

# THE SIDEWALK ARTIST

A WATCHALE DINI-MOCK

WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY DAVID VELEZ & BRANDON RIVERA CINEMATOGRAPHER EMILY SANCHEZ

STARRING JUAN MANUEL PORTILLO PRODUCTION DESIGNER MONICA BARTLEY

EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS PEDRO OVALLE RAUCH BRANDON RIVERA DAVID VELEZ POSTER SHOT BY JON BIRUNDO



## **WATCHALE PRESENTS**

**A DOCUMENTARY FILM CREW FOLLOWS A CONTRACTOR WHO LEAVES HIS MARK ON CONCRETE SITES THROUGHOUT A NORTH TEXAS TOWN.**

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**MANUEL PORTILLO HAS BEEN MAKING IMPRINTS IN CONCRETE FOR YEARS. MANY CONSIDER IT ART, BUT TO HIM IT'S SIMPLY PART OF HIS WORK POURING CONCRETE FOR DRIVEWAYS AND SIDEWALKS. LOCALS HOLD A VARIETY OF OPINIONS ON HIS CRAFT, BUT WHEN THE AVERAGE PASSERBY SEES HIS PRINTS, THEY JUST ASSUME IT WAS A CHILD, AN ANIMAL, OR AN ACCIDENT.**

## **FILM INFORMATION**

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**TITLE / THE SIDEWALK ARTIST**

**RUNTIME / 20:07 MIN**

**LANGUAGE / ENGLISH, SPANISH**

**SUBTITLES / ENGLISH LANGUAGE**

**FILMING LOCATION / CEDAR HILL, TX**

**GENRE / MOCKUMENTARY**

## **TECHNICAL DETAILS**

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**SCREENING MATERIAL / DCP**

**RESOLUTION / 4K UHD**

**SCREEN RATIO / 1.66:1**

**SPEED / 24FPS**

**COLOR**

## **TRAILER LINK**

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**[HTTPS://VIMEO.COM/WATCHALE/SWATRailer](https://vimeo.com/watchale/swatrailer)**

## **WATCHALE WEBSITE**

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**[WATCHALETX.COM](http://watchaletx.com)**





# DIRECTORS' STATEMENT

THE SIDEWALK ARTIST IS A CONCEPT THAT HAS FOLLOWED US FOR YEARS. WE INITIALLY SET OUT TO TELL A STORY ABOUT A MAN WHOSE WORK IS CREATING BEAUTY FROM THE MUNDANE. AS ALL THE PARTS SLOWLY CAME TOGETHER, IT TURNED INTO MORE THAN JUST A MAN AND HIS HOBBY, AND EVOLVED INTO A CONVERSATION ABOUT FACT AND FICTION. REMOVE THE CONTEXT FROM PORTILLO'S WORK AND THERE IS NO DIFFERENCE BETWEEN HIS ART AND ANY PRINT YOU MIGHT FIND ON A WALK. HIS STORY BECAME OUR SUBURBAN LEGEND.

DOCUMENTARIES COME BAKED WITH THE IDEA THAT EVERYTHING YOU'RE ABOUT TO SEE IS FACTUAL AND MOCKUMENTARIES GIVE THE IDEA THAT EVERYTHING YOU'RE ABOUT TO SEE IS A JOKE. OUR GOAL WAS TO EXPLORE THE SPACE BETWEEN THE TWO. WE TRIED TO MAKE SOMETHING THAT COULD BE PERCEIVED AS TRUTH WITHOUT OUTRIGHT LYING TO OUR AUDIENCE. OUR NARRATIVE WINDS THROUGH RIDICULOUS BITS AND EARNEST MOMENTS WHICH ARE ALL GROUNDED BY OUR REMARKABLE FIRST-TIME ACTOR JUAN MANUEL PORTILLO BEATUS.

WE MADE THIS FILM FOR OURSELVES, AND LEARNED A LOT. THE WRITING PROCESS ALLOWED US TO EXPLORE THE IDEA OF TRUTH IN ART, THE SHOOTING PROCESS SHOWED US HOW CAPABLE REAL PEOPLE ARE OF PERFORMING, AND THE EDITING PROCESS SHOWED US THAT IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW ABSURD SOMETHING IS IN ORDER TO BE BELIEVED. WE WERE LEFT WITH SOMETHING THAT FELT TRUTHFUL TO OURSELVES, OUR CULTURE, AND OUR COMMUNITY.

**DAVID VELEZ & BRANDON RIVERA**

A man with a serious expression, wearing a red t-shirt and blue jeans, stands on a paved street. In the background, a large water tower with the text 'Cruz Hill' is visible against a clear blue sky. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a sunny day.

# **JUAN MANUEL PORTILLO BEATUS**

## **AS**

### **“PORTILLO”**

**PORTILLO, THE CHARACTER,** IS A MAN WHO HAS WORKED IN MANUAL LABOR ALMOST EVERYDAY OF HIS LIFE, A MAN THAT BELIEVES THAT HIS CRAFT IS JUST WORK AND NOT ART. BUT THE TRUTH IS, THAT JUAN MANUEL PORTILLO IS THE COMPLETE OPPOSITE OF THIS.

**PORTILLO, THE MAN,** SPENT HIS LIFE IN ACADEMIA AND IS A PROFESSOR AT AN ALL WOMENS LIBERAL ARTS COLLEGE IN VIRGINIA, HE'S ALSO A POET. HE TOOK TO THE MATERIAL WE GAVE HIM AND HE HELPED CLOSE THE GAPS THAT WE FORGOT TO FILL.

**NO ONE IN THIS FILM IS A TRAINED ACTOR, BUT ALL OF THEM ARE VERY GOOD LIARS.**

# THIS IS WATCHALE







## **BRANDON RIVERA**

**WRITER/DIRECTOR/PRODUCER**

**BRANDON IS A WRITER & DIRECTOR BASED IN NORTH TEXAS WHO IS EAGER TO CHALLENGE THE BOUNDARIES OF DOCUMENTARY & NARRATIVE FILM. BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY, HE IS A TEJANO STORYTELLER THAT LOVES MAKING AN AUDIENCE LAUGH. HIS FOCUS IS CREATING CONTENT THAT FEELS TRUTHFUL TO HIS CULTURE AND EXPERIENCE, AND SHARING IT THROUGH UNCONVENTIONAL & COMEDIC MEANS. PREVIOUS WORK INCLUDES HEATWAVE, RINCON, & SPIRIT OF THANKSGIVING.**



## **DAVID VELEZ**

**WRITER/DIRECTOR/PRODUCER**

**DAVID IS A WRITER & DIRECTOR ORIGINALLY FROM MEXICO BUT GREW UP IN THE BORDERTOWN OF EL PASO, TX AND IS NOW BASED IN DALLAS. HE FOCUSES ON TELLING STORIES THAT ELEVATE THE SMALL MUNDANE MOMENTS THAT EVERYDAY PEOPLE LIVE THROUGH. DAVID IS PASSIONATE ABOUT EXPLORING THE IDEA OF LATINO SURREALISM THROUGH CINEMA AND TELLING SILLY JOKES ALONG THE WAY. FUN FACT: HE LEARNED ENGLISH THROUGH WATCHING "HONEY I SHRUNK THE KIDS" OVER FIFTY TIMES AS A KID.**



## **EMILY SANCHEZ**

**DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY**

**EMILY IS A CINEMATOGRAPHER FROM SAN ANTONIO, TX WHO IS NOW BASED IN AUSTIN, TX. SHE CENTERS AROUND MUSIC VIDEOS, COMMERCIAL WORK, AND SHORT NARRATIVE AND DOCUMENTARY FILMS. SHE IS PASSIONATE ABOUT TELLING MEANINGFUL STORIES THAT EXPLORE AUTHENTIC HUMAN MOMENTS. SHE LOVES THE ABSURD AND SURREAL, AND ENJOYS INTERTWINING THOSE ELEMENTS IN HER WORK. EMILY GRADUATED FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS WITH A BACHELOR'S DEGREE OF ARTS IN MEDIA ARTS IN SPRING OF 2020.**

# CREDITS

WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY  
DAVID VELEZ & BRANDON RIVERA

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EMILY SANCHEZ

STARRING  
JUAN MANUEL PORTILLO BEATUS

EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS  
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BRANDON RIVERA  
DAVID VELEZ  
JORGE RIVERO

PRODUCERS  
BRANDON RIVERA  
DAVID VELEZ

ASSOCIATE PRODUCERS  
EMILY SANCHEZ  
ERIC OLGUIN

STORY BY  
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EMILY SANCHEZ  
DAVID VELEZ

PRODUCTION DESIGNER  
MONICA BARTLEY

ASSISTANT CAMERA  
JON BIRONDO

ADDITIONAL PHOTOGRAPHY  
DAVID VELEZ

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT  
CAROLINE REILLY

EDITORS & VFX ARTISTS  
BRANDON RIVERA  
DAVID VELEZ

COLORIST  
EMILY SANCHEZ

MUSIC BY  
BRIAN GREENE  
TONY LUNA



# **CONTACT INFORMATION**

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