

According to the Global Gender Gap Report published in 2018 by the World Economic Forum, Paraguay is one of the most unequal countries in South America. A man still earns three times more than a woman. In the Paraguayan film industry, although we see a great participation of women, there is still a gap to shorten. According to the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences in Paraguay, the percentage of women in film is 38%. The participation of women is greater in producing, art and acting, but in other areas of leadership like directing and screenwriting the percentage is three times less. In cinematography and technical areas there are no women currently.

Women in Film Paraguay (WIFPY) is a free mentorship and workshop program for women that are interested in telling their stories through film. It is intended for young women from 18-30 years old. The main goal is to foster creativity and teach them skills to work in any area of the audiovisual industry. Through this program they will network with experienced mentors working in the industry.

Each participant will be able to write a script for a short film and leave with that for future use. The workshops and classes will be online. As a final project, all the participants will shoot a short film in Asunción where they will all have a specific job and then it will be screened during a final event.

The workshop and mentorship program is able to motivate and encourage women to increase their participation in the field of film. Through the experience of the mentors, the participants will be able to feel the wide possibility in the industry and how this can become a relevant profession.

It is not only a workshop where the women will learn applicable skills that will give them a real possibility of working in the industry. It will also be a mentorship, the female leaders in the industry will be able to motivate the participants making them feel empowered not only in this field but in any field. It will increase their confidence, inspire young leaders and entrepreneurs, and empower them to become more effective agents of change.

Being able to tell their stories will give them enough confidence and support sometimes women don't get in their environments, educational and work places.

The impact will be shown in the increased number of women working in the industry. It will create a more equal industry, achieving greater participation of women and giving

them the confidence as well as the skills to work in areas like directing and screenwriting.

The program aims to create professional and personal connections that will strengthen leadership skills, community involvement, and self-esteem.

# **LAUNCH**

The launch of the program was on November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020 during a live Facebook event. After that, the applications were opened until December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020. We received 200 applications from women all over the country.







**SELECTION** 

In January, we announced the 40 selected participants based on their answers regarding their interest and participation in the program. From the total, 10 were from cities outside Asuncion.

The list of the selected participants is below:

- 1. Abril Denisse Portillo (Asunción)
- 2. Alexandra Escobar (Asunción)
- 3. Andrea Fatecha (Caacupé)
- 4. Andrea González (San Lorenzo)
- 5. Ángeles Ruíz (Asunción)
- 6. Aurora Aquino (Ciudad del Este)
- 7. Azucena Arvez (Capiatá)
- 8. Belén Núñez (Ñemby)
- 9. Betiana Rojas (Lambaré)
- 10. Camila Chávez (Asunción)
- 11. Camila Coscia (San Lorenzo)
- 12. Carolina González (Encarnación)
- 13. Cecilia González (Luque)
- 14. Cecilia Galeano (Fndo de la Mora)
- 15. Claudia Valdez (Asunción)
- 16. Cynthia Bobadilla (Asunción)
- 17. Gisele Carou (Fndo de la Mora)
- 18. Giselle Torres (San Lorenzo)
- 19. Jazmín Villalba (Asunción)
- 20. Jazmín Coronel (Asunción)
- 21. Jazmín Lawes (Asunción)
- 22. Jessica Resquín (Capiatá)

- 23. Lía Benítez (Asunción)
- 24. Magalí Lezcano (Fndo de la Mora)
- 25. María Jose Martinez (Asunción)
- 26. Maria Alejandra Fleitas (Ciudad del Este)
- 27. Maria de los Angeles Villalba (San Antonio)
- 28. Maria del Mar Chucarro (Asunción)
- 29. Maria Jose Lacarruba (Asunción)
- 30. Mariela Rios (Asunción)
- 31. Myha Duarte (Asunción)
- 32. Natalia Figari (Fndo de la Mora)
- 33. Natalia Jiménez (Luque)
- 34. Nicole Carou (Asunción)
- 35. Patricia Ortíz (Asunción)
- 36. Patricia Colmán (Villa Elisa)
- 37. Paz Lezcano (Encarnación)
- 38. Rossamary Fariña (Ciudad del Este)
- 39. Silvana López (Asunción)
- 40. Tania Chamorro (Capiatá)

# **CLASSES**

We started the classes on February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021, with two classes of two hours each, every Saturday until May 22th, 2021. The participants had classes of screenwriting, directing, cinematography and producing. As well as masterclasses on the subjects of sound, art production, festivals for short films and wardrobe design. It is worth mentioning that one of the professors in the cinematography subject was Maya Riquelme, Fulbright Alumni, and one of the professors in directing was Tania Cattebeke, current Fulbright Scholar.







# ¿QUÉ ES UN GUIÓN CINEMATOGRÁFICO?

Es un relato que se narra mediante IMÁGENES (y SONIDOS).

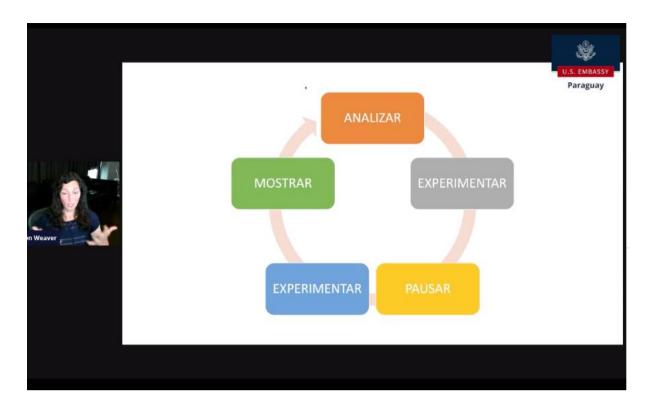
Existe una escritura invisible del guión:

- "Su mano acerca un lápiz a la boca".
- "Abre la puerta. Mira a su alrededor. Cierra la ventana y se desploma en la cama" / "Con sigilo, abre la puerta. Su mirada recorre los límites de la habitación. Da unos pasos hacia la ventana y la cierra sin hacer ruido alguno. Al cabo de unos segundos, se acuesta en la cama".



# MASTERCLASS WITH SHARON WEAVER

On April 6<sup>th</sup>, we had a Masterclass with the Emmy Award Winning Editor, Sharon Weaver. This class was open to the public and was streamed through Facebook Live of the American Embassy of Paraguay. In total we had over 4000 views.



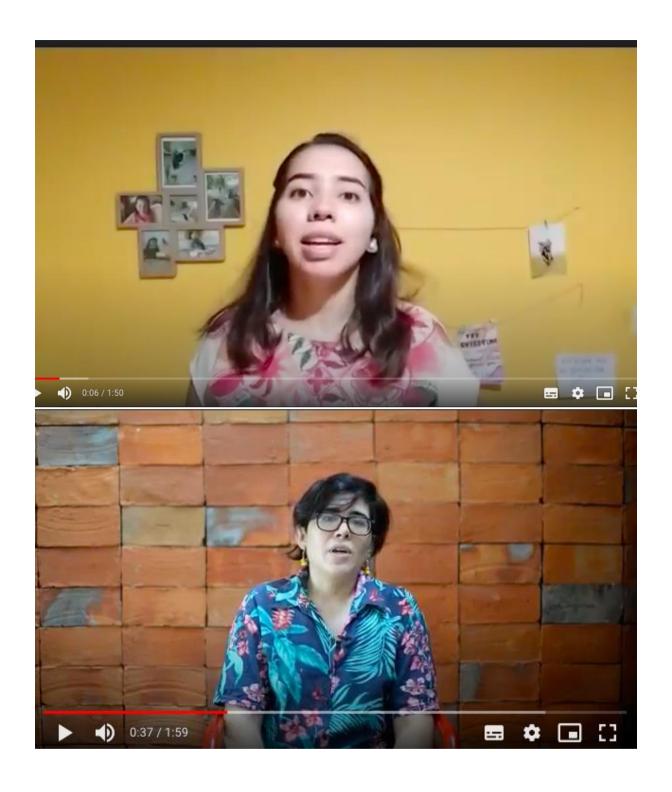
# **PITCH**

All of the participants finished the classes with a first draft of a short film screenplay ready to be shot. We decided to be able to be selected as the short film to shoot during the program they had to do a short pitch.

Mariana Pineda gave them a class on how to present and structure their pitch. After that they had to send a 5 minute video where they pitched their idea to the mentors. We received 14 video pitches of the students. The mentors selected their favorite from Angie Ruiz called "La Niña y el Monstruo" (The girl and the monster).

PITCH: Angie Ruiz

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1LHqgCSwCoyjk5teTz-SCjRw5ZZDXXnc5/view?usp=sharing



# SHOOTING THE SHORT FILM

In July, the 30 participants that achieved at least 80% of participation during the classes were cleared to be a part of the crew who would shoot the selected short film The Girl and the Monster.

They started working in groups according to their preferences in areas, directing, producing, cinematography, art, sound, etc. All of this process was supervised by Maya Riquelme, Fulbright Scholar, and other mentors in each area.

All of this process was held online, with zoom meetings and through shared drives. Everything was organized and ready for any of the mentors or the coordinator to look at.

Mi unidad > Cortometraje - 🚉	
Nombre $\psi$	Propietario
Vestuario	уо
Sonido	уо
Producción	уо
Fotografía	уо
Festivales	Angie Ruiz
Dirección	уо
Continuidad	уо
Casting	уо
Arte	уо
W MEMO DE ACUERDO - WIFPY.docx ♣♣	Betiana Rojas

The weekend of shooting was June 26th and 27th. We had 30 participants in different roles during the shoot. It was supported by Mariana Pineda and Estefanía Ortìz in the overall production, Maya Riquelme and Xime Barba in Cinematography, Alicia Guerra in Direction. We also had the help of a Script Supervisor and Raul Britez in the sound department.

Agnes Figueres was in charge of making sure all the COVID-19 procedures for shooting were implemented and followed to the last thing. We also had a film specialized company for





maintaining the cleaning and procedures, MonRI, to make sure everything was safe for the actors, the mentors and the students.

All the participants were hands on trying to apply everything they learned during those previous months. We finished in time and the experience of the participants was very satisfactory.









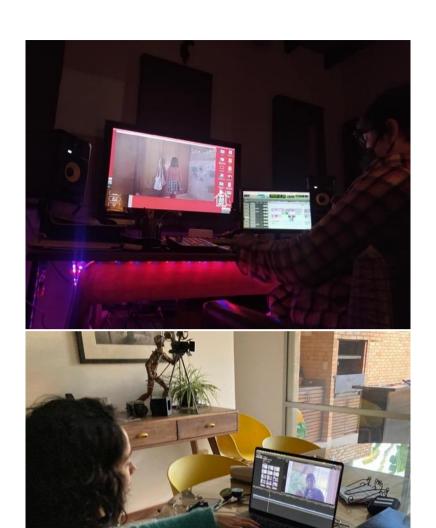




# **POST PRODUCTION**

After the shoot, the director Angie Ruiz, began working with a professional editor, Maiu Fernández, who guided her and finished the short film. Some of the students also wrote the music and with mentor Dahia Valenzuela worked on the sound of the finished film.



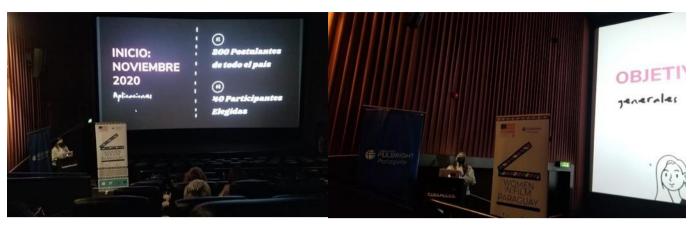


# SCREENING OF "LA NIÑA Y EL MONSTRUO"

On September 20th, we held the official screening of the finished short film for the students, representatives of the American Embassy, Fulbright Alumni, mentors and press.



The screening of the film was held at Cinemark in a private event at one of their film screening rooms. During the event we presented the final achievements of the program and showed the short film for the first time to an audience.













#### **Partners:**

- The Academy of Motion Pictures, Arts and Sciences of Paraguay was one of our partners, helping to promote the project and applications.

- Kili Video is a Paraguayan streaming service that has partnered with WIFPY to help promote the program and stream the short film in November for free.
- Puller Camera Crew is a rental company that helped us during the shoot providing the necessary equipment at a lower cost.
- MC Producciones provided us with the equipment for the sound department at a much lower cost.

#### **ACHIEVEMENTS**

- 200 applications from all over the country.
- 40 women selected for the program.
- 12 women from the professional field of cinema as mentors of the participants.
- Each one of the participants finished with a short film screenplay ready to shoot.
- Creation of community among the participants, giving them the opportunity to keep working together.
- Several participants are already working in the field in technical departments as camera and sound.
- Andrea Fatecha, one of our participants, was selected for other programs to keep working in the field and improving her craft.



# **SCHEDULE**

We finished all the classes and masterclasses in April. The participants started working on pre-production of the short film, which is the preparation of all the areas to shoot, with the assistance of at least one professional mentor in each area.

We were supposed to shoot the film in May, but due to the high cases of COVID-19 we decided to postpone until June. This was also beneficial for the participants that are able to prepare with more depth for their shoot.

The program finished in September with the screening of the short film.

#### **CHALLENGES AND LESSONS**

What we realized was that the classes could have been longer, with more hours for each subject, since there is a lot to cover in order to get a great understanding of the areas. Also, we could have had more masterclasses in specific subjects. We ended up having two sound classes because one was not enough, with no cost for the program for the second class.

In future editions, it would help to have practical classes specially for camera, sound and other more physical areas. Unfortunately, due to the restrictions we chose to do it all online, but it is worth mentioning that the mentors did everything they could to make the classes interactive and show everything they needed to.

But overall it was great to see the growth of the participants from the first class. With each subject they were understanding more and more and having a better grip of the overall craft of filmmaking. Of the 40 participants, 30 finished with 80% participation (which was required) and they were all very committed. Overall during the classes the students were very interested and participated a lot, always showing great interest in learning.

During the pre production it would have helped also to be able to meet in person more often to work in a single space. That always helps to connect and work more connected.

We have to say that the camera department had a great experience with Puller Camera Crew since they were able to test the equipment before the shoot with the professionals from the company.

After the first day of shooting we had to organize the team in different roles since we were able to identify some of the students for other roles. That permitted that the next day it was a smoother shoot and everything finished on time and without any problems.

# **COVERAGE AND OTHER MEDIA**

Promotion of the Program in Musas <a href="https://youtu.be/00Dvi1BmFtA">https://youtu.be/00Dvi1BmFtA</a>

Video of Presentation of WIFPY and Open Applications <a href="https://fb.watch/5QY5zBDMn2/">https://fb.watch/5QY5zBDMn2/</a>

Directing Class with Fulbright Scholar – Tania Cattebeke (From Austin, Texas) <a href="https://youtu.be/SOSPXIIjA-4">https://youtu.be/SOSPXIIjA-4</a>

Screenwriting Class with Maia Nikiphoroff and Alex Vazquez <a href="https://youtu.be/mVqxCPwYAF8">https://youtu.be/mVqxCPwYAF8</a>

Cinematography Class with Fulbright Alumni Maya Riquelme https://youtu.be/j1gFWcCtqJs

Producing Class with Ivana Urizar and Agnes Figueres https://youtu.be/mS5A-RX6xnU

Final video of highlights and experiences of the participants







https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kxpV40J0sgA

# Masterclass with Sharon Weaver



https://fb.watch/5QY3tH2smk/

# Coverage on ABC Color



ESPECTÁCULOS Convocan a mujeres para talleres sobre audiovisual

ESPECTÁCULOS

# Convocan a mujeres para talleres sobre audiovisual

El próximo 15 de diciembre finalizará la convocatoria de Women in Film Paraguay (WIFPY), un programa de talleres online gratuitos y mentorías para mujeres que habiten el territorio paraguayo y deseen contar historias a través del cine. El llamado está abierto a jóvenes de entre 18 y 30 años, sin estudios ni experiencia laboral profesional en el ámbito cinematográfico.

08 DE DICIEMBRE DE 2020 - 01:00

https://www.abc.com.py/espectaculos/2020/12/08/convocan-a-mujeres-para-talleres-sobreaudiovisual/

Coverage from our partner Kili Video.



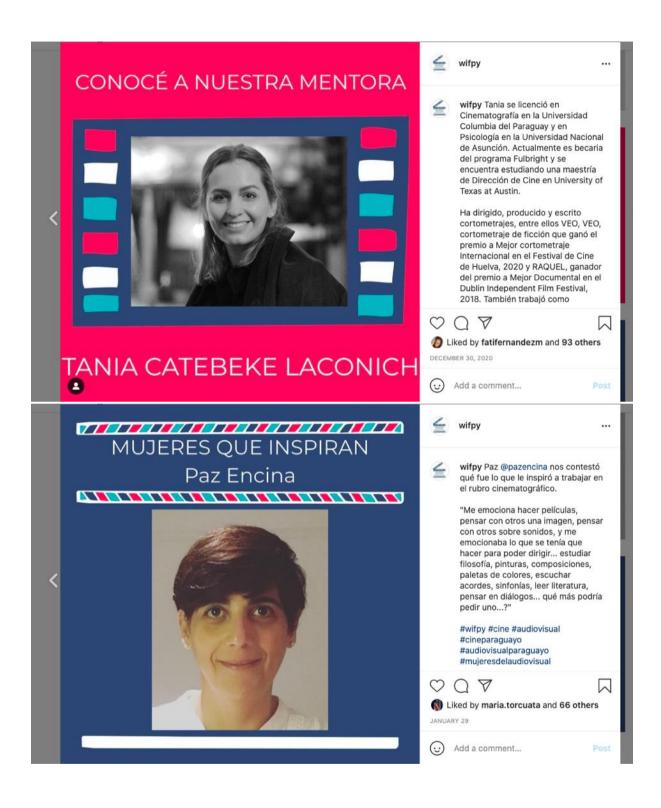
https://www.kili.video/blog/mujeres-el-audiovisual-les-llama

# Coverage from El Trueno Online



https://eltrueno.com.py/2020/11/22/anuncian-programa-de-formacion-sobre-audiovisual-para-muieres/

https://www.instagram.com/wifpy/?hl=en



The Academy of Motion Pictures, Arts and Sciences of Paraguay was one of our partners, helping to promote the project.



# SECOND EDITION 2021-2022

We did a second edition from October 2021 to January 2022 with funds from the National Secretary of Culture.

It was an online format completely with the workshops only held online. We had more specific topics like sound and art, which we felt were necessary after the first edition.

We also had a masterclass regarding film festivals with Mariana Pineda.

Because the budget was much less we only had six mentors and we weren't able to shoot a short film because of the budget constraints.

More than 100 women applied from all over the country and 30 were selected to participate.