

VIOLETA AYALA

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FILMMOGRAPHY

PRISONX, VR Interactive & Immersive Animation, 35 min, 2021

COCAINE PRISON, doc, 75 min, 2017

THE FIGHT, doc, 29 min, 2017

THE BOLIVIAN CASE, doc, 85 min, 2015

STOLEN, doc, 78 min, 2009

AWARDS

Special Presentation, New Images Festival, PRISON X, France 2022

Official Selection New Frontier, Sundance Film Festival for PRISON X, US 2021

Veer Future Award Finalist, Cannes XR for PRISON X, France, 2021

XR Immersive Arcade, Games For Change for PRISON X, US, 2021

Official Selection, TIFF, for COCAINE PRISON, Canada 2017

Nominated Best Documentary Feature, Camden IFF 2017 for COCAINE PRISON, US

Best of Fest, IDFA, for COCAINE PRISON, Holland 2017

Best Cinematography, Walkley Awards (Australian Pulitzer Prize), for THE FIGHT, 2017

Nominated Best Short Doc, International Documentary Awards (IDA), for THE FIGHT, US 2017

Jaime Escalante Medal for Extraordinary Talent in Filmmaking, Bolivian Embassy, DC 2018

Audience Award, Toulouse Latin America Film Festival, for COCAINE PRISON, France 2018

DW Doc Dispatch Award, Sheffield International Documentary Festival, for THE FIGHT, UK, 2017

Official Selection, Toronto International Film Festival, for STOLEN, Canada 2009

Official Competition 2009, IDFA, for STOLEN, Canada 2009

Nominated for Premios Platino, for THE BOLIVIAN CASE, Spain, 2016

Nominated for Premios Fenix, for THE BOLIVIAN CASE, Mexico, 2015

Audience Award, Sydney Film Festival, for THE BOLIVIAN CASE, Australia, 2015

Special Presentation, Hot Docs, for THE BOLIVIAN CASE, Canada, 2015

Best Short Film, The Right Cut for THE FIGHT, Venezuela 2020

Grand Jury Prize, South West London International Film Festival for THE FIGHT, UK 2018

Best Short Documentary, Sose International Film Festival for THE FIGHT, Armenia 2018

Best Short Documentary, Inclus Film Festival for THE FIGHT, Spain 2018

Best International Short, Overcome Film Festival, for THE FIGHT, Brazil 2018

Best Short, Artículo 31 Film Festival, for THE FIGHT, Spain 2018

Nominated Stefan Jarl Award, Tempo Doc Festival, for COCAINE PRISON, Sweden 2018

Finalist Sony Impact Award for Documentaries, Rory Peck Awards, for THE FIGHT, UK, 2017

Best Short, International Human Rights Festival in Sucre, for THE FIGHT, Bolivia, 2017

Bertha Britdoc Journalism Award, Good Pitch NY, for COCAINE PRISON, US, 2013

Puma Creative Catalyst Award, Britdoc Foundation, for THE BOLIVIAN CASE, UK, 2012

Best Feature Documentary, Pan African Film Festival, for STOLEN, LA, US, 2010

Grand Prix, Art of the Document Film Festival, for STOLEN, Warsaw, Poland, 2010

Best Documentary, Anchorage International Film Festival, for STOLEN, US, 2010
Best Film, Festival Internacional de Cine de Cuenca, for STOLEN, Ecuador, 2010
Best Documentary, Africa Film Festival, for STOLEN, Port Harcourt, Nigeria, 2010
Best Film, River's Edge International Film Festival, for STOLEN, US, 2010
Best Editing, Documentary Edge Film Festival, for STOLEN, NZ, 2010
Special Jury Mention, Documentary Edge Film Festival, for STOLEN, NZ, 2010
Best Feature, Rincon International Film Festival, for STOLEN, Puerto Rico, 2010
Silver Olive, XV International TV Festival Bar, for STOLEN, Montenegro, 2010
Special Mention, Ojai Film Festival, for STOLEN, California, US, 2010
Audience Award, Amnesty International Film Festival, for STOLEN, Canada, 2010
Audience Award, One World Human Right Film Festival, for STOLEN, 2010
Special Award for Excellence, Amazigh International Film Festival, for STOLEN, Morocco, 2012

CAREER DEVELOPMENT

Dec 2020 – Present

Co-Founder of KOA.XYZ, a co-creators studio focused on building the Neo-Andean Metaverse including 3D art, 3D character creation, 3D Fashion, AR/VR/XR and AI.

<https://www.koa.xyz/>

<https://www.cryptovoxels.com/parcels/4403> (Web XR)

July 2006 – Present

Co-Founder of UNITEDNOTIONS FILM an award winning production company that creates experiential films and new media with challenging ideas that push boundaries. <https://www.unitednotions.film/>

FILM EXPERIENCE

2019 – LA LUCHA (In Post Production), Feature Documentary

Writer, Director, Producer, Editor

People with disabilities are among the most discriminated against in Bolivia. Fed up with being ignored, a group marches across the Andes to speak to the President.

Funders: ITVS Open Call Production Fund, Screen Australia, Sundance Documentary Fund and Screen NSW.

2017 – 2021 Prison X, VR Interactive Experience.

Writer, Director, Lead Artist, Technologist & Producer

The eccentric deity The Jaguaress greets you at the velvet curtain, she is followed by her twin blue jaguars (AI) with minds of their own. She casts you as Inti, a young man who dreamed of being a drug lord but ended up in prison after his first job as a mule for la blanca. Prison X is an Andean mythological animation that sweeps you into a labyrinthine metaverse, where you coexist with devils, saints, corrupt prison guards, and even a Western filmmaker.

*The experience is entirely created by BIPOC creators from 3D illustrators, technologists to programmers to sound designers and composers.

Funders: Screen Australia, Screen NSW, New Frontier | Indigenous Program | John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, Tribeca New Media Fund.

Website: <https://linktr.ee/prisonx>

Festivals: Official Selection, Sundance Film Festival 2021, World Premiere Veer Future Award, Cannes XR, France, 2021

XR Immersive Arcade, Games For Change, US, 2021

Special Presentation, New Images Festival, PRISON X, France 2022

Labs: CPH: LAB, one of nine projects selected worldwide. MIT Open Documentary Lab.

SELECTED REVIEWS

"Prison X is an immersive Andean mythological play that sweeps you into a labyrinthine Bolivian prison" SUNDANCE FILM FESTIVAL

"The Best Non-Linear Narrative...The most ambitious interactive narrative piece this year (2021)." VOICES OF VR

"Violeta Ayala's Prison X — Chapter 1: The Devil and The Sun, stunned us at Sundance this year." NO PROSCENIUM

"Captured a state of dream logic that I so often want in VR." FORBES

"Asserts Indigenous aesthetics and cosmologies that not only were erased and devalued by colonial Spanish rule, but are woefully underrepresented in digital media today." ART IN AMERICA

2016 – 2017 THE FIGHT

Writer, Director & Producer

An award winning short documentary film (released on The Guardian on the 5th of May 2017).

Produced by Dan Fallshaw.

Funders: Sundance Institute and The MacArthur Foundation.

Website: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/ng-interactive/2017/may/05/fighting-for-a-pension-disability-rights-protesters-in-bolivia-face-barricades>

SELECTED REVIEWS

"Extraordinary, just hits you in the face" CHRISTIANE AMANPOUR CNN

"The most politically explosive documentary of 2017" NO FILM SCHOOL

"This is committed, compelling observational documentary-making at it's best, with super-beautiful characters at its core." RORY PECK AWARDS JURY

"A deeply humane and moving documentary" AUDIENCE AWARD, SHEFFIELD DOC FEST

"A brilliant, shocking and moving film" BBC

"The real big achievement is, they've woken up Bolivian society...you hear people talking about it on the bus" AMERICAS QUARTERLY

2010 – 2017 COCAINE PRISON

Writer, Director & Producer

A feature documentary set in Bolivia about the country's complex relationship with cocaine. "From inside one of Bolivia's most infamous prisons, comes the story of the foot soldiers of the drug trade"

Produced by Daniel Fallshaw, Australia.

Co-Produced by Cedric Bonin, France and Redelia Shaw, US.

Broadcaster: Doc World, PBS

SVOD Worldwide: Amazon Prime

French Cinema Distributor: Juste Doc, Opened in Cinemas in all France in November 2019

Festivals:

Official Selection, Toronto International Film Festival 2017, World Premiere

Official Competition, Camden International Film Festival 2017, US Premiere

Official Selection, Double Exposure Investigative Film Festival 2017, D.C

Best of Fest, IDFA 2017, European Premiere.

Official Competition, Habana International Film Festival, Cuba, 2017

Documentary Competition, RamDam Film Festival, Belgium, 2018

Documentary Competition, Tempo Documentary Festival, Sweden, 2018

Official Selection, One World Film Festival, Prague, 2018

Audience Award Winner, Cinélatino Toulouse, France, 2018

Official Selection, Atlanta Film Festival, US, 2018

Official Competition, Lima International Film Festival, Peru, 2018

Opening Night Film, Vancouver Latin American Film Festival, Canada, 2018

Official Selection, Casa America Cataluña, Barcelona 2018

Official Selection, MOLDOX, Moldova 2018

Official Selection, FILMAR, Switzerland 2018

Official Selection, FIDBA, Argentina 2018

Official Selection, Budapest International Doc Film Festival, Hungary 2018

Funded by: Open Society Foundation, LPB (PBS), MacArthur Foundation, the Sundance Film Institute, the Tribeca Film Institute, Bertha Britdoc Journalism Award, Fond Sud Cinema, CNC, The Norwegian Film Institute, The Strasbourg Film Fund, Screen Australia, Screen NSW, Chicken & Egg and IDFA's Fund.

Distribution Award, IDFA Bertha for COCAINE PRISON, Holland 2020

Website: www.cocaineprison.com

SELECTED REVIEWS

"Truly Unique" VICE

"Compellingly Kafkaesque" FILMMAKER MAGAZINE

"One of this year's most striking testimonial films" THE GLOBE AND MAIL

"A genuine and humanizing portrait of the marginalized convicts" POV MAGAZINE

"Heartbreaking and Indicting" CINEMA TROPICAL

"Passionate, compelling and fascinating documentary that will push audiences to explore the idea of a legalized drug industry" SHE DOES THE CITY

"The siblings' story illuminates the country's relationship with cocaine" REAL SCREEN

"Ayala has achieved something extraordinary in the realm of docu-fiction." STRAIGHT

"Truly jawdropping story of injustice" THE MOVEABLE FEST

"Fascinating and heartbreaking" IN REVIEW

"Powerful and moving" UNSEEN FILMS

"Extraordinary...Shot by the inhabitants of Bolivia's San Sebastian Prison" REMEZCLA

"One of the best films from Latin America" SELECT LATIN AMERICA

"Speaks documentary truth to power as sharply as any work of investigative journalism" HAMMER TO NAIL

"One of the 12 best films from Latin America of 2017" EL PAIS

"Far from stereotypes like Narcos, Cocaine Prison is intense, a real feminist film"

MOUSTIQUE

2011 – 2015 THE BOLIVIAN CASE

Writer, Director & Producer

A feature documentary and an online platform. The story follows the stranger-than-fiction story behind the group of teenagers in the most publicised narcotics case in Norway's history; looking into the media's direct impact on affecting justice.

Produced by: Daniel Fallshaw.

Development Funding: The Norwegian Film Institute and Puma Britdoc Award.

Broadcasters: NRK, Señal Colombia, DR, Channel 8 Israel

TV Distribution: IBERMEDIA to all public broadcasters in Latin America and Spain

SVOD: Netflix Latin America

Festivals: Special Presentation 2015: Hot Docs, Canada – World Premiere

Official Selection 2015: Doc Edge, New Zealand

Doc Competition 2015: Sydney Film Festival, Australia (Audience Award)

Official Selection 2015: IndieBo, Colombia

Documentary Competition 2015: Lima Film Festival, Peru

Special Presentation 2015: Alucine, Bolivia

Docu-Thrillers 2015: Docs DF, Mexico

Gira de Documentales 2015: Ambulante, Colombia

Documentary Competition 2015: St Lawrence International Film Festival, US

Special Presentation 2015: MidBo, Colombia

Nominated for Premios Fenix 2015: Mexico.

Nominated for Premios Platino 2016: Spain.

Special Presentation 2015: St Lawrence Film Festival

Official Selection 2015: MIDBO, Colombia

Official Selection 2015: Festival ICARO, Guatemala.

Official Selection 2015: Vox Feminae Film Festival, Croatia

Documentary Competition 2015: Festival Internacional del Nuevo Cine

Latinoamericano La Habana, Cuba

Special Presentation 2016: AFLA Latino Scope, La Sorbona, Paris

Documentary Competition 2016: Festival Cinematográfico Internacional del Uruguay

Nominated Premios Platino 2015: Uruguay.

Doc Lounge 2016: Lund, Malmö, Oulu & Östersund

Documentary Competition 2016: Festival Cineuropa en Santiago de Compostela.

Official Selection 2016: Cinemaissí, Helsinki, Finland

Website: www.theboliviancase.com

SELECTED REVIEWS

"Instead of asking us to question the guilt or innocence of these women, Ayala asks us to confront how gender—and also race and class—affects how we assign guilt." VICE

"An eye-opening criminal exposé" INDIEWIRE

"Very entertaining film and it's just jaw-dropping... It's a kind of film that you couldn't write as fiction" ABC

"These days you can always tell a great documentary because there's a part of you that instantly wants to see a big budget dramatisation with the best Hollywood stars. The Bolivian Case is one such documentary" 4/5 Stars THE HOLLIWOOD NEWS

"We as the viewer are presented with multiple perspectives, and the case becomes mired within a strange media circus. Looking back, Ayala seems to feel that this struggle for truth was at the heart of her experience." FILMINK

"This is reality TV meets true crime in a grand criminal exposé that sheds light on modern crime and punishment." SHE DOES THE CITY

"A cleverly constructed piece of cinema that's ultimately very effective. It actively lures its audience in with a promise of a 'suspense-thriller' narrative but doesn't limit itself to popcorn entertainment." 4:3

"The most notable film of 2015, The Bolivian Case is a brave film that follows the thematic narrative line of it's creator; the drug war" EL DEBER

"The best of 2015, Violeta Ayala is showing that is one of the most gifted investigative filmmakers of our times" CARMATTOS

2006 - 2009 STOLEN

Writer, Director & Producer

A feature documentary set in the Polisario Refugee camps in Algeria and Morocco that exposes slavery in North Africa. The film's impact on affecting change has been profound with slavery being criminalised in the Polisario Camps and in Morocco after the broadcast on PBS.

Produced by: Tom Zubrycki, Daniel Fallshaw and Deborah Dickson.

Funders: Screen Australia Special Documentary Fund and Screen NSW.

Broadcaster: PBS World, US Nationwide, 26th Feb 2013, within a 2-hour special report that includes an interview with the directors and a panel discussion.

Festival Screenings: Official Selection 2009 – Toronto International Film Festival

Official Competition 2009 – International Documentary Festival Amsterdam (Finalist) + 80 prestigious festivals worldwide and winner of 15 awards including Best Feature Doc at the 2010 Pan African Film Festival in Los Angeles, Grand Prix at the 2010 Art of the Document Film Festival in Warsaw, Golden Oosikar Best Doc at the 2010 Anchorage International Film Festival, Best Film at the 2010 Festival Internacional de Cine de Cuenca in Ecuador and many more.

Website: www.stolenthedoc.com

SELECTED REVIEWS

"Suspenseful, scary, and displaying personal bravery by Ayala and Fallshaw, this exceptional film is a searing testimony to man's continued inhumanity to man." SEATTLE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

"The existence of modern slavery has been detailed in books like Kevin Bales's Disposable People, but rarely has it been covered on film as intimately as in Stolen." Thom Powers, TORONTO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

"Pacy, exciting and hugely engrossing. Guaranteed to spark intense debate about the relationship between documakers and their subjects wherever it's shown." Richard Kuipers, VARIETY

"Riveting stuff. The film moves into political thriller territory when the filmmakers are made suddenly aware that the conversations they have taped put the lives of their subjects in peril,

and they themselves have become prey to sinister political and cultural forces.” Greg Quill,
THE TORONTO STAR

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

2022 Masterclass “*Prison X and Building the Neo Andean Metaverse*”, Forum Des Images. Paris, France.

2022 Keynote “*Film Futurism*” at the William and Louise Greaves Filmmaker Seminar by Black Star Film Festival. Philadelphia, US.

2022 Masterclass “*Envision and Materialise your own Digital Identity*” at Electric South, Johannesburg, SA.

2021 Panelist “*Making the Metaverse*” at Double Exposure Symposium.

2021 Featured Speaker at Games For Change, one of the most important XR, tech and games conferences in the world.

2020 Luminaries Panel for “*Editing History*” together with Eve L. Ewing, Assia Boundaoui, Aymar Jean Christian, and Gene Luen Yang, Sundance Film Festival 2020.

2019 Keynote address “*Intersection between journalism, art and freedom of expression*”, IFEX, Berlin 2019

2018 Masterclass “*The impact of journalism and storytelling*”, Tempo Impact Conference, Stockholm.

2018 Guest Filmmaker at Journalism Plus (AIDC Australia 2018) discussing the role of filmmakers and journalists in the fast changing media landscape with high profile journalists such as ABC's Head of Investigative and In-Depth Journalism John Lyons and Independent Lens Producer Clare Chambers

2017 Guest Filmmaker featured in a conversation with the Deputy Foreign Director at CBS News Tony Calvin during the Double Exposure Investigative Film Festival, DC 2017.

2012 Case study of THE BOLIVIAN CASE at the Norwegian International Short Film Festival, Grimstad, Norway.

2010 Guest Jury at the Norwegian International Short Film Festival, Norway

2010 Masterclass on ‘Writing for documentary’ at the National Film and Television School in London, UK.

2010 Masterclass on ‘From idea to doc’ at the Edinburgh College of Arts as part of the “Bridging the Gap” series; organised by the Scottish Documentary Institute.

2009 – 2010 Guest at various film festival panels such as IDFA TV, Frontline Club, Stranger than Fiction in NY, etc.

WRITTEN PRODUCTION

July 2020, Filmmakers Magazine, [Plan of Action: BIPOC Documentary Professionals Respond to the Pandemic and Protest Movement](#).

Feb 2017, The Huffington Post, [Recognition is for white Australia](#)

Feb 2017, The Huffington Post, [Advance Australia White](#)

Jan 2017, The Huffington Post, [#WhylMarch](#)

Dec 2016, The Huffington Post, [Prisoner #B57661](#)

Nov 2016, The Huffington Post, [The Water War](#)

Sep 2016, The Huffington Post, [Liberté, égalité, fraternité?](#)
June 2016, The Huffington Post, [The Wicked Granny](#)
May 2016, The Huffington Post, [Water Canons Used On Disabled Protestors in Bolivia](#)
May 2016, The Huffington Post, [My Right to Live with Dignity](#)
Feb 2016, The Huffington Post, [Fair Trade Cocaine](#)
Jan 2016, The Huffington Post, [White People on Patrol](#)
Aug 2015, The Huffington Post, [The Firsthand Racism I Experienced in Australia](#)
Nov 2013, The Huffington Post, [Is Bolivia the New Afghanistan, or Is O'Grady From The WSJ Delusional?](#)
August 2013, The Huffington Post, [The Whistleblowers and Latin America](#)
July 2013, The Huffington Post, [What If Snowden Was on Board the Bolivian President's Jet?](#)
June 2013, The Huffington Post, [Cocaine: Just a Commodity?](#)
Feb 2013, Indiewire, [First Person: The 'Stolen' Filmmakers Explain How a Doc About Refugees Became a Controversial Film About Reported Slavery](#)
Oct 2006, The Age, [Police Start Woodside Probe Over Bribery Claim](#)
June 2006, Sydney Morning Herald and The Age, [Slick Operator](#) - It was the front page of the Sydney Morning Herald. This article was the catalyst for the Australian Federal Police to open an investigation into Woodside's bribing a Mauritanian Government official.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

2020 Established the Community Board, a representative body of filmmakers and professionals from BIPOC-led collectives and organizations.
2019 Personal MIT Open Doc Lab Workshop
2019 Sundance New Frontier Fellowship, Sundance Film Festival 2019
2018/19 One of nine creators selected worldwide to participate in the CPH Lab
2015 Awardee of a scholarship to attend the biggest conference in drug policy REFORM, Washington DC.
2012 One of ten filmmakers selected worldwide for the Documentary Lab Program at the Film Independent in LA.
2010 One of twelve feature filmmakers selected worldwide to participate in a documentary development incubator program within the Berlin International Film Festival.
2004 – 2006 Producer at SBS, Spanish Radio, Sydney, Australia.

EDUCATION

2006 Bachelor of Arts in Broadcast Journalism, Charles Sturt University, Australia.
1995 High School Diploma, Aleman Santa Maria, Bolivia.

MEMBERSHIPS

AMPAS
ARTIZEN
REVOLUCION JAGUAR
XR LATAM
FILM INDEPENDENT LA
IFP NEW YORK
BERLINALE TALENTS
TRIBECA FILM INSTITUTE
SUNDANCE DOCUMENTARY INSTITUTE
BROWN GIRLS DOC MAFIA
MEAA
FILM FATALES
IDA

LANGUAGES

Fluent English and Spanish. Spoken Quechua and Portugues.