

THE SETTLER

WRITTEN AND
DIRECTED BY:
ZARA MIRZAEI



AWARD WINNER SHORT FILM

PRODUCED BY:
DR. SINA BEHMANESH

Story:

'The Settler' follows the story of a Latino man named Juan, who has left his family behind and immigrated to the US in the hopes of a better life. While He's working hard and is bent on building his future, he faces social and emotional struggles.

Crew & Cast



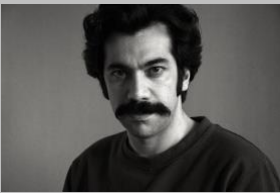
WRITER AND DIRECTOR:

Zara Mirzaei was born in UK. She's from Persian (Iranian) descent. She grew up in New York, United States, obtained her bachelors in engineering and Masters abroad. Zara is fluent in both Farsi (Persian) and American English. She has attended acting and directing curriculum and has been involved in the film industry for the past 5 years. "The Settler" is the first film she has written and directed. This is a short film which was filmed in the US. It touches topics such as immigration, social obstacles, hard work, faith, and hope; it is in English and Spanish languages. Zara believes every individual deserves respect and support and there is an existential humanitarian crisis in the world and there's too much divide, we need to project a message of support, unity, and hope.



PRODUCER:

Dr. Sina Behmanesh holds a Bachelors in neuroscience and a doctorate of dental surgery from the University of Maryland. Deeply passionate about filmmaking and acting, he has played a lead role in an independent film and "The Settler" is his first production.



EDITOR:

Alireza Masoumi was born in Iran on September 24, 1989. He graduated in filmmaking from the Young Cinema Association of Iran and holds a bachelor's degree in cinema editing. He has directed more than ten short movies, animations and documentaries and won international awards for MENESI, Short Film at the Resistance 2020 International Film Festival and the La MACCHIA Award for Best Animation at the festival The Natalie Corazza Foundation in Italy 2019. He has been editing films professionally since 2016 has done sound editing for more than fifty movies, documentaries; animations; and short movies such as Menesi, Astigmat, Every Day, in Autumn and the animation la macchia, Blue, Bouali and Zakaria, and the documentary Gabargah; most of which have participated in prestigious international festivals. Alireza Masoumi is currently working on a movie editing and his latest project editing is the short movie The Settler directed by Zara Mirzaei, produced in the United States.



MUSIC COMPOSER:

Arash Mafi was born on January 19, 1986, he learned the guitar from Vahik Mansourian and Afshin Ali Amiri at the age of fifteen. In the following years, he continued mastering the instrument to the level of playing a musical piece without using notes. In the next six years, he would hone this skill to include keyboard and piano. His formal education is in ICT engineering and electronics. Upon graduation, in pursuit of his passion, he returned once again to music where he was formally trained by Zohreh Abdoli in music theory, solfege and piano. He attained such excellence to be selected as the solo pianist, and assist in writing and editing pieces for the children and youth chorus of Younis Emreh's Institute in Tehran conducted by Zohreh Abdoli. He also has completed a course in playing the piano at Tehran's conservatory. Conducting a number of musical concerts by students, formally teaching guitar and piano along with writing and editing a few unpublished musical pieces are among some of the highlights of his recent endeavors in music.



LEAD ACTOR: AS JUAN BENITEZ

Edwin Roa "Ed Roa" is an actor, producer, and business manager. His recent work includes: The Settler (Short film | Lead, 2021), Border Awareness (Documentary | Producer, 2021), and Tierra de Cuervos (TV Series Pilot | Supporting, 2020). Edwin entered the world of television and theater in Colombia when he was 10. He studied film, theater, and acting for the camera. Edwin has appeared in numerous plays and TV shows throughout the Americas, including Walking Without Thinking (Lead), Punk El Duende (Supporting), and Prometheus Bound (Lead).



ACTRESS: AS MARIA

Marcela Ferlito was born in Paraguay and has been involved with theater since age 6. She studied at Duke Ellington School for the Arts in DC, received an A.A. from Montgomery College and a B.A. from the University of Maryland. She is currently a bilingual actor, teacher and coordinator for Teatro de la Luna's Experience Theater Program. Her nominations include "Best Actress" for "Nuestra Señora de las Nubes" (ATI Awards, N.Y. 2016) and along with Micky Thomas, they were awarded Best Production for that same production at the 6to Festival Internacional de Teatro Hispano, Comisionado Dominicano de Cultura,(CODOCUL) N.Y. 2016; she was also nominated as Best Actress for "Her Eyes Wide Open" at the 7th Festival Internacional de Teatro Hispano, CODOCUL, N.Y. 2017 and at the same festival in 2019 she performed "... What If We Stay In Love?"

Marcela has performed with GALA Hispanic Theatre, SOURCE, Horizons, Montgomery College and at theatre festivals in Las Vegas, Nevada; Puebla, Mexico; Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic and New York. In 2016, she participated in the DC Veg Fest with “Sanos y contentos”/Happy and Healthy and in 2019 with story-telling. In 2021, she participated at the Green Body Brand VegFest in DC with story-telling.



ACTOR: AS PEDRO (TRUCK PASSENGER)

Camilo Linares is originally from Bogotá, Colombia and currently resides in the Washington DC area where he works as an actor, musician, photographer and videographer. He received an associate of arts degree in theatre performance from Montgomery College and is a graduate of the British American Drama Academy. He was a Dreamer and none of this would be possible without DACA and perseverance.



ACTOR: JOSE

Rodin Ruiz is a theater maker. He was born in Tegucigalpa, Honduras. His artistic journey begins in his native land in The National Theater School of Honduras, later he traveled to Spain and Argentina to keep training and developing his artistic skills. In the last years He has dedicated his career to investigate the physical theater and its different paradigms. He currently works as an independent artist, and also with theater companies around the DMV area.



CHILD ACTRESS: AS ALEJANDRO AND LUCIA

George and Brianna Perez are twins, they're both currently attending school. Brianna's priority is art and she love painting as a hobby. George is more athletic and he likes soccer. They participated in acting class at the La Luna Theater, modeling and music events; At the moment they are participating in the choir of the Gala Theater in Washington DC.



SPECIAL APPEARANCE: AS MR. MAGNER

Jim Magner is an attorney, a licensed pilot, published author, former college professor and international wine merchant. But before all of that, Jim did stand-up comedy in Pasadena, California in the 1990s.