LOGLINE

Still struggling with loss, a caring father and his daughter are moved by the Christmas spirit to connect with their Puerto Rican roots by reaching out to victims of the hurricane.

SYNOPSIS

A father and his eight-year-old daughter, Billie, decorate their Christmas tree for the first time since the loss of Billie’s mother. The news on the radio serves as a further reminder that it won’t be a merry Christmas for everyone. Weeks after the 2017 hurricane in Puerto Rico, residents still struggle with basic needs. Billie worries about her Puerto Rican family, her father manages to reassure her temporarily. Billie leaves a note for Santa before she goes to bed.

At midnight, on Christmas Eve, Billie’s father carefully arranges her presents under the tree and reads her note to Santa. Billie has asked Santa to send her presents to the children of Puerto Rico. Her kind-hearted gesture brings her father to tears. Her inclination to help, reminds him of the last time he spent time with his late wife, a U.S. Marine, before she left to serve. As he dozes off, she visits him in his sleep.

On Christmas morning Billie awakes to find that “Santa” has written her back a letter. Her presents will indeed go to children in Puerto Rico.

MAIN CREDITS

CAST

LIAM
OLGA
GUILLERMINA AKA BILLIE

COURTNEY CHARLES
ELLIE DIEZ
ALEXANDRA FAGINS

CREW

writer and director
producer
producer
director of photography
editor
production designer
costume designer

LAILA PETRONE PEYNADO
NINA SPENSLEY
MJ CAVALIERO
MARK AUSTIN
ROBERT GAJIC
MINERVA MARIOTTI
BO ROSES

Please direct all inquiries to: Ontheroadtoart@gmail.com
More info at: www.facebook.com/nomeolvidaredetishortfilm/
BEHIND THE SCENES

No me olvidaré de ti: Flashback scene

No me olvidaré de ti: Christmas tree

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**DIRECTOR’S NOTE**

Sometimes an event catapults us into an unexpected journey. It was in mid-November 2017 that I couldn’t help but cry at the news of Puerto Rico’s state of recovery two months after Hurricane Maria. I felt a deep connection with the American citizens of Puerto Rico, a connection that came to be more personal as well.

I was moved to write the story “No me olvidaré de ti · I Will Not Forget You”. I wasn’t quite sure where the story would take me. All I knew, was that I was writing as a Caribbean woman, as a Dominican woman, a neighbor and friend of Puerto Rico, as a human being. The words kept resonating in my mind: water, electricity, children – followed by something I hadn’t previously understood – just how many Puerto Rican men and women are veterans or in active duty in the U.S. military.

The final result of my journey turned out to be a short, a family moment, a Christmas story for all audiences. My intention was not to strive for complexity, but rather to inspire audiences to reflect on how they might further engage and understand more about what was, and is still, transpiring in Puerto Rico.

Shortly after I directed the project, I discovered that my great-great-grandmother, a woman by the name of Dolores, was from Mayagüez, Puerto Rico. The discovery gave me insight into my visceral empathy with the people of Puerto Rico and my motivation for completing this project.

**DIRECTOR’S BIO**

Laila Petrone is an Italian/Dominican filmmaker. Born in the U.K., she was raised between Rome and Los Angeles. As a child of an actress, she spent most of her youth on Italian film sets. Laila went on to study International Affairs (John Cabot University) and Media and Communications (University of Florence). In 2007, she appeared as Pina in Spike Lee’s Miracle at St. Anna. The experience inspired her to pursue a career behind the camera. In the following years, Laila worked as an Assistant Director and Producer. In 2014, Laila's directorial debut Your Love premiered at Urban World Film Festival in NYC. The short was awarded "Best of Festival" at the Black Women Film Network Summit in Atlanta, and was selected to screen on Aspire TV as part of the ABFF Independent series’ short films program. She recently completed her second short film No me olvidaré de ti · I Will Not Forget You, conceived in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico.

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No me olvidaré de ti: Flashback scene

No me olvidaré de ti: Billie reads her letter from Santa
FULL CREW

Writer & Director  LAILA PETRONE
Producer         NINA SPENSLEY
Producer         MJ CAVALLERO
Executive Producer  IRIS PEYNADO
Director of Photography  MARK AUSTIN
Editor           SLOBODAN GAJIC
Colorist         GRAY MARSHALL
Art Director     MINERVA MARIOTTI
Costume Design  BO ROSES
Production Sound Mixer  DARRYL WILLIAMS
Key Hair and Makeup  LAUREN NICOLE GUZMAN
Script Supervisor  KIMBERLEY J. ROPER
1st AD           STUART DAVIS
1st AC & Steady Cam Op  DAVID DESIO
Post Production Sound  KMG
Re-Recording Mixer  SAM KAUFMANN
Subtitles        LEON DELIO
Poster Graphic Designer  ELVIN DANTE
Studio Teacher  NORA SHORE w/ Stella Pacific Management
Key PA           KEVIN BURNETTE
PA               ERIC WISEMAN
PA               SUMMER VAUGHAN

Original Sound Track
“Christmas is for Everyone” courtesy of KP Hawthorn
“Quedate” courtesy of Pavel Nuñez
“Poor To Rico” courtesy of Cardida “La Bruja” De La Luz

SPECIAL THANK YOU

Morgan Chiarella
Cardida “La Bruja” De La Luz
Karim Lopez
Pavel Nuñez
German Perez
Ron Roecker
Mark Schwartzbard
Ines Sofia Tejada
Tony Todd
Francesca Tolot
Martina Tolot

TECHNICAL SPECS
US / 2018 / 11:24 mins / C300 / Color

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