

Tranquilo Way, “Visitors Only”, and the Skye McCole Bartusiak Foundation

Tranquilo Way was founded in 2015 by writer and producer Geraldo Olivo and writer and director Robert Cortez and photographer Alfredo Cortez as a way to produce short films and tell stories that they weren't seeing anywhere else.

With initial work on the 48 Hour Film Project, 100 Hour Film Festival and Cinespace Film Festival, which we did as most people who love and want to make films -- for free and for fun, we decided to make a short film with a budget, submit to film festivals and take our skills to the next level.

But that was all just the beginning.

We came up with a budget goal of \$10,000 and set about fundraising. With \$3,000 raised initially from family and friends we hit a wall and needed help.

We approached the Skye McCole Bartusiak Foundation, whose mission is to support emerging performing artists -- professionally and personally -- to help us.

We pitched, over the phone, our film project idea “Visitors Only” -- an oddball collision of comedy and terror (along with some moral questions about social inequality and injustice) with our goal to make audiences laugh, maybe even squirm, and definitely take them by surprise.

We were invited to present to the Foundation's board and came prepared with our pitch, past work and a fully outlined budget and marketing plan. We asked for a grant of \$2,500 and we were thrilled when we learned we won the grant! Talk about a huge boost as budding new filmmakers!!

After the Foundation agreed to back us financially as our Executive Producer for “Visitors Only” and help guide the process, from the film professionals on the board, we were off and running.

We leveraged the Foundation's institutional credibility, and \$2,500 grant, to raise another \$7,000 from individuals across Houston -- surpassing our \$10,000 goal for a total of \$12,000 raised, gained access to high quality film shoot locations, and built a partnership with Houston Community College's Film program.

With this momentum and with our budget goal met, we are able to bring on the help of Dave Cebrero (co-founder of the Houston Latino Film Festival) as our cinematographer, cast a professional group of eclectic artists from theater, comedy and modeling backgrounds and hire a world class crew including gaffer Roger Brooks, a long time film veteran and well recognized in the film industry,

And as part our experience, with the Foundation, we were able to have very talented, award winning young filmmakers, Wes Wilgrubs and Chase Juszczak, both seniors in high school, to be part of the Visitors Only crew. Their time and talent was a great help to our cast and crew.

This year we are proud to say Visitors Only has gone on to win a Gold Remi for Suspense/Thriller at the 2017 WorldFest International Film Festival. and is currently a semi-finalist at the Austin Revolution Film Festival. We could not have made it to this level without the Foundation's tremendous support for our team!

Geraldo Olivo
11 Jul 2017