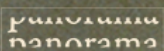


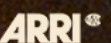
PRESS KIT

Isme

A PANAROMA PRODUCTION MADE IN ASSOCIATION WITH PARK PICTURES A FILM BY LEO AGUIRRE NIA JIMENEZ YADIRA DE LA RIVA "ISME"
CO-STARRING ALEXANDRA ACOSTA GLADYS GUANIN EMILIO VELA PRODUCED BY JEFF KARDESCH EXECUTIVE PRODUCER FRANCESCO RIZZO
CINEMATOGRAPHY BY DANYAL KHAN NIAZI PRODUCTION DESIGN BY LUKE CARR COSUTME DESIGN ANA LORENA DAVIDSON MUSIC BY RIVER TIBER
SOUND DESIGN BY BRAD ENGLEKING POST-PRODUCTION SUPERVISOR HOPE DUHAIM EDITED BY ALVARO DEL VAL



FFR MEDIA





the story

LOGLINE:

When Isme steals a necklace from an elderly woman on her deathbed, she develops an obsession that leads her down a spiritually perilous path.

SUMMARY:

Isme's mother, Citlali, promises to take her on an overdue trip to Rockaway Beach after committing Isme to babysit her co-worker's toddler. That Friday night, while babysitting Rosa's child her phone battery dies. While scouring the apartment for a phone charger she stumbles upon a stunning ruby necklace that belongs to Rosa's terminally ill mother. Driven by the necklace's beauty and magnetism, Isme decides to pocket it.

Rosa and Citlali return from their catering shift and to Isme's surprise, Rosa compensates her for babysitting. During the subway commute back home, Citlali sleeps and Isme privately gazes at the necklace. At home later that night, Isme tries on the necklace. For the first time she seems to recognize her beauty and femininity in full bloom - a newfound confidence appears to take hold of her.

The next morning, Isme wakes to the sound of her mother having an unsettling phone call with Rosa. Citlali enters the room and looks at Isme in a state of shock. Isme and her mother arrive at Rosa's apartment where we learn that Rosa's mother has passed away. Rosa, though deeply distraught, embraces that her mother's time had come. During the visit Isme looks down the hallway and is confronted by the empty room and the stripped mattress on which Rosa's mom slept the previous night when she stole the necklace. In that moment Isme is presented with the opportunity to return the necklace chooses to keep it.

Citlali fulfills her promise to take Isme to Rockaway Beach. Raw from Rosa's mother's death, Citlali attempts to connect with Isme. While doing so, she notices the stunning ruby necklace on Isme and inquires about it. Isme, avoids the conversation by excusing herself to swim in the ocean. The ocean becomes agitated and Isme gets repeatedly struck by a series of waves that nearly drown her. She makes it back to shore, but upon collecting herself realizes the necklace is gone. She tries to make sense of the karmic occurrence as she looks out at the water.

director's notes

Set during summer in Brooklyn, New York, our film taps into the multitudes of what it means to be an adolescent today while delving into the experience of a child of Latin-American immigrants. By pulling back the curtains on themes that deal with cultural assimilation and identity, I wanted to explore a narrative that simultaneously distilled the notion of beauty, karma and spiritualism in the modern-day America.

Despite the fact that Hispanic and Latinx communities are deeply woven into the fabric of New York, the characters in this film are rarely represented on the screen - even in modern films set in Brooklyn. My upbringing along the US-Mexico border was imbued with a sense of magic realism and it drove me to explore this story; a story about life cycles, about obsession and about the afterlife.

Whilst playing on several themes, at its core, "Isme" explores the journey of a young woman as she begins her path into adolescence, her encounter with artifice, and the forced realization she experiences while confronting her identity. We hope that you enjoy watching the film as much as we enjoyed creating it.



approach

The film's delicately observational style creates an atmospheric tone that heightens the film's supernatural underpinnings. With the intent of exploring a narrative that hinges on magical realism, "Isme" was shot authentically against its unique backdrops in Brooklyn and at Rockaway Beach - a quintessential summer spot for teenagers raised in Brooklyn, New York.

Complemented by Nia Jimenez and Yadira Rivas's naturalistic performances, the film is grounded in our main character's lived reality while a spiritual manifestation unfolds. The film espouses a spell-binding score that was composed by acclaimed Canadian producer and multi-instrumentalist, Tommy Paxton-Beesley - also working under the moniker River Tiber.

The film was produced independently by Panorama and FFR Media with the support Park Pictures, Cabin Editorial, TBD Post, ARRI New York and Kodak Film New York.

technical information

RUNTIME 15 minutes

LANGUAGES Spanish and English

SHOOTING FORMAT 2-perf 35mm

EXHIBITION FORMATS DCP - 5.1 MIX (mov & mp4 available)

SUBTITLES English



full credits

WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY Leonardo Aguirre

PRODUCED BY Jeff Kardesch

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER Francesco Rizzo

UNIT PRODUCTION MANAGER Sergio Vaccaro

LOCATIONS MANAGER Jennifer Quesenbery

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR Achille Vanderhaeghen

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY Danyal Khan Niazi

PRODUCTION DESIGNER Luke Carr

COSTUME DESIGNER Ana Lorena Davidson

HAIR AND MAKE UP Lily Li & Marci Saucedo

PRODUCTION SOUND Javier Caso

SCRIPT SUPERVISOR Ya Ya Wu

EDITOR Alvaro Del Val

ASSISTANT EDITORS Molly Dolinger & Chris Kelley

POST PRODUCTION SUPERVISOR Hope DuHaime

EDITORIAL SERVICES Cabin Post

COLORIST Alex Winker

RE-RECORDING MIXER & SOUND EDITOR Brad Engleking

FOLEY ARTIST Bastien Benkhelil

POST PRODUCER Joel Petit

POST SUPERVISOR Ted Griffis

AUDIO POST PRODUCTION SERVICES TBD Post

STARRING

ISME Nia Jiminez

CITLALI Yadira De La Riva

ROSA Alexandra Acosta

ROSA'S MOTHER Gladys Guanin

ROSA'S SON Emilio Vela

- WEBSITE -

www.ismefilm.com

- FILM TRAILER -

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- CONTACT -

ismefilmcontact@gmail.com
+1(210)633-4300

- PRODUCTION COMPANIES -

PANORAMA and **FFR MEDIA**
in association with **PARK PICTURES**



FFR MEDIA

PARK PICTURES

- MADE WITH THE SUPPORT OF -

CABIN EDITORIAL, TBD POST, KODAK NEW YORK and ARRI CAMERA NEW YORK





LEONARDO AGUIRRE WRITER & DIRECTOR

Leonardo Aguirre is a first-generation Mexican-American writer and director. He was raised in El Paso, Texas and Ciudad Juárez, Mexico.

His upbringing along the US-Mexico border and his adolescence in the Caribbean have heavily influenced his relationship with storytelling by drawing him to explore complex cultural and social themes that deal with identity and assimilation.

Leonardo graduated from the University of Texas at Austin where he double-majored in film and communication studies. His work as a cinematographer and film editor has also made a significant impact on his approach as a filmmaker. Leonardo's narrative contributions have gone on to screen at SXSW, the Oaxaca Film Festival, the Trinidad and Tobago International Film Festival, the Austin Film Festival and several others.

In 2020, his prismatic visual exploration of biculturalism along the US-Mexico border, *No Somos De Aquí, Ni Somos De Allá* (2020) earned him recognition from the Cannes Young Director Awards, Ciclope Festival and the 1.4 Awards among others. The following year he was selected as a recipient of the Young Guns Award - a prestigious global portfolio competition that recognizes a select group of artists within respective disciplines. In 2022, he was selected to represent Mexico at the 19th Asian Art Biennial in Bangladesh with his photographic work and video work.

He is currently splitting his time between New York City and Texas where he is developing his first feature film.

JEFF KARDESCH PRODUCER

Jeff is a producer and director from St. Louis, Missouri. He got his start as a director's assistant. He graduated from the University of Texas at Austin where he studied film. Jeff has worked in the documentary, music video, commercial and narrative space - most notably he worked on the feature film *The Ghost Who Walks* (2020), *The Actor Prepares* (2022), and *Enchanted Cove* (2022)

FRANCESCO RIZZO EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

Francesco Rizzo is a brand strategist turned film producer based in New York City. After stints in strategy at global advertising agencies such as McCann NY, Publicis and The&Partnership, he switched over to the production side of the business where he took on the role of executive producer and producer on commercials, music videos and narrative projects. He has worked on projects for brands like Converse, the New York Times, Timberland and has produced for top tier production companies such as Anonymous Content, Park Pictures, RSA Films, SMUGGLER, Division7, Pulse Films, CANADA, m s s n g p e c e s.



DANYAL KHAN NIAZI DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

Danyal Khan Niazi is a cinematographer native to Pakistan and New York City. Danyal attended New York University where he studied film. Bringing a diverse array of projects that range in genre and format, his work has screened the Tribeca Film Festival and Palm Springs International Film Festival. Danyal aims to create work that is character and story-driven. He is represented by Murtha Skouras.

LUKE CARR PRODUCTION DESIGNER

Luke Carr is a production designer based in New York City. He has worked in the art department for film, video and print since 2012. Known for naturalistic style with signature embrace of old media, VHS, 35mm, found set dressing and vintage props, he has worked with directors such as the Safdie Brothers (*Good Time*, *Uncut Gems*), Fernando Frias De La Parra (*I Am No Longer Here*), and Juan Cabral among several others. In advertising he has worked with some of the largest production companies including MJZ, Anonymous Content, SomeSuch, and RiffRaff.

ANA LORENA DAVIDSON COSTUME DESIGNER

Ana is a Mexican-American stylist and designer based in New York. Their work is defined by an adaptable style that retains an edge and an air of surrealism. They've worked in a wardrobe department long enough to recall when stylists still used binoculars and polaroids for continuity. Ana's narrative contributions include projects for Apple TV, Snapchat, HBO, and Hulu - projects directed by Larry Clark, Max Winkler, Cooper Raife and the Higton Brothers. Commercial and editorial collaborators include Peter Dinklage, Matthew McConaughey, Shakey Graves, Adrian Grenier, Nike, Vogue, and Vanity Fair.

ALVARO DEL VAL EDITOR

Alvaro Del Val is an award-winning editor based in New York City. He has been editing all around the world for eighteen years. Born in Bilbao, Spain, he made Madrid and Dubai his home before making it to NYC in 2015. Since then, he has been awarded five Cannes Lions and two AICP Post Awards for best editing. With other accolades including two Vimeo Staff Picks and shortlists from The One Show and the Cannes Lions, Alvaro keeps pushing on every project to find new ways to tell stories that matter.

