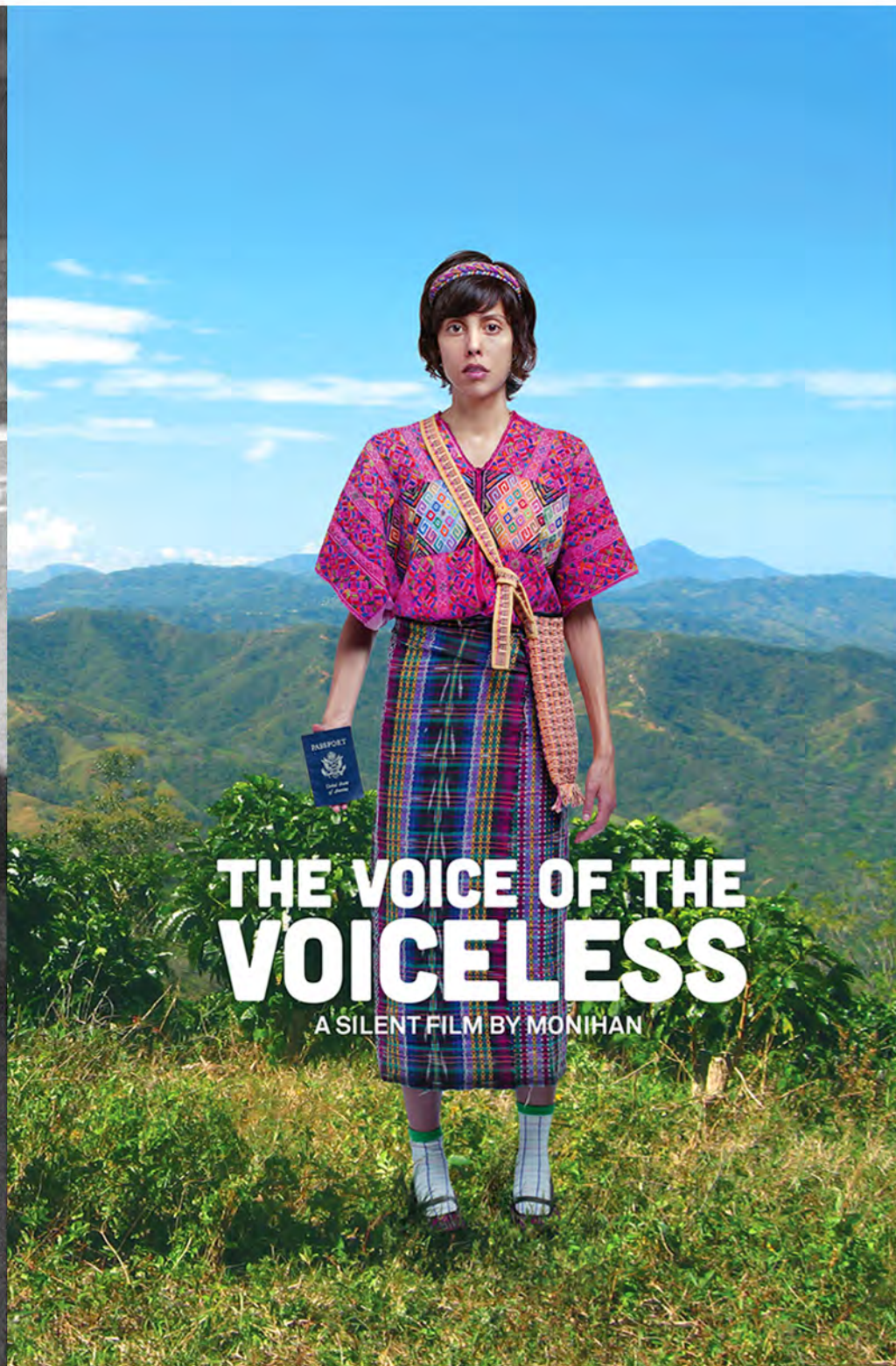


# LA VOZ DE LOS SILENCIADOS

UNA PELÍCULA MUDA DE MONIHAN



# THE VOICE OF THE VOICELESS

A SILENT FILM BY MONIHAN



# LA VOZ DE LOS SILENCIADOS

THE VOICE OF THE VOICELESS

## SYNOPSIS

LA VOZ DE LOS SILENCIADOS is a radically different vision of filmmaking. A 90-minute silent film that tells the story of modern-day slavery, using non-actors, Brechtian edits, a brutal subway landscape, and the isolation of deafness. Somewhere in this manic plot is also a magic penguin.

Inspired by a real New York story, the film follows Olga, a hearing impaired teenager from Central America. Lured to New York City under the false promise of attending a Christian sign language school, she finds herself a slave to an international criminal syndicate. Forced to sell "I am deaf" trinkets on the subway, Olga is trapped inside a nightmare that will not end— and we, the audience, are trapped with her.

Working from early in the morning until late at night, Olga and her fellow 'students' must raise a minimum of \$100 a day or face physical abuse and torture. By necessity, this quotidian routine transforms an innocent girl into a street-wise young woman, reliant on wit and creativity to earn her quota from tourists and commuters alike. But will it be possible for Olga to ever escape this drudgery? And what does a penguin have to do with all of this?

Based on the true story of a crime ring that was broken up by New York police in 1997, LA VOZ shatters our ideas of film, storytelling, and sound. During the 1990's, nearly everyday on New York subways, it was common to have a shy Latin American place a card with an attached trinket beside you on an empty seat. The card would explain that they were deaf, the knick-knack being sold to fund their 'education'. Some train riders would donate a dollar or two, while most would simply ignore the request. The more cynical would question whether these trinket peddlers were actually hearing impaired at all.

The hawkers were in fact deaf, but were being forced to perform this routine by an international crime ring. Lured to the US under false pretenses, upon arrival they would find themselves working the subways as modern day slaves. Facing threats to their own lives and the lives of their families back home, escaping this existence of servitude appeared impossible. Inspired by this true incident, LA VOZ is a devastating drama of one brave teenager's attempt to maintain dignity in the face of callous mistreatment.





# LA VOZ DE LOS SILENCIADOS

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## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

For years I had been noticing deaf people on the subway selling trinkets. In a New York overloaded with in-your-face, aggressive panhandling as performance art, my interactions with the deaf trinket-peddlers were eye-raising moments. The person would put the trinket down next to you, and trust that by the time they returned from the other end of the train, you had read the card— the one that said, “I am deaf. Selling this for \$1 to pay for my education. Please help. God bless you.” By then, you would have decided whether to offer a dollar, or ignore them. Unlike other panhandlers, the trinket sellers did not look people in the eye, and consciously made it a point to avoid invading anyone’s personal space.

In 1997, the NYPD uncovered what was really going on behind this illicit operation, and it became public knowledge that the trinket peddlers were slaves to an international crime syndicate. They had been lured to the US under false pretenses, and forced to do this demoralizing, repetitive work. They were all indeed deaf, but that was the only part of their routine that was factual. Modern day slavery, taking place in the largest city of the 'land of the free'— right in front of us, and nobody recognized it.

I read about this in the newspapers and became obsessed with telling this story to the public. The news came and went in one busy week— people moved on, I didn't. I kept coming back to the story, consumed with sharing what I believe is the perfect allegory for human greed. A decade later, the film is finally in front of you.

I wanted to make something challenging and cinematically unique. Of course silent films are the oldest form. But I wanted to do a modern silent, not a pastiche or homage to the golden era, and not as a gimmick to signify deafness. LA VOZ is a fully integrated silent movie, with a vibratory, low frequency sound design that puts the audience into Olga’s headspace. Telling this story, in her language, was the driving force behind LA VOZ.



# LA VOZ DE LOS SILENCIADOS

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## CAST

Janeva Adena Calderón Zentz as Olga  
Ricky Powell as Henchman #1  
Pamela Guthrie as Boss Lady  
Kevin Tamayo as Sad Boy  
Señor Muerto as Henchman #2  
TOC as Henchman #3  
Vicente Carache as Olga's Brother  
Gillian McKenzie as 'Christian' Woman  
Gerardo Masis as 'Christian' Man  
Osvaldo Maciel as Young Man with a Crush

## CREW

Writer, Director:	Maximón Monihan
Cinematographers:	Miana Juanita Grafals and José Galleta
Lighting Director:	Jesus H. Garrett III
Assistant Director:	Andrés Prokopenko
Art Director:	Janeva Adena Calderón Zentz
Editor:	Miguel Sobo
Sound Design:	Miguel Coffman
Make-Up, Hair & Special Effects:	Señor Muerto
Title Design:	José 'Pepe' Newton
Visual Effects:	Marcelo Z, Erica Perez, Danilo De Gloria, Gap Yossanun Sangpattharamatee, Rico Drake
Production Assistants:	Nicolita 'LeeLee' Monihan, Sancho Denton, Yoshiko Mori, Héctor 'Flaco' Concepción, Deniella Rosa
Musical Supervisor:	Phofo
Location Manager:	Samuel Rohn
Casting:	Kristiano Sorge, Aldofo 'Rony' Mejia
Production Company:	Bricolagista!

## DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY



Maximón Monihan (1969, Washington) was raised in Seattle's Central District. He was a regular installment in the city's street kid/punk scene that served as the foundation for the classic documentary film "Streetwise" (in which he made an appearance). By the late-80s, he was sponsored by the legendary H-Street skateboard team and was featured in, and worked on, numerous landmark skate films, most notably "Shackle Me Not" and "Hokus Pokus". It was during this time Monihan earned a degree in Philosophy and Cultural Studies from University of California, Santa Cruz while concomitantly traveling throughout Europe, Asia, Central America and Africa as a professional skateboarder. Studying abroad meant that, while not skateboarding, he worked as a roaming

research assistant for his renowned academic mentors, Professors Angela Davis, Akasha Hull, David Anthony, and Herman Gray. By the mid-90s he relocated to Brooklyn and stopped skating professionally to instead make skate films for his former sponsors. He also began working as a film critic for Pseudo.com, the first ever online TV network. In 2005, Monihan launched his own production company, Bricolagista!, and has shot a number of short films, online TV series and music videos for artists ranging from Prince Paul, Jean Grae, Talib Kweli, Thunderheist, Greg Nice and Kool Keith to Dead Kids, I.R.O.K., MC Paul Barman and Negroes On Ice. Monihan still lives in Brooklyn. LA VOZ DE LOS SILENCIADOS is his first feature film.

## FILMOGRAPHY

La Voz De Los Silenciados (2013)

## CAST BIOS



JANEVA ADENA CALDERÓN ZENTZ AS OLGA

Janeva has been called 'the Guatemalan Shelley Duvall' for her striking features and scene stealing presence. She is a graduate of The Cooper Union where she studied Visual Arts and currently works in Los Angeles as an art director/production designer for film and television. She is also co-creator of Sonoptik, a media art imprint dedicated to promoting experimental music as well as interactive artworks. The role of 'Olga' was Janeva's very first time acting on camera.



PAMELA GUTHRIE AS BOSS LADY

Pamela Guthrie, originally from Great Britain, is an actor living and working in New York City. Besides performing in La Voz, she has been in episodes of The Sopranos, 30 Rock and Law and Order SVU. On weekends, Pamela runs marathons.



RICKY POWELL AS HENCHMAN #1

Born and raised in New York City, Ricky Powell is a legendary photographer who specializes in the environmental portrait. Though Powell initially rose to fame because of his relationship with the Beastie Boys, he is well-known for his intimate photographs that have been featured in The New York Times, The New York Post, The Daily News, The Village Voice, TIME, Newsweek, VIBE, The Source, Rolling Stone, and more. He is also an all-around personality and a living, breathing hip-hop version of Oscar Madison.

## CAST BIOS



T.O.C. AS HENCHMAN #2

T.O.C. is a DJ, Music Producer, truck driver and BBQ connoisseur. La Voz is his first role as an actor, although he did appear on Prince Paul's legendary "Ill-Out Show" on Sirius Satellite Radio, however playing himself. Currently he is performing as 'The Bartender' on Prince Paul's "All-Purpose Show", a variety show produced by Scion. He once met Lucy Liu on the street in Manhattan.



MR.DEAD AS HENCHMAN #3

Mr. Dead (aka Señor Muerto) is an internationally acclaimed Hip Hop MC who has toured the world with Prince Paul, Handsome Boy Modeling School and his own group, Metabolics. He is also an accomplished character actor and special effects make-up artist (numerous Troma films, music videos, The Chris Elliot Show, etc.). Mr. Dead's greatest claim to fame is probably knowing more about Tom Savini than even Tom Savini knows about Tom Savini. He also collects snakes and old video game consoles.



KEVIN TAMAYO AS SAD BOY

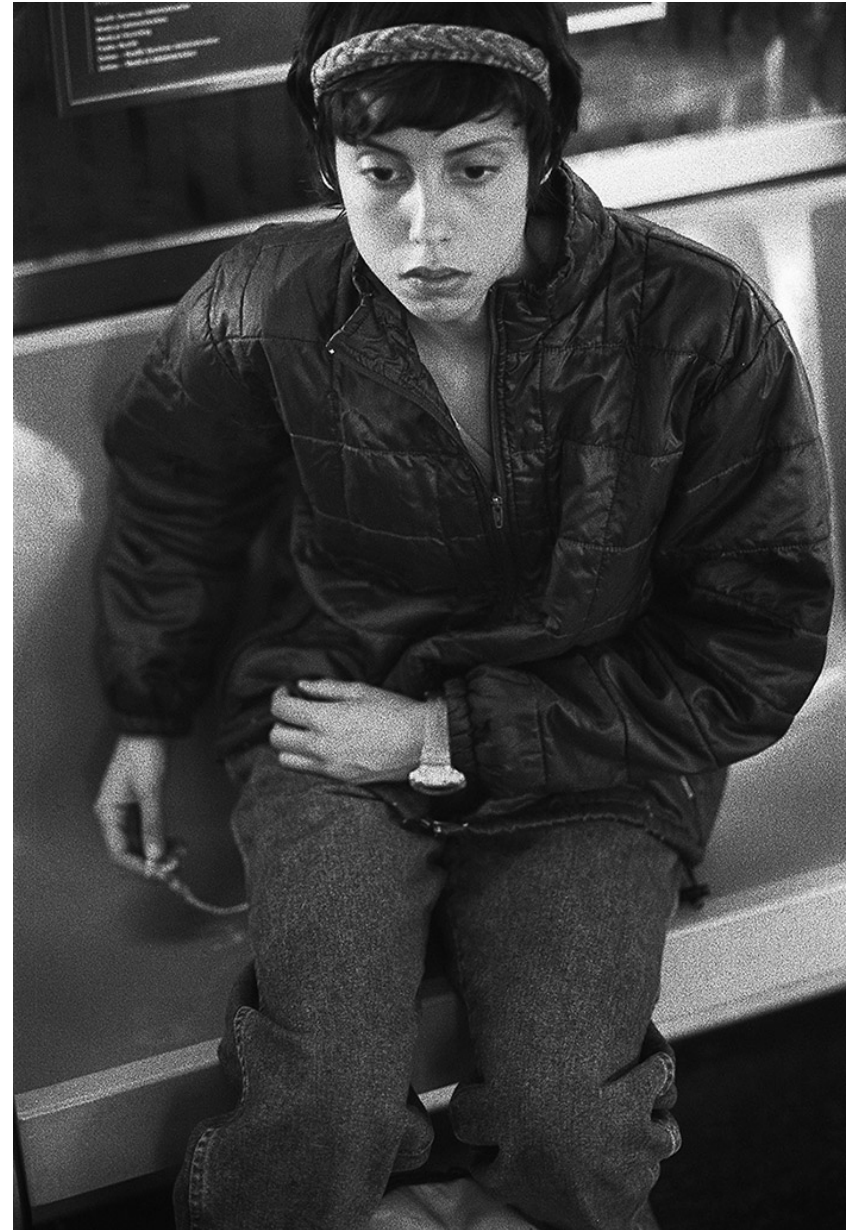
Kevin Tamayo is a student from Brooklyn, New York. He also works with his father's construction company where he is an incredible drywall installer. He spends his summers in Mexico visiting his grandmother, bird-watching and enjoying the outdoors. La Voz is his first time acting. He has since lost a lot of weight.

**PRODUCTION STILLS**





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OFFICIAL WEBSITE:

**[WWW.LVDLS.COM](http://WWW.LVDLS.COM)**

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FB PAGE:

**[FACEBOOK.COM / LAVOZDELOSSILENCIADOS](https://FACEBOOK.COM/LAVOZDELOSSILENCIADOS)**

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**BRIC  
OLAG  
ISTA!**

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