



SKYLIGHT

What if the answer is within?



SKYLIGHT

Catalina and her estranged family bury their matriarch on a beautiful, sunny day. As Catalina prepares to leave them behind for the last time, ILLAPA, God of thunder, rain and lightning, intervenes, compelling the family to settle their differences and open the door to healing.

GENRE Magical Realism Drama with Rotoscope Animation

WRITER Carolina Hoyos

PRODUCERS Carolina Hoyos and PJ Germain

PRODUCTION COMPANY Laurelwood Pictures

THEMES & AUDIENCE Skylight is a magical realism film about
overcoming grief through culture.

TAGLINE What if the answer is within?

SYNOPSIS

Early September, 1997. The world has just said goodbye to Mother Teresa and Princess Diana of Wales. But things come in threes and CATALINA LUJAN also says goodbye to her mother, BETTY after a seven year battle with cancer. Catalina, who suffers from a chronically misdiagnosed mental illness and has been estranged from her family since the onset of the cancer, returns home to take care of her ailing mother after finding her catatonic, her pain medication dosage accidentally doubled. Good intentions aside, with familial bridges burned so badly, Catalina is a literal ghost in her parent's home. She makes the best of it and even sings to her mother in private before she takes her last breath. The morning of the burial Paula finds Catalina crying into her cereal saying that her mother is gone. Paula innocently assures her that her mom will be back, not quite understanding that 'gone' means *passed*.

The burial is well attended by extended family and a community that loves Betty dearly. It is a perfectly sunny day, giving Catalina hope over how dim a future without her best friend might be. Following the reception, once most of the guests were gone, the Lujan Family retreats separately to different parts of the house. Catalina, thinking she is alone upstairs, presses play on her parent's stereo and turns the volume way up on The Piano soundtrack whilst she cleans a guest room down the hall. This is an album she shared an affinity for with her Mother and is a nice way to end the day with her presence still intact. The next track sounds very different from the first, flying Catalina into a blind rage, screaming towards her parent's room, accusing them of ripping away the only last connection she has to her Mother. Francisco appears trying to console Catalina while her sister Maria jumps to his defense.

As everyone's emotions run high, a late summer storm comes to pass. Lightning and thunder cue up like an orchestra scoring this epic scream-fest. A loud crash, assumed to be lightning striking the house, stops everyone in their tracks. Everyone, including Catalina's brothers, LUCE and ANTONIO run into the master bathroom. They find the skylight missing from the ceiling and sitting in the backyard. Catalina, Maria and Francisco gather buckets and towels to catch the downpour while Luce and Antonio retrieve a ladder and the skylight. As the skylight is replaced, the Lujan Family discovers that the screws which once held it in place were nowhere to be found. It suddenly stops raining. The family takes a moment to appreciate this parting message from Betty through ILLAPA, God of thunder, rain and lightning. Flashing forward ten years, Paula is experiencing similar difficulties with her own mental health and Catalina is able to help her break the cycle.

Writer | Director | Producer

Carolina Hoyos (she/they) is a Queer Two Spirit first generation Peruvian-Ecuadorian Afro-Indigenous Latine. She is Quechua-Kichwa with Moche-Inca-Pima descent and Quariwarmi (3rd gender), or non-binary.

Born in Washington, DC, and raised between the quiet country suburbs of Virginia and the gritty streets of Baltimore, Carolina has also lived in NYC, San Francisco and Montgomery, Alabama, before making LA her home. She splits time between writing, directing and acting for stage and film as well as releasing records as singer-songwriter-multi-instrumentalist, *A Girl I Know*. Her work focuses on quirky queer female-led comedies, crime, and family rooted stories that champion decolonized living. She co-wrote, produced and directed theater-feature hybrid solo festival *Indigiqueer Identity: Reclaiming Past, Present and Future*, and is producing and directing the development of a new full length Indigiqueer play, as part of a two year contract with Celebration Theatre. As a member of Native Voices Theater Ensemble, Carolina directed *Cashed Out* and *Thresholds and Threads* to win awards at their annual play festival. She's teamed up with Laurelwood Pictures to direct magical realism film *Skylight*, based on a true story featuring Incan Thunder God Illapa. *Skylight* was adapted from a short essay Carolina wrote with the support of a West Hollywood Artist Grant. Birthed out of the experience of moving her Father in with her for cancer treatment, her sitcom pilot *Dad Pad* has been compared to Brooklyn Nine-Nine with a majority female cast. The pilot earned her fellowship in the 2019 Native American TV Writers Lab and was shortlisted to be produced by Elizabeth Banks's digital content studio WhoHaHa. Carolina also writes and performs with improv and sketch troupes at UCB, iOWest, Comedy Central, ACME Noho, and The Clubhouse. Her troupe Nightpantz has won multiple awards from WhoHaHa with Carolina's work highlighted in their inaugural WhoHaHa Comedy Call Out.

Over the pandemic, Carolina committed to working as a 2021 Peace Studio Creative Peacebuilder. Always one to champion proper representation in media, she created and performed a #MMIW solo piece commissioned by The Peace Studio, performed in Macbeth, Comedy of Errors and Romeo & Juliet with Black Girls Luv The Bard, played legendary Apache warrior Lozen in museum shero play *The Bowels* at Women's Theatre Festival, voiced famed Cherokee engineer Mary Golda Ross in a Nick Jr.'s *Blaze's Amazing Race Through Time!* and played a Cherokee Vice Presidential hopeful in Chinese American Film Festival winner *Lee'd The Way*. Other Film/TV credits include *MTV Hits*, Nicholas Winding Refn's *Too Old To Die Young*, Austin Film Festival winner *Blackwater* and a Netflix *NDA* series releasing late 2022.

Carolina lives and plays with her adorable chiweenie Liz Lemon in the mountains and on the beaches all over Los Angeles. They make regular appearances together performing in Los Angeles County's Summer Concert series program and can be seen cutting a rug in Pharrell Williams' "Happy" video. CarolinaHoyos.com



Producer | Editor | VFX

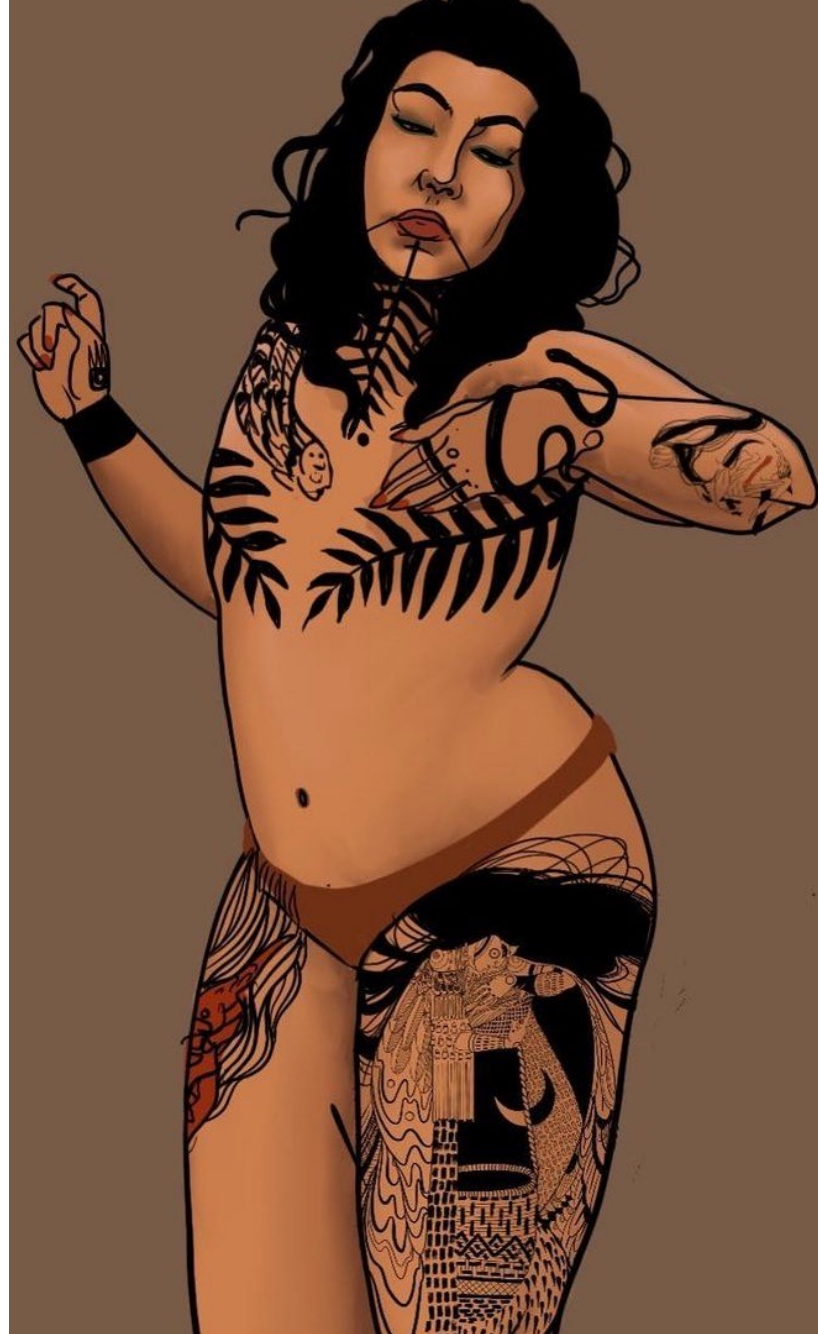
PJ Germain is an award winning Writer, Director and Producer. As an alumni of Hofstra University and the American Film Institute Conservatory, PJ is a visual artist and gifted storyteller whose work has been lauded at festivals and screens across the globe. His 35mm short, GHOST LIGHT, starring Abraham Benrubi (E.R., Bosch, Without A Paddle) was the recipient of the LucasFilm Foundation, Color by Deluxe and Panavision New Filmmaker awards, among many other festival accolades including Best Short Film and Best Director. PJ's newest film, Bend In The Road, is currently on the 2022 festival circuit. With extensive experience behind the camera, PJ is also an accomplished Editor and Visual Effects Artist. Currently, PJ is in development on his feature directorial debut.

Director of Photography

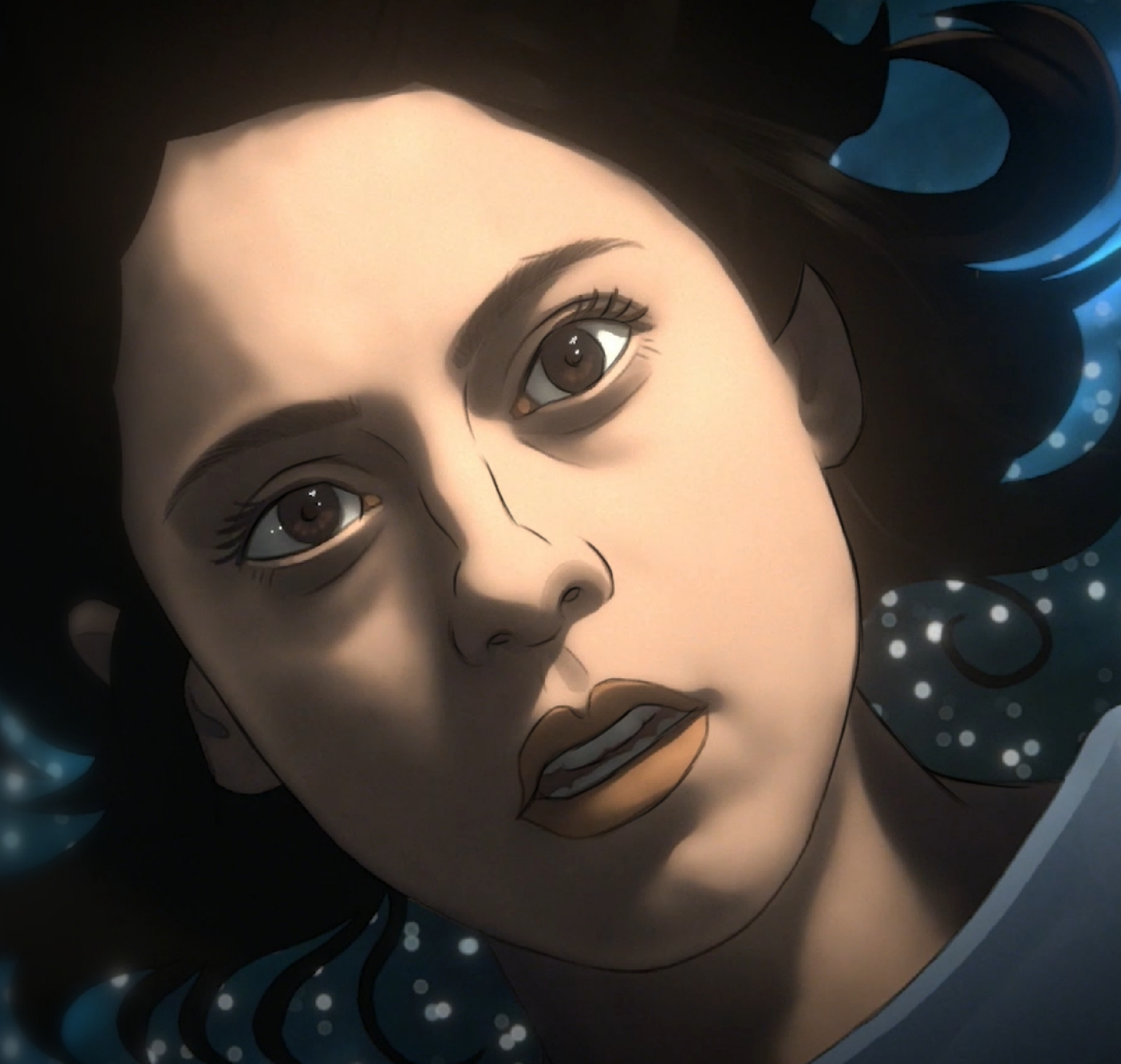
Jeff Billings is a Los Angeles-based Cinematographer who is as serious an artist as he is a technician. Building on his classical training from Hofstra University and American Film Institute, Jeff earned extensive experience with camera, visual effects, color correction, and interactive lighting. Jeff had the pleasure of collaborating as Cinematographer for two feature films by Chad Ferrin: The Deep Ones (Gina La Piana, Johann Urb) and Pig Killer (Jake Busey, Robert Miano). Jeff also recently finished the short films Be, Porcelain, and Bend in the Road, and a music video Marsalis by Deinrené. <https://jeff-billings.com>

Visual Artist

Raven Twobirds is a 2S mixed Indigenous artist (anishinaabe/choctaw/scottish) who explores spiritual beliefs and life experiences and how they are interwoven within the themes of death, dreams, trauma, indigenous identity, exile, accessing the otherworldly and navigating the liminal spaces between psychosis and spiritual experience. <https://www.raventwobirds.com>



Skylight
Lookbook







Funeral Morning



Precocious Child

Clear Skies





Parent's Room



Time to Go

The Piano







Llapa, Thunder God





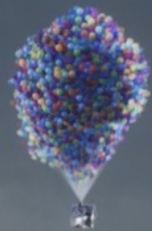
I'm Still Here







You can't take her from me



*Lightning
Strikes*









Magic

A
Cleansing



Ten Years Later...



The Talk

*The Rebel,
Catalina*





The Matriarch
Betty

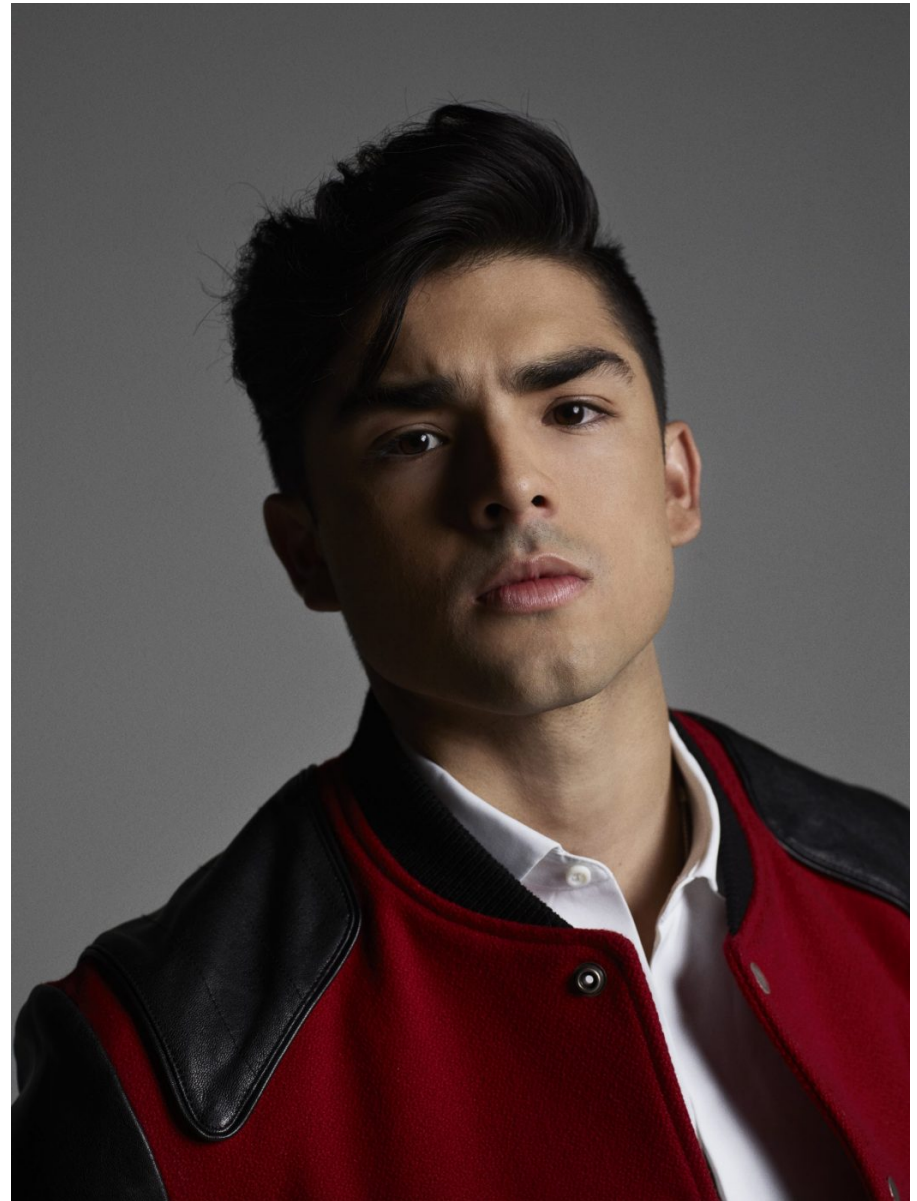
The Father
Francisco





The Sister
Maria

The Brother
Luce



The Daughter
Paula

