OFFICIAL SELECTION
LALIFF
2024

AN IMPULSE GROUP DOCUMENTARY
IN ASSOCIATION WITH CABALDANA ALCHEMY
AND AHF

SPEAKING OUT

DIRECTED AND PRODUCED BY JOHN SOLIS





SPEAKING OUT
FILM INFO

Run Time: 88 Minutes

Genre: Documentary, Drama, LGBTQ+ issues

Premiere: Los Angeles Latino International Latino Film Festival

Directed by: John Solis

Produced by: Jose Ramos

Miguel Angel Caballero

Luis Antonio Aldana

Roxy Amezquita

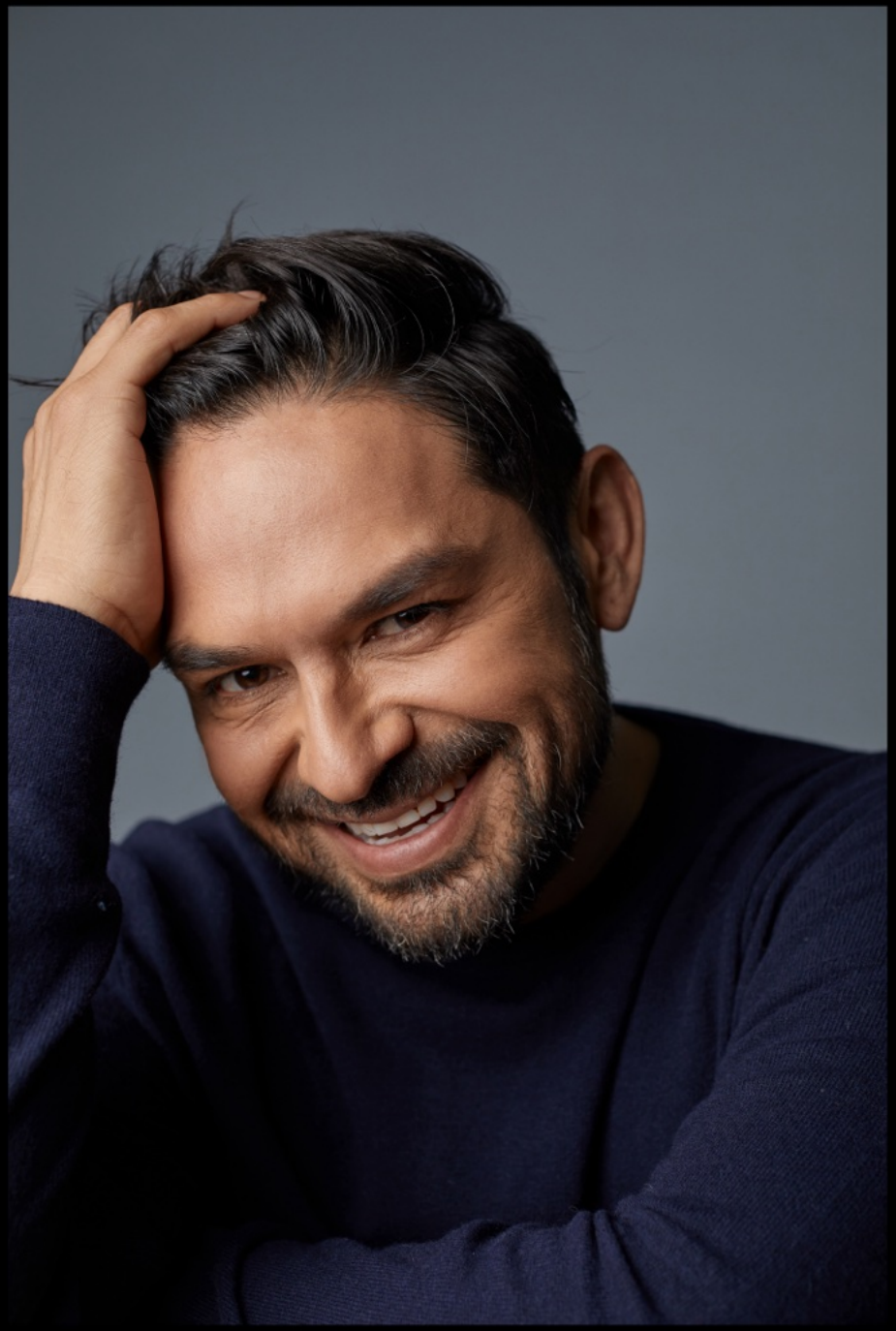
Victor De La Torre

LOGLINE:

"Three gay men, Jose, Charlie, and Rig, plagued by trauma of their own, undergo an emotionaljourney toward healing to become resilient, overcome their past, and finally speak out."



In a world where silence is often forced upon the most painful of stories, "Speaking Out" shines a light on the transformative power of voice and healing. This compelling narrative intertwines the lives of three courageous individuals –Jose, Rig, and Charlie–each bearing the weight of their own dark traumas, yet bound by a common journey towards recovery.



DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

"I created Speaking Out from a vision of vulnerability and love with the ultimate hope that it can heal people from the inside out."
"As a Latino filmmaker, I am awestruck to premiere my documentary film at LALIFF. From being an adolescent actor who used to attend film festivals to promote our family business to now seeing my vision come to life on the big screen, I can truly say I've come full circle. It is an honor to transcend from behind the screen to finally see myself in front of it and share this story of healing with the world."

-John Solis

EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS



MIGUEL ANGEL CABALLERO

I believe Speaking Out serves as both a mirror and a megaphone for the LGBTQ community, especially for gay men who have endured trauma and sexual assault. In a world where stigma still looms large, Speaking Out stands as a beacon of hope, reminding every gay man that their voice matters, their pain is valid, and they are not alone in their journey towards healing and resilience.



JOSE RAMOS

Premiering our documentary at LALIFF fills me with immense pride and joy! This esteemed event is dedicated to amplifying the diverse voices and experiences within the Latino community, providing a vital platform for our stories to be heard and celebrated. As a team predominantly composed of Latinos, being selected to showcase our work at LALIFF holds deep significance for us. It represents not only a validation of our creative endeavors but also an affirmation of the importance of representation in the film industry.



THE SURVIVORS

CHARLIE HARDING

Charlie was born and raised in upper East Tennessee, and after high school, moved to Washington, DC and attended The George Washington University, receiving his Bachelors of Business Administration. After working as a clothing buyer for a couple years, Charlie packed up and moved to the Netherlands and completed his MBA. After returning to the United States, he has worked as a Marketing Manager for an architectural firm, owned his own property development company, became a REALTOR, a bartender and a retail manager. Currently his career path has taken him to the world of vehicle sales.

Charlie is also an accomplished painter, actor, singer and songwriter. He has shown his art in multiple galleries in Southern California and has sold to collectors across the country. He hosted a travel show for television called "Underground" and, along with ensemble casts, starred in 2 television series-; "Not So Straight in Silverlake," and "The Lair " for multiple seasons. He has also been front man for a band and recently co-wrote and recorded the song "Invisible Man" for a documentary about the unhoused. Charlie has called Palm Springs, CA home since 2019.

RIGARDO "RIGNESS" RUSH

Born in Frankfurt, Germany, and raised mostly in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Rigness has over 20+ years working in activism for the LGBTQ community. He has worked with over 35 organizations nationally, promoting and packaging sexual health and wellness programs before becoming the National Director of the Branding for the AIDS Healthcare Foundation (AHF).

In his current role at AHF, he elevates and enhances healthcare spaces, drives campaigns to increase census and cultivates dynamic partnerships across the non-profit sector.

He graduated from Carnegie Mellon University's School of Design with a Bachelor's Degree in Design and continues to consult healthcare professionals, researchers and institutions by building curriculums around sexual health, gender and brand strategies.
In tandem with his professional trajectory, Rigness has performed in various stage plays, online web series and dance productions over the course of his career. He tirelessly strives for representation and equity for his LGBTQ community.

JOSE RAMOS

Jose Ramos was born in Michoacan, Mexico and migrated to the United States at the age of nine. He the founder and president of Impulse Group Globally, a prominent volunteer organization operating across 13 countries with 26 chapters and over 400 dedicated volunteers worldwide. Since its establishment in 2009, Impulse Group has functioned as an affinity group of Aids Healthcare Foundation (AHF), dedicated to strengthening and promoting the well-being of the gay men's community. Jose serves as the National Director of Sales at AHF, in which he plays a pivotal role in providing valuable oversight for the pharmacy Sales team.

Beyond his professional achievements, Jose is a certified yoga instructor and an accomplished athlete. His annual participation in marathons and triathlons exemplifies his dedication to maintaining an active and healthy lifestyle. Furthermore, he generously volunteers his time to teach yoga pro bono for marginalized communities, demonstrating his commitment to giving back and facilitating stillness and well-being among others.
Jose holds a bachelor's degree in psychology from California State University Northridge, augmenting his understanding of human behavior, and an MBA in Management and Organizational Behavior from California Lutheran University, Thousand Oaks.

CAST

CHARLIE



GEORGIE DELAHOZ

RIG



AYDEN ELIJAH



TRAY HAWES



DEMARCO MAJORS

JOSE



ANDRES MEJIA

SUPPORTING CAST



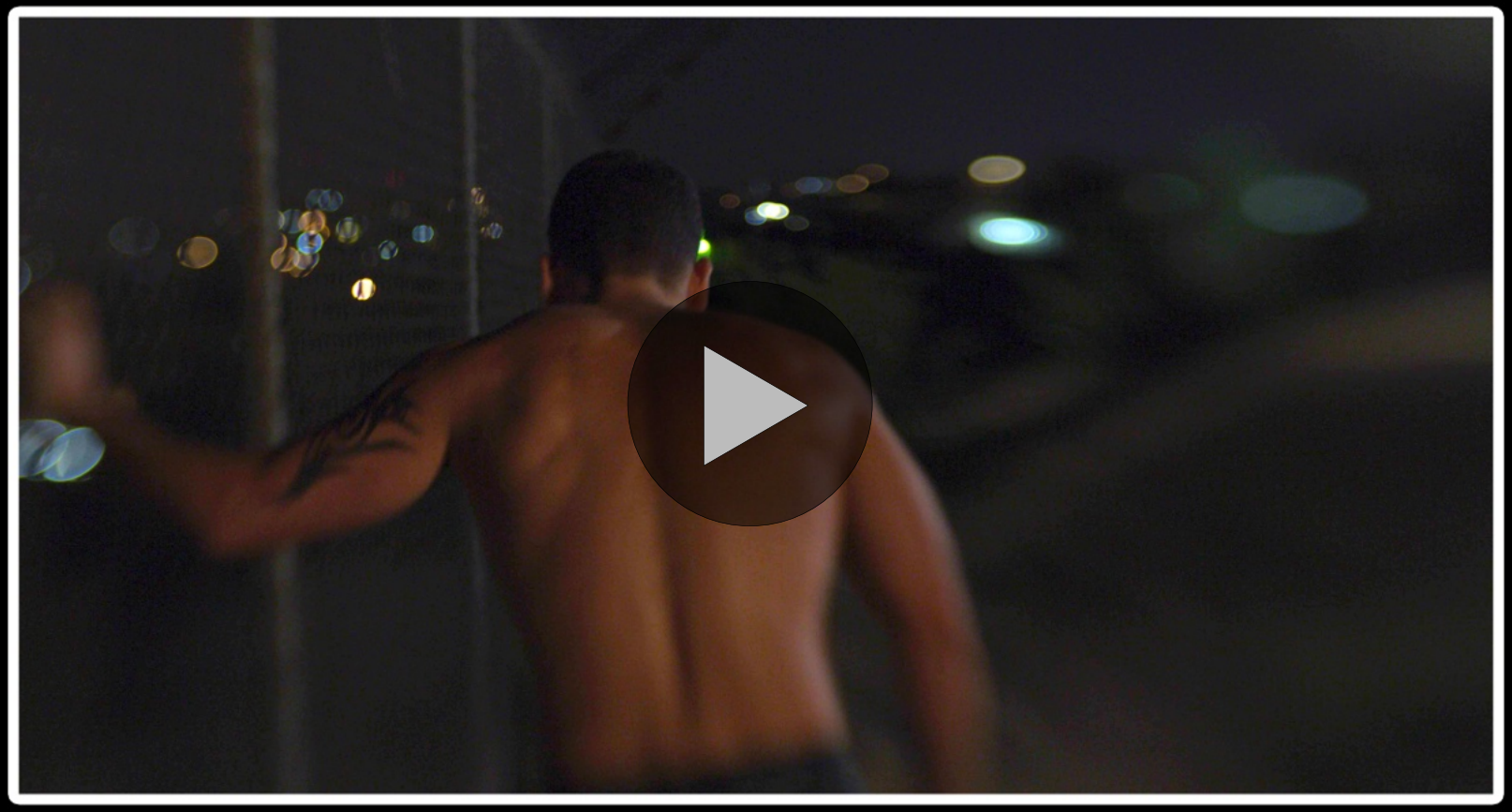
JUAN CARLOS ARIOSA RODRÍGUEZ
“CULPRIT”



HAVILAH MALONE
“RIG’S MOM”



JOHN GIERINGER
“ANTAGONIST”



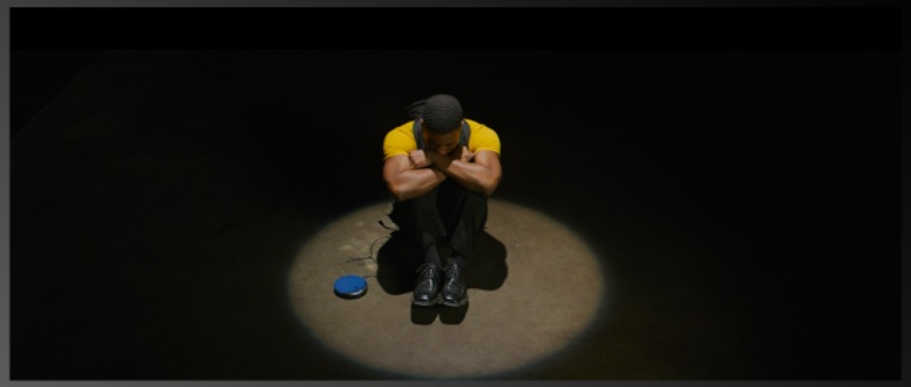
TRAILER

STILLS















IMPULSE GROUP PRESENTS A BRIGHTBULB STUDIOS FEATURE
IN ASSOCIATION WITH AHF AND CABALDANA ALCHEMY

EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS
JOSE RAMOS
MIGUEL ANGEL CABALLERO
LUIS ANTONIO ALDANA

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY
KEELAN CAROTHERS

EDITOR
JASON ZENI

COMPOSER & SOUND MIXER
GUILLERMO SILBERTEIN

PRODUCERS
ROXY AMEZQUITA
VICTOR DE LA TORRE

DIRECTOR
JOHN SOLIS

FEATURING
CHARLIE HARDING
JOSE RAMOS
RIGARDO “RIGNESS” RUSH

YOUNG RIG- AYDEN ELIJAH
TEENAGE RIG- TRAY HAWES
ADULT RIG- DEMARCO MAJORS
RIG’S MOM- HAVILAH MALONE

JOSE- ANDRES MEJIA
CULPRIT- JUAN CARLOS ARIOSA RODRÍGUEZ

CHARLIE- GEORGIE DELAHOZ
ANTAGONIST- JOHN GIERINGER

CREDITS

CONTACT



MIGUEL ANGEL CABALLERO
PRODUCER
MIGUELANGELC1111@GMAIL.COM

JOSE RAMOS
PRODUCER
JOSE.RAMOS@IMPULSEGRP.ORG


SPEAKING OUT
A BURNING DESIRE TO SPEAK OUT
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