



*Tijuana, Nada Más*  
A documentary short by  
Yolanda Pividal

Third World Newsreel  
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2010

27 minutes

Mexico/United States

Spanish with English subtitles

## SYNOPSIS

Jonathan ("Pollo") and Enrique ("Gordo") are 14-year old orphans making their own living on the streets of Tijuana, the busiest frontier city in the world. Jonathan assists the "Coyotes" in smuggling people across the Mexico/U.S. border and Enrique blows fireballs for entertainment.

TIJUANA, NADA MAS is a heart-wrenching glimpse into the lives of two boys struggling to survive within the confines of geographical and cultural borders. Over a seven-month period, Jonathan abandons his life as a "Coyote" to try to live under the care of a foster mother and Enrique maintains, "Here is beautiful." TIJUANA, NADA MAS examines the invisible and more immediate boundaries of these boys' lives—discrimination, poverty, uncertainty—and asks: How can you cross a border that exists beneath the surface? Is there really an "other side"?

## ABOUT THE PROJECT

"Pollo" is a "niño coyote" who works for the immigrant's smugglers until one day he decides to change his life and become part of a family. "Gordo" is a "callejero" (street kid) who still believes in the promise of a better life in Tijuana while he blows fireballs on the streets for a living. Shot over a seven months period and woven from street scenes and intimate interviews, TIJUANA, NADA MAS reveals the life and the perception of the world of children for whom the streets of Tijuana embody a home and a mother. Structured in three chapters with a chronological arc, this short documentary gives voice to two teenagers as one of them attempts to transform his life and the second one bears with "the hand he has been dealt with".

TIJUANA, NADA MAS takes us into a world drawn by the eyes of children who easily cross the porous US/ Mexican border while certain boundaries in their own lives remain impassable - exclusion, poverty and an uncertain future are the highest fences that emerge from the iron wall that surrounds them. As these invisible borders are revealed, this film aims to prompt the viewer to ask new questions on a controversial issue. How can you cross a border that exists beneath the surface? Is there really an "other side"?



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## FESTIVALS AND RECOGNITIONS

- IFP/ Fledgling Fund - Emerging Latino Filmmaker Award (Independent Film Week).
- Student Academy Awards Finalist.
- David L. Wolper Best Student Doc Award nominee. International Documentary Association.
- "We believe in you" Award. Tides Fund / Chicken & Egg Pictures.
- National Board of the Review – Grant awardee.
- Los Angeles International Short Film Festival.
- Corto Circuito International Film Festival.
- Angelus International Film Festival - semifinalist.
- Independent Film Week, "Spotlight In Documentaries" Selection.
- Academy of Motion Pictures Theater. Lighthouse International.
- Cinema Cum Laude – Jacob Burns Film Center.

## SUPPORTERS

This short film has also received grants and support from:

NEW YORK WOMEN IN FILM AND TELEVISION  
LA CAIXA FOUNDATION  
PUBLIC MEDIA  
APERSTEIN FOUNDATION  
CITY COLLEGE OF NEW YORK (CUNY)

## CREDITS

YOLANDA PIVIDAL  
Director, producer and writer

SARA BOOTH  
Editor

CARMEN VIDAL  
Cinematographer

MASOOD HAQUE  
Co-producer

ERIC JOHANSEN  
Associated Producer

CARLOS CENTENO  
CARLOS SUAREZ  
Production Assistants

PEDRO H. DA SILVA  
LA KERMES  
Original Score

RUY GARCIA  
Sound Designer / Re-recording Mixer

CHELSEA CARDINAL  
Graphics Designer



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