

NEVERMAN

A film by Rodrigo Barriuso



Rodrigo Barriuso

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Since 2000, the Festival Residence has provided each year accommodation and support to twelve selected young directors in order to help them prepare their first or second feature film. A jury presided by a film director sits twice a year, selecting these young filmmakers on the basis of their short films, or

even first feature film, and the merits of their feature film project. During their 4-and-a-half-month stay in Paris, they work on the writing of their feature film project, have meetings with professionals and try, with the support of the Cannes Film Festival, to bring their project to co-production status.



Technical Information

Working Title: Neverman

Director: Rodrigo Barriuso

Nationality: Canada

Screenplay: Rodrigo Barriuso & Kyah Green

Genre: Drama

Format: HD Digital

Length: 100 min

Shooting location: Toronto/Havana

Production: El Pensamiento Films

Director's Information

Rodrigo Barriuso is a Cuban-Canadian filmmaker based in Toronto. His debut feature film, *Un Traductor* (18'), premiered at Sundance Film Festival as part of the World Cinema Dramatic Competition and won the award for Best Director at the 21st Shanghai International Film Festival and the 17th Pune International Film Festival, among other accolades.

Un Traductor was Cuba's official entry to the 92nd Academy Awards. Barriuso is an alumnus of TIFF's Filmmakers Lab and the Sundance Institute's Feature Film Program, and holds a BFA in Cinema Studies and an MA in Contemporary Art History.

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Synopsis

When dementia begins to progress, Lucia, a transgender woman living with Alzheimer's at a nursing home under the neglect of an abusive caregiver, finds herself mentally regressing to a time before her transition. As she steps back into a period of her life when she had not openly and publicly embraced her true self, the complexities of gender identity resurface and her sense of self becomes an emotional battlefield that she will have to defend and uphold. In the face of her impending memory loss, Lucia must realize that, if she is to survive, she will have to find a way to escape.

Statement of Intent

I often think about the privilege that I have inherited from those who spearheaded the fight for LGBTQ rights. Unfortunately, for a generation deprived of the right to legally form families or occupy certain public spaces, the prospect in their senior years is not optimistic. There are corroborated reports of LGBTQ trailblazers moving into nursing homes and going back into the closet because the pain of the systematic discrimination they face is far too dehumanizing. Through the story of a transgender woman battling Alzheimer's in an abusive nursing home, *Neverman* seeks to promote a conversation about the type of care that we provide for senior queer people and their right to a dignified existence.

Synopsis

Au fur et à mesure que sa démence progresse, Lucia, une femme transgenre atteinte de la maladie d'Alzheimer qui vit dans une maison de retraite sous la négligente surveillance d'une soignante abusive, se voit mentalement revenir à la période précédant sa transition. Plongeant dans un moment de sa vie où elle n'avait pas ouvertement et publiquement accepté sa véritable personne, les complexités de l'identité de genre réapparaissent et sa conscience de soi devient un champ de bataille émotionnel qu'elle devra défendre et tenir. Face à sa perte de mémoire imminente, Lucia doit se rendre compte que pour survivre, elle devra trouver une façon de s'échapper.

Note d'intention

Je pense souvent au privilège dont je bénéficie grâce à ceux qui ont mené le combat pour les droits LGBTQ. Malheureusement, pour une génération privée du droit de former légalement une famille ou d'occuper certains espaces publics, la perspective de leur dernières années n'est pas très optimiste. Il existe des rapports corroborés de pionniers LGBTQ qui ayant emménagé dans des maisons de retraite, sont retournés dans le placard à cause de la souffrance liée à une discrimination constante beaucoup trop déshumanisante. À travers l'histoire d'une femme transgenre luttant contre la maladie d'Alzheimer dans une maison de retraite hostile, *Neverman* cherche à mettre en avant une réflexion sur le type de soins que nous fournissons aux personnes âgées queer et sur leur droit à une existence digne.