



# DEVELOPMENT

**Directed and Written By Chloe Caudillo**

**A 2023 LALIFF/Netflix Inclusion Fellowship Film**

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Synopsis & Logline

About the Film

Filmmakers

FAQ

BTS Photos

With Generous Support

Credits and Contact Info

LALIFF Inclusion Fellowship Presents

# DEVELOPMENT



A FILM BY CHLOE CAUDILLO

STARRING HASKIRI VELAZQUEZ

LALIFF INCLUSION FELLOWSHIP PRESENTS VIANDA MEDIA LLC PRESENTS A FILM BY CHLOE CAUDILLO  
HASKIRI VELAZQUEZ "DEVELOPMENT" RAQUEL MCPEEK RODRIGUEZ JEFF LORCH LETICIA CASTILLO  
SAL LOPEZ ALAN LUNA SABRA STRATTON KIM COHEN KAILYN AARON LOZANO  
BENJISSE OJEDA VIA DIA HASKIRI VELAZQUEZ SAL LOPEZ ALAN LUNA CHLOE CAUDILLO



## SYNOPSIS

For years, ESTEFANI GUERRERO has watched her colleagues move up the corporate ladder while she's been stuck in career limbo. When she finally lands a spot in a leadership development training, she's hopeful that her shot to break through her job's extremely low glass ceiling has finally arrived.

The training is filled with corporate strivers who look nothing like Estefani... except for ALLIE, a WOC colleague with whom Estefani finds much in common. But their moment of bonding is broken when CHRIS, the corporation's Global President (and Nepotism Baby) starts to dole out out advice - namely, that each trainee is stuck in their low-level position because of something wrong they've done. Those who buy into Chris's mantra not only win his approval, but become his CLONES.

With a room full of Clones, only Estefani and Allie are left. Will they take the blame and become two more Clones, or will they find a new way to lead?

## LOGLINE

Struggling to climb the corporate ladder, a Latina office worker finally lands a leadership training seminar, only to realize that to be successful, trainees must become clones of the boss.







## ABOUT

"We strove to tell a story about self-empowerment and solidarity, and to use genre to make visible what systemic inequality and imposter syndrome can feel like to those of us who navigate spaces not built to include us."

- Chloe Caudillo, Writer and Director

Development was one of ten recipients of the 2023 Netflix/LALIFF Inclusion Fellowship grant. This film boasts female and/or BIPOC department heads and an all women-of-color camera department. Its Writer/Director, Producer, DASL (Director of Artistic Sign Language), Production Manager, Post-Production Coordinator, Composer, and three female leads identify as Latina.

# **CHLOE CAUDILLO**

***WRITER | DIRECTOR***



**Chloe is an award-winning filmmaker who hails from the vast cornfields of DeKalb, IL. She grew up code-switching between her Mexican working-class family and American Catholic school peers and teachers. Though it felt like a curse at the time, it made her extremely perceptive of cultural and class differences.**

**A graduate of the Second City's Harold Ramis Film School, Chloe is passionate about using genre for social commentary. She writes stories about unconventional protagonists who are unlikely agents of change.**

**Short films that Chloe has written, directed, and produced have been Official Selections at national film festivals. Her long-term goal is to be a TV and Film writer and director. She is repped by Schulman Management.**

# VIA BIA

## PRODUCER

Via Bia was raised on the shimmering asphalt of Long Island by a multi-generational Puerto Rican and Jewish family where God was in charge (AKA her abuela).

Via's work has been selected for labs with Sundance, Stowe Story Labs, and Cine Qua Non (sponsored by AMPAS), and she has developed projects with Stage 13 (Warner), Tangerine Entertainment, and others.

Via's first film, *These Colors Don't Run*, was supported by Kodak and distributed by HBO, while *Post Comedy*, her most recent film, is on the festival circuit. As a Producer, she has collaborated on *La Juana* (dir: Anayamel); *Bridge* (dir: Cristina Wolf); and *Petiole* (dir: Meghan Brown), and has worked on the programming teams of festivals such as Slamdance, Mill Valley, and Cucalorus.

Via loves writing comedies and dramedies (episodic and feature-length) in the live-action and animated spaces, and telling stories about cursey Latinas who act like they don't give a shit... but totally do.





# CAST

## HASKIRI VELAZQUEZ

*"ESTEFANI" | PRODUCER*



Since her high school days at the Urban Arts Partnership Lifestories Theater program in NYC, Haskiri's passion for acting was obvious. Every week she combined busy school days with auditions, and full-day theater classes on the weekends (a two-hour subway ride to and from her home). During this time, Haskiri performed under the direction of Gina Rodriguez, Jesse Williams, and Victor Maog.

All her efforts paid off, as she booked the lead role of Daisy in the *Saved By The Bell* reboot; played Rosa in the Sundance-heralded film *The 40 Year Version* (distributed by Netflix); and nabbed parts in *Law & Order* (NBCU) and *Blue Bloods* (CBS). Haskiri's plan is to start her own non-profit to inspire other Latinx people to keep pursuing their dreams no matter how big they seem.

## RAQUEL MCPEEK RODRIGUEZ

*"ALLIE"*



With 10+ years of experience in collaborating with producers and directors to deliver the best, honest character to the screen, Raquel McPeek Rodriguez was, born in Guatemala and raised in LA.

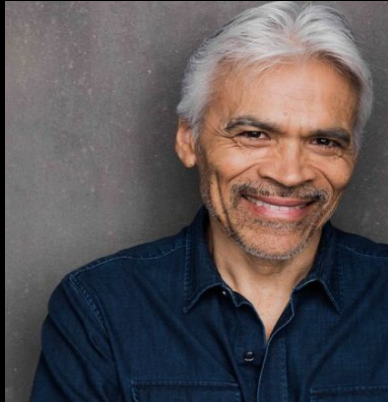
"As someone who grew up in the industry as a Deaf Latina Actress I can offer something different with my cochlear implant and American Sign Language. It has had its struggles but I've always had the best of both worlds, Deaf and Hearing."

Raquel is known for her work in *Pretty Little Liars* (Freeform), *Chicago Med* (NBC) and most recently, *Don't Look Deeper* (directed by Catherine Hardwicke) for Quibi.

# CAST

## SAL LOPEZ

"MARCOS" | PRODUCER



Sal is a founding member of The Latino Theater Company and member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, appearing in such films as *Black Panther: Wakanda Forever*; *Full Metal Jacket*; *Selena*; *American Me*; and *Batman vs Superman: Dawn of Justice*. His performances in episodic television can be seen in *Barry*, *Queen of the South*, and *Westworld*, among others. Sal wrote and starred in his one man show, "This is a Man's World," and has appeared in plays such as *Premeditation*; *Habitat*; *Charity, Luminarias*; *Zootsuit*; *Selena (the musical)*, *La Posada Magica*; *A Midsummer Nights Dream*; and *La Virgen Del Tepeyac*, for Teatro Campesino.

## LETICIA CASTILLO

"REYNA"



Leticia Castillo was born in the Dominican Republic. Arriving in the U.S. at only five years old, she learned the language by watching American television. Even at that early age her love of film sparked a passion which would push her into acting, writing and directing for both screen and stage. Leticia is especially inspired by stories that reflect the experience of women of color. Leticia feels that through acting, she is fulfilling her artistic purpose. With every role comes a new opportunity for Leticia to showcase her unique talent, and she could not be more excited.

## JEFF LORCH

"CHRIS"



Jeff is an actor, writer, director and photographer who has recently collaborated with Taika Waititi, Robert Zemeckis and Jon Gries, and has robust theatre experience including improv work with Impro Theatre, Groundlings, iOWest, and UCB, as well as performing in *Ameryka* (Kirk Douglas Theatre), and *Husbands and Wives* (Ensemble Theatre Company, Santa Barbara), among others. As a photographer, Jeff's photography series *The Awakening*, traveled to galleries in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Aspen, and New York. Jeff's vision for the future is to continue collaborating and creating art that inspires change, conversation, and community.

# KEY TEAM

**Director of Artistic Sign Language**  
**Kailyn Aaron-Lozano**



**Editor**  
**Sabra Stratton**



**Director of Photography**  
**Kim Cohen**



**Casting Director | Producer**  
**Alan Luna**



**Sound Designer**  
**Louie Recinos**



**Composer:**  
**Denisse Ojeda**



# FAQ

**Q: What camera did you use?**

**A: ARRI Alexa Mini (digital)**

**Q: Where did you shoot the film?**

**A: All scenes were shot at XRM Studios in Burbank, CA.**

**Q: Why did you decide to make the film open captioned?**

**A: As our film features English, Spanish, and American Sign Language, we provided open captioning to make the film accessible to more audiences.**

**Q: Why did you make this film?**

**A: To make visible what systemic inequality and imposter syndrome can feel like, so that as individuals we can become conscious of our own biases and learn from them, and as a community we can start to dismantle unfair power structures.**







With Generous Support By

**NETFLIX**

LALIFF





## CAST

**Estefani:** Haskiri Velázquez

**Allie:** Raquel McPeek Rodríguez

**Marcos:** Sal López

**Reyna:** Leticia Castillo

**Chris:** Jeff Lorch

**Dawn:** Kate Cook

**Steve:** Andrew Knox

**Zelda:** Abigail Blythe

**Rich/Clone Double:** Jim Belden

**Jeff:** Mark Larwood

## CONTACT

**Instagram:** @development\_film and @coco.loca

**Twitter:** @CocoLoca13

**Email:** [chloe.caudillo@gmail.com](mailto:chloe.caudillo@gmail.com)

## CREW

**Writer & Director:** Chloe Caudillo

**Producer:** Via Bia

**Producer:** Haskiri Velazquez

**Producer:** Sal Lopez

**Producer:** Alan Luna

**Director of Photography:** Kim Cohen

**Editor:** Sabra Stratton

**Casting Director:** Alan Luna

**Composer:** Denisse Ojeda

**Director of Artistic Sign Language:** Kailyn Aaron-Lozado

**Production Designer:** Bernie Macías-Hernández

**Costume Designer:** Kaij

**Production Manager:** K. Broch

**Sound Recordist:** Edwin Li

**1st Assistant Director:** David Jimenez

**2nd Assistant Director:** Mike Knauer

**2nd Assistant Director:** Juliette Strangio

**1st AC:** Vivian Lau

**2nd AC:** Vanesa Moreno

**2nd AC:** Olivia Steed

**Gaffer:** JC Falcon

**Gaffer:** Wil Prada

**Key Grip:** Andy Reynoso

**Swing:** Angel Falcon

**Script Supervisor:** Freddy Merentes

**DASL Interpreters Provided by Pro-Bono ASL:**

Rorri Burton, Ashley Rodriguez, Gregorio Nieto,

Gema Niebla, MJ Vazquez-Enriquez

**Interpreters for Raquel McPeek Rodriguez :**

Jennifer Brasuell, Ashley Furman

**Lead Makeup Artist:** Roxanne McDanel

**Makeup Artist:** Daniela Babcock

**Sound Design and Re-Mixer:** Louie Recinos

**Colorist:** Sunny Singh Sawhney

**Visual Effects Artist + Title Design:** Dennis Kang

**Post-Production Producer:** Marta Navarrete