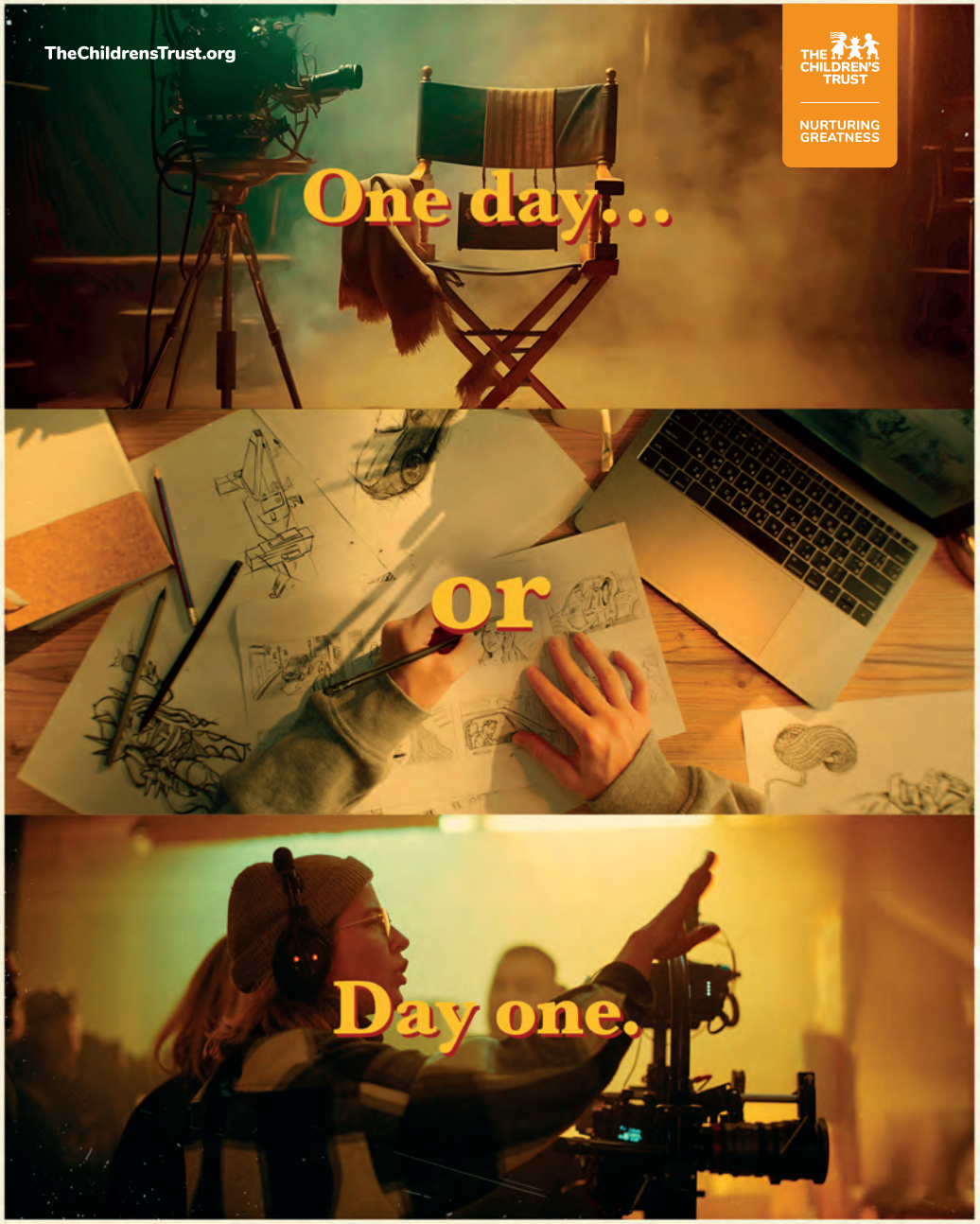
FLORIDA FILM INSTITUTE, INC.

Florida Film Institute

2025 – 2026 CINEMA PROGRAM STUDENT FILMS

WEDNESDAY, MAY 20TH, 2026



Being a great

FILMMAKER

isn't just a dream. It's a journey.

The Children's Trust is proud to support aspiring **filmmakers at the Florida Film Institute,** empowering them to shape the future through their talent.

LIGHTS, CAMERA...

Welcome to the Florida Film Institute's Annual CINEMA Screening & Awards Premiere!

This is the moment… the stars have finally aligned and after nine months of writing, revising, filming, and refining, today we step into a space where imagination meets craft - and where our students' work takes center stage, exactly as it was meant to be seen: on the big screen!

We're proud to return to Miami Dade College's North Campus, a place that elevates this experience and honors the level of artistry our students have achieved this school year. This event celebrates the young filmmakers of our CINEMA program - the creators who have challenged themselves, trusted their instincts, and transformed ideas into compelling, fully realized stories.

Since last September students have immersed themselves in every stage of the filmmaking process: producing original monologues and narrative short films across three selected Miami-Dade County public high schools. This work goes beyond polished edits: they represent persistence, collaboration and the courage to create without limits.

CINEMA is more than an after-school program - it's where students fully immerse themselves in the art of filmmaking. Since 1992, Florida Film Institute participants have built an extraordinary legacy of storytelling, earning recognition at distinguished festivals around the world and proving, year after year, that their voices matter - and deserve to be seen and heard.

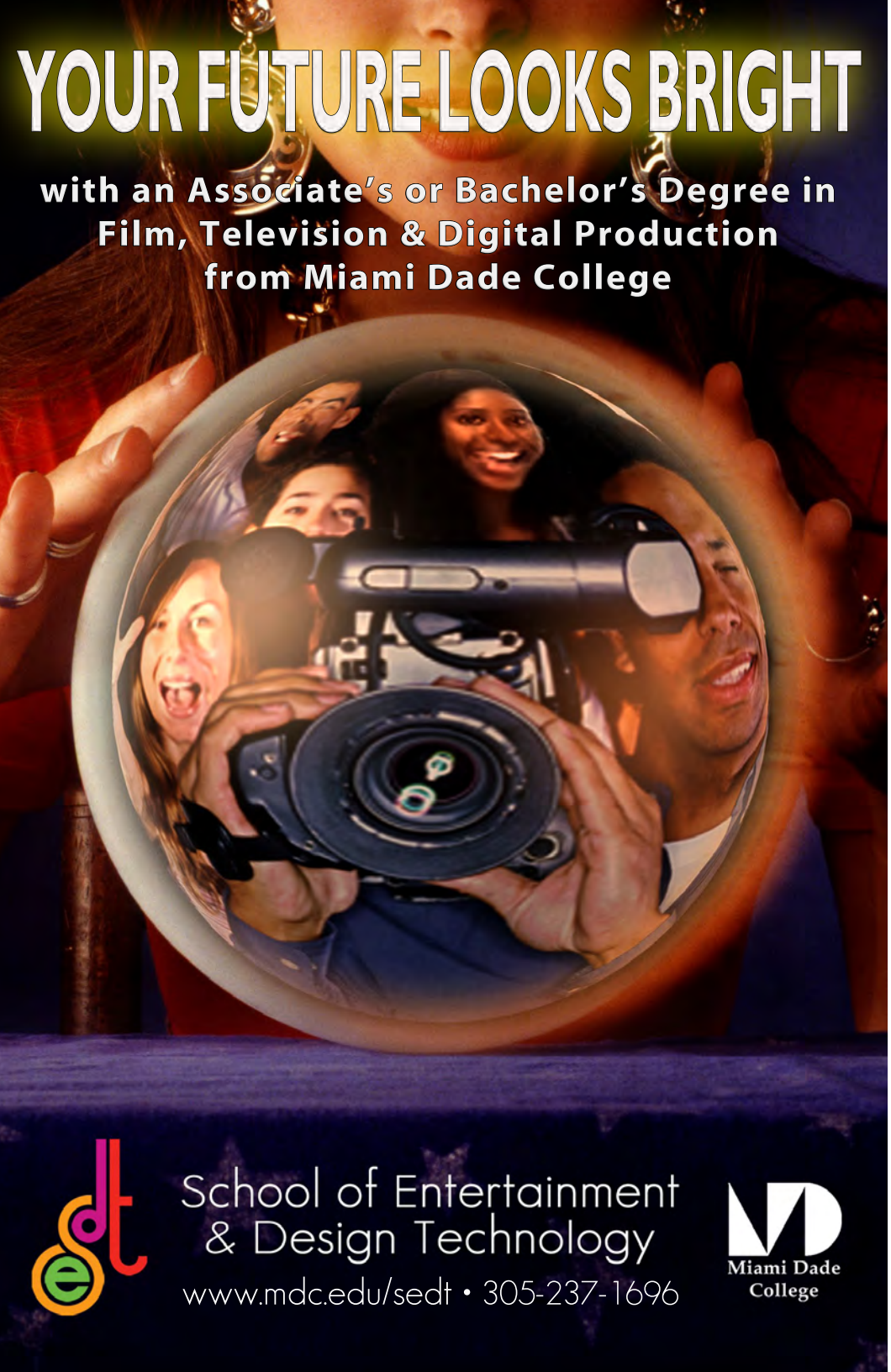
As we approach our 34th year, the excitement continues to build, from summer film camp to the next slate of CINEMA productions planned for the 2026–2027 school year!

Our deepest thanks go to our fantastic Board of Directors, our dedicated team, our generous sponsors and the community that continues to champion this award-winning programming. Your belief in us and the students is what makes it all possible - and our gratitude remains constant, now and always.

To our students: you showed up, put in the hard work, and brought something real to life.
To our educators and supporters: your guidance made every moment count.
And to our audience: get ready- these stories don't fade when the credits roll.

Enjoy the screening!

Stephanie G. Martino
Founder & Executive Director



PROGRAM

WELCOME
INTRODUCTION
MONOLOGUES
NARRATIVE FILMS
FILM & POSTER AWARD PRESENTATIONS

FOR MONOLOGUES

BEST MONOLOGUE

FOR NARRATIVE FILMS

BEST POSTER
BEST BEHIND THE SCENES
BEST TRAILER
BEST SCREENPLAY
BEST CINEMATOGRAPHY
BEST EDITING
BEST SOUND RECORDING
BEST LIGHTING
BEST LEAD FEMALE ACTOR
BEST LEAD MALE ACTOR
BEST DIRECTOR
BEST NARRATIVE FILM

"Our mind is the canvas on which the artists lay their colours; their pigments are our emotions"

~ Kakuzo Okakura, The Book of Tea

CINEMA JUDGES

Kevin de los Cuetos
Filmmaker

Kevin is a Cuban-American filmmaker, born and raised in Miami with interests in film, movies, and even motion pictures. He has a Bachelor's in English - Creative Writing as well as a certificate in film studies, both from Florida International University. He is trained in 16, 35, and 70mm motion picture projection and is the resident Projectionist/Associate Programmer at Coral Gables Art Cinema.

Julio Gabay
Actor

As a film and television actor, Julio made his feature debut alongside some of today's most prominent Latin talents playing a supporting role in the Netflix top 10 film, Wasp Network (2019). Following that, Julio was cast as El Saguaro (supporting) for Brad Pitt's action-thriller, Bullet Train (2022). Some of his television credits include Chef Jeremy Sheridan in season 1 episode 17 of the CBS/ Paramount+ series, FBI International; Luke Broughton in the hit WB series, All American, episodes 11 and 13 of season 6; and coming up, Julio will be playing Prosecutor John Morales, a recurring guest star, in Tyler Perry's Divorced Sistas season 2.

Kevin Pereira
Program Manager

A first-generation American born to Portuguese immigrants, Kevin spent his formative summers in the rural Portuguese countryside, a stark contrast to the New York City metropolitan area. These experiences sparked a lifelong pursuit of adventure through travel and the arts, as well as a deep commitment to serving the less fortunate. From teaching in Japan and serving high-need communities in New Jersey to volunteering with Big Brothers Big Sisters, Kevin has dedicated his career to empowering youth. He continues this mission today as a Program Manager at The Children's Trust.

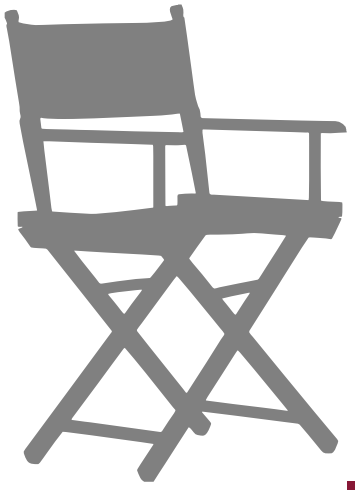
CINEMA JUDGES

Rafal Sokolowski
Director

Rafal is an acclaimed film and theater director. His films have been screened worldwide, receiving numerous awards. He is the Graduate Program Director of the MFA in Motion Pictures at the University of Miami, where he teaches directing at the Department of Cinematic Arts. His recent film, "22 Chaser," premiered in Toronto, winning the Best Feature Screenplay Award and earning recognition as one of the top films of the year. The film was distributed theatrically across the US and Canada by Gravitas Ventures and is currently available on various streaming platforms, including Amazon Prime, Paramount+, and Apple TV.

Lorgia Velasquez
Freelance Film Professional

Lorgia is an Assistant Director specializing in production management and scheduling. She is a graduate of SEDT with a bachelor's degree in Film and has a strong background in organizing and coordinating production workflows. She works as a freelance film professional while also serving as secretary to the chair of the School of Entertainment & Design Technology.



Florida Film Institute

2024 – 2025 CINEMA PROGRAM STUDENT FILMS

WINNER

2025 FFI Annual Screening, Best Director,
1st Place Poster, 2nd Place Cinematography,
3rd Place Screenplay, 3rd Place Sound,
3rd Place Editing, Best Lead Male Actor

John A. Ferguson Senior High School

Congratulations Student Filmmakers

2025-2026 CINEMA Program Schools

John A. Ferguson Senior High
Miami Lakes Educational Center
William H. Turner Technical Arts Senior High

Miami-Dade County Public Schools with TV/Video Production
G. Holmes Braddock SHS
Young Mens Prep SHS
Hialeah Gardens SHS
Arthur and Polly Mays Conservatory
Miami Senior High
Miami Lakes Educational Center
Miami Sunset SHS
North Miami SHS
South Miami SHS

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
giving our students the world

FLORIDA FILM INSTITUTE, INC.

CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION
M-DCPS CAREER PATHWAYS

ABOUT FFI

FFI's Cinematographers in Education and Media Arts (CINEMA) enriches the educational experience for young adults by providing a hands-on and virtual learning experience that teaches the art, business and science of filmmaking. Entering the 34th year of producing award-winning programs, FFI works with selected students countywide with the encouragement to spark an interest in the field of Media Arts.

High schoolers step into a fast-moving, hands-on environment where storytelling comes to life; from first ideas to finished films. Along the way, they experiment, collaborate, and create original work across both narrative and experimental formats, gaining real insight into how today's film and television industries operate. FFI goes beyond traditional arts education, helping students build confidence, sharpen their creative voice, and develop practical skills they can carry into future opportunities.

At a time when meaningful connection and creative expression feel more essential than ever, this experience offers young people a place to explore, grow, and be seen... and that's exactly what makes it powerful.

CULTURE SHOCK MIAMI

TEENS AND YOUNG ADULTS AGES 13-22 • CULTURE SHOCK MIAMI.COM

Teens and young adults ages 13-22 can buy tickets for only $5 to the best performances and museums in and around Miami-Dade. With the purchase of one $5 ticket for someone within the age range, a second $5 ticket can be purchased for an individual of any age to join them.

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SUPER DUDE

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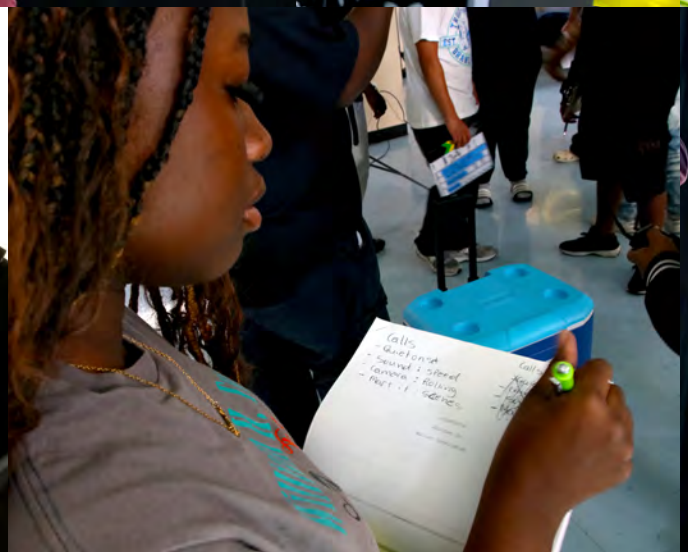


MONOLOGUES

CONFESSION
DIRECTOR **Sebastian Orantes**
SCHOOL **John A. Ferguson Senior High School**

THE DATE
DIRECTOR **Enzo Pirela**
SCHOOL **John A. Ferguson Senior High School**

VALEDICTORIAN FIELD
DIRECTOR **Nick Lois**
SCHOOL **John A. Ferguson Senior High School**

AN ODE TO MUSIC
DIRECTOR **David Jarquin**
SCHOOL **John A. Ferguson Senior High School**

LIME LIGHT
DIRECTOR **Angelina Chirino**
SCHOOL **Miami Lakes Educational Center**

MONOLOGUES

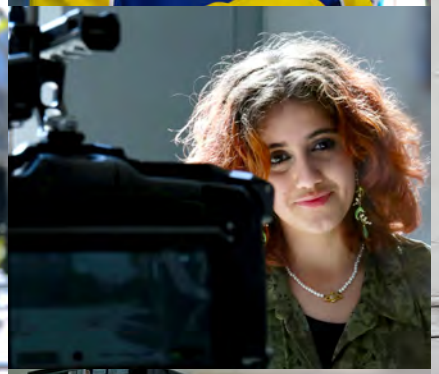
CLIPPED WINGS
DIRECTOR **Maria Rendon**
SCHOOL **Miami Lakes Educational Center**

UNSENT MESSAGES
DIRECTOR **Isabella Palacio**
SCHOOL **Miami Lakes Educational Center**

THE INTERROGATION
DIRECTOR **Jayden Carson**
SCHOOL **William H. Turner Technical Arts High School**

LOVE HITS
DIRECTOR **Myriah Cayo**
SCHOOL **William H. Turner Technical Arts High School**

PERFECTLY IMPERFECT
DIRECTOR **Rebecca Jean**
SCHOOL **William H. Turner Technical Arts High School**



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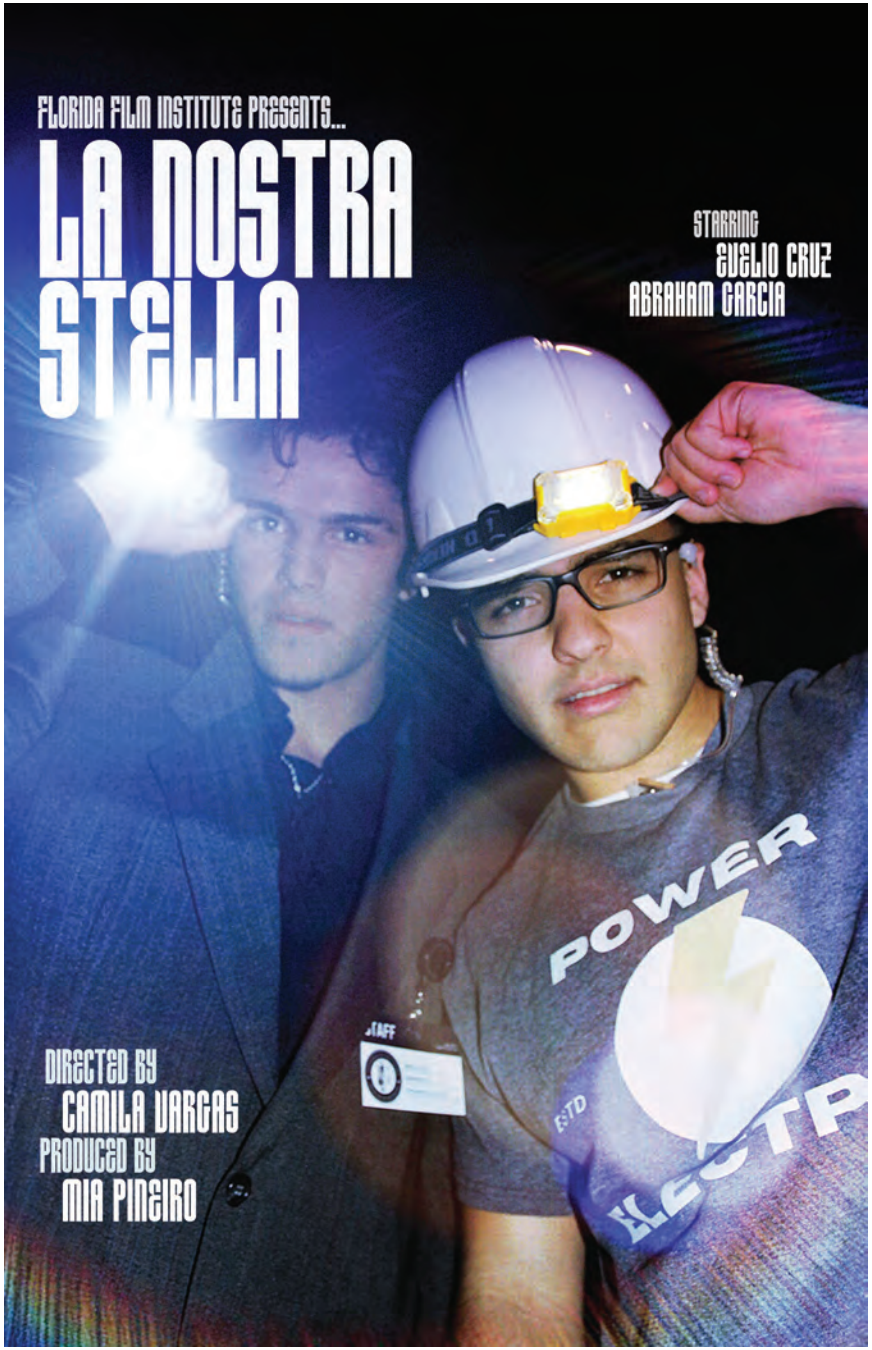


LA NOSTRA STELLA

ABOUT THE FILM

After disappearing for centuries, the opulent “La Nostra Stella” diamonds are salvaged by the owner of a renowned history museum after recognizing them at an estate sale of a peasant family in Italy. The news of the resurfacing of the prestigious diamonds catch the eyes of two passionate thieves with distinct connections to the jewels.

Mia Pineiro
PRODUCER

Camila Vargas
DIRECTOR

John A. Ferguson Senior High School
SCHOOL

Patrick J. Doval
ASSISTANT SITE COORDINATOR

PRINCIPAL CAST

Evelio Cruz
Abraham Garcia
Fabian Gallardo
Laura Delgado

WHEN I WAS YOU

ABOUT THE FILM

This film explores the fantastical reality between two teenage girls struggling to grow into acceptance and confidence in each other. This film takes you through Kat and Jo's rocky friendship and their journey to accept one another's flaws, as well as include a fun sense of humor and other whimsical elements.

Anabella Guel
PRODUCER

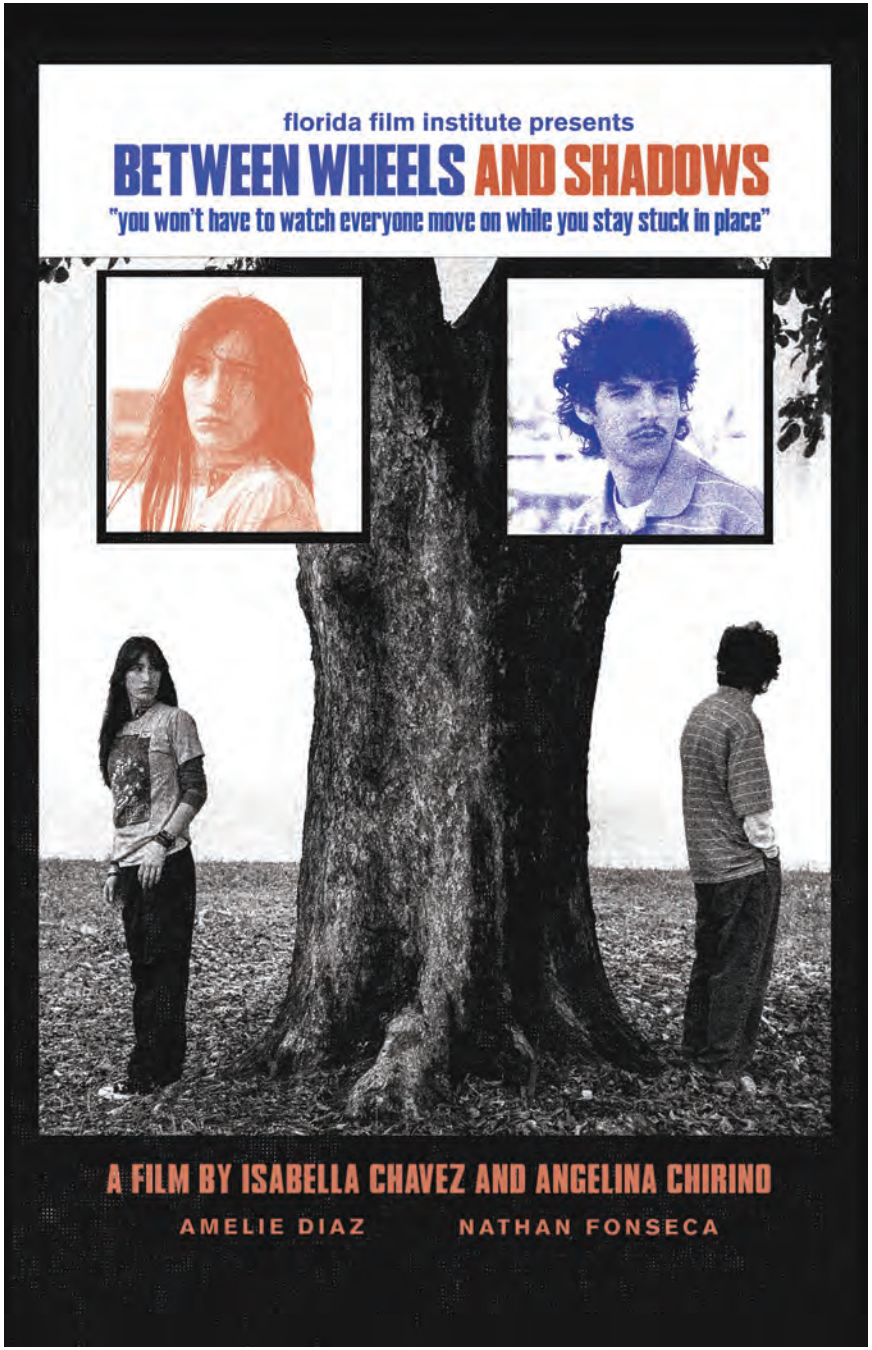
Isabella Gil
DIRECTOR

John A. Ferguson Senior High School
SCHOOL

Patrick J. Doval
ASSISTANT SITE COORDINATOR

PRINCIPAL CAST

Val Torres
Ysabella Villaflor
Karina Sander



BETWEEN WHEELS AND SHADOWS

ABOUT THE FILM

When something unspoken fractures her bond with her best friend, Scarlett, a teen skater, begins to drift from everyone else. When he returns, his growing influence deepens her detachment and forces her to confront what's real or risk losing everyone. Will she have to let go of something she isn't ready to lose?

Thalia Chichester + Priscilla Carmenate
CO-PRODUCERS

Isabella Chavez
DIRECTOR

Miami Lakes Educational Center
SCHOOL

Lester Sandoval
ASSISTANT SITE COORDINATOR

PRINCIPAL CAST

Amelia Diaz
Nathan Fonseca
Camila Garcia

SUPERDUDE

ABOUT THE FILM

A kid decides to reinvent himself as his school's masked hero, hoping it will make him stand out and earn respect from others. However, as he begins to take the role seriously, he quickly realizes that fighting crime is far more complicated, painful, and uncool than he ever imagined it would be.

Jayden Carson
PRODUCER

Walter Cunningham
DIRECTOR

William H. Turner Technical Arts High School
SCHOOL

Flavia Ramirez
ASSISTANT SITE COORDINATOR

PRINCIPAL CAST

Ricky Gaspard
Christopher Scott
Kimora Joseph
Marvin Joseph

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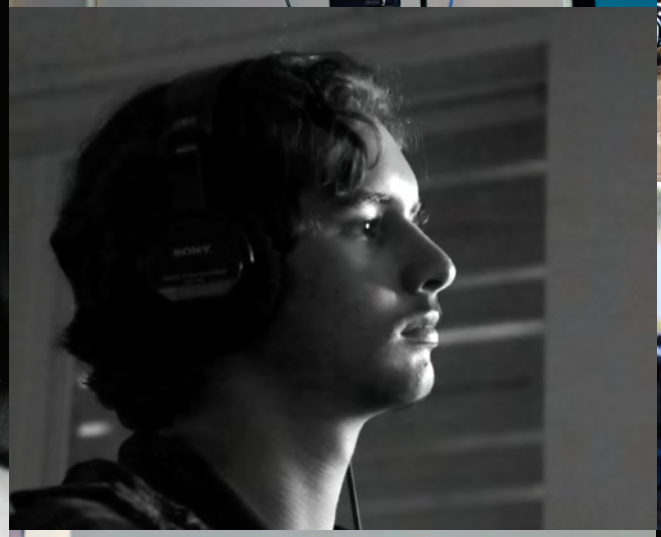

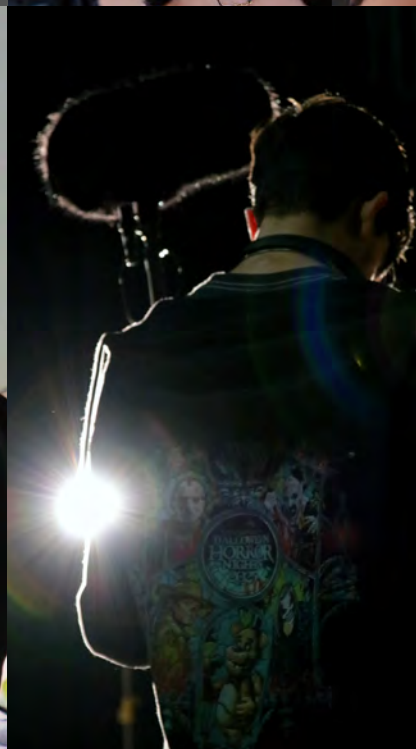

FLORIDA FILM INSTITUTE, INC.

CONGRATULATIONS

CLASS OF 2026!

We're incredibly proud of our CINEMA filmmakers. As you step into what's next. . . dream boldly, create fearlessly - and keep telling stories that matter! We look forward to hearing about your future endeavors!

AND for all emerging CINEMA filmmakers...

Love storytelling, creativity, and media arts?
The next great story hasn't been told yet - maybe it's yours!

The Florida Film Institute invites current and rising students to join our award-winning CINEMA program for the 2026–27 school year - a hands-on film education experience that builds real-world skills and sparks imagination.

Learn more and join us:

www.flfilminstitute.org

USE QR CODE

WWW.FLFILMINSTITUTE.ORG

Coral Gables Art Cinema · Florida Film Institute, Inc. · Florida Arts & Culture · Miami-Dade County

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Marlene Marcos, Actor / Writer / Producer
Dean Roman, blukid.com | web . video . social

CAST & CREW SIGN-OFF

CAST & CREW SIGN-OFF

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Miami Dade College

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

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