



**POLAND**  
BEST FEATURE FILM  
GOLDEN GOAT  
ALE KINO



**ST.PETERSBURG**  
BEST DIRECTOR  
BEST SOUND DESIGN  
SPB BEGINNING



**MUMBAI**  
CRITICS JURY AWARD  
MAMI IFF



# LA VOZ DE LOS SILENCIADOS

THE VOICE OF THE VOICELESS

A silent film by Maximón Monihan

## SYNOPSIS

LA VOZ DE LOS SILENCIADOS is a magical-neo-realist, modern day silent film. It takes us inside the mind and heartbreak of Olga, a deaf teenager brought from Latin America to New York City, under the false promise of attending a “Christian Sign Language School”. Upon arrival we enter a world of immigrant trafficking, and life is turned upside-down as she’s enslaved by an international criminal ring. Forced to beg on the subway, Olga uses courage, cunning, and even humor, to face an unimaginable nightmare-on-loop that ravages the audience.

This film is based on actual events that transpired in New York City.











## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

For years I had been noticing deaf people on the subway selling trinkets. In a New York overloaded with in-your-face, aggressive panhandling as performance art, my interactions with the deaf trinket-peddlers were eye-raising moments. The person would put the trinket down next to you, and trust that by the time they returned from the other end of the train, you had read the card– the one that said, “I am deaf. Selling this for \$1 to pay for my education. Please help. God bless you.” By then, you would have decided whether to offer a dollar, or ignore them. Unlike other panhandlers, the trinket sellers did not look people in the eye, and consciously made it a point to avoid invading anyone’s personal space.

In 1997, the NYPD uncovered what was really going on behind this illicit operation, and it became public knowledge that the trinket peddlers were slaves to an international crime syndicate. They had been lured to the US under false pretenses, and forced to do this demoralizing, repetitive work. They were all indeed deaf, but that was the only part of their routine that was factual. Modern day slavery, taking place in the largest city of the ‘land of the free’– right in front of us, and nobody recognized it.

I read about this in the newspapers and became obsessed with telling this story to the public. The news came and went in one busy week– people moved on, I didn’t. I kept coming back to the story, consumed with sharing what I believe is the perfect allegory for human greed. A decade later, we shot the film that is now in front of you.

I wanted to make something challenging and cinematically unique. Of course silent films are the oldest form. But I wanted to do a modern silent, not a pastiche or homage to the golden era, and not as a gimmick to signify deafness. LA VOZ is a fully integrated silent movie, with a vibratory, low frequency sound design that puts the audience into Olga’s headspace. Telling this story, in her language, was the driving force behind LA VOZ.











## PRESS QUOTES

**Wields exceptional aptitude on formal and stylistic levels. "Voice of the Voiceless" is a revelation.**

~ Twitch Film

**This film is a knockout. It shows my city in a way I had never seen before.**

~ Abel Ferrera

**A black and white masterpiece.**

~ The Irish Times

**A wonderful film, a 'golpe' as you say in Spanish. And Janeva is magnificent.**

~ Mahamet-Saleh Haroun

**I've never identified with a protagonist so much because of a filming technique.**

~ Alan Travers

**"Quite originally suggests Czech surreal filmmaking from decades ago."**

~ Northwest Film Forum

**Janeva Calderón Zentz with her big, big eyes and her clown-like fragility brings to the screen a mix of Charlot and Giulietta Massina.**

~ Transilvania IFF

**A monumental debut.**

~ Berlin Film Journal

**It's like Chaplin meets Eraserhead. Go.**

~ GQ Magazine

**A film that shows rather than tells... opens our eyes to an unknown world and speaks volumes.**

~ TV Bomb Glasgow







## CAST

Olga  
Henchman #1  
Boss Lady  
Sad Boy  
Henchman #2  
Henchman #3  
Olga's Brother  
'Christian' Woman  
'Christian' Man  
Young Man with a Crush

Janeva Adena Calderón Zentz  
Ricky Powell  
Pamela Guthrie  
Kevin Tamayo  
Señor Muerto  
TOC  
Vicente Carach  
Gillian McKenzie  
Gerardo Masis  
Osvaldo Maciel

## CREW

Writer, Director:  
Producer:  
Cinematographers:  
Lighting Director:  
Assistant Director:  
Art Director:  
Editor:  
Sound Design:  
Make-Up, Hair & Special Effects:  
Title Design:  
Visual Effects:

Maximón Monihan  
Sheena Matheiken  
Miana Juanita Grafals and José Galleta  
Jesus H. Garrett III  
Andrés Prokopenko  
Janeva Adena Calderón Zentz  
Miguel Sobo  
Miguel Coffman  
Señor Muerto  
José 'Pepe' Newton  
Marcelo Z, Erica Perez, Danilo De Gloria,  
Gap Yossanun Sangpattharamatee,  
Rico Drake  
Nicolita 'LeeLee' Monihan, Sancho  
Denton, Yoshiko Mori, Héctor 'Flaco'  
Concepción, Deniella Rosa  
Phofo  
Samuel Rohn  
Kristiano Sorge, Aldofo 'Rony' Mejia  
Bricolagista!

Production Assistants:

Musical Supervisor:  
Location Manager:  
Casting:  
Production Company:







FESTIVALS

	<p><b>POLAND</b></p> <p>BEST FEATURE FILM GOLDEN GOAT ALE KINO</p>			<p><b>ST.PETERSBURG</b></p> <p>BEST DIRECTOR BEST SOUND DESIGN SPB BEGINNING</p>			<p><b>MUMBAI</b></p> <p>CRITICS JURY AWARD MAMI IFF</p>			<p><b>THESSALONIKI</b></p> <p>OFFICIAL SELECTION TIFF</p>	
	<p><b>ISTANBUL</b></p> <p>IN COMPETITION IKSV</p>			<p><b>CLUJ</b></p> <p>IN COMPETITION Transilvania IFF</p>			<p><b>GLASGOW</b></p> <p>OFFICIAL SELECTION GFF</p>			<p><b>GÖTEBORG</b></p> <p>OFFICIAL SELECTION GIFF</p>	
	<p><b>GALWAY</b></p> <p>OFFICIAL SELECTION Galway Fleadh</p>			<p><b>TEHRAN</b></p> <p>OFFICIAL SELECTION Fajr IFF</p>			<p><b>KERALA</b></p> <p>OFFICIAL SELECTION IFFK</p>			<p><b>MUMBAI</b></p> <p>OFFICIAL SELECTION SGIFF</p>	



## CAST BIOS



### JANEVA ADENA CALDERON ZENTZ

Olga

Janeva has been called ‘the Guatemalan Shelley Duvall’ for her striking features and scene stealing presence. She is a graduate of The Cooper Union in NYC where she studied Fine Arts and currently works in Los Angeles as a visual artist and performer for film and television. The role of ‘Olga’ was Janeva’s very first time acting on camera.



### PAMELA GUTHRIE

Boss Lady

Pamela Guthrie, originally from Great Britain, is an actor living and working in New York City. Besides performing in La Voz, she has been in episodes of The Sopranos, 30 Rock and Law and Order SVU. On weekends, Pamela runs marathons.



### RICKY POWELL

Henchman 1

Born and raised in New York City, Ricky Powell is a legendary photographer who specializes in the environmental portrait. Though Powell initially rose to fame because of his relationship with the Beastie Boys, he is well-known for his intimate photographs that have been featured in The New York Times, The New York Post, The Daily News, The Village Voice, TIME, Newsweek, VIBE, The Source, Rolling Stone, and more. He is also an all-around personality and a living, breathing hip-hop version of Oscar Madison.



## CAST BIOS



### MR. DEAD

Henchman 2

Mr. Dead (aka Señor Muerto) is an internationally acclaimed Hip Hop MC who has toured the world with Prince Paul, Handsome Boy Modeling School and his own group, Metabolics. He is also an accomplished character actor and special effects make-up artist (numerous Troma films, music videos, The Chris Elliot Show, etc.). Mr. Dead's greatest claim to fame is probably knowing more about Tom Savini than even Tom Savini knows about Tom Savini. He also collects snakes and old video game consoles.



### T.O.C

Henchman 3

T.O.C. is a DJ, Music Producer, truck driver and BBQ connoisseur. La Voz is his first role as an actor, although he did appear on Prince Paul's legendary "Ill-Out Show" on Sirius Satellite Radio, however playing himself. Currently he is performing as 'The Bartender' on Prince Paul's "All-Purpose Show", a variety show produced by Scion. He once met Lucy Liu on the street in Manhattan.

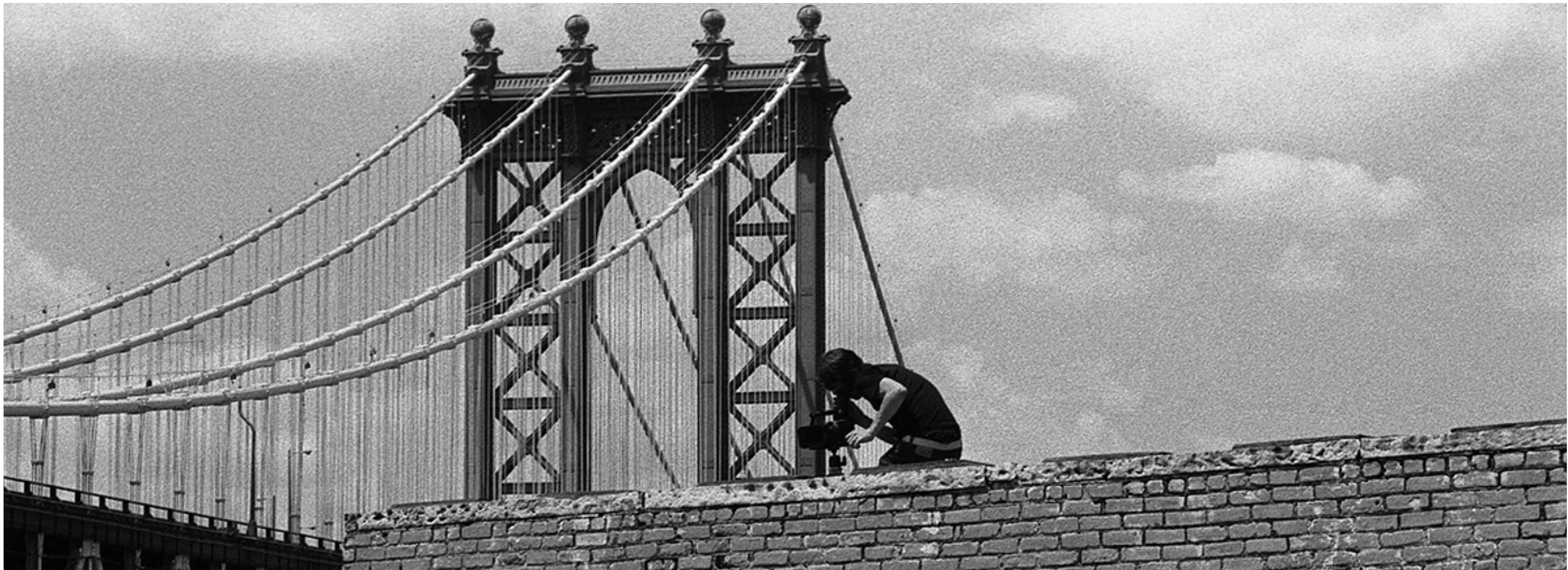


### RICKY POWELL

Sad Boy

Kevin Tamayo is a student from Brooklyn. He also works with his father's construction company where he is an incredible drywall installer. He spends his summers in Mexico visiting his grandmother, bird-watching and enjoying the outdoors. La Voz is his first time acting. He has since lost a lot of weight and grew 6 inches taller.





## TECHNICAL SPECS

### COUNTRIES OF PRODUCTION

Guatemala & USA

### RUNNING TIME

1:20:33 (80 min)

### CAMERA

Panasonic AG-HVX200P  
(Stock Lens)

### SCREENING FORMATS

DCP  
HD CAM  
BluRay  
DVD (PAL & NTSC)

### SOUND

5.1 Surround Dolby Digital LTRT

### ASPECT RATIO

1.78:1

### PRINT DETAILS

Black & White / Color24 FPS

### SUBTITLES

English  
Spanish  
French  
German  
Japanese  
Italian  
Turkish



Bricolagista! is a subterranean filmmaking collective based in Brooklyn, New York, run by the husband-wife creative duo, Maximón Monihan and Sheena Matheiken. Our aim is to create films that transcend borders, genre and industry convention. We create by any means necessary, utilizing whatever we can get our hands on, with the sole intention of reconciling paradox and confronting complacency.



**MAXIMÓN MONIHAN**

Writer & Director



**SHEENA MATHEIKEN**

Producer

Maximón Monihan was born and raised in Seattle, Washington, USA. As a teenager he was sponsored by the legendary H-Street skateboard team. He was featured in, and worked on, numerous landmark skate films, most notably 'Shackle Me Not' and 'Hokus Pokus'. During this time Monihan earned a degree in Philosophy from University of California, Santa Cruz while also traveling throughout Europe, Asia, Central America and Africa as a professional skateboarder. While not skateboarding, he worked as a roaming research assistant for his renowned academic mentors, Professors Angela Davis, Akasha Hull, Roberto Crespi, and Herman Gray. As his skateboard career came to a close, Monihan relocated to Brooklyn, New York to make films. He met his wife, Sheena Matheiken, in 2009 and they have since worked as filmmaking partners. In 2014, their production company Bricolagista! completed their first feature film, 'La Voz De Los Silenciados', which is also Monihan's directorial debut. 'La Voz' has played at over 30 international film festivals and has won numerous awards, including Best Film, Best Director, Best Sound and Critics Jury Prize. 'Sea to Shining Sea' is the Monihan's second feature film, scheduled to be completed in early 2017.

Sheena Matheiken is an Irish Born, Indian raised filmmaker and designer working across the broad realms of film, design and technology. Since arriving in New York City a decade and a half ago, Sheena has immersed herself in a wide spectrum of projects – from making post-war movies in the Balkans, instigating a globally acclaimed fashion movement, and producing Bricolagista's award-winning debut feature film, 'La Voz De Los Silenciados'. Most recently, Sheena was Chief Experience Officer at New Lab, an interdisciplinary space designed to support entrepreneurs working in emerging technologies. Prior to that, she was Creative Director at The Mill, a post-production house specializing in all forms of visual storytelling. In 2001, Sheena created 'Urbicide', a portrait of a post war city re-inhabited by its citizenry, shot in Sarajevo four years after the Serbian siege. In 2009, Sheena launched the globally acclaimed 'Uniform Project' whereby she pledged to wear the same dress for an entire year to raise funds for children's school uniforms in India's slums. The project went viral and raised over \$100k for charity. Following its success, she was honored as one of Elle Magazine's Women of the Year. Sheena now co-runs Bricolagista! with Monihan. She produced and edited their new feature, 'Sea to Shining Sea.'







**Bricolagista.com**

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