



Esméralda Camargo • Natalia Villegas • Emily Trujillo

EL GATO FEO

A Short Film by Daniel Fabelo

a GRANDE PICTURES production • "EL GATO FEO" • starring ESMÉRALDA CAMARGO • NATALIA VILLEGAS • EMILY TRUJILLO
director of photography TAYLOR CAMAROT • production designer LINDSAY LIPSCOMB • costume designer MELINA PEREZ
editor DANIEL FABELO • co-editor SARAH DEUEL • color by JOE MALINA • original music CARL THIEL • sound mix STUCK ON ON
produced by DANIEL FABELO LEARDA SHKURTI & EZRA VENETOS • co-producer DIANA GUIZADO
written & directed by DANIEL FABELO

Technical Information

Running Time: 14:52

Aspect Ratio: 1.66:1

Shooting Format: Digital 4k UHD

Audio Formats: 5.1 Surround, Stereo

Color, Spanish

Contact Information

WRITER & DIRECTOR - Daniel Fabelo

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PRODUCER - Ezra Venetos

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Co-PRODUCER - Diana Guizado

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Emily Trujillo as Xochitl



Natalia Villegas as Luisa

LOGLINE

Fleeing the violence of Pancho Villa's revolution, a widow finds refuge with a unit of female freedom fighters known as soldaderas... only to discover her estranged sister among them.

SYNOPSIS

“El Gato Feo” is a historical drama short film about two estranged sisters on opposite sides of the Mexican Revolution. In 1914 Mexico, Luisa (Natalia Villegas) runs for her life from Pancho Villa's army only to discover her sister, Adelita (Esméralda Camargo), leading a small military unit of women. As Luisa bonds with the other soldiers in her sister's unit, Adelita must decide if she will hold on to her resentments towards Luisa or help her sister cross the Rio Grande River into Texas. That night, Adelita tells a story to embarrass Luisa — a story about a street cat known as El Gato Feo [the Ugly Cat].

THE HISTORY

This fictional story centers around historically brave women who fought in the Mexican Civil War, known as soldaderas. Many were still teenagers, others wives and mothers, witnesses to death and destruction all around them. They traveled with the troops, cared for the animals and many fought alongside the men in both the federal and revolutionary armies.

These women have been memorialized in Spanish corridos [songs], often depicted as either sexualized heroines or common maids for the soldiers. However, the reality of what these women witnessed and accomplished is more commensurate with mythical warriors than simple stewards.



“Without the soldareras, there is no Mexican Revolution — they kept it alive and fertile like the earth.”

- Elena Poniatowska



Director's Statement

I was inspired to write about Mexican soldaderas because of my own family's history in Mexico and Texas, as well as the courage and strength these women exemplify. My goal is to combine the spirit of the Mexican soldadera with the harsh American Western, based on history that reflects the modern struggles along our Southern border.

"EL GATO FEO" is just a small piece of a much larger story. I want to follow these characters through a feature film or TV mini-series. I hope Latines kids growing up today can rediscover these characters that haven't been on screen in over 50 years.

I am so proud of my cast and talented crew. With little time, they tackled production with enthusiasm, overcame the difficult terrain, and delivered powerful performances. Though small in scale but large in scope, I hope everyone feels the magnitude of the story as we did standing there on the Pecos River.

From all of us, thank you for watching.

Daniel Fabelo

Writer/Director/Producer

www.danielfabelo.com



Director's Bio

Daniel is an award-winning, Latino filmmaker originally from Austin, Texas. He graduated from UT Austin with an RTF degree and, for a time, he was a writer/director for online powerhouse, Rooster Teeth. There, he directed numerous web series, documentaries and the sci-fi feature, Lazer Team 2. His latest short film, "El Gato Feo", is a historical drama about the women who fought in the Mexican Revolution. It premiered at the Dallas International Film Festival and has gone on to play numerous others including the New York Latino Film Festival and Evolution Mallorca International Film Festival in Mallorca, Spain.

FESTIVALS

Dallas International Film Festival (World Premiere)
Hill Country Film Festival
25th Annual Cine Las Americas Film Festival (Hecho en Tejas Nominee)
Philadelphia Latino Film Festival
44th Annual CineFestival (Mezquite Award Nominee)
New York Latino Film Festival
GTX Film Festival
El Paso Film Festival
Evolution Mallorca International Film Festival (International Premiere)
Rockport Film Festival
South Texas Underground Film Festival (Best in Fest Short Nominee)
CineSol Film Festival (Winner, Best Short Film)
Houston Latino Film Festival



Esméralda Camargo as Adelita



PRODUCTION

“El Gato Feo” was filmed over the course of three days including a single evening in Georgetown, Texas and another day across the state in Pandale, Texas. The Pecos River doubled as the Rio Grande River. It was made with a majority female cast and crew, and a third of the crew is from Latino or BIPOC backgrounds.



CAST



ESMÉRALDA CAMARGO



NATALIA VILLEGAS



EMILY TRUJILLO

"El Gato Feo" stars an entirely Latina cast including featured cast members:
Leslie Cortes, Rebecca Blackmore, Adriana Alexandra, Kemberli Gonzalez Flores & Cielo Ortiz



CREDITS

WRITER/DIRECTOR/PRODUCER - Daniel Fabelo

PRODUCER - Learda Shkurti

PRODUCER - Ezra Venetos

Co-PRODUCER - Diana Guizado

CINEMATOGRAPHER - Taylor Camarot

PRODUCTION DESIGNER - Lindsay Lipscomb

COSTUME DESIGNER - Melina Perez

EDITOR - Daniel Fabelo

Co-EDITOR - Sarah Deuel

COMPOSER - Carl Thiel

2nd CAMERA OPERATOR - Beca Rodriguez

1st ASSISTANT CAMERA - Erik Gatling

2nd ASSISTANT CAMERA - Hannah LaSure

SCRIPT SUPERVISOR - Teresa Seale

GAFFER - Skyler Frost



ASSISTANT DIRECTOR - Natali Jones

CASTING - Sarah Dowling

COLORIST - Joe Malina

SOUND MIXER - Ben Smith

Re-RECORDING MIXER - Lyman Hardy

AUDIOPOST-PRODUCER - Allison Turrell

HAIR/MAKE-UP - Megan Cisneros

HAIR/MAKE-UP - Chelsea Lee

PROP MASTER - Holly Bronko

PYRO - David Jeter

MEDIA MANAGER - Valerie Torres

COMPOSER - Carl Thiel

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT - Francisco Alvarez

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT - Julitta Pourciau

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT - Isabel Thompson

[FOR A FULL LIST OF CREDITS VISIT IMDB](#)



ADDITIONAL IMAGES

In the Winter of 2021, we launched a successful [Kickstarter campaign](#) and raised \$18,470 put towards our production. These images are a mix of on set photos and stills from our shoot in Georgetown, Texas & Pandale, Texas.



**THANK YOU FOR WATCHING!
PLEASE REACH OUT WITH
QUESTIONS OR REQUESTS.**

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Contact: Daniel Fabelo
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