



Welcome to the *Benavides Born* Newsletter!

A quick introduction for those new to the project:

Luz Garcia, a high school senior in a forgotten South Texas town, wants something different than the few options awaiting her after graduation -- the military, oil rigs, or fast food chains. She has earned a ticket out with admission to the University of Texas at Austin, but she can't afford to go. Her one shot is a scholarship for winning the State Powerlifting Championship. It is all or nothing for Luz . . . until nothing stares her in the face.

It is a universal story of perseverance set within the unique context of South Texas.

Our Cast Includes:



[Jeremy Ray Valdez](#)
(*La Mission, Walkout, Constantine*)
as
Raynaldo



[Joseph Julian Soria](#)
(*Crank: High Voltage, Fast & Furious, Hamlet 2*)
as
Luis



[Julia Vera](#)
(*Real Women Have Curves, Speed, The X-Files*)
as
Abuela



[Julio Cedillo](#)
(*Cowboys and Aliens, The Three Burials of Melquiades Estrada, The Alamo*)
as
Coach Chapa



[Leticia Magaña](#)
(*Mangus!, Friday Night Lights, The Secret She Carried*)
as
Rosana



...and introducing
[Corina Calderon](#)
as
Luz

. . . as well as 45 speaking roles and over 200 extras cast predominantly from South Texas. We tip our hat to the hard work of Casting Directors Toni Cobb Brock and Sally Allen of Brock/Allen Casting.

Where it started:

Amy Wendel and I wrote the script based on years of research, including interviews and workshops with residents and students of the South Texas towns of Benavides and San Diego. We ultimately returned to film the movie in these towns as well. It gave the film the authenticity the story deserved.

Where we are now:

After four weeks of filming in South Texas, we wrapped production on April 10 on the campus of the University of Texas at Austin (as one of very few films ever to receive permission to use the University's locations and logos).



Amy directed, and I produced along with veteran Austin-based producer Susan Kirr. Thanks to the fantastic work of our experienced crew and all the support we received locally, the shoot went extremely well!

Over the Summer, we will be editing the footage, adding music, and mixing the sound in preparation for submitting to film festivals in the Fall in hopes of its premiering at a festival sometime in 2011.

When you can see it:

We will certainly let you know when and where the film can be seen and how possibly to improve the chances of it screening near you. In the meantime, through this newsletter, we will keep you informed about the project's progress and share some images from production and beyond.

We'll be in touch again soon. Please invite your family and friends to sign up for the newsletter at www.benavidesborn.com.

Thank you for your interest, and thank you to everyone in Texas and beyond who helped make this film possible!!

Warm regards,
Dan Meisel
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KAPOK
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