

STARRING JULIÁN SÁNCHEZ JIMÉNEZ – PRODUCTION JESUS PEÑA

NGA

A FILM BY ALEX ULISES & NELSON G. NAVARRETE

A CÓDIGOS PRODUCTION

PRESS KIT



PRODUCTION JN SILVA BENNY "REDBEARD" GROSS VLAD GINZBURDG IAN KIMMEL WILL SAVAS NATALIA VÉLEZ – DESIGN – TOMALL

ANDRES FELIPE VEGA DANIEL MEJÍA – CINEMATOGRAPHY CAMILO GUTIER – SOUND DESIGN JUAN ANDRÉS

EXECUTIVE

CAMMARANO



"**NEA**" is a short film that explores a narrative fusion dubbed "Nearrealismo Mágico," originating from the artistic blend of Italian Neorealism and Magical Realism. The colloquialism "nea" is a popular word from Medellín, Colombia which serves as the story's backbone. Inherent to the city's average youth, the word is a stereotype of the way people behave, dress, and a slang they use, representing the local idiosyncrasy.

NEA is not only the title of the short, but also a term, which the protagonist explains to the audience by breaking the fourth wall. While connecting directly with the viewer, he describes its origins and emphasizes that it represents a cultural lingo and a lifestyle he embodies.

The casting, rehearsal, and character development process for both the protagonist and secondary characters in NEA served as an exploration for the directors to solidify their stylistic approach in realizing their vision for a forthcoming feature film. Notably, non-professional actors comprised the majority of the cast.

A fundamental principle guiding NEA and the feature film is the importance of authentic slang and the genuine portrayal of local niche cultures within Medellín. This authenticity is essential for the film to resonate with Colombian audiences, while also appealing to international viewers.

The directors believe it's crucial to respect and accurately depict the genuine behaviors and conduct shaped by the cultural environment. During casting, they prioritized individuals who naturally embodied these traits, valuing their ability to portray authentic behavior over mere slang usage. Both directors agree that by embracing this approach, they are bringing forward a new wave of cinema in which they feel represented.



Logline

In this surreal film led by first-time actors, a hot-headed taxi driver and henchman in Medellín is enlisted to repair his boss' AC at five in the morning. After an endless night, his determination is put to the test through a series of trials and tribulations the city throws in his way, leading him to question his work, himself, and his role in society.





Synopsis

After an exhausting day, Peluche, a young cab driver in Medellín has to take his friend to the hospital after he is seriously injured. That same night, his boss asks him to fix an air conditioner and resolve a family matter in the neighborhood. After settling the dispute, he finds his cab blocking the entrance to a parking lot, sparking a surreal fight with angry men. Fleeing, he drives in desperation, causes a traffic accident and loses his cab. Resigned, Peluche arrives at the repair shop where he has a mysterious experience. Finally, he fulfills his duty by feeding his daughter breakfast, although she has missed school once again.



TRIBECA
FESTIVAL
OFFICIAL
SELECTION
JUNE 5-16, 2024

Director's Statement

NEA is a metaphorical fragment of our own perception of Latin America. It is a radiograph that hovers above, seeking a diagnosis: a diagnosis of society and a diagnosis of singularity. It questions us as individuals within a cultural context.

This project emerges within an aesthetic and cultural movement that we self-designate as "Nearrealismo Mágico," a product of artistic hybridity between European Neorealism and Latin American Magical Realism. Additionally, we incorporate the colloquialism NEA as a homage to the common parlance in present-day Medellín. This narrative form, integral to our idiosyncrasy, crafts a representation in the aesthetic language of the short film.

It is a fictional drama with hints of satirical comedy, concealed within the sadness that our own anxieties imply. From this perspective, the aim is to narrate and construct portraits of the social realities of this paradoxical continent. This exploration initially takes us to a level of inquiry where answers are physical deductions, visual and auditory appreciations; of being in spaces with people who inhabit corruption to understand what they comprehend. Our subsequent level delves into the psyche of these subjects: if it's not merely a decision, what external agents are at play? Could corruption then be the symbolic manifestation of a generation with inherited traumas from the violence of bygone times?

We grew up amid neighborhood football matches, street fights, economic difficulties, and psychological conditions of pressure. We grew up amidst laughter and drama, black humor, suspense, and exaggeration – elements that constitute a universe where road rage transforms into fantasy-driven violence, where drugs elevate individuals to states of irritation and instability, where having a father is a privilege, and living amid blood is as natural as driving a car.





Other information:

This short film aims to introduce our concept to the international cinema scene, paving the way for the next stage of the project: a feature-length fiction film titled "**Buscando América**" currently in development, which blends the genres of drama, fantasy, and black comedy.

As filmmakers, we aspire to create a narrative universe that speaks of Latin America as reflected in Medellín, sharing the common codes among the countries that helped shape our vision. Therefore, the filmmakers as a group represent this unity: The script and direction were helmed by Alex Ulises (Colombia) and Nelson G. Navarrete (Venezuela), executive production was the responsibility of JN Silva (Venezuela), and overall production was handled by Jesus Peña (Mexico).

This production is entirely independent and was financed using alternative methods within the web3 and blockchain realms, thus creating an interactive ecosystem while constructing the film.

BUSCANDO 
AMÉRICA



Contact

Jesus Peña (Producer)
jesusspena5@gmail.com
619.313.8422

Production Company:
Códigos, LLC



Technical Specifications:

- **Country of origin:** Colombia
- **Year:** 2024
- **Running time:** 22 minutes
- **Rating:** PG-13 (language)
- **Format:** 4K / 2:35 / 24fps
- **Sound:** 5.1
- **Language:** Spanish
- **Subtitles:** English

Links

- Official website: www.buscandoamerica.co
- IMDb: www.imdb.com/title/tt29218083/
- Twitter: www.twitter.com/buscandoam3rica
- Instagram: www.instagram.com/buscandoam3rica
- Youtube: www.youtube.com/buscandoamerica

Team

Written & Directed by: Alex Ulises & Nelson G. Navarrete



NELSON G. NAVARRETE is a multifaceted artist specializing in film direction and production. The music videos he directed featuring rappers such as Canserbero and Lil Supa have more than one billion views on YouTube. His feature documentary, *A la Calle*, was distributed by HBO Max in 2020 and allowed him to join the Producers Guild of America. It also earned him an Emmy Award nomination in the category: Outstanding Politics and Government Documentary - 2022.

ALEX ULISES is a Colombian Director and co-founder of "Códigos," a production company that produces feature films, documentaries, live experiences and transmedia. Alex has also worked as Director, Creative Director and Director of Photography for artists from record labels such as Universal, Warner, and Sony, writing and directing music videos for renowned Latin artists, achieving over two billion views, and contributing significant pieces to popular and underground urban culture. Currently, he is developing his first feature fiction film, "Buscando América."



Team

Producer



JESUS PEÑA is a Mexican-American producer based in San Francisco, California, with a successful career in film and commercials. Notably, he managed the critically acclaimed "Dolores," which premiered at Sundance Film Festival. With a track record of producing notable projects involving figures like Carlos Santana, Hillary Clinton, and Stephen Curry, he has also made significant contributions to advertising and commercial ventures for clients such as Google, Apple, and Facebook.

Executive Producer

JN SILVA is a Venezuelan visual artist. He is a photographer and educator. His career includes advertising photography for major brands, street photography, portraits, live concerts, and aerial photography. He has successfully created and fostered communities in different media. His entry into the NFT world produced a historic change in the photographic community because he linked hundreds of artists to the NFT scene, through his artist collective, Animus. JN is a founding member of Buscando America, and one of its mentors.





Reviews

MUESTRA INTERNACIONAL DE CORTOMETRAJES
**MIRADA
CORTA**

"The film's pacing is incredible, always keeping the audience on the edge of their seats. It's excellent for maintaining that upward momentum, making one feel part of that cinematic chaos. NEA is a captivating and entertaining film, where many things happen at the same time. Excellent film."

-Programming Team



"My favorite short film of the festival"

-Luis Martinez
Programmer

