it in Hollywood but end up having much bigger things to deal with and a bunch of people after them. It's a ball of laughs. One of Matt's favorite memories to date was the filming of Granny Shot. It's something he hopes to replicate in future films. 'The Audition' is the most recent film he produced and is extremely proud to be a part of the project and this relevant topic.



Alejandro Gonzalez

Producer

Alejandro Gonzalez is a filmmaker based in Chicago, Illinois. Alejandro works as an actor with Empire FOX and as a producer with various local independent film productions in Chicago. He also serves as the president and director at Aladerri International Film Festival. Aladerri Enterprises is currently building his body of work as a film director. His most recent work was co-producing the short film The Audition in 2019, which is currently in the festivals circuit.



Graco Funes

Executive Producer

An award-winning mortgage expert and real estate developer, Graco Funes has spent 20 years as a passionate and knowledgeable advocate for his clients. He brings his expertise as a mortgage specialist to iLoan Home Mortgage. Graco possesses an in-depth understanding of a variety of financing options.

A lifelong Chicagoan, Graco made his first real estate deal at age 18, and he hasn't stopped since. As the chief executive officer of Ocarg Development Group, Graco purchases and renovates real estate investments throughout Chicago and its suburbs, taking care to inject innovative design into the properties he develops while maintaining the structural beauty that is intrinsic to Chicago architecture.

Graco philanthropy serves St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and A Boy and His Dream Org which helps provide local Chicago Students with Scholarships for College. Graco's message is impact and giving back within all Communities.



Andrew K. Smith

Director of Photography

Andrew K Smith Is A Chicago Film Editor & Cinematographer With Over 6 Years Of Experience In TV, Narratives, Documentaries, Commercials, And Music Videos. For 5 Years, He Was The Lead Editor & Cinematographer On Case Files Chicago, A True Crime Television Show That Aired On The CW50 Chicago For 6 Seasons.

Some Other Projects Andrew Has Worked On Include The Narratives “Granny Shot” Which Is Available On Amazon Prime, “Thanks A Latte – Bad Reviews,” “Room To Believe,” And Honeycrisp.” He Has Also Worked On Music Videos For Jen Miller’s “Fine” And Oddity’s “Pressures Gone,” As Well As The Short Documentaries “98 Seconds” And “Bullets Have No Name.”



Mary Munez

Set Designer

Mary Angela Munez is a Chicago based filmmaker who has spent the last 7 years working on major studio projects. She most recently worked on the shows Batwoman, Shameless, and the 2020 remake of Candyman. Her focus has turned to producing quality independent films that promote people of color and empower women and children. As a Philippine-born woman, her mission is to leverage her knowledge and resources to help promote meaningful stories and provide opportunities to marginalized communities.

Mary owns GoLucky Studios, a film and event production company and independent film Crafty company, Wheres Crafty. She has one daughter, Natalie, who is also a filmmaker and artist.



Maria Rago

Score Writer

Maria Rago born in Sicily Italy and currently living in Illinois, USA. Maria Rago was something of a late comer to the music world. In fact, she only began to play the piano at the age of 24 with Lea Cumbo, Eliodoro Sollima and Bruno Canino. She studied composition at the Conservatorie National Supertieur Musique de Lyon in France. Her works have been performed in festivals and theaters throughout Europe and America, including: Teatro Greco, Palazzolo Acreide (Italy), Teatro Massimo Bellini, Catania (Italy), The Living Theatre – New York, Festival di Spoleto (Italy), Theatre du Rond Point des Champs Elysees, Paris (France), Theatre Les Ateliers, Lyon (France), Kleiner Konzertsaal- Gasteig, Munich (Germany) and Selcuk Ephesus Festival (Turkey).



CAST MEMBERS

Tony Mendes – Isaias Perez Torres

Kid Tony – Jacob F Perez

Casting Director 1 – Tyler Burke

Casting Director 2 – Paul Brian Fagen

Angela Johnson – Polly Cassiday Kain

Casting Director 3 – Derek Denton

Latino Actor – Erik Robles

Receptionist – Chelsea Clark

Kate (U.K. Actress) – Lily Paige

Jose Luis – Jesus Nuñez

Miss Bender – Stacy Trulley

Customer – Beatrice Williams

Tony's Mom – Enereida Veronica Lopez

Superhero Kid – Nathan Perez

PRODUCTION

Director – Eric Liberacki

Writer – Isaias Perez Torres

Producer – Alejandro Gonzalez

Producer – Matt Campbell

Executive Producer – Graco Fuentes

Executive Producer – Isaias Perez Torres

Production Assistant – Sandra Castanon

Production Assistant – Erwing Villanueva

Production Assistant – Justin Kikuo Komori

Director of Photography – Andrew K. Smith

Production Designer – Mary Munez

Set Decorator -Jeff Botelho

Costume Designer – Sarah Albrecht

Boom Operator/ Sound Utility – Nick Picchietti

Makeup Department: HMUA – Lacey LaVonne

Sound – Nick Picchietti & Corey Capelli

Sound Mixer – Damian Duran

Music – Maria Rago & Christophe Luciani

Production Companies – Aladerri Enterprises

Production Companies – Mobula Productions

Website – Cristian Sandoval

Specs:

Project Title: The Audition

Project Title (Spanish): La Audición

Film Type: Short

Runtime: 17 minutes 30 seconds

Completion Date: February 1, 2020

Country of Origin: United States

Country of Filming: United States

Film Language: English, Spanish

Shooting Format: Red Dragon 6K

Aspect Ratio: 1.85:1

Film Color: Color

Contact Information:

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Website

www.theauditionsshortfilm.com

Social Media

www.facebook.com/theaudition2020

Instagram: [the.auditionsshortfilm](https://www.instagram.com/the.auditionsshortfilm)

IMBD

[https://www.imdb.com/title/
tt10985402/](https://www.imdb.com/title/tt10985402/)

Reviews

“From the production that took great care of the details to the exceptional performance of the actors, *The Audition* is a well-rounded short film in every way you want to look at it.”

Priscilla Torres, NBC Telemundo Arizona - Acceso Total

“A powerful film that’s not afraid to examine some challenging perspectives. Perez goes there without apology and we walk away smarter, wiser, and perhaps a bit bolder than before!”

Sarah Hinkes, Scene Chicago Magazine

Reviews

“A great short film. Simple in its form but with a lot of weight in the story, development, and narrative.”

-Edui Tijerina, Screen writer and film critic

"It's the feel-good short film of the season. Isaías adds a lot to this production: a smart script with realistic situations, a relevant argument about latinos in the movie industry, and a charming performance. It gave me food for thought".

José R. Pagán, Journalist and communications specialist