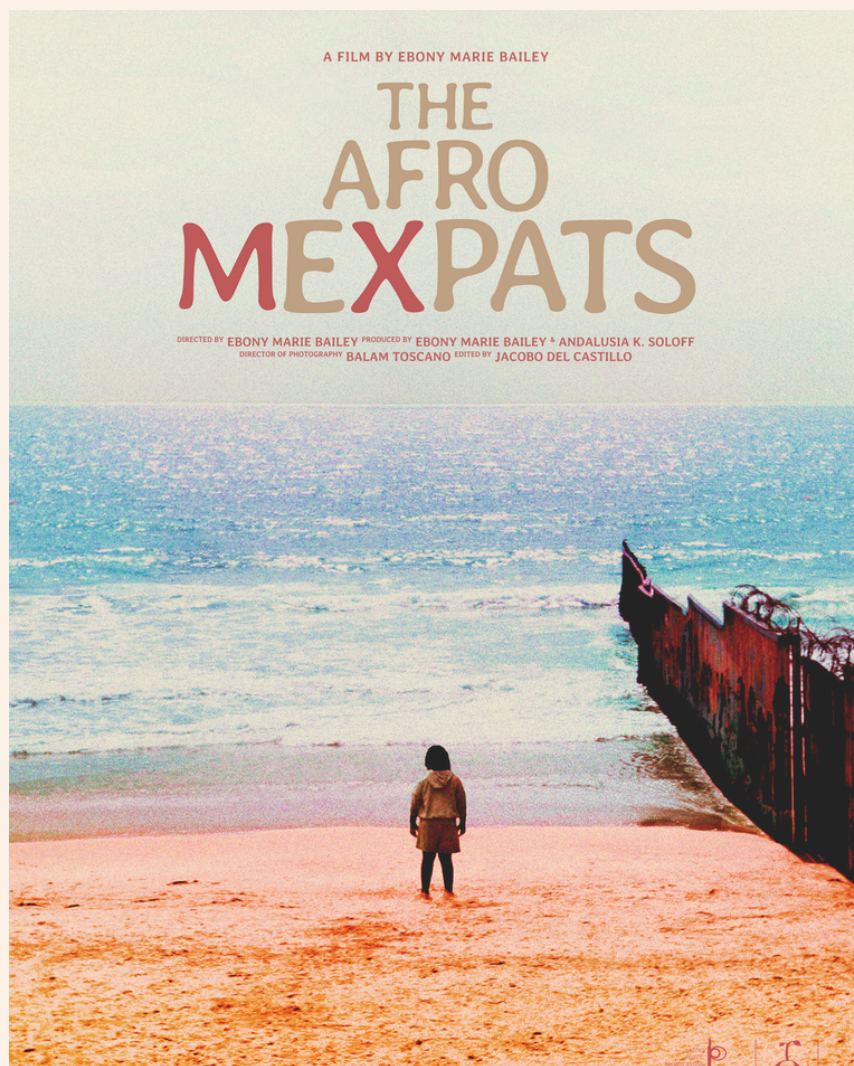


# THE AFRO MEXPATS

A FILM BY EBONY MARIE BAILEY

17 MIN | COLOR | 2024 | UNITED STATES, MEXICO

## PRESS KIT

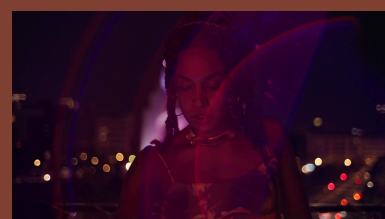


# LOGLINE

Three Black women fed up with US racism join a growing movement of Black Americans who seek refuge in Mexico, but what does “freedom” really look like on the other side?

# SINOPSIS

The pandemic has fueled a “Blaxit”: Black Americans fed up with US racism and rising costs are leaving the American dream behind. Many are seeking refuge in Mexico, but what does “freedom” really look like on the other side? Through the stories of three Black women who have transplanted to Mexico, this documentary gives a glimpse into the nuances of the Afro “Mexpat” community that exists at the crossroads between American privilege and racial subjugation.



# PRODUCTION CREDITS

## **DIRECTOR**

EBONY MARIE BAILEY

## **MUSIC BY**

KRISTINA JAMES

## **PRODUCERS**

EBONY MARIE BAILEY AND  
ANDALUSIA K. SOLOFF

## **PARTICIPANTS**

JENÉ ETHERIDGE  
PATRICIA ANN TALLEY  
KAMARA LOVE

THIS FILM WAS CO-PRODUCED BY  
LATINO PUBLIC BROADCASTING  
AND THIRD ROOT MEDIA

## **DIRECTOR OF**

## **PHOTOGRAPHY**

BALAM TOSCANO

**EXECUTIVE PRODUCER FOR  
LATINO PUBLIC BROADCASTING**

## **EDITOR**

JUAN DEL CASTILLO

SANDIE VIQUEZ PEDLOW



# DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

I first moved to Mexico City in 2016 to reconnect with my Mexican roots. As a “Blaxican” woman, I loved discovering more about that side of myself, but at times, being a Black person in this country felt lonely. For a long time, I was the only Black American I knew. After five years in the capital city, I moved, and during that time, I noticed a big change: more Black Americans were coming to Mexico. I saw more WhatsApp groups for Black folks in Mexico, new TikToks focusing on relocation, and even more Black Americans writing to me to ask about my own experience moving to Mexico. Nowadays, in my social media feed, I see more flyers for Black parties, Black gatherings, and Black workshops.

There is a part of me that wishes I had these kinds of experiences when I lived in Mexico City, and there is another part of me that thinks: Are we contributing to a problem? I've had endless discussions with friends about gentrification, the rise of “digital nomads” and a foreign exodus to Mexico—what part do Black Americans play in all that? After thinking through all of these nuances that come with our experience in Mexico, I thought, why not explore this nuance through film?

The characters we chose were three Black women: Jené in Mexico City, Kamara in Tijuana, and Patricia Ann in Zihuatanejo. I also chose these women because they all represent a part of my own journey here — Jene is a fellow “Blaxican” who, like me, moved to Mexico to reconnect with her family and cultural heritage. Patricia represents someone who, like me, has made meaningful connections with the Afro-Mexican community and someone who has also lived in Mexico pre-pandemic. Kamara represents someone who lives in Mexico because of the rising cost of living in the US, a factor that I hadn't ignored as someone from California.

Through filming these characters, I've been able to relate to all of their stories in a personal manner. I have also learned things about this nascent community and myself that have forever marked a change in my perspective on why our folks move here, what our folks do here and how our folks define freedom.

## DIRECTOR BIO

Ebony Marie Bailey is a “Blaxican” filmmaker from Central California whose work explores cultural intersections and diaspora. Her documentaries have screened at film festivals and universities in the US, Latin America and Europe. Ebony is a recipient of the Latino Emerging Filmmakers Fellowship with Latino Public Broadcasting. She was also selected for the Tomorrow's Filmmakers Today program by HBO and Hola Mexico Film Festival. Her films have been recognized and won awards at the Pan African Film Festival, the San Diego Latino Film Festival, the South Social Film Festival, among other accolades. She is a recipient of the Fondo Miradas with Ambulante and Netflix. She currently works as a director for the PBS docuseries Roadtrip Nation.

