

EL CAMINO

It's never too late to say goodbye.

MEDIA KIT



Written and directed by Alexander L. Lee
Produced by Light Show Pictures © 2016
www.lightshowpictures.com

Synopsis

Inspired by the real-life experiences of millions of families who lose a family member behind bars, EL CAMINO tells the story of typical American teenager Jorge, whose father, Diego, dies while in prison. Because the family has little money, prison policy dictates cremation, regardless of the family's wishes. But the religious convictions of Diego's wife and Jorge's mother, Gabriela, forbid it, and she and Jorge must make a frantic road trip across California to claim his father's body before it's too late—too late for Jorge to say goodbye, and for Gabriela, too late for Diego to find redemption in the afterlife. With their relationship strained financially and emotionally by Diego's long imprisonment and absence, Jorge and Gabriela find themselves isolated in their grief. If they are to find some resolution with the past, they must find a way to reconnect with each other.

Produced by the LGBT filmmakers of color collaborative and production company Light Show Pictures.

Official Website: <http://www.lightshowpictures.com>

IMDB: <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt4295092>

Social Media:

<https://www.facebook.com/elcaminothefilm>

<https://twitter.com/elcaminothefilm>

<https://instagram.com/elcaminothefilm>

Director's Statement

Based on true events, EL CAMINO tells the story of a Mexican American teenager named Jorge, whose father, Diego, dies while serving time in a California prison. Because his family has very little money, prison policy dictates cremation. But the religious convictions of Diego's wife Gabriela forbid it, and she and Jorge must make a frantic road trip across the state to claim Diego's body before it's too late--too late for Jorge to say goodbye, and for Gabriela, too late for Diego to find redemption in the afterlife. With their relationship strained financially and emotionally by Diego's long imprisonment and absence, mother and son find themselves isolated in their grief. They must reconnect with each other if they are to find any resolution with the past.

The film, featuring Spanish-language dialog, explores issues salient to the US Latino community, as well as to other communities whose members are imprisoned at disproportionately high rates. These families often struggle to keep afloat while our country's immigration and criminal justice policies continually undermine their bonds and connections.

Made with a small crew and shot over four days in various locations in Northern California, EL CAMINO was produced by Light Show Pictures, a collective of independent LGBT filmmakers of color. The film was produced with the help of youth members of Project WHAT!, a nonprofit based in Oakland, California that helps give voice to youth who have parents in prison. Two Project WHAT! youth served as production and art assistants, and another contributed to the film's soundtrack an original rap song he wrote and performed ("Let Em Out").

Light Show Pictures will continue to partner with Project WHAT! and other prisoners' families organizations to use EL CAMINO as a teaching tool to inform teachers, clergy, lawmakers, and other adults about the struggles youth face when a parent is imprisoned. If we are fortunate enough to be selected for your festival, we will invite community members from these groups to screenings and other festival events. It is our hope that this experience will inspire young people with parents in prison to pick up cameras and tell their own stories in their own voices.

Filmmaker Biographies

Alexander L. Lee (Writer, Director)

IMDB: <http://www.imdb.com//name/nm5047123>

Alexander L. Lee is the writer and director of EL CAMINO, a new short film from Light Show Pictures. He previously wrote and directed the award-winning short A NIGHT IN THE WOODS (2013), a black comedy exploring the lives of transgender people through the lens of the zombie attack genre. A NIGHT IN THE WOODS screened at Frameline (SF LGBT Film Festival), the Los Angeles Asian American Film Festival, the Tokyo LGBT Film Festival, and the London BFI LGBT Film Festival, among many others.

Alexander's filmmaking is informed by his work as a nationally-recognized transgender rights attorney and prisoners' rights activist. He has received numerous awards co-founding and serving as the first Executive Director of the Transgender, Gender Variant & Intersex Justice Project (www.tgijp.org)--the first nonprofit organization in the U.S. created to support the activism of transgender people in prisons and jails. Alexander wrote EL CAMINO based on the real-life experiences of the many families he assisted who have loved ones behind bars. He currently resides in Oakland, California.

Alexander is co-owner of the all-LGBT filmmakers of color production company Light Show Pictures (www.lightshowpictures.com), with which he is in pre-production on two more short films: SAD GIRL (2016) and HOME (2017).

Alicia Kester (Producer)

Alicia Kester decided that she wanted to become a filmmaker at the age of six when she wrote her first screenplay. She's continued her pursuit of film as a student at UCLA, taking classes at the UCLA Film School. A participant in QWOCMAP and BAVC, Alicia has worked on films and media projects such as *El Camino*, *A Night in the Woods*, *Dyke Central*, *In the Mission*, and more. She is also an award-winning and published poet and writer. Most recently her poetry has appeared in Duende Literary Journal and The G.R.I.T.S. Anthology. She works professionally as an event producer and fundraiser, supporting countless non-profits and social justice organizations in their missions to create equity and improve the quality of life for all of society. She has written and will direct the Light Show Pictures short project, HOME (tentatively titled), which will shoot in 2016. She is also currently developing a script for an ensemble feature film, producing an international documentary, and writing a stage play based on her poem "Snakeskin".

Dolan Chornig (Producer)

Dolan Chornig is a local Bay Area filmmaker interested in the intersection between genre and personal vision. He has made a variety of shorts that explore genres and alternative forms of storytelling and

have screened at a number of festivals including the Berkeley Art Museum/Pacific Film Archive's Bay Area Student Film Showcase as well as Cannes Film Festival where he screened his short film Choice in May of 2013, which won Best Comedy at San Francisco State University and the national award of Best Story through CampusMovieFest, the largest student film festival across the nation. He has recently gone on to produce the short El Camino, which was the recipient of the Oakland Cultural Arts Grant, and served as SF Unit Producer on the feature film Advantageous, a sci-fi domestic drama that premiered at Sundance Film Festival 2015 and the winner of the U.S. Dramatic Special Jury Award for Collaborative Vision. Dolan is currently writing and developing a number of feature screenplays he hopes to be shooting in the near future.

Cast & Credits

WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY

Alexander L. Lee

PRODUCED BY

Alicia Kester

Dolan Chorng

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

Adam J. Richman

MUSIC COMPOSER

William Ryan Fritch

ASSOCIATE PRODUCERS

Madeleine Arellano

Annelise M. Strader

EDITOR

T.W. Pittman

ASSISTANT EDITOR

A.Q. Quintero

ART DIRECTOR

Matt Thompson

CAST

JORGE ALVAREZ	Vince-Anthony
GABRIELA ALVAREZ	Rocio Ramirez
DIEGO ALVAREZ GONZALEZ	Hugo E. Carbajal
GRETA (MORTUARY WORKER)	Kari Wishingrad
LITTLE JORGE	TonyBoy Marin
CREMATORY TECH	Patrick Kaufmann
GAS STATION ATTENDANT	Annelise M. Strader
PRISON RECORDING (VOICE)	Larry Laverty

CREW

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR	Jennie-Sue Nuccio
PRODUCTION MANAGER	Lynn Fu
LOCATION SCOUT/MANAGER	Emily Manheim
SCRIPT SUPERVISOR	Thomas Churchill III
CATERER	Steve Chan
SOUND RECORDIST	Michael Emery
ADR SOUND RECORDIST	Dakota Billops-Breaux
SOUND MIXER	Jim LeBrecht
ASSISTANT SOUND MIXER	Bijan Sharifi
COLORIST	Will Smith
ASSISTANT ART DIRECTOR	Alicia Kester
PROP ASSISTANTS	Tailani Wilson-Crawford Annelise M. Strader
ASSISTANT CAMERA	Arturo Ochoa Chess Pentengill Jerome Stolly
GAFFER	Zac Towner
GRIPS	Jon Ho Joseph Roland Julius Sean Michael Deleon-Randolph
PRODUCTION ASSISTANTS	Dominic Badaglia Kmani Baxter Alice Choe Kirsten Eileen Dwyer Emily Encina Victoire Poumadere Duncan Russell

Joshua Vazquez
Ethan N. Warren
Tailani Wilson-Crawford

SONGS

“Let Em Out”

Lyrics by Isaiah Bolanos

Produced by Luke White

Performed by Isaiah Bolanos © 2015

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“Drankin Song”

Kevin MacLeod

(incompetech.com)

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The Pollination Project

Shot on a Sony 7as

Technical Details

Title: El Camino

Date of Completion: January 1, 2016

Country of Production: USA

Languages: English, Spanish with English subtitles

Subtitles: English

Genre: Narrative fiction (drama, family)

Running time: 16 minutes, 35 seconds

Shooting Format: HD video (1080p)

Format for preselection: online screener

Format for festival screening: DCP, Blu-ray Region 0/1, DVD Region 0/1, .MOV, online stream

Picture: color

Ratio: 16:9

Audio: Stereo, Dolby 5.1

Contact

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