

Sueños De Mi Hija

a short film

written and directed by Cecilia Romo



Cast

Rosa
Samantha
Comadre Lupe
Abuelita Claudia
Security
Young Samantha
Armando
Family Dog

Yashira Calo León
Viridiana Rodriguez
Jennifer Morales
Catalina Romo
Antonio Hernandez
Gabriella Acosta
Marco Antonio Gonzales
Camila Romo

Concert Goer #1
Concert Goer #2
Concert Goer #3
Concert Goer #4

Sara Lynn Romo
Anthony Wilson
Tiffany Garcia
Evelyn Garcia

Filmmakers

Writer/Director
Producer
Executive Producer
Director of Photography
Set Design/Costume
Sound
Editor

Cecilia Romo
Sydney Roll
Kathy Kasic
Taylor Balaoro
Jernifer Andrade
Cristian Hernandez
Anthony Wilson

Production Assistants

Sara Lynn Romo
Jadia Williams

Music

Make You Cry - Sebastian Forslund
Amorcito - Gustav Lundgren
Yellow Hills - Daniel Kadawatha

Supporters

Jennifer Morales - Aerielle Villanueva - Anne Romo - Alex Balaoro - Erroll Balaoro
Ariya Balaoro - Clara Ponce - Laura DiGiambattista - Jessica Wood - Siobhan Leawprasert
Norman P. Balaoro - Charmaine Balaoro - Corrina Arevalos - Aimee Narag - Loretta Balaoro
Jean Hand - Elpidio Azarcon III - Luis Gonzalez - The Honda Family - Robert Salamanca
Yolanda Magana - Tiffany Garcia - Gilbert Delgado - Amanda Durrant - Hence Phillips
Francisca Sophie - Yolanda Magana - Tracy Roll - Madelaine Church - Aiyana Fairbanks
Karen Larsen - Ciara C Cumiskey - Jose Romo - Nancy Mace- Paul Durrant - Michael
Stephenson Griselda Gonzalez - Bill Davis - Christine Durrant - William Walker - Sara Romo

About the Filmmaker

Writer / Director:

Cecilia Romo is a first-generation queer Latina writer / director from Sacramento, California with a BA in Film Production and a minor in Creative Writing from Sacramento State University. Inspired by her personal experiences and upbringing Cecilia highlights the beauty and complexities of unheard voices of marginalized people through her storytelling. She currently wrote and directed the short film *Sueños De Mi Hija*, about a relationship between a Latina mother and daughter. Currently in the film festival circuit, the film has received nominations and awards. Cecilia's goal is to disarm tropes and create positive and authentic Queer Latinex stories that reflect truthful representation with a queer and female-focus lens.

Synopsis

Sueños De Mi Hija is the heartfelt story of a traditional Mexican immigrant mother's complicated relationship with her first-generation daughter that loves punk-rock music and sets her sights on performing at the local battle of the bands despite her mother's disapproval and expectation of her pursuing a "respectable profession". Coupled with the recent loss of Armando - Rosa's dedicated husband and Samantha's supportive father, the two struggle to come together in a time of grief. Rosa firmly believes her and her family's sacrifices for a better life for Samantha should not only be respected but upheld and Samantha believes she is doing so by following her dreams.

At Rosa's daily walk with her comadre Lupe they get to talking about Samantha's up and coming battle of the bands show. Rosa shares her frustrations about Samantha's choices and Lupe opposes her with telling her to relax and support her daughter in her passions and dreams, after all her husband/Samantha's father always supported and cheered her on. Rosa gets upset over this statement and walks off away from Lupe.

Samantha is seen handing out flyers to her band's battle of the bands show throughout the city of Sacramento in various locations and two distinct neighborhoods. As Rosa is driving home she spots Samantha in their Latine neighborhood handing out flyers near taco trucks etc and is embarrassed by her daughter and drives home, not giving her the time of day.

We then see Samantha arrive home as Rosa is seen getting comfortable in the kitchen. Samantha is excited to show her mother and grandmother the band t-shirts she just received in the mail - both Rosa and Abuelita Claudia are stunned by the image on the shirt. Rosa ignores and gaslights Samantha as Samantha pleads her case as to why her mother should support her - after all her father always did. Samantha strikes a nerve within Rosa and leaves a ticket on the kitchen table and heads out the house leaving Rosa and Abuelita Claudia in silence.

Rosa is seen in Samantha's bedroom holding the ticket Samantha left behind for her, contemplating her actions and relationship with her daughter. Abuelita Claudia enters the room and gives Rosa a memento box filled with old photos of young Samantha and her late husband Armando. She gets emotional. Abuelita Claudia leaves the room and the guitar in the pictures is revealed in the corner in the bedroom. Rosa approaches the guitar and succumbs to her pent up grief. She proceeds to walk around the room and really take in and learn her daughter.

Samantha is in front of the venue where she will be performing with her band Las Diablas holding hope that her mother will show. She's disappointed and heads into the venue. Will Rosa ultimately take the leap to accept and support her daughter?

About the Production

Sueños De Mi Hija is the first Narrative Short film written and directed by Cecilia Romo. Featuring a cast made up of all Latine actors and non-actors currently located in Sacramento, California and set and shot in Sacramento, California. The film looks at how traditional Mexican culture continues to play into but also conflicts with the experiences of today's Mexican-American families. It also deals with the universal story of sacrifice and chasing dreams for immigrants and their first-generation children. The constant tug-a-war of what traditions would be preserved and which should be shed. Also the conflicting cross-cultural "American Dream" mindset. The film showcases three generations of Latine women and also touches on the subject of Grief through the discovery of the protagonist's recent loss of her husband and the force for change.

Sueños De Mi Hija initially started out as a writing prompt and then a semester's long work for Cecilia Romo in her introductory short film screenwriting course. Developed over the course of the next 3 semesters, Cecilia workshopped and then pitched the story in her Senior Capstone.

During the course of workshopping the script in her Senior Capstone Class Cecilia noticed that some didn't understand the complexity of Latine culture and multigenerational households. "Part of the story is that there are so many levels to Mexican culture that what's really important is sometimes not what a character says, but rather what they don't say." To illustrate this, Romo's character, Abuelita Claudia, says a lot of things she doesn't really need in dialogue, and her facial expressions speak volumes.

The Fall of 2022 set the stage for **Sueños De Mi Hija** to enter pre-production, production and post-production in a contained 4 months span. Working out logistics, locations and permits was a breeze. During that time casting was a huge hurdle. Romo describes the "tough" process, which she calls "the hardest thing about making the film". Latine, native Spanish speaking actors are hard to come by and as a result hard to get the chance for their stories to be told authentically. Romo wanted to give a true, authentic voice to the material and story and it was the toughest part of the equation. The two main roles were casted with professionally trained actors. The supporting roles were cast with fresh, newcomer actors and Cecilia's own mother as Abueita Claudia for authenticity.

Cecilia was inspired by mother-daughter conflicted centered films such as Greta Gerwig's 2017 acclaimed coming-of-age film *Lady Bird* and Patrica Cardose's 2002 American comedy-drama *Real Women Have Curves*. She wanted to take the mold of those films and flip it to center on the mother rather than the daughter and her journey to accepting her daughter opposed to how in those films both mother's did not accept their daughters at the end of the films. Another key

aspect of **Sueños De Mi Hija** was to highlight locations and neighborhoods that authentically made the backdrop of Sacramento - the city and murals - a key character as well.

A black rectangular title card with yellow and white text. The word 'Sueños' is written in a large, ornate, yellow Gothic-style font. Below it, 'de mi hija' is written in a smaller, white, serif font. At the bottom, 'a short film' is written in a white, sans-serif font.

Sueños
de mi hija
a short film