

My mission is not to produce good films for “good enough” is the bedfellow of mediocrity. Rather, my mission is to produce the best film possible which involves the search for the crown jewel of storytelling—the poetic moment.

### Summary

Assistant Professor—award-winning independent filmmaker of documentaries, hybrid documentaries, poetry films and narratives—with more than nine-years-experience teaching film and digital media production, as well as a festival organizer, who most recently led in the founding of the **Blazing Sun Independent Film Shorts Festival**, first of which was held March 4-5, 2020. *Blazing Sun* received a total of 49 film shorts, 29 from across the United States and 20 from abroad, including from New Zealand, England, India, Egypt, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, the Russian Federation and Iran.

### Education

**Master of Fine Arts Degree**, Producing Television and Film,  
The American Film Institute, Los Angeles, California, June 1998.  
MFA Thesis Film: *A Moment of Silence*, *writer-producer*, winner of  
**Colin Higgins Screenplay Production Award**,  
with a \$10,000 cash prize, 1997-98.

**Master of Arts**, Theology II and Art, Dominican School of Philosophy and  
Theology, Berkeley, California, May 1993.

**Master of Divinity**, Theology, Dominican School of Philosophy and  
Theology, Berkeley, California, May 1993.

### Professional Development

**Directors' Masterclass**: *Teaching Directors How to Work with Actors*,  
taught by award-winning film directors Gloria Gifford and Brian  
Dannelly, Los Angeles, CA, 2020.

**Fusion Screenplay Intensive Workshop**,  
Taught by noted film director Adrienne Weiss, Los Angeles, CA 2015.

**Foundation Workshop**: *10 Essential Tools - Performances from Actors*,  
Weiss, Los Angeles, CA 2006.

**Directing Intensive**,  
University of Southern California, Summer 2005.

**The Basics of Storyboarding**,  
UCLA Extension, Los Angeles, CA, 2005.

### Teaching Experience

Texas A&M University-Kingsville, Kingsville, TX, 2014 - 2021.  
Assistant Professor tenure-track, Art, Communication & Theatre Department.  
Teach introductory and advanced courses in film and digital media production,  
Including preproduction, production, and postproduction. And teach screenplay  
writing, producing, directing, acting for the camera and film history.  
Director Radio Television-Digital-Film – manage and supervise student  
productions for broadcast and airing on radio. Also, led the curriculum committee  
in the revision and development of curriculum for television and film production  
courses, as well as develop curriculum for the creation of a BFA Degree in  
Theatre and Film.

McNeese State University, Lake Charles, LA, 2011- 2012.

Assistant Professor of Mass Communication.

Taught introductory courses in digital media production and communication, including screenwriting, producing, directing and editing, as well as led the curriculum committee in the revision and development of curriculum for television and film production courses

Flashpoint Media Arts Academy, Chicago, IL, 2008 - 2010.

Film & Broadcasting Faculty.

Taught introductory courses in digital media production and communication, including screenwriting, producing and directing. Also created and developed curriculum for film production, including for screenwriting, producing and directing courses.

Pluma Pictures, Inc., non-profit (501c) film production company, 2001-present.

Founder-President, Writer-Producer-Director.

Feature  
Film  
Writer-Producer-  
Director

*South Texas Gentle Men of Steel—Los Padres*, TRT 58:05 minutes.

Feature documentary-hybrid, incorporates poetry, narrative structure, animation and special effects. This film is about the great impact Dominican friars had in the history and development of central South Texas, and how their presence assisted many Mexican-Americans struggle against racism, which bespeaks of the experiences of many in the Southwest. It's the universal story of people grappling to accept each other as equals. The Mexican-American experience traces its roots to the Spanish Conquista—a wrestling match of greed and brutality against equality and Salvation—the story of Cain and Abel.

Interviewer  
Oral History  
Project

Baylor University Institute for Oral History (BUIOH) – interviewed four Mexican vaqueros, monolingual Spanish speakers, about their experiences living and working at San Antonio Viejo Ranch, since migrating from Mexico in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, typically on horseback or on foot. San Antonio Viejo Ranch is one of the oldest and largest ranches in Texas. The purpose of BUIOH is to gather and preserve historical documents by means of the recorded interview. The project was funded by the East Foundation, which works to “promote the advancement of land stewardship through ranching, science and education.” March 2021.

Festivals / Awards

*South Texas Gentle Men of Steel - Los Padres*

**London Independent Film Awards, 2018**

*Best Documentary for April 2018*

**Jakarta International Humanitarian & Culture Film Festival, 2018**

Platinum Award Documentary

Platinum Award Director

Gold Award Editor, shared with Todd Schmidt

Gold Award Producer

**In Depth of Field International Film Festival Competition, 2018**

*Award of Excellence*, Documentary

*Award of Excellence*, Direction.

**Directors Awards 2018**  
Best Directing in Documentary

**Depth of Field International Film Festival, 2018**  
Award of Excellence Documentary  
Award of Excellence Direction

**International Documentary World Film Awards, 2018**  
Platinum World Award

**World Film Awards, Jakarta, 2018**  
Platinum World Award, Best Feature Documentary  
Platinum World Award, Director

**Impact Docs Award, 2017**  
Award of Merit Special Mention Editing, shared with Todd Schmidt

**iHolly—The Next Generation Indie Film Festival, 2016**  
Best Documentary

**Impact DOCS Award, 2016**  
Award of Excellence: History / Biographical  
Award of Merit Special Mention: Documentary Feature  
Award of Merit Special Mention: Direction  
Award of Merit Special Mention: Religion / Ethics  
Award of Merit Special Mention: Contemporary Issues / Awareness  
Raising

**World Film Awards, Jakarta, 2017**  
Gold World Award, Producer, shared with Todd Schmidt  
Gold World Award, Best Editor, shared with Todd Schmidt

**Oregon International Film Awards, 2016**  
Platinum Award, Feature Documentary Competition

**Mexico International Film Festival, 2016**  
Silver Palm Award, Feature Documentary Competition

**Docs Without Borders Film Festival, 2016**  
Exceptional Merit

**The Accolade Global Film Competition, 2015**  
Award of Merit, Feature Documentary

**Magnificat, Minsk, Belarus, selected to close the festival, 2015.**

**Accolade Competition, 2015 – *Award of Merit*, Documentary feature.**

**IndieFest Film Awards, 2015**  
Award of Excellence, History / Biographical  
Award of Merit Special Mention, Christian

**International Independent Film Awards, 2015**

Gold Award, Documentary Feature  
 Gold Award, Directing  
 Gold Award, Animated Visuals, Todd Schmidt

**WorldFest-Houston International Film Festival**, 2015  
 Gold Remi Award, Religion / Ethics / Spirituality

#### Invitational Screening

***Dominicans in the Promotion and Defence of Human Rights: Past, Present and Future***, in Commemoration of the religious order's 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Salamanca, Spain, Sept. 1-5, 2016.

#### Feature Film Writer-Producer- Director

*Not Broken*, TRT 1:27:14

Feature documentary-hybrid, incorporates poetry, narrative structure, animation, to illustrate the impact and devastation of Hurricane Katrina on the Gulf Coast in 2005. Kris Kristofferson says, *This powerful, moving documentary of the Katrina disaster is a testament to the courage and integrity of the human spirit*. Many victims of the hurricane-of-the-century faced crime, racism, and religious bigotry, as well as gross incompetence at all levels of government. However, their beliefs, whether Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist or of any other tradition, provided a reservoir of strength, not only for their survival, but in also aiding others. Original music, including Kristofferson's *Shipwrecked in the 80s*, and poetry play an integral role in illustrating and underscoring the stories in this film. A song by folksinger and activist John Flynn, *The Passunder* (New Orleans), plays a central role in the music's score. Also included in the soundtrack are songs and music by the late Jack Neilson. Other musicians include Stephen Lee, Chris Stroffolino and Paul Soniat.

#### Festivals / Awards

*Not Broken*

**WorldFest Houston**, 2008  
 Platinum Award, Independent Film & Video – Documentary

**AFIA International Film Festival Aarhus**, Aarhus, Denmark, 2008.  
Runner-up, Top Feature.

**Bayou City Inspirational Film Festival**, 2008.  
 2<sup>nd</sup> place for *Best Humanitarian Award*

**The Big Muddy Film Festival**, 2008.

**Buffalo Niagara Film Festival**, 2008.

#### Invitational Screenings

**Earth Day**, Ashé Cultural Arts Center, New Orleans, LA, 2008

**Teaneck International Film Festival**, Teaneck, NJ, 2008.

#### Short Films Writer-Producer- Director

*Storyteller in Search of the Poetic in Film* TRT 04:12

Director's search for the poetic moments in the production of three of his award-winning documentaries and, as a result, pushing the boundaries of storytelling in three films: *South Texas Gentle Men of Steel—Los Padres*, *Not Broken*, both hybrid documentary features, and a short, *Darfur: Hope Amidst Catastrophe*.

*Los Padres Short* TRT 03:24

This short highlights key scenes of *South Texas Gentle Men of Steel—Los Padres*, winner of 27 awards.

*Los Padres Sizzle* TRT 03:24

Sizzle, a trailer, of *South Texas Gentle Men of Steel - Los Padres*.

*In Light of Hurricane Harvey— Recalling Katrina* TRT 16:37

Highlights of *Not Broken*, feature documentary about Hurricane Katrina's devastation of the Gulf Coast.

*Man of the People – Dr. Hector P. Garcia* TRT 12:59

This short is about civil rights pioneer Dr. Hector P. Garcia, a contemporary of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

#### Festivals / Awards

*Man of the People – Dr. Hector P. Garcia*

**WorldFest Houston** 2012

Bronze Remi Award

**Los Angeles Movie Awards** 2012

Honorable Mention Award

#### Invitational Screening

*Man of the People – Dr. Hector P. Garcia*

**A Symposium on Tejano History, Culture and Chican@ Civil Rights**

*Dr. Hector P. Garcia*, Civil Rights pioneer, Tejano Civil Rights Museum & Resource Center, March 14, 2018.

#### Television Writer-Director

*Dominican Artists Share Fruits of Contemplation*, television documentary, Pluma Productions, 2001.

#### TV Writer

*Sonrisas*, television series. Wrote six 30-minute episodes:

*Now and Forever*

*The Rich Dummy*

*Sour Grapes*

*Pachanga/Campout*

*My Friend Freddy*

*Getting It Together (Todos Juntos)*.

#### Radio Writer-Editor Consultant

Family Theatre - Story editor and consultant for a series of 29 radio scripts (dramas) for an international Spanish radio program and wrote two scripts:

*Noche de Oscuridad*

*Hay Que Montar el Arbol*

#### Grants Received

For: Radio-Television-Film Program:

Student Services Fees, SSFAB grant awarded to Radio/TV. \$25,000 ongoing funding. FY 2020.

Student Services Fees, SSFAB grant awarded to Radio/TV. \$25,000 ongoing funding. FY 2019.

Student Services Fees, SSFAB grant awarded to Radio/TV. \$25,000 ongoing funding. FY 2018.

Student Services Fees, SSFAB grant awarded to Radio/TV. \$55,000 ongoing funding. FY 2017

Student Services Fees, SSFAB grant awarded to Radio/TV. \$55,000 ongoing funding and \$30,000 one-time funding for HD upgrade and upgrade in equipment. FY 2016.

Nikon Americas, Inc., awarded participation in consignment program, allowing students to use professional Nikon DSLR cameras, lenses and related equipment for the production of digital film projects. Estimated Equipment value: \$10,000. 2019-2020 Academic Year

Nikon Americas, Inc., awarded participation in consignment program, allowing students to use professional Nikon DSLR cameras, lenses and related equipment for the production of digital film projects. Estimated Equipment value: \$10,000. 2018-2019 Academic Year.

Nikon Americas, Inc., awarded participation in consignment program, allowing students to use professional Nikon DSLR cameras, lenses and related equipment for the production digital film projects. Equipment value: \$10,000. 2017-2018 Academic Year.

Nikon Americas, Inc., awarded participation in consignment program, allowing students to use professional Nikon DSLR cameras, lenses and related equipment for the production digital film projects. Equipment value: \$8,000. 2016-2017 Academic Year.

Nikon Americas, Inc., awarded participation in consignment program, allowing students to use professional Nikon DSLR cameras, lenses and related equipment for the production digital film projects. Equipment value: \$8,000. 2015-2016 Academic Year.

#### Research and Scholarly

Founding Festival Director, ***Blazing Sun Independent Film Shorts Festival***, 2018 present. Partnered with two faculty colleagues, Dr. Manuel Flores and Dr. Patrick Faherty and student Film Society and founded Blazing Sun, which received a total of 49 film shorts, 29 from across the United States and 20 from abroad, including from New Zealand, England, India, Egypt, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Russian Federation and Iran. Blazing Sun celebrated the poetic moment and, as such, was not a competition but, rather, was focused on discovering the poetic moment or moments in a film. In so doing, the festival celebrated and promoted excellence and innovation in film storytelling.

*A Symposium on Tejano History, Culture and Chican@ Civil Rights*, Dr. Hector P. Garcia, Civil Rights pioneer, Tejano Civil Rights Museum & Resource Center, March 14, 2018.

#### Activities: Poetry

*La Llorona – Empowerment of Story*, Poetry Reading, for screenplay in progress, Mexican American Summer Seminar, Del Mar College, 07/19/2019.

*Rio Bravo, Rio Grande* – poem for poetry film, work-in-progress. posted on LinkedIn, 01/12/19.

*Bee Catcher* and *Black Snake*, both poems to serve as scripts for poetry film, work in progress, posted on LinkedIn, 07/30/19 and 06/05/19, respectively

*Dr. Hector P. Garcia, Civil Rights Pioneer* presentation and screening of *Man of the People*, documentary short, part of Texas A&M-Kingsville Hispanic Heritage Month Observation, Sept. 20, 2018.

Wrote four poems: *To Find the Key*, *Crystal Tears*, *Thread of Life* and *Rio Grande, Rio Bravo*.

#### Poetry Reading

Invited to Read: *Rio Grande and Rio Bravo*, Monastery of the Infant Jesus, Lufkin, Texas, Dec. 21, 2018.

#### Screenplays Writer

*Maggie* – narrative short, work in progress

*Maggie and Alexander* – feature screenplay, work in progress.

*And the Angels Sing* – feature screenplay

**Kairos Prize for Spiritually Uplifting Screenplays**

Semi-Finalist, 2014

#### Bibliography of Publications Writer

*El Piscador*, poem, published in anthology, *Bearing the Mask—Southwestern of Persona Poems, Poetry of the American Southwest* No. 2, p 7, edited by Scott Wiggerman & Cindy Huyser, Dos Gatos Press, Albuquerque, NM, 2016.

*Mesquites Never Die*, poem, *Puentes*, Mexico-USA Literary Journal, Arizona State University, 2008.

*Art, Spirituality and Religion—The Secret Dance*, essay, *Puentes*, 2006.

*Puentes*, poem, commissioned and published by *Puentes*, Mexico-USA literary journal, in its inaugural publication, 2003.

*Wrestling with the Angel -- A Collection of Poetry, Rev. Ed.*, Pluma Productions, 2002.

*Poems of Stone and Bread*, CD collection of poetry and music, Pluma Productions, 2000.

*Wrestling with the Angel -- A Collection of Poetry*, Pluma Productions, 1997.

*Never on a Sunday or Ever, Ever*, short story, *The Double Dealer Redux*, New Orleans, LA, 1996.

*Penelope*, short story, *The Ultimate Writer*, Metairie, LA, 1996.

*In Search of Nakedness*, poem, *The Double Dealer Redux*, New Orleans, 1995.

*Midday Shadows*, book of poetry, 1980.

Membership in  
Professional  
Organizations

*Society for Cinema and Media Studies*  
*Poetry Society of America*  
*Texas Faculty Association*

Professional  
Listings

IMdB.com [http://www.imdb.com/name/nm1589665/?ref=fn\\_al\\_nm\\_1](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm1589665/?ref=fn_al_nm_1)  
Dictionary of Literary Biography - vol. 209: Chicano Writers, Third Series, 2001.

Professional  
Service Activities  
University  
Service

Festival Juror, Feature Documentary category, *Greenpoint Film Festival*, 2016  
Festival Juror, Film Shorts Category, *Chicago International Film Festival*, 2009.  
Department Committees:  
Curriculum Development Committee for establishment of *Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theatre and Film*, 2016-present  
Developed seven new syllabi, including screenwriting, producing, directing and sound design, for anticipated BFA Degree program

**Radio-Television-Film Curriculum Development**

Developed curriculum for undergraduate introductory and advanced courses for film and digital media production, including screenwriting, producing, production, directing, editing and sound design.

**Creation of Film Programs and Curriculum Development**

Led the creation of film production programs and curriculum development at Texas A&M University-Kingsville, *Flashpoint Media Arts Academy* in Chicago and *McNeese State University* in Lake Charles for undergraduate introductory and advanced courses in film production.

**Faculty Senator**, Texas A&M University-Kingsville, Faculty Senate, 2015-17.

In past six years at TAMUK, I have taught 570 students, 33 courses and helped students in the founding of their **Film Society**, some of whom won awards at the *Corpus Christi 7 Day Film Festival* in 2018 and 2019.

Achievements

*American Dominicans on Mission— Call and Response: American Dominican Artists and Vatican II* – listed and recognized as a filmmaker and poet in an **international reference book** of accomplished Dominican artists, publisher: McGreal Center for Dominicans Historical Studies, Chicago, IL. 2019.

Recognition

Fra Angelico Award for Excellence in Art, for outstanding contributions in poetry and film, Dominican Institute for the Arts (DIA) 2002.

Student Government Association, Texas A&M University, unanimously adopted **Resolution S.R. 95-05**, which in part, states: *the Student Government Association of Texas A&M University-Kingsville recognizes Armando P. Ibanez for his years of Service to the university student body; and accomplishments and years of leadership to students...* 11/18/2020