

Independent Drama “Cranberry Nights” sheds Light on the Experience of Undocumented Youth

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“Cranberry Nights”, a short film by writer/director Sara Robin, and starring Mexican-Australian actress Inde Navarrette (13 Reasons Why, Wander Darkly), is currently being screened in festivals around the world, after premiering at the Female Eye Film Festival in Toronto earlier this year. “Cranberry Nights” is a contemporary coming of age drama told from the perspective of an undocumented Mexican-American high school senior, Juana. The film seeks to shed light on the experience of undocumented immigrants in the United States. The project also actively involved creators from marginalized communities on screen and behind the camera.

Inde Navarrette plays the lead, 16 year-old Juana, who balances two lives: With her friends she is a regular American teen, at home she is an undocumented Latina who struggles to build a future in the United States. Juana has to decide whether to tell her friends about her status. “This story is about trust between Juana and her best friend, Kelly” Inde said. When Kelly spills the secret about Juana’s status, their friendship is called into question.

“We live in a time where the topics of immigration and what it means to be American are at the forefront,” said Producer, Matias Letelier. “We often forget that this is a topic about real people and about people’s lives. We aim to bring this closer to home for our audience.” To prepare for the film, Sara Robin met with young leaders in the undocumented community, to gather facts first hand through in-depth conversations about their experiences. “The trust that was put in me by every single person I talked to was incredibly humbling. People shared their story so openly with me, a complete stranger,” said Sara Robin. “The most important thing to me is that the story I tell on screen is truthful.”

Sara actively sought to involve members of the undocumented community as part of the cast and crew. “Juana is me, I am Juana. This project showcases what I went through and what people like me go through all the time,” said DACA-mented Associate Producer, Aura. The film premiered at the Female Eye Film Festival in Toronto earlier this year. A feature version of the film is currently in development in collaboration with writer Shirley Miller.

You can find more information along with the trailer on cranberrynights.com

Sara Robin | Writer & Director

Sara Robin is an award-winning director, writer, and producer based in Los Angeles and Boston. Her work focuses on stories of social empowerment across narrative and documentary formats. Over the past seven years, Sara has created a wide range of independent and commercial projects. In April 2019, she directed the Air Jordan Wings Scholars campaign together with Falcon Content founder Dex Deboree. In the following summer, Sara co-produced the documentary feature film Ride for the Living together with Lisa Effress, directed by Marc Bennett. Shot on location in Poland, Canada, and the US, the film follows cycling enthusiast Robert Desmond, who inspired the annual “Ride for the Living” bike ride from Auschwitz to Krakow, in the effort to transcend the horrors of the Holocaust. Sara is a former Fulbright fellow and was featured on Variety’s 110 Students to Watch list for her work at Boston University.

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