



A SHORT FILM BY NATHAN DEMING

FEBRUARY



David Ezekial Duran, Nayeli Hernandez, Erick Inestroza, Ritchie Gordon
R. Scott Purdy, Amy Radloff **Written and Directed by** Nathan Deming
Produced by Adam Sunkle **Production Designer** Maria Medrono-Miranda
Director of Photography Leo Purman **Edited by** Patricio de la Maza
Sound Design by Jataun Gilbert **Music by** Aaron Kruse



CONTACT INFORMATION

PRODUCTION COMPANY NOBODY FILMS
PRODUCER ADAM STUNKLE
PHONE +1 (615) 415-1753
EMAIL FEBRUARY.YEARPROJECT@GMAIL.COM

TECHNICAL INFORMATION

EXHIBITION FORMAT DCP
ASPECT RATIO 1.85:1
RESOLUTION 2K
SOUND 5.1, STEREO
FRAME RATE 24 FPS
RUNNING TIME 47 MINUTES
COLOR COLOR
COUNTRY OF ORIGIN USA
LANGUAGES ENGLISH, SPANISH
YEAR OF PRODUCTION 2024
WORLD PREMIERE WISCONSIN FILM FESTIVAL



LOG LINE

A recent Mexican immigrant struggles to fit into a small town in the dead of winter, until discovering ice fishing.

SYNOPSIS

In the middle of winter, MIGUEL is struggling to adapt to his new life in America and Wisconsin, living with his sister ROSA's family in her basement and working at a nearby hotel. His brother-in-law LOUIE isn't much help either, frustrated by what he sees as Miguel's lack of effort since arriving. After seeing an ice fishing display at a local store, Miguel becomes interested in something for the first time since arriving. He asks Louie for help, and gets set up with his unusual co-worker CARL, who promises to take Miguel ice fishing. But with rumors about Carl's past and some brimming tensions between them, is Miguel safe or walking into something dangerous? And will he ever feel comfortable in his new home?

SUMMARY (SPOILERS)

In the middle of winter, MIGUEL, a recent immigrant to a small Wisconsin town, struggles to fit in. Living with his sister ROSA and her family, he's dependent on them for everything, which worries Rosa. When she asks her husband LOUIE to help, Louie finds Miguel unresponsive, like "talking to a brick wall."

After Miguel causes trouble at work, Rosa gets upset and drops him off to run errands, where he becomes curious about ice fishing. Louie mocks him, but Miguel persists, asking to visit the library to learn more. Louie's co-worker suggests "crazy" CARL might take Miguel ice fishing, though rumors about Carl's involvement in a local murder make Rosa uneasy.

Miguel meets Carl at the lake, and he is indeed a gruff, offputting character. He is short with Miguel and annoyed he has to take him with him. As they get out on the ice, Miguel is enchanted and excited by the whole experience, ignorant of Carl's bad mood. As the night sets in and they wait for a fish, Carl begins to bring up tensions he has with Louie at work. When they don't seem to bother Miguel - he doesn't like Louie much either - they begin to get drunk, connecting despite vastly different backgrounds. Miguel reveals he has a baby and wife back in Mexico and is working for them, and they catch a fish.

Miguel wakes up the next morning, happy.



FILM STILLS











ABOUT THE PRODUCTION

JANUARY

In 2022, the first part of the “Year Series”, JANUARY, was released at the Wisconsin Film Festival. Starring Becky Brown and Rene Leech and produced by Xia Magnus (SANZARU, FREE RADICALS), the story focused on an aging church volunteer overseeing a shotgun wedding with a pregnant bride. Nominated for a Golden Badger at the 2022 Wisconsin Film Festival, the film set up the template for the rest of the “year” films to follow - and what could come next but FEBRUARY?

BUILDING THE TEAM

To start, Nathan teamed up with fellow London Film School alumnus Adam Stunkle, known for directing PURITY CAMP, to bring FEBRUARY to life. The two met during their time at LFS and quickly bonded over their shared taste and passion for filmmaking.

The next crucial team member for FEBRUARY was the Director of Photography. Nathan’s longtime collaborator, Mark Khalife, a Lebanese DP based in Beirut, had remarkably worked with Nathan on five films in Wisconsin, despite his distant roots. However, Mark was unavailable for FEBRUARY’S necessary winter shoot, leading Nathan to search for a new DP. Through Mark’s connections, Nathan found Leo Purman, a highly talented DP originally from Milwaukee, based in New York City and a graduate of the American Film Institute. Leo was excited to join the project, eager to tell a uniquely Wisconsin story.

CASTING

For February, Nathan Deming wanted to ensure authenticity in the casting process, particularly for the lead roles. The main cast included David Duran as Miguel, Erick Inestroza as Louie, and Nayeli Hernandez as Rosa, all talented, up-and-coming Latino actors from Los Angeles. The audition process for these roles was both fun and engaging. David Duran’s audition stood out—he had to nervously perform the song “Si Nos Dejan,” but his natural talent shone through.

The most challenging casting decision was finding the right actor for Carl, the eccentric ice fisherman. Nathan and producer Adam knew the role couldn’t be played by just anyone—it required someone who embodied authenticity and could bring a true Wisconsin spirit to the screen. After exhausting other casting options, they decided to post a Craigslist ad in Wisconsin, calling for a “crazy ice fisherman.” Surprisingly, it was Richie Gordon’s wife who responded with, “LOL, this is my husband.” Richie had never acted before, but his natural charisma and real-life experience made him the perfect fit for Carl. Despite being a first-time actor, Richie brought a raw, endearing quality to the character that resonated deeply with the story.

SHOOTING

The production of FEBRUARY was actually kicked off in the month of February, filming in the actual icy conditions of a Wisconsin winter, with scenes shot on a frozen lake in frigid temperatures. At first, the crew was understandably nervous about not only walking but also driving on the ice with not only the picture truck but several production vehicles. With curious glances from the local ice fishermen, they slowly became more comfortable with the experience. As the days progressed, the crew quickly bonded over the unique environment. They shot scenes all over Eau Claire, WI, including exteriors and lake shots in Tomah, where they captured several important interior scenes as well.

After wrapping up in Wisconsin, production moved to the warmer climate of Los Angeles for the house interiors, where much of the LA-based cast was located. This second leg of production felt like a refreshing shift, allowing the team to focus on different aspects of the film while escaping the bitter Wisconsin cold.

One of the more memorable moments in Wisconsin was when Richie Gordon, who played Carl, took the crew ice fishing, teaching them the ropes while David Duran practiced his song for the film. Unfortunately, despite their efforts, no fish were caught during the off hours, but the crew shared many laughs over the experience. And, like Carl says in the film “That’s life.”



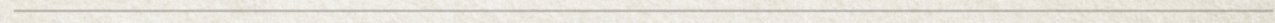
ABOUT THE PRODUCTION (Cont'd)

POST-PRODUCTION

Post-production for February took place back in Los Angeles, where editor Pato de la Maza collaborated closely with director Nathan Deming, offering a unique perspective to the editing process. The sound design proved to be a particularly fun and engaging part of post-production, with mixer Matthew Kielkopf bringing rich layers to the final mix. Additionally, colorist Belal Hibri played a key role in shaping the film's visual aesthetic, crafting a subtle winter palette that was drained of color yet filled with an underlying warmth, perfectly capturing the film's tone.

WORLD PREMIERE

FEBRUARY premiered, fittingly at the 2024 Wisconsin Film Festival, where it won both the prestigious Golden Badger and the Audience Award. During his acceptance speech, Nathan expressed deep gratitude toward his dedicated crew and to Wisconsin for its unwavering support of local filmmakers. He ended his speech by telling the crowd, "I'll see you for MARCH."



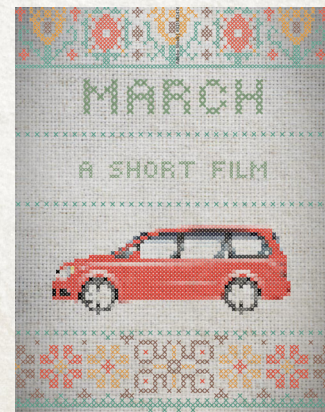


THE YEAR PROJECT

The Year Project is an ambitious 12-film cycle by writer/director Nathan Deming, with each film representing a different month of the year and all set in the same small town in Wisconsin. Every film focuses on unique characters, although some may overlap with previous installments, creating a rich tapestry of interconnected yet stand-alone stories. Inspired by the essence of each month, the series gradually uncovers broader themes about community, Wisconsin, and even America itself. It also explores the relentless march of time and how both the physical environment and the period in which we live shape who we become.

The project takes its cues from Sufjan Stevens' state albums (Illinois, Michigan) and the filmmaking approach of Mike Leigh (Secrets and Lies, Vera Drake, Naked, Life is Sweet), blending these influences into a unique vision for the series.

So far, two films have been completed—January and February. This is a long-term project, and Nathan expects it to take as long as 10-15 years, with each film emerging alongside other projects. Viewers can follow the journey, with films released intermittently, as placeholders fill in the ones still to come.





DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT



Leo Purman and Nathan Deming on the "set" of February. Photo Credit: Mark Arditi

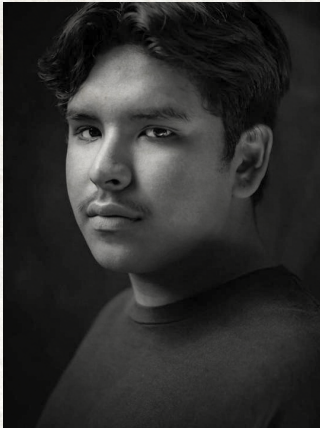
As I approach making a film for each month of the year, I am not just thinking about likely stories or Wisconsin culture that might have a place in that episode (it's going to be hard to avoid the topic of hunting come "November") but more how the month makes me feel. February to me is about the doldrums, the monotony of winter as the holidays are truly behind you and all you can really look forward to is the hope and possibility of spring.

I'm not sure where Miguel initially came from, or his story, but I knew I wanted to explore someone as different as possible from the protagonist of "January", a 75-year-old church volunteer and longtime Wisconsin resident. As soon as he arrived, it was like a welcome visitor I wanted to learn more about - diversity is sometimes hard to find in Wisconsin's small towns, but it is there all the same and there's many people living similar lives

in the same place that get arbitrarily separated by race / culture / language. In "February" I sought to explore the things we have in common rather than the things that separate us.



PRINCIPAL CAST BIOGRAPHIES



DAVID EZEKIEL DURAN
MIGUEL

David Ezekiel Duran is an actor from Los Angeles, CA. He studied acting at Riverside City College where he performed in both theatre and short films.

RITCHIE GORDON
CARL

Ritchie Gordon is a jack of all trades from New Auburn, WI. Despite never having acted in a film before, Ritchie went all in on his first screen performance - teaching the cast and crew about ice fishing (one of his hobbies) as well as regularly pointing out the inaccuracies depicted in the filmmaking ("There's no fish in this lake!!"). He lives with his wife and two children and still loves ice fishing.



ERICK INESTROZA
LOUIE

Erick Inestroza is an actor based out of Los Angeles with a passion for storytelling on and off camera. After studying post production at CSUF Erick landed his first gig placing him in front of a camera which allowed him to discover his passion for acting. Since, Erick has appeared in multiple commercials and short films. When he isn't busy acting Erick spends his time working as a freelance motion graphics / visual effects artist.

On his free time Erick enjoys boxing and practicing calisthenics which helps keep him grounded with his busy schedule.



PRINCIPAL CAST BIOGRAPHIES (Cont'd)



NAYELI HERNANDEZ
ROSA

Nayeli Michelle Hernandez is a trained theatrical and film actress from Los Angeles, CA. She studied at the AMDA College and Conservatory of the Performing Arts in Hollywood, CA. FEBRUARY is her 2nd film credit.



PRINCIPAL CREW BIOGRAPHIES

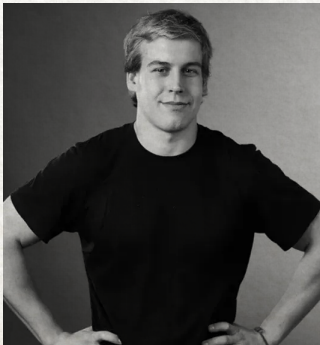


ADAM STUNKLE
PRODUCER

Adam Stunkle is a producer and director from Nashville, TN. A graduate of the London Film School, Adam has worked as an editor (*Severed Garden*) and is currently developing his first feature (*Purity Camp*) based on the short film of the same name.

NATHAN DEMING
WRITER/DIRECTOR

Nathan Deming is an award winning filmmaker from Wisconsin, based in Los Angeles, who studied at the London Film School. His 2020 microbudget feature *Speaking in Tongues* premiered at the Austin Film Festival and is available to watch on Amazon and Tubi, and the 2014 short film on which it is based played at the Edinburgh Film Festival, the London Short Film Festival, and British Shorts Berlin. Besides his feature work, he is also working on a multi-year film project called "The Year Project" about small town life in Wisconsin.



LEO PURMAN
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

Leo Purman is a DP from Milwaukee, WI. Learning from mentor Matty Libatique, Leo explores abstract and expressive visuals rooted in character perspective. Leo has honed his craft shooting throughout Africa, India, Japan, Mexico and the Middle East - including *The Legend of the Vagabond Queen of Lagos*, TIFF 2024. He earned his MFA in cinematography from The American Film Institute and his BFA in Photography from New York University. Leo prioritizes impact driven projects, and hopes his work can have purpose beyond entertainment.



PRINCIPAL CAST BIOGRAPHIES (Cont'd)



MARK ARDITI
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Mark Arditi is a graduate of the Chapman University Filmmaking program, originally from Istanbul. Mark has worked on a variety of large budget Turkish productions, including Kara, Turkish Ice Cream, and Muslum.

MARIA MEDRANO
PRODUCTION DESIGNER

Maria Medrano-Miranda is a set decorator and Production Designer from Compton, California.



JOEL SCHAEFFER
CAMERA OPERATOR

With over 15 years in the film and television industry, Joel Edsel Schaeffer is a dedicated Cinematographer with a passion for visual storytelling. He is experienced in various camera systems, including 16mm & 35mm film, and specializes in designing custom LUTs for digital workflows. His technical expertise, combined with a formal education at the American Film Institute (AFI), gives him a strong foundation in both visual language and storytelling. Joel has worked on numerous projects, from short films to feature-length productions, and is known for his attention to detail, problem-solving skills, and collaborative approach.



FULL CREDITS

DIRECTED BY NATHAN DEMING

WRITTEN BY NATHAN DEMING

PRODUCERS ADAM STUNKLE, NATHAN DEMING

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY LEO PURMAN

PRODUCTION DESIGNER MARIA MEDRANO

MIGUEL DAVID EZEKIEL DURAN

ROSA NAYELI HERNANDEZ

LOUIE ERICK INESTROZA

CARL RITCHIE GORDON

KIDS EMMA PERALTA
REYA LAHN

GRANDPA "ROCKY" MACIANO MORENO

LOUIE'S CO-WORKERS ARDEN MADEN
GLENN LAWRENCE
CHRISTOPHER PARKER

STORE OWNER R. SCOTT PURDY

LIBRARIAN MELANIE VANSELL

RESTAURANT GUESTS BECKY BROWN
DAVID LOWELL
JEREMY FALCONETTI
FRANKY RUGGIERO
RON LANDECKER
GARY HOFFMAN
RHODA PELL
TIMOTHY GHOURLY



CREDITS (Cont'd)

GIRLS AT POOL ADDIE ROSS
 LINNEY MAE

KIDS AT POOL DANIELLE FRAZIER
 ELLEN BOYLES
 LEO SNIDER
 GEORGIA SNIDER
 CALLIE BOYLES
 ELLIE KOSCAL
 EMMA KOSCAL
 PARKER KOSCAL

CASH STORE GUEST JUDY DEMING

HOTEL PHONE MICHELLE GRIBBLE

1ST ASSISTANT DIRECTOR MARK ARDITI

2ND ASSISTANT DIRECTOR BEN DAME

CAMERA OPERATOR JOEL SCHAEFFER

1ST ASSISTANT CAMERA JAN TANNOUS

2ND ASSISTANT CAMERA ARMANDO GARCIA
 TRISTAN FARGIONE

PRODUCTION DESIGNER MARIA MEDRANO

SOUND RECORDIST JEREMY SCHMIDT
 EMERSON COLE

GAFFER KISHAN PATEL

KEY GRIP CAESAR FLORES

SPARK KYLE BOWER
 ZACK RICHEIMER
 DANIEL DURAN
 ETHAN BEST



CREDITS (Cont'd)

ART DEPARTMENT ROSS HUSCH
DAVID HERRERA

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT ANNA GORDON
SARAH FRASIER
WYATT WHIPPLE
AARON KRUSE

EDITOR PATO DE LA MAZA

COLORIST BELAL HIBRI

SOUND EDITOR JATAUN GILBERT

SOUND MIXER MATTHEW KIELKOPF

SPECIAL THANKS XIA MAGNUS
MARK KHALIFE
JUDY & JAMES DEMING
ROBIN CURRY
IRMA KELLER
JOHN ROSE
OLD FAST GLASS



PRODUCTION COMPANY

NOBODY

Founded in 2017 by Nathan Deming and Lawrie Doran, Nobody is an award-winning production company based in Silver Lake, California.

2020 **SPEAKING IN TONGUES (FEATURE)**
- Austin Film Festival, Nominated Best Feature
- Available on Amazon, Tubi, Vudu
- Distribution: MPX Films

2022 **JANUARY**

2023 **SAUK CITY**

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