

BACKSTORY

Director Domenicca Botero has lived with her grandparents from a very young age. At the end of 2019, Botero toyed with the idea of making a film based on the elderly and the parallels of womanhood at both the earlier and later stages in life. In March of 2020, Botero's grandfather passed away unexpectedly. Grief-stricken, she found solace in the new bond with her grandmother over the shared loss and lack of closure. Botero observed the reiteration of her grandmother not wanting to forget her spouse as a coping mechanism and found interest in the dynamics of how the elderly deal with death along with the fear of letting go. As days went by, sadness would come in waves for both Botero and her grandmother; from hazy calm ones, to tumultuous days that resulted in shared cathartic wailing. Botero describes sorrow as "leaving slowly, arriving abruptly, and finally thrashing your eyes like salt water from the sea", from there, the oceanic themes that tied with isolation and solitude developed. Ultimately, Botero also wanted to pay tribute to her hispanic heritage by having a portion of the film take place in the coastlines of Veracruz, Mexico, the place her grandparents honeymooned 58 years prior.



Botero's grandparents during their honeymoon in Veracruz, Mexico 1962.