



MOM

a film by Xun Sero

Produced by Terra Nostra Films

Documentary, 80 min

Mexico

S Y N O P S I S

*As a Mexican Tzotzil I grew up between the sacrality
both of Guadalupe Virgin and Mother Earth.*

*As a son, I grew up among the derision
of not having a father and blaming my mother for it.*

*'Mom' is a dialogue between mother and son exploring
their contradictions, knowing and recognizing each other,
and reflecting on naturalized violence and its reproduction.*

Xun Sero





FILM DIRECTOR'S B I O G R A P H Y X U N S E R O (1988, CHIAPAS, MEXICO)

He began his work in documentary film narrating events related to the struggle of the native peoples in Chiapas.

He tries to develop the real cultural heritage of the characters and avoid clichés about indigenous person.

He built his experience in the workshops of 'Ambulante Más Allá' and 'CCC con Patas', and in the Documentary Film School of San Cristóbal de Las Casas, Chiapas.

He works as a cinematographer in documentary films.
'Mom' is his first film as a director.



DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

“Don’t air your dirty laundry in public” is a saying that is often heard when there are “family problems”. Even though these problems should be resolved by talking them through and communicating what each person feels or thinks, there is a reality marked by violence that nobody talks about, that is not spoken of. Addressing the violence that is lived and which causes shame is the intention of this film. In doing so, it seeks to detonate a social conversation. Our behaviors are learned in society. They are not born of their own accord. Exercising violence, denying violence, believing that the person who lives in a situation of violence deserves it; we have learned all of this in society. Society itself feeds these ideas.

I had to understand this first in order to forgive myself. Because, after I became aware of what I am, what Xun represents and does as a man, it was very hard. I realized that the first feminine body

against which I exercised violence was my mother’s. I still have many practices, thoughts and behaviors that are very violent. And each time I notice this or it is brought to my attention, it is even more difficult than the first time that I saw and understood it. It is more difficult, because you feel like you are going backwards, that it doesn’t matter how much you learn, it seems that you can’t escape what you are. But I have also learned that I should start by destroying figures and recognizing people. Who are you, mom? This is the question that guided me in the making of this film. Therefore, throughout the film, we strip off the layers that construct what we suppose is a mother, and we get to know the person behind this figure — her dreams, her pain, her laughter, her life. Who is behind this figure that we call mother, father, daughter, son? Who dwells there?

Xun Sero



C R E D I T S

Written & directed by Xun Sero

Starring Hilda Rodríguez Méndez

Produced by Daniela Contreras,
Nicolas Défossé

Cinematography José Alfredo Jiménez
Pérez, Xun Sero

Sound recording Jaime Álvarez

Film editing Nicolas Défossé

Sound design Martin de Torcy

Sound mix Pablo Fernández Murguía

Colourist Néstor Abel Jiménez Díaz

Graphic designer Adolfo López Magaña

Production company Terra Nostra Films

With the support of Escuela de
Cine Documental de San Cristóbal
de Las Casas, Instituto Mexicano
de Cinematografía (IMCINE),
FOCINE (Programa de Fomento al
Cine Mexicano), EGGM (Estímulo
Gabriel García Márquez para la
Creación Cinematográfica en México
y Centroamérica), ECAMC (Estímulo
para la creación audiovisual en México
y Centroamérica para comunidades
indígenas y afrodescendientes), TV
UNAM.







P

R

E

S

S

Narrated in a contemplative, organic, and in many moments, even poetic way.

Juan José Antuna Ortiz
Cinéfagos

“Mamá” is a visual breath of air, a caress for the senses, and also a deep and painful crying out of unspoken truths.

Araceli Martínez Rose
Los Angeles Times

It is a documentary that, being so intimate, can emotionally move anyone who has a mother.

Caleb Triana
Purgante

“Mamá” is a piece that reflects on the normalization of machismo and how we have internalized it.

Jorge Espinoza Lasso
La Estatuilla

It invites us to engage in ongoing reflection, in collective reconciliation, in the search for personal rupture and the deeply felt birth of new ways of approaching these situations.

Maria José González
Zona Nueve

An authentic exercise of liberation.

Hermann Bellinghausen
Ojarasca, La Jornada

Xun Sero portrays his mother as a woman who identifies the actions that harmed her and fights to talk about it, not only as an act of individual healing, but also collective healing by speaking out, so that other women do not repeat her story.

Sandra Ramírez
Ambulante

The film that we chose for the Valdevy Award is MAMÁ, a Mexican film by Xun Sero. We got caught up by this life story because it is the view of a son who questions himself and films the liberated words of his mother; because this son, this man refuses to reproduce patterns of violence; and because, despite her painful experience, this mother embodies resilience and carries real hope – because this film is accessible and we would like to share it and discuss it in our neighborhoods.

Valdevy Prize Jury
Festival Les Écrans Documentaires, Paris, France



A W A R D S

- “Diosa de Plata” Award for Best Mexican Documentary Feature Film (XLVIII Delivery of “Diosas de Plata”, Pecime, Film Journalists of Mexico)
- José Rovirosa Award for Best Mexican Documentary (XXVII José Rovirosa Award, FilMOTECA of the National Autonomous University of Mexico - UNAM, Mexico City)
- Audience Award for Best Documentary Feature Film (XXXV Cinélatino Rencontres de Toulouse, France)
- Valdevy Award for Best Documentary (XXVII Festival Les Écrans Documentaires, Paris, France)
- Silver Lessinia Award for Best Film (XXIX Film Festival della Lessinia, Verona, Italy)
- Award for Best Documentary Feature Film (XXIII imagineNATIVE Film + Media Arts Festival, Toronto, Canada)
- EVA - Excellence in Visual Anthropology Award (XVII Ethnocineca – International Documentary Film Festival Vienna, Austria)
- IILA Cinema Award for Best Documentary Feature Film (IILA – International Italian-Latin American Organization)
- LASA Award of Merit in Film (XIII LASA Latin American Studies Association Film Festival, Vancouver, Canada)
- Special Jury Award FEISAL (XXXVII Guadalajara International Film Festival, Mexico)
- “Fernando Báez” Award for Best Documentary Debut Film (XV Festival de Cine Global de Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic)
- FEISAL Award (XV Festival de Cine Global de Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic)

- 
- Jury Award for Best Documentary Feature (IV MICMX International Film Festival (Mexico city))
 - Honorable Mention, International Feature Film Competition (XXIX CinEco - Serra da Estrela International Environmental Film Festival, Portugal)
 - Honorable Mention of the Lola Award for Best Feature Film (XII Philadelphia Latino Film Festival, United States)
 - Honorable Mention of the Young Jury (VI Black Canvas – Contemporary Film Festival, Mexico)
 - Honorable Mention, Documentary Feature Film competition (XV Festival Zanate, Mexico)





VINCITORE CATEGORIA
DOCUMENTARI 2023



SELECCIÓN OFICIAL





contacto@terranostrafilms.com
<https://www.documentalmama.com/>