

# BLESSED & HIGHLY FAVORED



CREATED BY JULIETA MESSMER  
AND MARIANNE AMELINCKX





# Summary

- Logline
- Pilot Synopsis.
- Season One Outline.
- Meet the Characters.
- Comps.
- Creators' Statement.
- Meet the Creators.
- Goals for your Series





# Logline

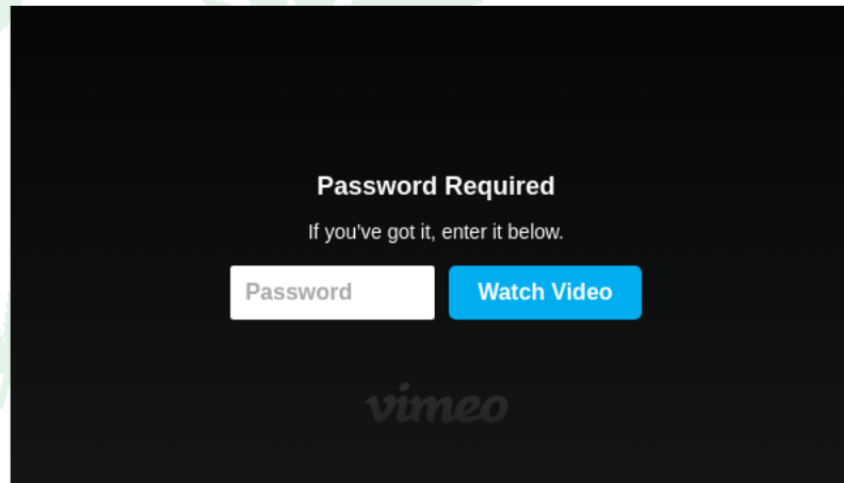
**Blessed and Highly Favored** (Bendecidas y Afortunadas) is a half-hour queer comedy show about two spoiled latinas with impressive resumes, impeccable backgrounds and a dangerous combination of innocence and confidence who end up taking take a cash-paid job on a weed farm in Northern California.





# Proof of Concept

Thanks to the support of NALIP, the Yes And Laughter Lab, and an incredible cast and crew, we shot a proof of concept (8 min long) that premiered at Outfest LA 2022, and went on to screen at New York Latino Film Festival, Newfest LGBTQ+ Film Festival, Hollyshorts 2022 and Seattle Queer Film Festival. This is also the film we submitted to SeriesFest.



Link: <https://vimeo.com/654342794?share=copy>  
Password: greengrass



## Pilot Synopsis

**Millie**, an optimistic and fearless Venezuelan filmmaker determined to rule the Hollywood Industry, and **Hope**, a shy writer with anxiety disorder hiding from a professional setback that happened to her in Mexico, are two spoiled immigrants with everything to succeed, but when their destiny –and visas– are put on hold by Immigration Services, they reach a new low by taking a **cash-paid job on a marijuana farm in Northern California**.

From this point on their expectations are constantly challenged and with every unexpected turn, they must choose between doing what it takes to earn a fully-privileged access to the **American Dream** or go home before they turn into **Trump's awful portrayal of the Latino stereotype**.

For Millie the answer is clear: her country is a political wreck ran by a dictator and for Hope is complicated just like their Facebook relationship status. But in good company anything feels like a comedy show and these two are committed to have fun. Their powerful connection will help them find their place in contemporary America without losing their faith –or dignity– along the ride.



# Visual Tone





# Season One Outline

**MILLIE** and **HOPE** meet again after two years apart. Millie –a confident and naive Venezuelan–, relocates in the United States determined to succeed in the Hollywood Film Industry. Hope –a shy Mexican screenwriter with a severe anxiety disorder– is taking a break after a very public and embarrassing meltdown back in Mexico. Both have applied for an artist visa, but due to a Government Shutdown, the process is delayed. Stuck on an legal limbo and in need of cash, Millie & Hope take a job on a weed farm in Northern California.

However, upon arriving to **Hightown** –a rural weed growing paradise–, these two find themselves clueless about the dynamics of the harvest business and the skills needed to understand the complexities of this outlaw community; the nuances of cannabis legalization and the trimmigrant culture: European expats who preach peace–and–love but in reality are money–hungry hustlers.

But thanks to La Virgencita and **MONELLE** –a 60–something hippie lady– they find **CRAIG**, an entrepreneurial midwestern version of Snoop Dogg who gives them a shot at his small weed farm. Knowing their future depends on this job, the girls impress their *Patron* (boss) by exceeding his expectations with every assignment, from cleaning toilets or selling goods at the Farmer's Market, to being in charge of the farm operations for a full weekend. This creates tension among their co-workers, specially **SOL** –the longest term worker in the farm– who dislike being outgrown by two brown women with a broken accent.

(continues on next page)



## Season One Outline (cont)

As Millie and Hope's visa fund continues to grow, they become a living picture of the Latino stereotype: two sweaty farmworkers running from a helicopter with their hands full of drugs. However, this doesn't stop them from pursuing their filmmaking dreams: the girls invest all their "free time" working on a documentary project that could put their careers back on track. And while working and dreaming, they still find a way of making this adventure more fun: they create a new line of Cannabis products for sale at the Farmer's Market, they adopt a puppy that turns out to be a Coyote, and impress the locals at the Friday Night Karaoke with their spot-on impressions of Shakira and JLo.

Also, as we have seen, Millie and Hope are experts in complicating life and their romance is no exception. At first, Millie wants to have a serious relationship with Hope, but Hope is afraid. This fear pushes Millie to start dating a townie, which makes Hope jealous, and so on... These two will have more back-and-forth than Ross & Rachel, but somehow, they will always find a way to work things out.

By the end of the season, their efforts pay up and, right before giving up on their filmmaking dreams, their documentary gets picked up by a Film Festival and Millie and Hope are flown out to the Big Apple with all-expenses paid. And, after enjoying a week of the rich-and-famous lifestyle, they win a prize big enough to help pay for one of their visas but, instead, they decide to use it as seed money to start their own Marijuana Business.

We end season one with Millie and Hope driving back to Hightown on a used SUV that keeps going despite of its beat-up look...

Just like them.

# Meet the Characters



**MILLIE (28)**, an optimistic and fearless Venezuelan filmmaker determined to succeed in the Hollywood Film Industry with a tiny handicap regarding her legal status. She has been in the U.S. for one year and decided to stay after a self-proclaimed prestigious attorney convinced her of her eligibility for an Artist's visa. She has spent all her savings on this petition and will do whatever it takes to get it. She truly thinks that if she works hard enough, she will fulfill her ambition of conquering Hollywood. She and Hope hooked up briefly in the past and promised to never speak again.



**HOPE (29)**, a shy Mexican writer with anxiety disorder who comes to California after a very public and embarrassing professional setback that happened in Mexico a few weeks ago. She was supposed to stay with a childhood friend for two months, but her savant feminist approach to everyday life caused troubles with her hostess boyfriend and she ended up homeless and desperate enough to reach out to Millie, the only crush she could never put behind. She likes the idea of adventure, but her overthinking tends to rule and kill any chance for spontaneity, except for when it comes to Millie, because she makes her feel safe.

# Meet the Characters



**CRAIG (38)**, a.k.a *El Patron*. Self-made midwestern who moved to California 15 years ago to devote himself to the marijuana industry. He has grown a small business which he proudly operates as legally as possible since he is still awaiting for his selling permit. Despite his anger management issues, he is well known for being a fair boss and a serious businessman. He usually doesn't take new workers but he gave Millie & Hope a chance before they ended up in a not-so-friendly work environment.



**SOL (34)**, this flower child thinks of herself as Craig's Chief of Staff -because she's the longest term worker in the farm. Originally from a dysfunctional household in Central Florida, this transplant has made a lifestyle out of recreational drugs and alcohol abuse. But thanks to her beaming personality and her good intentions, she manages to stay afloat and get away with the chaos she causes. She is a good friend and a loyal employee.



# Comps



**Broad City + Schitt's Creek**  
*(in Spanglish)*



# Creators' Statement



When we told the ICE Officer (who vigorously questioned us at the airport) that we were not staying, we swear we were not lying. We had upcoming projects back home and we sure felt blessed and fortunate about tasting the American Dream, but it was not part of our plan.

Then, when we attended this amazing Film Festival, an opportunity presented itself: did we know that we were eligible for a highly restrictive visa and thus take part of the dazzling U.S. Film Industry? Not really! Would we answer this Call to Adventure? You bet!

As we tried to find our place in the US Latino community we discovered that our journey was a very common but underrepresented one. We came on a plane, spoke the language perfecto, were not *bad hombres* -or women- and yet still had one requirement to meet in order to survive: we had to prove resilience.

This all could've been a real tragedy, but thanks to our habit of making each other laugh we turned it into a comedy about two young latinx women with high hopes -and low standards- who find true love while trying to beat the system one cash-paid job at a time.





# Meet the Creators



Queer Venezuelan filmmaker **Marianne Amelinckx**, a finalist in prestigious programs like Tribeca Chanel Through Her Lens 2017 and Shondaland's Women Directing Program 2023, has emerged as a promising director in the film industry. Her acclaimed short film *Salta* received a Special Jury Mention at the 2017 Tribeca Film Festival and was honored as Best Short at the 20th Pink Apple Festival, screening in over fifteen countries.

**Julieta Messmer**, an Entrepreneur/Filmmaker with a lifelong commitment to social justice, queer visibility, and female empowerment, earned acclaim with her screenwriting debut *Nena Saludame Al Diego* at the Málaga Film Festival, Cine Las Americas, San Diego Film Festival, and Havana. Her relentless determination propelled her transition into the role of US Head of Production for a Digital Marketing Agency,

Their co-directed short film **Blessed and Highly Favored** –a comedy celebrating queer love and Hispanic pride in contemporary America– received support from the Yes and Laughter Lab and the NALIP WOC TV Incubator. It screened at OUTFEST, NYLFF, Hollyshorts, and NewFest marking the inaugural project for their production company **The Ladies Room**. This hub champions representation and equality through impactful storytelling like the 60-minute documentary *Mustache Mondays* for PBS SoCal –which won the Best LGBT Feature Award 2022 from the L.A. Press Club–, a documentary on Venezuelan female refugees in Colombia (in collaboration with The New School and Laser Pulse) and *Dear Uncle*, an intimate family portrait that premiered at Outfest 2023 and is currently in development as a feature.





# Market Opportunity



OUR CONTEXT: Latino population is the Largest Minority in the U.S., and 61% of them are under 35.

OUR AUDIENCE: 18-34 Adults experiencing the Millennial financial hustle (it's a real thing).

OUR STYLE: Tone-wise references are Broad City (urban comedy about the growing pains of being a female in NYC), Schitt's Creek (comedy about a privileged white family forced to survive on a rural environment) and Los Espookies (an experimental comedy in spanglish about millennial losers who pursue their dream jobs).

OUR TEAM: We are a super efficient power duo. Our experience combined allows us to safely cover budgeting, breakdowns, scheduling, production design, styling and post-production. For the past four years we have built an extremely talented female crew that we would trust with our lives and has proven to deliver great quality under challenging circumstances.

OUR COMPANY: Our personal experience gives us a unique insight on the theme and storyline we want to share. Our past collaborations with networks, institutions and organizations, are proof of what we can do when given the opportunity. We are determined, focused, we know our subject and want to find a partner that will help us shape it into a successful show.

COLLABORATORS: We think this is a low-cost show and we plan of working with a small crew. We also have partners in L.A. and Mendocino County who can provide locations for the show. We are looking for a mentor, an experienced Executive Producer, interested in not only creating better content for the Latinx audiences but also coach us and empower our potential as creators.

# Let's do this!

Want to support this project? Feel free to contact us!



**Marianne Amelinckx-Labrador**

marianne@theladiesroomagency.com

+1 402 805-1845

www.kusalausa.com



**Julieta Messmer**

julieta@theladiesroomagency.com

+1 305 842-4285

www.julietamessmer.com




# Canva

Preferred Design Platform of  SeriesFest

[canva.com/entertainment](https://canva.com/entertainment)



 **SeriesFest**  
Just now

\*To be eligible for the Outstanding Series Format Deck Award - presented by Canva please keep this page at the back of your presentation