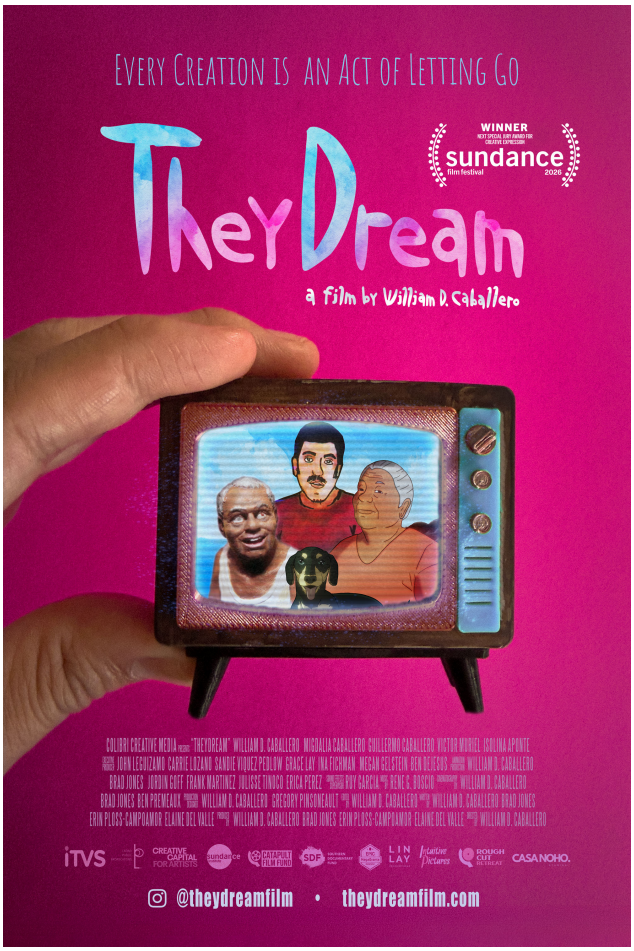
“TheyDream” Feature-Length Hybrid Animated Documentary by William D. Caballero

Winner of NEXT Special Jury Award for Creative Expression at 2026 Sundance Film Festival, Best Feature Documentary at 2026 New York Latino Film Festival, Best Feature Documentary (Documentary Achievement Award) at 2026 Miami Film Festival, Audience Award (Vox Populi) at 2026 Ann Arbor Film Festival, Best Feature Documentary at 2026 Zeitgeist Minnesota Film Festival, Audience Award at 2026 Charlotte Latino Film Festival, Special Jury Mention Documentary Feature at 2026 Atlanta Film Festival, Special Jury Mention at 2026 Milwaukee Film Festival, Audience Award at 2026 ImageOut Rochester LGBTQ+ Film Festival, Best Shout (LGBTQ+) Audience Award at 2026 Sidewalk Film Festival and Special Jury Mention for Best Feature at 2026 Los Angeles Latino International Film Festival.



IG @theydreamfilm	**FB:** @Theydreamfilm	**TT:** @colibricreativemedia	www.theydreamfilm.com
Language: English, Spanish	**Sound:** 5.1	**Aspect Ratio:** 1:78:1 (16x9)	**Frame Rate:** 24
Subtitles: English	**Closed Captions:** Yes	**Color:** XYZ	**DCP:** Flat

After twenty years chronicling his Puerto Rican family, a director and his mother face devastating losses. Through tears and laughter, they craft animations that bring their loved ones back to life, discovering that every act of creation is also an act of letting go.

The Sundance Film Festival officially selected ***TheyDream***, the groundbreaking feature-length hybrid animated documentary from award-winning filmmaker **William D. Caballero**, to world premiere in the festival's boldly innovative **NEXT** category. Supported by public media institutions including **ITVS** and **Latino Public Broadcasting**, the film merges live action, mixed-media animation, and vérité intimacy to examine how one Puerto Rican family confronts grief, memory, and healing through the act of creation.

FILM TRAILER

Watch here: LINK

ABOUT THE FILM

TheyDream is a deeply personal autobiographical documentary that traces how art can become a lifeline in the wake of loss. Drawing on two decades of mixed-media filmmaking, Caballero revisits his family's history in Fayetteville, North Carolina—interweaving new 2D and 3D animations with live-action vérité, archival materials, and raw, deeply human conversations with his mother.

Anchored in the death of his grandmother Isolina, the film follows Caballero's mother as she spirals into grief and self-blame for not being at her mother's side in her final moments. Rather than allowing her to retreat, Caballero hands her a camera and the tools of animation—inviting her to collaborate in bringing her mother back to life. Viewers witness her trembling first attempts to animate, the tears she sheds while performing in front of a green screen and recreating her mother's voicemails, and the unexpected reawakening of her artistic power.

The film also confronts Caballero's own unhealed wounds: from animated sequences featuring deceased relatives to a raw, emotional reckoning with his father about accepting his bisexuality. Tender, funny, vulnerable, and unvarnished, these moments reveal the fierce loyalty and imperfections of a Puerto Rican family navigating illness, identity, and generational trauma together.

Through a one-of-a-kind blend of miniature artistry, handcrafted figurines, digital rotoscoping, and full 3D motion capture, Caballero and his mother literally transform themselves into their ancestors—reanimating family stories with honesty, complexity, and profound love.

Ultimately, ***TheyDream*** becomes a cinematic act of survival: a testament to creative collaboration, intergenerational healing, and the ability of art to resurrect memory, restore connection, and guide families through the darkest grief toward light.



Meet the Director, William D. Caballero, Here: LINK

ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS

WILLIAM D. CABALLERO — Writer / Director / Producer / DP / Animator / Editor

William D. Caballero is a queer filmmaker of the Puerto Rican diaspora whose work blends animation, live action, and meticulously designed miniature worlds to uplift underrepresented voices. Born in the Brooklyn housing projects and raised in a trailer in his grandparents' backyard in Fayetteville, North Carolina, Caballero crafts formally innovative narratives that explore identity, memory, and Latino cultural experience with grounded human depth. His feature documentary *TheyDream* won the Special Jury Award for Creative Expression at the 2026 Sundance Film Festival, following the Sundance premieres of his acclaimed shorts *Victor and Isolina* and *Chilly & Milly*. He is also the creator of *Gran'pa Knows Best* for HBO. A 2001 Gates Millennium Scholar, 2017 Sundance New Voices Lab Fellow, 2018 Guggenheim Fellow, 2022 Creative Capital Awardee, 2022 Sundance Documentary Humanities Fellow, and 2024 Webby Award winner for Best Art Direction, Caballero has built a reputation for work that pairs handcrafted spectacle with emotionally rich storytelling — occupying the space between art-house innovation and mainstream accessibility.

BRAD JONES — Co-Writer / Producer / DP / 3D Animator

Brad is a Rochester-based filmmaker, producer, CG generalist, and animator whose work amplifies the stories of often-overlooked communities, sparking dialogue around vital social issues. His collaborative approach and multi-disciplinary skill set have contributed to projects recognized with a 2022 Sundance Film Festival premiere and a 2024 Webby Award for Best Art Direction. Committed to storytelling that brings diverse voices to the forefront, Brad pairs his artistic practice with service to his community, volunteering as both a firefighter and EMT.

ERIN PLOSS-CAMPOAMOR — Co-Writer / Producer

Erin Ploss-Campoamor is a filmmaker with over two decades of experience in documentary and narrative storytelling. She produced *Las Marthas* (PBS/Independent Lens), praised by The New York Times as “a striking alternative portrait of border-town life,” and *Dark Mirror* (IFC Films), called a “tour-de-force” by Variety. Her award-winning short *La Americanita* (The American Girl) is a deeply personal exploration of identity and belonging, drawn from her own experiences, growing up with a Cuban American stepfather.

ELAINE DEL VALLE — Co-Writer / Producer

Elaine Del Valle is an award-winning director, writer, producer, and casting director. *TheyDream* marks her latest collaboration with William D. Caballero in a partnership spanning more than a decade and including the HBO series *Gran’pa Knows Best* and the Sundance shorts *Victor & Isolina* and *Chilly & Milly*. She wrote and directed the acclaimed narrative feature *Brownsville Bred*, which maintains a 100% Rotten Tomatoes rating. Her pilot *The System* was purchased by CBS, and she earned an Artios Award nomination for casting *Alma’s Way*. Del Valle is a WarnerMedia 150 Artist, Alliance of Women Directors Fellow, and HBO Latinx Director Award recipient.

JOHN LEGUIZAMO - Executive Producer

John Leguizamo is an American stand-up comedian, actor, and film producer. He has appeared in more than 100 films, produced more than 20 films and documentaries, made more than 30 television appearances, and has produced various television projects. He has also written and performed for the Broadway stage, receiving four Tony Award nominations for *Freak, Sexaholix,* and *Latin History for Morons*. Leguizamo began his career as a stand-up comedian in New York City. After several years of doing supporting roles in film and television, he rose to fame with major roles in feature films such as *Carlito's Way, To Wong Foo, Thanks for Everything!, Romeo + Juliet, Love in the Time of Cholera*, and *Encanto*. Leguizamo is also known for his television roles including his television special *Freak*, a filmed version of his eponymous Broadway show, for which he received an Emmy. This was a historic win, making Leguizamo the first ever Latino to win this award. In 2023, he hosted the celebrated MSNBC series *Leguizamo Does America*.

GRACE LAY — Executive Producer

Grace Lay is one of the two Asian-American women co-founders of LinLay Productions, along with actress Sumalee Montano. Together, they support multicultural, intergenerational stories that generate conversations to lead us toward collective healing. The slate encompasses

narratives and documentaries including VOICE OF HIND RAJAB by Kaouther Ben Hania (2025 Venice Film Festival Silver Lion Grand Jury Prize), SUGARCANE by Julian Brave NoiseCat and Emily Kassie (2025 Oscar nominated for Best Documentary; Nat Geo), BLACK BARBIE: A DOCUMENTARY by Lagueria Davis (2025 NAACP award for Best Documentary, two-time 2025 Emmy awarded; Netflix); and NANNY by Nikyatu Jusu (2022 Sundance Grand Jury Prize Winner; Amazon).

INA FICHMAN — Executive Producer

Ina Fichman is a Canadian film producer and president of Intuitive Pictures, based in Montreal. She is best known as a producer of the Oscar-nominated and Peabody award-winning 2022 film *Fire of Love*. She won the Gemini Award for Best History Documentary Program for *Undying Love* in 2003. She has been nominated for the 34th Producers Guild of America Awards, British Academy Film Awards, Emmy, Critics Choice Awards and Canadian Screen Awards. Credits include: the Sundance award-winning documentary *Coexistence, My Ass, Adrianne & The Castle, The Wanted 18* and *The Oslo Diaries*, amongst others. Fichman was the recipient of the Don Haig Award at the Hot Docs Canadian International Documentary Festival in 2018. She is the co-president of the board International Documentary Association and a member of The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

MEGAN GELSTEIN — Executive Producer

Megan Gelstein is an Emmy® Award-winning producer and the Co-Director / Chief Program Officer of Catapult Film Fund. In that role, she supports and cultivates independent, cinematic non-fiction filmmakers globally and provides creative, strategic, and editorial advice to supported films and filmmakers through Catapult's artist development programs. Recent films supported by Catapult Film Fund include *Crip Camp*, *Storm Lake*, *The Territory* and *Pray Away*. Prior to joining Catapult, she worked as an independent producer where her work was supported by Sundance Documentary Fund and Chicken & Egg Pictures. Megan worked at PBS/WGBH-TV for over 15 years, where she produced and directed films for the flagship series American Experience and NOVA. She won a National Emmy® Award in the category of Research for her work on the PBS series "Africans in America". In addition, she has produced award-winning documentaries that have been nationally broadcast on The History Channel, ITV Network of London, and The Discovery Channel.

BEN DEJESUS — Executive Producer

Ben DeJesus is an Emmy and Tony-nominated director, producer, writer, and four-time Imagen Award winner with over 15 years of experience in the U.S. multicultural, Latinx, and youth markets. Alongside his longtime partner, award-winning actor, writer, and social activist John Leguizamo, Ben co-founded their production company Casa NoHo Studios, carving out a unique niche with a diverse slate of television, documentary, non-fiction, film, and digital content. His most recent project, he co-created, directed and executive produced 12 episodes of the hit series *Leguizamo Does America* for MSNBC/Peacock. Prior to that he exec produced and directed *American Historia: The Untold History of Latinos* (PBS), a 3-part limited series hosted by Leguizamo, that takes viewers on a captivating journey through the rich and often overlooked contributions of Latinos in America.

ADVISOR — Dr. Jillian Báez

Dr. Jillian Báez, Professor of Latino and Puerto Rican Studies at Hunter College, is a scholar of media, culture, and audience reception whose expertise deepens the film's engagement with memory, identity, and representation.

CREDITS

Directed by:
William D. Caballero

Written & Produced by:
William D. Caballero
Brad Jones
Erin Ploss-Campoamor
Elaine Del Valle

Executive Producers:
John Leguizamo
Carrie Lozano
Sandie Viquez Pedlow
Grace Lay
Ina Fichman
Megan Gelstein
Ben DeJesus

Co-Executive Producers:
Jamie Wolf
Nathalie Seaver

Featuring:
Migdalia "Milly" Caballero

Creative Advisor:
Dr. Jillian Báez (Hunter College)

TheyDream is a co-production of Colibri Creative Media, ITVS and Latino Public Broadcasting with funding provided by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

ABOUT LATINO PUBLIC BROADCASTING

For over 25 years, Latino Public Broadcasting (LPB) has been developing award-winning film and digital media that explores the history, arts and culture of Latino Americans, bringing these powerful and illuminating stories to a national audience on PBS — on TV, online and on the PBS app.

LPB projects have spotlighted Latino contributions to the arts (Julia Alvarez: A Life Reimagined,

John Leguizamo's Road to Broadway, Raúl Julia: The World's a Stage); told the story of Latino icons from Cesar Chavez to Dolores Huerta, Tito Puente to Celia Cruz, Ruben Salazar to Roberto Clemente; explored history and politics through a Latino lens (John Leguizamo's American Historia, Latino Vote 2024); and told stories from Mexico, Puerto Rico and Latin America (Water for Life, Reportero), many as part of its signature PBS series VOCES.
LPB programs have won over 130 awards, including three prestigious George Foster Peabody Awards as well as Emmys, Imagen Awards and the Sundance Film Festival Award for Best Director, Documentary. LPB has been the recipient of the Norman Lear Legacy Award and the NCLR Alma Award for Special Achievement – Year in Documentaries. Sandie Viquez Pedlow is executive director of LPB; Edward James Olmos is co-founder and chairman. Follow LPB on Facebook, YouTube, Instagram, Linkedin and Bluesky.

ABOUT ITVS

Independent Television Service (ITVS) is the largest co-producer of independent documentaries in the United States. For more than 30 years the San Francisco non-profit has funded and partnered with documentary filmmakers to produce and distribute untold stories. ITVS incubates and co-produces these award-winning titles and premieres them on our Emmy® Award-winning PBS series, INDEPENDENT LENS. ITVS titles appear on PBS, WORLD, NETA, and can be streamed on various digital platforms including the PBS app. ITVS is funded by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, Acton Family Giving, John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, Ford Foundation, The Park Foundation, and Wyncote Foundation. For more information, visit itvs.org.

Quote from Director William D. Caballero

> "I grew up queer and Puerto Rican between New York City housing projects and a trailer in North Carolina, and creativity became the place where I learned to survive, to process pain, and to understand my family," said director William D. Caballero. "*TheyDream* is the most personal film I've ever made—a feature-length act of love that allowed my mother and me to confront our grief by transforming ourselves into the people we've lost. Through animation, motion capture, and memory, we bring our relatives back to life, not as idealized figures, but as the complex, beautiful humans they were. My hope is that this film empowers other Latino and LGBTQ+ families to tell their own stories, because if we don't tell them ourselves, they risk never being seen."

Quote from Producer Erin Ploss-Campoamor

> "What William has built in *TheyDream* is formally daring in a way that feels completely earned, every visual invention, every shift in animation style, every unexpected technique is in service of the emotional truth underneath. I think that's exactly why it won

the NEXT Special Jury Award for Creative Expression at Sundance: the jury recognized a filmmaker pushing the boundaries of what documentary can look and feel like. And yet for all its inventiveness, the film never loses its humanity. It meets audiences where they live — in grief, in family, in love — and that's why it keeps winning people over wherever it screens."

Quote from Producer Brad Jones

"My experience of working on *TheyDream* has been one of evolution. From the story changing mid production to the team growing beyond previous projects, from our R/d expanding possibilities to the development of the layered narrative, this project has been a beautiful mosaic. My hope is that audiences experience some sort of transformation after watching this film."

Quote from Producer Elaine Del Valle

"This film captures something rare—what happens when a family chooses to face its pain together and turn it into art," said producer Elaine Del Valle. "*TheyDream* reminds us that healing isn't neat or easy. It's messy, brave, and guided by love. What William and his mother create is more than animation; it's the resurrection of memory, legacy, and hope."

Premiere & Festival Information

TheyDream premiered at the 2026 Sundance Film Festival in the NEXT category, celebrated for bold storytelling, innovative form, and boundary-pushing voices. It won the NEXT Special Jury Award for Creative Expression. Since then, it has been programmed at over a dozen film festivals and won multiple awards, including Best Feature Documentary at 2026 New York Latino Film Festival, Best Feature Documentary (Documentary Achievement Award) at 2026 Miami Film Festival, Audience Award (Vox Populi) at 2026 Ann Arbor Film Festival, Best Feature Documentary at 2026 Zeitgeist Minnesota Film Festival, Audience Award at 2026 Charlotte Latino Film Festival, Special Jury Mention Documentary Feature at 2026 Atlanta Film Festival, Special Jury Mention at 2026 Milwaukee Film Festival, Audience Award at 2026 ImageOut Rochester LGBTQ+ Film Festival, Best Shout (LGBTQ+) Audience Award at 2026 Sidewalk Film Festival and Special Jury Mention for Best Feature at 2026 Los Angeles Latino International Film Festival. ***TheyDream*** is scheduled to broadcast on PBS in 2027 as part of Latino Public Broadcasting's VOCES programming.

PRESS COVERAGE – 2026

"Brilliantly unconventional piece of autobiographical storytelling."

- Carlos Aguilar, Los Angeles Times

PULL QUOTES:

ROGEREBERT.COM
“visually inventive and exciting…the film serves as a medium of resurrection. There’s power in reclaiming ownership of your own story.”

“It dares us to try to remember and render our stories with such ferocious love.”

THE HOLLYWOOD REPORTER:
“a meditation on love, loss, and above all, family, TheyDream is likely to be universally understood”

SUNDANCE BLOG:
“small in scale but expansive in feeling: a beautifully animated, deeply personal meditation on family, memory, and what it means to live alongside pain.”

SUNSHINE STATE CINEPLEX:
“Uniquely endearing. Imaginative and beautiful.”

“For a documentary, or any film, it is among the most impressive set designs one will come across.”

“TheyDream is equal parts uplifting and heartbreaking.”

“[A] story of love and loss and coming to terms with relatable family issues, is as universal as it gets."

LAUGHING PLACE:
“An aching, inventive, and deeply human act of remembrance”

THEM.US:
“…a bittersweet, vulnerable portrait of the intergenerational dynamic.”

DOCUMENTARY MAGAZINE:
“Caballero's documentary is a form of cinematic resurrection”

IN SESSION FILM:
“TheyDream is a beautiful rumination on family, animation and the past. A story unlike any other. Bursts to life with energy and love..."

HIGH ON FILMS:
“TheyDream shines because of its potent emotional core about characters quietly finding strength by shedding their usual pretenses and being truly vulnerable with each other.”

“Undeniable tenderness...Remarkably emotive.”

CARTOON BREW:
“a poignant portrait of remembering, healing, self-discovery and self-acceptance”

DOC VOICES:
“a dazzling array of visual techniques”

NERDBOT:
“One of the most original and emotionally engaging documentaries I've seen.”

THE PARK RECORD:
“TheyDream animates family lore with bare-faced vulnerability”

LATINO SLANT:
“This documentary stands out as one of the most creative films I have ever seen.”

“William has crafted an extraordinary piece with incredible attention to detail and craftsmanship that is visually striking. It’s breathtaking and captivating to observe…”

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Press Materials & Screener

Publicity Materials: Here

Official Movie Site: www.theydreamfilm.com

Screening links are available upon request.





