

2006/2007 Worldstudio AIGA Scholarships

AIGA Award



XOCHITL DORSEY

Film and video

Graduate

UCLA

Having grown up with very few positive representations of Latinos in film or television, I became determined to change this once I decided to become a filmmaker. While at UCLA I've had the rare opportunity to produce work that I believe sheds some light on the Latino experience. Thus far I have written and directed three narrative shorts ("Flor de Naranja," "Tears & Tortillas," and "Cheli's Choice"), as well as directed a short documentary ("Brown Girl Beat"). The first film, "Flor de Naranja", tells the story of two young immigrants locked in a vendor's turf war on the streets of Los Angeles. In a small way, this film is homage to Latino L.A., as well as the unsung lives of immigrants and their triumphant moments in the face of adversity. Meanwhile, my second short film, "Tears & Tortillas," tells of a small miracle experienced by a Mexican grandmother as she prepares tortillas for her family. Both these works relate to my experience of growing up Latina in Southern California and share my affection for the culture that I grew up with. In my latest film, "Cheli's Choice," I've attempted to carry on these themes and commitment to the Latino community by telling a coming-of-age story of a punk rock girl from East Los Angeles. The success of this collaboration has made me eager to develop other projects as a filmmaker that involve the greater arts community of East Los Angeles. While finishing my studies, I plan to develop my skills as a filmmaker to continue to create projects that encourage community collaboration and awareness of important social issues. Once I receive my MFA degree, I intend to continue creating works that document the diversity of the American experience through film and video.