

# River Bank

PŌ-KEHGEH



PRESS  
KIT

WWW.RIVERBANKFILM.COM  
+1 505 920 2268  
CHARINEPILAR@GMAIL.COM



POVI STUDIOS PRESENTS A FILM BY CHARINE PILAR GONZALES STARRING HELENA PENA, BARBARA GONZALES AND EL CHUCO PRODUCED BY CHARINE PILAR GONZALES,  
JHANE MYERS, RAZELLE BENALLY, SHAANDIIN TOME, ASHLEY BROWNING, HOLLY BAKER AND JESS X. SNOW DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY JESS X. SNOW  
COMPOSED BY BRYSON LARGO EDITED BY CHARINE PILAR GONZALES, SHAANDIIN TOME AND FORREST GOODLUCK  
MADE POSSIBLE BY THE SUNDANCE INSTITUTE INDIGENOUS PROGRAM AND FIRST PEOPLES FUND AND SENATOR JOHN PINTO MEMORIAL FUND



Filmed in New Mexico



First Peoples Fund



@POVISTUDIOS

River Bank  
PO-KEHGEH  
LOGLINE

A Tewa woman must listen to  
the spirit of the River in  
order to free herself.

River Bank  
PO-KEHGEH  
SYNOPSIS

A Pueblo woman steals money from a local business.  
She struggles with guilt.  
Her grandmother takes her to the River to remind her of Tewa values.  
The Pueblo woman blesses herself with River water, and the River becomes her guide.  
Together, they give to the people.



RIVER  
BANK'S  
FESTIVALS

- Jean Cocteau Cinema  
Santa Fe, New Mexico on June 20th, 2023  
WORLD PREMIERE
- Pathways Indigenous Arts Festival  
Pojoaque Pueblo, New Mexico on August 18th, 2023
- Santa Fe International Film Festival  
Santa Fe, New Mexico on October 22nd, 2023
- Indigeverse Multimedia Festival (AIHEC)  
Albuquerque, New Mexico November 2nd-5th, 2023  
BEST VIDEO THIRD PLACE
- Hibulb Cultural Center Film Festival  
November 4th, 2023  
AWARD NOMINEE
- LA Skins Fest  
Los Angeles, California on November 16th, 2023  
CALIFORNIA PREMIERE  
ACHIEVEMENT IN SHORT FILMMAKING AWARD
- Milwaukee Illuminate Film Festival  
December 16th, 2023  
BEST OF FEST AWARD
- Skábmagovat Film Festival (Samiland)  
January 27th + 28th, 2024 in Inari, Finland  
EUROPEAN PREMIERE
- Māoriland Film Festival  
Te Tini O Wai (Water Sustains All Life)  
Friday, March 22nd, 2024 in Ōtaki, New Zealand  
AOTEAROA PREMIERE
- Phoenix Film Festival  
Native American Directed Shorts  
April 6th, 7th and 8th - ARIZONA PREMIERE
- Capital City Film Festival  
Just A Vibe Shorts Block - April 12th, 2024  
Pre-Feature Short: A Michigan Frontrunner  
April 17th, 2024  
MICHIGAN PREMIERE
- Dreamspeakers International Indigenous Film Festival  
Finding Justice Shorts Block - April 27th, 2024  
Edmonton, Alberta, Canada - CANADA PREMIERE
- Acimowin Film Festival  
Kiyam. Let it be.  
Jun 7th, 4:00 PM in Saskatchewan, Canada
- Future of Film is Female  
Shorts Program 2  
Sept. 18th, 2024 in Brooklyn, New York  
NEW YORK PREMIERE
- NewFilmmakers of Los Angeles  
November InFocus: Indigenous Cinema  
Nov. 16th, 2024 in Los Angeles, California





# CAST & CREW

## Lead Cast

Helena Peña (San Ildefonso Pueblo)  
Barbara Gonzales (San Ildefonso Pueblo)  
El Chuco

## Support Cast

Rose B. Simpson (Santa Clara Pueblo)  
Cedar Rain (Santa Clara Pueblo)  
Andreita Gonzales (San Ildefonso Pueblo)  
Jeremy Gonzales (San Ildefonso Pueblo)  
Hunter Naranjo (San Ildefonso Pueblo / Santa Clara Pueblo)

## Producers

Charine Pilar Gonzales (San Ildefonso Pueblo)  
Jhane Myers (Comanche / Blackfeet)  
Shaandiin Tome (Diné)  
Ashley Browning (Pojoaque Pueblo / Santa Clara Pueblo)  
Razelle Benally (Oglala Lakota / Diné)  
Holly Baker  
Jess X. Snow

## Writer / Director

Charine Pilar Gonzales (San Ildefonso Pueblo)

## 2nd AD / Key Grip

Tamara Colaque (Jemez Pueblo)

## Script Supervisor

Tyisha Mitchell (The Colorado River Indian Tribes - CRIT)

## Director of Photography

Jess X. Snow

## 1st AC

Christina Zuni (Laguna Pueblo)

## Gaffer

Frisley Soberanis

## Key Grip

Autumn Bille (Tesuque Pueblo / Diné)

## Sound

Ashley Browning (Pojoaque Pueblo and Santa Clara Pueblo)

## Wardrobe / Props / Sound

Lejend Yazzie (Diné)

## Production Assistant

Andreita Gonzales (San Ildefonso Pueblo)

## Set Photographer

Brandon K. Morgan (Diné)

## Editors

Charine Pilar Gonzales (San Ildefonso Pueblo)  
Shaandiin Tome (Diné)  
Forrest Goodluck (Diné)

## Music Composer

Bryson Largo (Diné)

## Colorist

Gabriel Mozart (Taos Pueblo / Diné)

## Title Design

Barbara Gonzales (San Ildefonso Pueblo)  
Derek Gonzales (San Ildefonso Pueblo)

## Associate Producer

Scott Nass

## Supporters

Sundance Institute Indigenous Program  
First Peoples Fund  
Senator Pinto Memorial Fund - New Mexico Film Office  
Indiegogo Campaign



## DIRECTOR STATEMENT

I come from six generations of San Ildefonso Pueblo pottery artists. When my family works with clay, we think good thoughts so that our pottery reflects goodness, too. I practice this intention from a storytelling perspective.

A quote we often say in my family, "We come from the clay and the earth, and we will return to the clay and the earth," reflects the respect we have for clay, our ancestors, and the circle of life. Pottery often appears in my films, including River Bank (Pō-Kehgeh).

River Bank (Pō-Kehgeh) is the first narrative fiction film approved by San Ildefonso Pueblo to be filmed on Tribal lands since the 1980's. River Bank (Pō-Kehgeh) is told using a circular Indigenous story structure, inspired by traditional Tewa stories. I'm so grateful to have support from my family and community. This film would not exist without them.

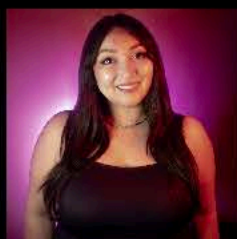
I dedicate this film to my younger brother, Tyler, because his memory lives in my heart forever. He is now home with the clay and the earth, and I miss him tremendously, but I know he is proud of me.

One day, I will return to the clay and the earth, too. River Bank (Pō-Kehgeh) is my debut narrative fiction short film, and I'm so proud of how much this film and I have grown together.

## ABOUT CHARINE

Charine Pilar Gonzales wrote and directed the short films River Bank (Pō-Kehgeh) and Our Quiyo: Maria Martinez. She co-produced the 2024 Sundance Film Festival short doc, Winding Path. A Tewa filmmaker from San Ildefonso Pueblo and Santa Fe, New Mexico, she aims to intertwine memories, dreams, and truths through story.

Charine is a 2024 Native Lab Fellow through the Sundance Institute Indigenous Program. She is represented by Rain Management Group, based in LA. Her favorite foods are Pueblo oven bread, red chile stew, and chicos. Charine resides in Santa Fe, New Mexico, with her family and chunky orange tabby cat, Cheddar.



CHARINE  
PILAR  
GONZALES  
WRITER/DIRECTOR

### CONTACT

-  [charinepilar@gmail.com](mailto:charinepilar@gmail.com)
-  [CharinePilar](https://www.instagram.com/CharinePilar)
-  [www.charinegonzales.com](http://www.charinegonzales.com)

