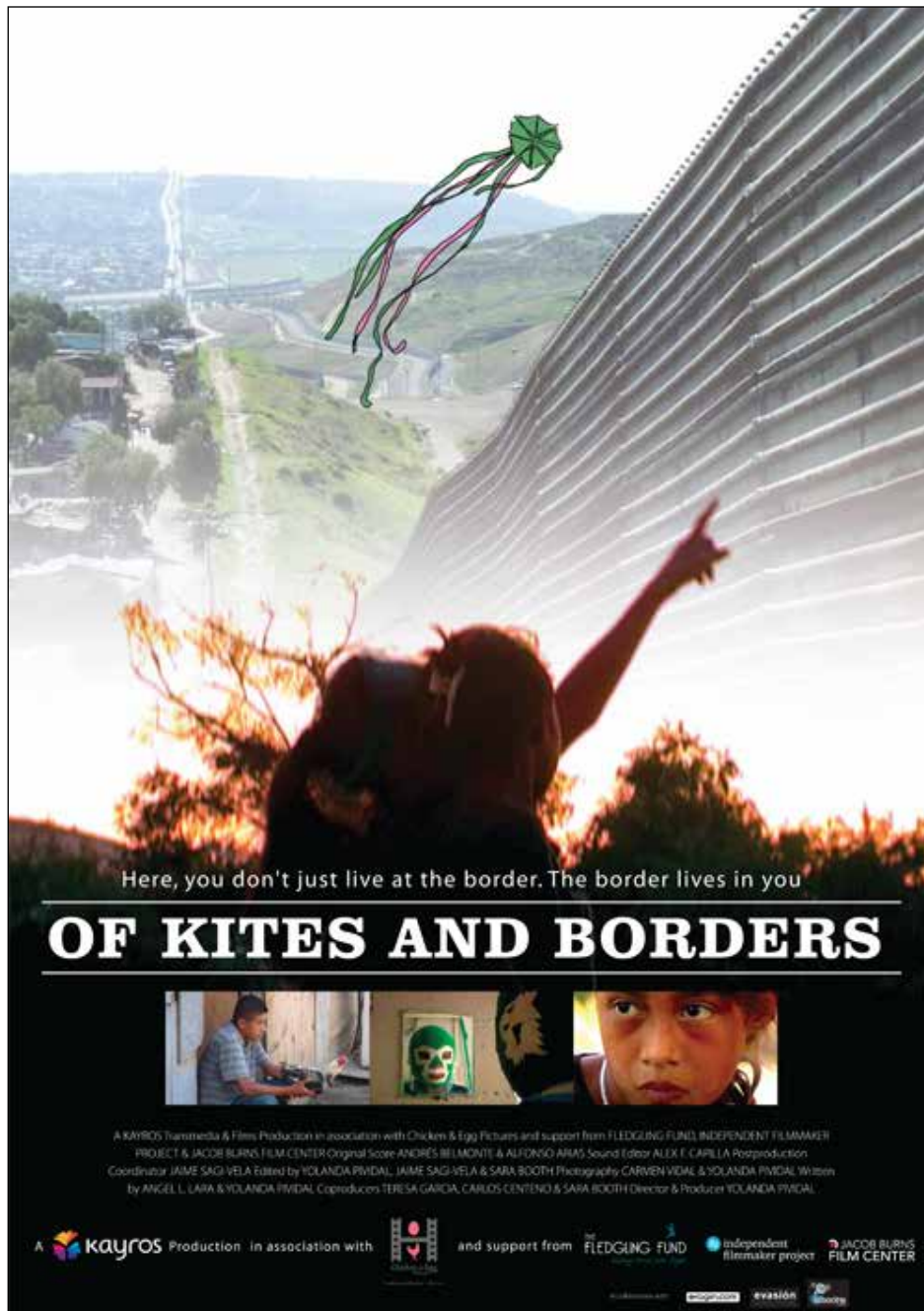


“...A unique and essential film to understand how borders
affect people’s lives...”

Colegio de la Frontera Norte (COLEF, Mexico)



Third World Newsreel
545 8th Ave, Suite 550, New York, NY 10018
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OF KITES AND BORDERS

A FILM BY YOLANDA PIVIDAL

OF KITES AND BORDERS tells the story of the daily struggle to be a child living on the US-Mexico border through the eyes of four working children in the city of Tijuana. Edie is a teen who smuggles immigrants into the United States while promising himself that he will never get worn-out working in the maquilas (assembly plants). Carmela is a nine-year old who knows more about work in the city's dumps than about fairy tales, yet every day at sunset she dreams of a better life while watching the kites that fly over her slum. Lastly, brothers Adrián and Fernando don masks to conceal their youth and perform wrestling matches at busy intersections in order to support their family – all the while dreaming of traveling the world as famous Mexican luchadores.

(2013, 58 min, US/Mexico/Spain, Spanish with English Subtitles)

AWARDS

Best Documentary, Havana Film Festival in New York

Best Documentary, San Diego Film Festival

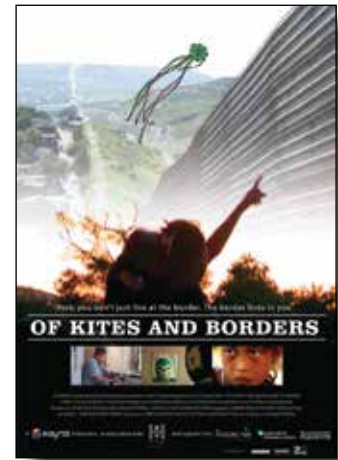
Best Mexican Feature, DocsDF



Yolanda Pividal is a Spanish documentary filmmaker, multimedia journalist and TV producer based in New York since 2005. She has been awarded four New York Emmy Awards as a producer and editor of short documentaries for the CUNY TV cultural show *Nueva York*. Her work as an independent filmmaker, mainly focused on the exploration of the immigrant condition in the big city and life at the border, has received awards and recognition from IFP/Fledgling Fund (Emerging Latino Filmmaker Award), the International Documentary Association (IDA Award Nominee), the Academy of Motion Pictures (Student Academy Awards Finalist), New York State Council of Arts, and National Board of the Review, among others. OF KITES AND BORDERS is her first feature-length documentary and has been awarded Best Documentary Film at the Havana Film Festival in New York, the San Diego Film Festival, and Docs DF International Documentary Film Festival of Mexico City. Yolanda currently teaches documentary filmmaking and develops new programs of collective storytelling and visual literacy at the Jacob Burns Film Center.

ALSO BY YOLANDA PIVIDAL:

Two Dollar Dance, Tijuana Nada Más



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COLEGIO DE LA FRONTERA

NORTE (COLEF, MEXICO)

EDUCATIONAL RELEASE: Jan 2015
DVD & Digital File Combo: \$300

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OF KITES AND BORDERS

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Six years ago, I was working on an essay about people who had been deported from the USA and had crossed the desert to rejoin their families in America. During my research, I met a man who had recently crossed the border guided by two little boys. Picturing children leading adults in this journey deeply impressed me. The idea of finding those “niños pollero” that risk their young lives drove me to Tijuana for the first time. After numerous trips to the area, three essays, and two short films on the subject (PROMISED LAND, 2006; TIJUANA NADA MÁS, 2008) I became passionate about this city and its people. Far from being passive victims of violence, misery and abuse, the children I found in Tijuana were people who draw upon their dreams and imagination to break free of the borders, both visible and invisible that confine their daily existence. Edie, Carmela, Fernando and Adrián embody the story I wanted to tell: a story about children who are like fighting cocks that never give up; like Mexican wrestlers who know how to fall; like *papalotes*, or kites, that ride the wind and fly far away. As I worked with them, I also came to realize that the city in which they live is not a “border city” but a “border turned into a city”. The border exists as more than just a solid concrete wall- it is something you feel, speak, and breathe. As somebody once said to me: “Here, you don't just inhabit the border, the border lives in you.”

As the U.S. Administration faces increased pressure on Immigration Reform, the controversial issue of border control receives continuous coverage in the mainstream media. OF KITES AND BORDERS is a story of hope, struggle, and survival that digs behind newspapers' headlines to explore life on the other side of the wall and the underlying context of immigration.

I made this documentary not just because of my passion for storytelling but also because of my wish to offer the rarely seen perspective of those children that the border inhabits - a perspective that invites viewers to rethink the concept of “border” and “otherness.” We often find stories about people crossing borders, but where are the stories on how borders cross people's lives?

OF KITES AND BORDERS

AWARDS

Best Documentary, Havana Film Festival in New York

Best Documentary, San Diego Film Festival

Best Mexican Feature, DocsDF

SCREENINGS

Beloit International Film Festival

International Documentary Film Festival Miradasdoc, Tenerife, Spain

Humans Rights International Film Festival of Valencia, Spain

Cine Migrante, International Film Festival of Buenos Aires

Lakino, Latin American Film Festival of Berlin

New Orleans Film Festival

Cine Invisible International Film Festival of Bilbao, Spain

The Documentary Forum, New York

San Francisco DocFest

Havana Film Festival in New York

Malaga Film Festival, Spain

Ashland Independent Film Festival, Oregon

International Film Festival of the Dessert, Mexico

New Latin American Cinema Festival 2013, Havana

International Doc Film Festival of Mexico City, DocsDF

San Diego International Film Festival

Available Formats: DVD & BluRay

OF KITES AND BORDERS

CREDITS & TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Director & Writer & Producer YOLANDA PIVIDAL

Co-Writer- ANGEL LUIS LARA

Co- Producers - TERESA GARCIA, CARLOS CENTENO & SARA BOOTH

Photography - CARMEN VIDAL & YOLANDA PIVIDAL

Live Sound- ABRAHAM AVILA

Editors - YOLANDA PIVIDAL, SARA BOOTH & JAIME SAGI-VELA,

Postproduction Coordinator - JAIME SAGI-VELA

Original Score - ALFONSO ARIAS & ANDRES BELMONTE

Sound Editor - ALEX F. CAPILLA

Conforming & Colorist - DIEGO PANICH

Artwork Designer- MARTIN ETXAURI

Genre: Documentary

TRT: 58 minutes

Language: Spanish with English subtitles

September 2013

United States / México / Spain

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