

¡TU CINE! DISCUSSION GUIDE

The Infiltrators

THE INFILTRATORS is a docu-thriller that tells the true story of young immigrants who get arrested by Border Patrol, and put in a shadowy for-profit detention center – on purpose. Marco and Viri are members of the National Immigrant Youth Alliance, a group of radical Dreamers who are on a mission to stop deportations. And the best place to stop deportations, they believe, is in detention.

However, when Marco and Viri try to pull off their heist – a kind of ‘prison break’ in reverse – things don’t go according to plan.



By weaving together documentary footage of the real infiltrators with scripted re-enactments of the events inside the detention center, THE INFILTRATORS tells this incredible true story in a boundary-crossing new cinematic language. *The Hollywood Reporter* said of the multiple award-winning film “rather than feeling like homework, watching it is a thrill.”

Dir.: Alex Rivera & Cristina Ibarra

SET THE STAGE THOUGHT-STARTERS

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Without warning, Claudio Rojas is detained by ICE officials outside his Florida home. He is transferred to the Broward Transitional Center, a detention facility used as a holding space for imminent deportations. Terrified of never seeing him again, Claudio’s family contacts the National Immigrant Youth Alliance (NIYA), a group of activist Dreamers known for stopping deportations. Believing that no one is free as long as one is in detention, NIYA enlists Marco Saavedra to self-deport with the hopes of gaining access to the detention center and impeding Claudio’s expulsion. Once inside, Marco discovers a complex for-profit institution housing hundreds of multinational immigrants, all imprisoned without trial.

ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS

Alex Rivera is an award-winning filmmaker who tells visually adventurous stories. His first feature film, *Sleep Dealer*, won the screenwriting award at the 2008 Sundance Film Festival, was screened at the Museum of Modern Art, and had a commercial release around the world. In 2015 Alex was awarded support from the Surdna Foundation and the Ford Foundation for *The Infiltrators*.

<http://www.alexrivera.com>

Cristina Ibarra has been making award-winning films that explore the U.S.-Mexico border for the past seventeen years. The New York Times calls her documentary *Las Marthas* “a striking alternative

portrait of border-town life.” Her PBS documentary collaboration, *The Last Conquistador*, had a national broadcast on POV. In 2015 she became part of Women at Sundance.

<http://www.cristinaibarra.com/>

WORDS TO KNOW

- **Themes:** immigration, DACA, deportation, activism
- **Media Arts:** narrative, audience experience, media messages, tone, point-of-view

TALK ABOUT IT **DISCUSSION**

- How does the film blend documentary and fictional narrative filmmaking styles?
- Whose perspective did we see? Were other points of view shown?
- What characters or issues could you relate to, and why?
- How did the narrative (story) unfold? What was the crisis or conflict? How was it resolved?
- How might different people interpret this film?
- Who made this film and what is its purpose? (inform, entertain, etc.)
- What was omitted from this film that you might want to know?
- Describe your most memorable scene in the film.

BEYOND THE FILM **ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

<http://www.infiltratorsfilm.com/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fxlW3pwy7kQ>

<https://deadline.com/2019/09/oscilloscope-acquires-the-infiltrators-alex-rivera-cristina-ibarra-1202713027/>

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Media Arts Center San Diego offers project-based Youth Media classroom residencies where students can learn the art of digital storytelling. Contact Larry Da Silveira at larry@mediaartscenter.org or (619) 230-1938 to learn more.



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