The Infiltrators

THE INFLICTRATORS 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=fxIW3pwy7kQ

This program is supported in part by the California Arts Council, a state agency. Any findings, opinions, or conclusions contained herein are not necessarily those of the California Arts Council.

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.