



**Locarno Film Festival**

# **República Dominicana** **at Locarno Film Festival**

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Who is Who

More information



## Cristian Mojica

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Dominican screenwriter and producer, co-founder of the collective/production company *Mentes Fritas Producciones*. With over 10 feature films produced, notable works include "La Bachata de Bionico" (Winner of the Audience Award SXSW 2024), "Rafaela" (winner of *Primera Mirada*), "El Día de la Tormenta," "Fragancia Tropical," where he also serves as a screenwriter. Other projects such as "La Soga 3," "BantuMama," "La Familia Reyna" have had significant journeys in festivals and platforms.

*Match Me*

## Nidsbelle Guzmán

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Actress, screenwriter, and producer based in the Caribbean, Dominican Republic. Master's degree in Microfinance and Social Development from the University of Alcalá de Henares. Master's degree in Film Production from the Instituto de Cine de Madrid. Currently in the final stages of development for "Después de la Niebla," a project that won the FONPROCINE Public Fund 2021 and IBERMEDIA co-development category 2023. Also involved in the development of the documentary "Negro," a project participating in *Miradas Afro 2024*. Since 2023, she has taken documentary filmmaking workshops with Carles Bosch at the Centro Cultural de España and Production Accounting with Martin Cook and NFTS. Participated in the Creative Production Workshop in the Caribbean EURODOC 2023 and is part of the annual EURODOC24 and BIPOC EURODOC programs.

*Match Me*

## Juliano Kunert

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Dominican-German filmmaker producing under the label *Toro Negro Cine*, an art-house boutique founded in 2023 and based in the Dominican Republic, focused on exploring new narratives and creating spaces for ethnographic Caribbean cinema. Throughout his career, he has worked as Assistant Director on more than 20 feature films, including "Pepe," which won the Silver Bear for Best Director at the 74th Berlinale for Nelson Carlo de los Santos Arias. Recently, he played the lead role in the new film by directors Laura Amelia Guzmán and Israel Cárdenas, "Interior Apartment Day." With "Maguana Racing," his first feature film in development, he has been selected for the prestigious Locarno Festival Residency, *Recién Paridos* (AECID, Ibermedia, UNESCO ACERCA), *Extremadura Film Residency* (NextGenerationEU), and the Co-production Event in the Industry Zone of the Ibero-American Film Festival of Huelva.

*Locarno Residency*

## Olivia De Camps

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### *Open Doors Screenings*

Olivia De Camps is a writer-director based in New York with a BFA in Film and Television from NYU Tisch. Merging fiction and documentary, her work explores the beauty and complexities of women in Latin America and the Caribbean—often unheard and seldom explored in cinema. Olivia's debut short film, CHICO VIRTUAL, starring Jaden Michael, has been screened in numerous festivals and was acquired by HBO/Max.

Olivia has directed music videos for several artists such as Yuna, Chicocurlyhead, Maria Isabel and Rodney Chrome. She has also served as a creative director for Vogue's first Virtual Runway and has been working on fashion spots for brands such as Kim Shui and RUIBuilt.

Her debut feature film, shooting in the Dominican Republic, is currently in development.

## Iván de Lara

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### *Open Doors Projects Hub*

A graduate in Cinematography, with a focus on Lighting and Camera, from the Foundation University of Cinema (FUC) in Buenos Aires, Argentina. His debut as a director, the non-fiction feature film Morena(s), co-directed with Victoria Apolinario, is currently in the distribution stage. Morena(s) participated in the Work in Progress Documentary of the MAFIZ Industry Zone at the Málaga Film Festival in 2020, in the official competition selection at FIDBA 9 2021-2022, in the Official Opera Prima Documentary Competition at the Santo Domingo Global Film Festival, won the Best Documentary Feature award at the New York Latino Film Festival 2022, and was nominated for Best Documentary at the La Silla Awards 2022. After its festival circuit, Morena(s) had its national cinema release on January 18, 2024.

Iván has begun the development stage of his second documentary feature titled Negro, which has been selected for the annual Eurodoc 24 program and the MiradasDoc, MiradasAfro project incubator. He is also developing his first fiction feature, A Funeral for Lola, which was selected to be part of the Open Doors Project Hub program at this year's Locarno Film Festival.

Iván is committed to building a career in which he shares moving personal stories that also reflect the complexities and issues of the society and city in which he was born, through the creation and promotion of a national film industry that is not afraid to make social and political statements.

## José María Pimentel

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### *Open Doors Projects Hub*

Two years into his bachelor's degree in business, José María began working at Centro León, an important cultural center in his hometown. There, he gained experience in cultural projects that led him to a career in the film industry. His thesis, titled "Market Analysis of the Dominican Film Industry based on Law 108-10," explored the country's growth in producing national films and providing production services since the law's implementation.

After working in numerous local films in the production department, he had the opportunity to enter the market of international productions that choose the Dominican Republic as their main location. He worked on films like Paramount's "The Lost City of D" (2021), Netflix Korea's "Narco-Saints" (2021), and ABC-Disney's "Saint-X" (2022).

Following these experiences, he met Francisco Valdez, an experienced local director and director of photography. This partnership resulted in José María's debut as a producer in the film "El Trayecto." Currently, the production is in the distribution stage and expects a national theatrical release in 2024.

Subsequently, he worked as a co-producer and location manager on the feature film "Bajo el Mismo Sol," the second movie by Ulises Porra and Ulla Prida, creators of "Carajita" (2021). "Bajo el Mismo Sol" was part of San Sebastian's Europe-Latin America Co-production Forum. Currently, he is producing his second feature film titled "A Marte." Additionally, he is part of the Project Hub program at the Locarno Festival with the project "Un Funeral Para Lola." José María looks forward to new productions; the Dominican Republic is full of great storytellers and compelling stories that need to be shared with the world.

## Yoel Morales

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### *Open Doors Screenings*

Dominican director, part of the Mentas Fritas collective, whose work includes the feature films "AZUL MAGIA" and "LA BACHATA DE BIÓNICO," winner of the Global Audience Award at SXSW 2024 and Official Selection at the Locarno Film Festival.

## Tomás Pichardo

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### Concorso Cineasti del Presente

Storyteller from the Dominican Republic. Working primarily on animation, film and illustration. He was granted a full year scholarship at Fabrice Benetton's Design Research Center, in Treviso, Italy in 2013, where he worked on film & video. Tomás received his BFA in Animation at Parsons, The New School of Design in 2010. And his AA degree in Fine Arts, at Altos de Chavón, in 2008.

An alumni of Berlinale Talents, Talents Guadalajara and Pictoplasma Academy, Pichardo's work has hints of magic realism. Evoking the colorful, surreal and sometimes disorienting experience of growing up in the Caribbean. His world is personal and intimate, with characters full of colors and textures, drawn into situations outside of their comfort zone. His animations has been screened at the Annecy Animation Film Festival (France), Quirino Awards (Tenerife), Havana Film Festival (Cuba) and Pictoplasma Film Festival (Berlin), among others.

## Amelia Del Mar Hernández

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### Concorso Cineasti del Presente

Producer, scriptwriter and teacher, graduated from the International Film and Tv School in Cuba, Eictv. Writer and producer of "El hombre que cuida" (2017), winner of the Yellow Robin Award at Curacao IFFR, Bright Future selection at Rotterdam IFF. Line Producer for "Liborio" and other Dominican features. Producer and script doctor of "Olivia & Las Nubes". Owner of HISTORIAS DE BIBI, a boutique production company that focus on scriptwriting and script consulting, project development and coproductions.

## Fernando Santos

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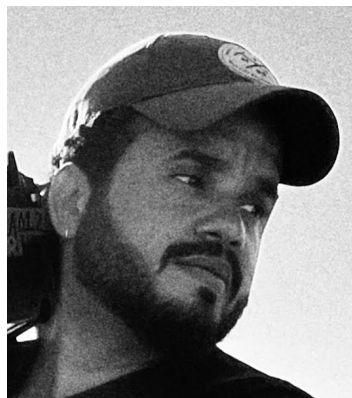
### Concorso Cineasti del Presente

Producer of COCOTE, winner of the Golden Leopard at its world premiere in Locarno; LIBORIO, with premiere at Tiger Competition of Rotterdam IFF; and the documentary Santo Domingo Waltz, with its world premiere and winner of best Ibero-American documentary in Guadalajara.

In 2024 will compete with the animation Olivia & the Clouds by Tomás Pichardo at Concorso Cineasti del presente of Locarno and with Sugar Island by Johanné Gómez Terrero at Venice Days.

## Alexander Viola

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## Patricia Pepén

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## Manuel Raposo

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### *Open Doors Screenings*

Alexander Viola is a director, screenwriter, and director of photography, co-founder of the collective/production company *Mentes Fritas Producciones*. He was the director of photography and producer of "La Bachata de Biónico" (winner of the Audience Award at SXSW 2024). He is currently in the distribution phase of his first fiction feature film, "El día de la Tormenta," a movie in which he explores psychological horror and mystery. He has also directed the documentary "Fragancia Tropical," which is in post-production and addresses the topic of Dominican migration to Chile.

### *Open Doors Screenings*

Patricia Pepén is a Dominican director who graduated from PUCMM, New York Film Academy, and the Escola Superior de Cinema i Audiovisuals de Catalunya ESCAC in Barcelona. She is part of the *Mentes Fritas* collective. She has taught in the film program at the Instituto Tecnológico de Santo Domingo (INTEC) and has made music videos and short films such as "Esas Caras Otra Vez" and "Queen de tu Corazón," which have been selected at international festivals like Girona Film Fest, Trinidad and Tobago International Film Fest, Brisbane International Film Fest, among others. She is currently working on the post-production of her latest short film "Abracabrona" and is developing her first feature film.

Actor and lawyer. He began his studies in the children's Fine Arts workshops and received three years of specialised technical training at the National School of Dramatic Arts in the Dominican Republic. From 2000 to 2005, he was an actor at the Cocuyo Theater; from 2005 to date, he has worked as an actor at the National Theater Company.

His versatility is evident in his extensive portfolio, which includes more than 50 plays presented nationally and internationally, such as *Rosa*, *Yago*, and *Roberto Suco*. In addition to his stage work, he has lent his talent to radio commercials, TV series, and programs, as well as more than 20 films, short films, and feature films, such as *Rafaela*, *Carpinteros*, *Rubirosa*, *Mis Quinientos Locos*, and *Freddy*.

In 2012, his talent was recognised with the prestigious National Youth Award. His international acclaim continued to grow, leading to his first nomination for the Platino Awards in 2023. His performance in the film *Rafaela* earned him a nomination for the Soberano Awards as the best film actor in 2022, and he clinched the award for best actor at Premios La Silla in 2023.