

MONICA WISE ROBLES

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About Me

I'm a bilingual filmmaker born in California to a farmer and an artist who immigrated from Medellín, Colombia. My work focuses on elevating the voices of women seeking justice and also explores themes including food & culture, land rights, climate change and migration. I am an Emmy and Premio Gabo Winner, [IWWMF](#) fellow, a Ford Foundation and Sundance Institute grantee, and a UC Berkeley Investigative Reporting Program Associate. I have produced from Haiti, Cuba, Costa Rica, Chile, Bolivia, Peru, Colombia, Guatemala, Brazil and El Salvador. I have more faith in old stories and believe in collaboration over documentation. I am an active member of the Video Consortium Mexico Chapter and Brown Girls Doc Mafia.

Fellowships & Grants

Ford Foundation, Women in Film Finishing Fund, Swift Foundation Grantee 2019
Sundance Institute/Guardian Documentaries Short Film Fund Grantee 2018
Camden International Film Festival Points North Editing Residency 2018
Berkeley's Investigative Reporting Program, IRP Associate 2018
International Women's Media Foundation Adelante Fellow & Grantee 2017, 2018
Take the Lead's #50WomenCan in Film and Media 2018
Center for Independent Documentary, Kopkind Film Retreat 2015

Education

SARAH LAWRENCE COLLEGE | B.A. in Liberal Arts | New York | May 2012 | Concentrations: Film and Latin American Studies

Languages

Fluent — English, Spanish | Beginner — Portuguese

Documentary Director and Cinematography Credits

Lupita. Award-winning short documentary for the [Guardian Documentaries](#). Director, Co-Producer, DP.

Premieres: Ambulante, Sheffield Doc/Fest, Doc NYC.

What We Leave Behind. Cinematographer on Sundance, Ford supported feature documentary directed by Iliana Sosa. 2018 - 2020. **SXSW 2022** 2x award winner. Array and [Netflix](#) distribution. **2022 Gotham Awards Best Documentary Nominee** and **NYT Critics Pick**.

Niñas: Somos El Fuego. Co-Director/Producer & Cinematographer/Editor. **Premio GABO 2022 Winner** as part of **No Fue El Fuego** Multimedia Project.

Netflix: The TRIALS OF GABRIEL FERNANDEZ. Luminant Media for Netflix. Cinematographer for the docuseries, Texas and San Salvador, 2018.

Vena Aquatica, DP on documentary in production in El Salvador by Amada Tourella, 2018- current.

Voladoras. DP on documentary in production in Mexico by Talena Sanders, 2020-2021.

Traces of Home Mexico DP on feature documentary in post-production in by Colette Ghunim, 2020-2023.

THE LAST PARTERA. Independent Feature Documentary, Field Producer and Cinematographer. <https://www.thelastpartera.com>, 2017. In post.

JAZZ DAY 2017. UNESCO, The Thelonious Monk Institute, Hudson River Films. Havana, Cuba, 2017.

FROM SELMA TO STONEWALL: ARE WE THERE YET? | Truth in Progress, 2016

Video Journalism Work

VOA News: [Sun and Thunder](#) | Colombian Cannabis Farms' Game Changer. Co-Producer, Cinematographer. 2023.

UNEP | Tapi Story | Restore: [How Central America is fighting drought with nature](#) | Climate crisis and solutions northern triangle. El Salvador, 2023.

VICE: [Después de la Tormenta](#) // After the Flood. Camera Operator. 2022 **EMMY Winner**.

BBC Reel: [The Maya world untouched for centuries](#). Field Producer, Cinematographer, Co-editor. 3 part series. Guatemala, 2019-2020. (2021 Lowell Thomas [Travel Journalism Competition](#), Video on Travel Silver Award.)

NYT Style Magazine. T Magazine: Filmed and directed this short home tour video for the with Dirk-Jan Kinet. August 2020.

Washington Post Video in the multimedia spread "Mexico Disappeared" Field Producer/Camera Operator, Coahuila, Mexico, March 2020.

PBS Newshour: The Arts in Mexico, including Yalitza Aparicio. Camera Operator, Mexico City, February 2020.

Buisness Insider, Palm Oil investigation. Field Producer/Camera Operator, Guatemala, Summer 2019.

Nómada: [Niñas del Hogar Seguro](#). Co-Producer/Director, Cinematographer, Editor. Supported by [IWWMF's Adelante Initiative](#). March 2020.

Financial Times: [Mexico's migrant crackdown](#). Camera Operator, Guatemala/Mexico border, December 2019.

BBC Travel: [Colombia's indomitable 'horse whisperer.'](#) Director/Producer, Cinematographer. Colombia, May 2019.

Columbia Journalism Review, [Marcela Turati Mexican Investigative Journalist Profile](#), Field Producer, Cinematographer. Sinaloa, Mexico. July 2019.

The Guardian: [La Caravana](#). On the Road with the Migrant Caravan. Director, Producer, Cinematographer. Chiapas, Mexico 2018.

The Intercept: [New Limits on Asylum](#) for Domestic Violence Cases Are Devastating for Guatemalan Women. Director, Producer, DP. Guatemala, 2018.

The Guardian: [Dead or imprisoned for having an abortion](#): fighting El Salvador's brutal laws. Field Producer, Cinematographer. El Salvador, 2018.

The Atlantic: [UNA MALA HIERBA](#): A migrant farmworkers words for Trump. Director, Cinematographer. 2017.

OZY.com: [Creating a Safe Space for Women in Mexico City](#). Director, Producer, Editor and Cinematographer, Mexico, 2017.

AJ+ [Deportados Unidos En La Lucha](#). Producer and Cinematographer, 2017.

NBC LATINO: [HUMANIZING AMERICA: STANDING ROCK](#), The Futuro Media Group, Producer and Cinematographer, 2016.

PBS: [AMERICA BY THE NUMBERS: THE NEW DECIDERS](#), The Futuro Media Group, Associate Producer and Cinematographer, 2016.

TeleSUR: Produced five videos from [Standing Rock, ND](#) for *TeleSUR EN web channels* and Spanish TV, 2017.

HISTORY NOW: Soil Haiti Videographer, 2015.

Production Experience

ASSOCIATE PRODUCER | Structure Films | Adelante! Luis Valdez Documentary for PBS | California | October 2023

Associate Producer for the first main shoot for Adelante!, a LPB supported Documentary on Farmworker activist, playwright and director Luis Valdez, Directed by David Alvarado.

SEGMENT DIRECTOR/FIELD PRODUCER | Doc Labs Beijing | Mexico, Bolivia, Peru | 2021-2022

Scouted/investigated and field directed/produced four episodes for "[Grain Planet](#)," Season 4 of hit Chinese culinary documentary series "Once Upon A Bite" in various rural towns in Mexico, Peru, and Bolivia. Available on We.tv.

DIRECTOR/PRODUCER | [Lupita](#). Que Retiemble La Tierra | Short [documentary on the Guardian Documentaries](#) | 2017 - 2020

A portrait of a Tostil Maya activist and massacre survivor, premiered with the Ambulante festival in Mexico and internationally with Sheffield Doc/Fest in 2020.

This work received awards and special mentions with DOQUUMENTA MX, the Washington Film Festival, Lebanese Independent Film Festival, and Women's Voices Now festival.

DIRECTOR/CO-PRODUCER/DP/EDITOR | [Niñas / Somos El Fuego](#) | Short independent documentary on [Agencia Ocote](#) Multimedia Project | 2017 - 2021.

[Premio Gabo 2022 Winner](#).

FIELD PRODUCER | 20 Años LLC | CDMX, Mexico | 2017

Field Produced the first shoot of Hugo Perez's "The Last Diva" in Mexico City, a feature documentary about Omara Portuondo for Hugo Perez. Premiered at Doc NYC 2021.

ASSOCIATE PRODUCER | LUCKY 8TV | New York, NY | 2018

Field produced and assisted story producer on an A&E docuseries with Spanish speaking population at an Arizona jail.

ASSOCIATE PRODUCER | Part2Pictures | Brooklyn, NY | Fall 2016 - Winter 2017

AP on "The Story of Cool," a three-part series for MSNBC airing early 2017. Researched and booked talent. Produced verité and interview studio shoots, post-production.

ASSOCIATE PRODUCER AND CINEMATOGRAPHER | The Futuro Media Group | New York, NY | 2016

Assisted in the pre-production, production, and post-production of "The New Deciders," an hour-long PBS special investigating the changing face of the US electorate. This included: booking crew, locations, permits, financials, reserving and preparing gear, field producing, research, fact-checking, finding and licensing archival, assistant editing, creating publicity photos, and providing PBS and WGBH with deliverables for air. Second camera on all shoots, only cameraperson on some. Was also a Shooter/Producer for the "Humanizing America" Webseries.

ASSOCIATE PRODUCER & PRODUCTION COORDINATOR | Skylight Pictures | Brooklyn, NY | 2012 to 2014

Coordinated key activities in pre and post-production, outreach and engagement for a small independent documentary production company led by Pamela Yates and Paco de Onis, headed up social media campaigns and educational resources to accompany the films. Produced a teaching documentary explaining the legal intricacies in the Ríos Montt Guatemalan genocide trial, as well as assisting in the pre-production of *500 Years*, the third feature documentary in the Skylight series on Mayan resistance and justice in Guatemala, which premiered at Sundance 2017. Managed DVD distribution and sales, crew payments, helped to design and curate companion materials for classroom use, coordinated filmmakers' academic screening tours, prepared scripts for the native language versions of the Emmy nominated *Granito: How to Nail a Dictator* (Sundance Official Selection), managed film festival, iTunes, grant deliverables.