

I Am,
“America; I Too”.

Engaging Social
Justice
Filmmaking to
Build a Better
World.



CHIRLA

LIBERTY **FILM**

JOSE DIAZ BARKHAD ABDI LINDA YIM

AMERICA; I TOO



THE COALITION FOR HUMANE IMMIGRANT RIGHTS PRESENTS A MIXED OPERATIONS FILM BARKHAD ABDI JOSE DIAZ LINDA YIM "AMERICA; I TOO"
 CO-CREATED BY COCO RIGAL PRODUCED BY MARC COHEN DIRECTED BY NIKKI BOHM EDITED BY QUINN MALOY WILLIAMS MUSIC BY GABRIEL DI MARCO
 EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS ANGELICA SALAS, CHIRLA PRODUCED BY DANIEL SOLLINGER WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY ANIKE TOURSE



How is *America; I Too* helping people?

How can social justice filmmaking be used to make the world a better place?



Building the Foundation



FILM OBJECTIVES:

1. *America; I Too's* primary purpose is to serve as a teaching resource for vulnerable immigrant populations regarding how to protect oneself in the event of arrest and incarceration.
2. *America; I Too* also serves as a learning tool for people who seek information about the challenges undocumented immigrants face regarding rights infringement, arrest, incarceration and deportation.
3. *America; I Too* is paired with educational materials to help explain the hardships undocumented immigrants face, the importance of knowing and defending your civil rights, and the power of social justice filmmaking.
4. *America; I Too* amplifies the voice of America's diverse immigrants, integrates pop-culture and effects cultural change.



How CHIRLA Uses “America; I Too”



CHIRLA Uses *America; I Too* to Educate and Inspire Audiences:

- As part of community trainings that include Step-by-step instructions on how to set up a family plan, how to recognize a real or fake warrant, how to fill out Attorney forms, and checklists of items to have. (Including caregiver Affidavits, Know Your Rights cards and more.)
- In the classroom coupled with a curriculum guide and as an example of effective social justice filmmaking.
- To invite members to the organization and allies to the movement.



Film's Table of Contents:



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Film History & Development



- The Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA) commissioned the short film not knowing production would start on the same day President Trump would sign an Executive Order for the Travel Ban. Academy award nominee Barkhad Abdi signed up for the project unaware that two of the places he lived - Somalia and Yemen would be included in the ban.
- Hundreds of community members have participated in the integrated development, production, and distribution process, helping shape the story through extensive interviews, focus groups, script development and rough cut feedback sessions.
- The film features a predominantly immigrant cast and crew including over 250 Extras, most of whom are undocumented immigrants living in greater Los Angeles, the San Fernando Valley, and Orange County California.
- The cast and crew worked together to shoot the short in just three days to create this film as an empowerment tool for undocumented immigrants in need of human rights information.



Community Members, Professional Artists & Activists Working Together

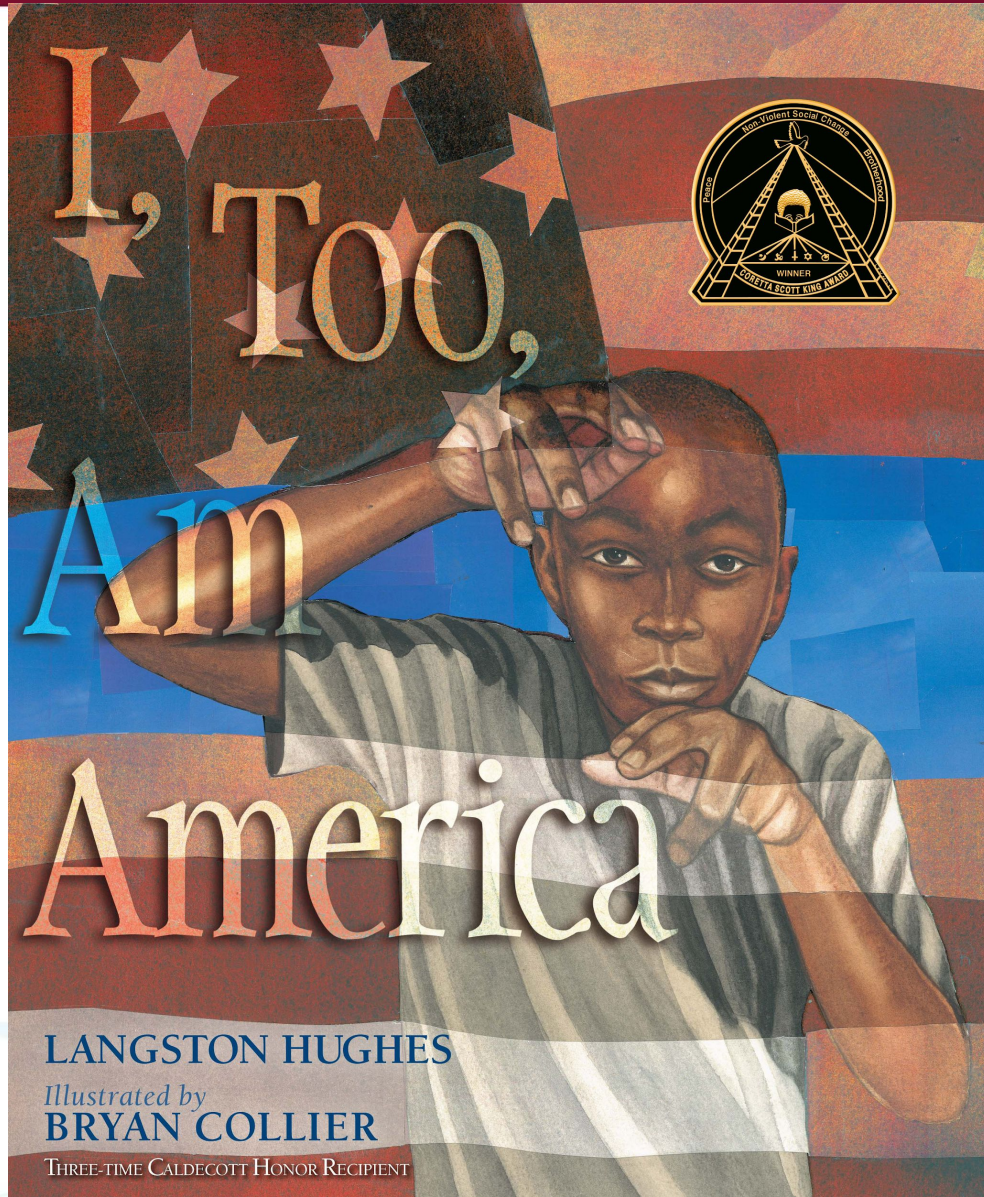


America; I Too is a movie AND it is an artistic social response from an interconnected group of organizations addressing social injustice in real time.

CHIRLA partners with immigrant rights and community-based organizations that share similar social justice values to increase the number of people invested in activating positive change on immigrant rights and empowering and supporting the immigrant community.



Artistry & Outreach



- ***America; I Too*** draws its title from the Langston Hughes poem "I Too," as a reminder of our country's history of oppressing marginalized people and of the American spirit of overcoming.
- ***America; I Too*** has won five festival awards being recognized for its creativity, storytelling, talent and artistry as much as for its social justice impact.

Social Justice Impact



A memorable film can set emotional connections that encourage engagement and the investment of new audiences. Entertainment can influence audiences to take political action:

- In a 2014 poll by The Hollywood Reporter, 27 percent of viewers said that gay TV characters (*Will & Grace*) influenced them to support marriage equality.
- *Roma* directed by 2019 Academy Award winner Alfonso Cuarón addresses issues of socio-economic class, women's inequality, the plight of domestic workers in Mexico and an examination of the Corpus Christi Massacre of June the 10th, 1971 when 120 unarmed protesters were killed in Mexico. In addition to winning a slew of top film awards the film provides an advocacy platform for the value of domestic work and the contributions domestic workers make world wide.
- Netflix's *When They See Us* focuses on themes of American injustices of racial inequality, police brutality, criminal justice system and oppression. Featured District Attorney, Linda Fairstein was dropped by her book publisher and forced to resign from several charity boards in response to community outrage. Elizabeth Lederer – who was the attorney on the jogger case – did not return to a teaching position at Columbia Law School, after students presented a petition of 10,000 signatures protesting her position. Some jurisdictions have created commissions to investigate and review, and assign discipline for, prosecutorial misconduct, review new charges, reexamine convictions and investigate bail reform all in response to the film.



Social Justice Impact



In an effort to meet the overwhelming demand for immigrant rights supports services, all CHIRLA films in part are to help educate and prepare undocumented people to protect themselves and their families, prevent deportation, and the steps they need to follow in the event of an immigration related crisis. Thousands of people have seen the film through private screenings, community trainings and millions more through broadcast television.

There is a direct correlation between widespread, accessible rights information and the reduction in detentions and deportations nationwide. In response to CHIRLA's first film; **Know Your Rights**, made over a decade ago, ICE (then known as the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) informed CHIRLA that DHS was forced to change their tactics as people were no longer opening their doors as a result of what they learned from the film. **America; I Too** is part of CHIRLA's ongoing work with undocumented immigrants and their families and the current and immediate rapid response work in the detention centers.

Take Action and Be Part of the Change



MAKE AN IMPACT:

- Use the film in your classroom, in your presentations or host a screening in your community.
- Support the immigrant rights movement by joining organizations like CHIRLA and becoming an advocate member.
- Contribute to the immigrant rights movement by donating to CHIRLA to support its programs.
- Call your representative and ask them to support immigrant rights.
- Fight ignorance by reminding people the many contributions immigrants make to the country and appropriate terminology usage when referenced — undocumented immigrants, not ‘illegals’.
- Share *America; I Too* with colleagues, friends and family and post about it on social media.



Resources



CHIRLA

2533 W 3rd St #101, Los Angeles, CA 90057

Contact: Danielle Hochman, dhochman@chirla.org, 213.819.2835

[*Teachable Scene Segments](#)

[New Day Films](#)

* Use code: **AI225** for 25% off all orders

[America; I Too Official Website](#)



References



SOURCES:

Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights ([CHIRLA](#))

[Fair Immigration Reform Movement \(FIRM\) Resources](#)

[ACLU](#)

[U.S. Department of Education Resources](#)

[Migration Policy Books](#)

[Center for Migration Studies Books](#)

[Immigration Nation](#) by Susan E. Eaton

[American Immigration Council](#)

[Vera Institute of Justice](#)



CHIRLA
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Join CHIRLA



For more information about *Know Your Rights* trainings call CHIRLA's Hotline:

1-888-6-CHIRLA - (888) 624-4752

Help us spread the word by gifting "America; I Too" to someone you know:

<http://bit.ly/AmericalToo>

Become a [CHIRLA Member](#) and be part of the movement

Support [CHIRLA](#) by donating today

Follow CHIRLA on Social Media:

<https://www.facebook.com/chirlausa>

<https://twitter.com/CHIRLA>



Sneak Peek into CHIRLA's First Feature Film *America's Family*



America's Family

Separated by Deportation, Redeemed by Love

[Movie Website](#)

[Trailer](#)

[Support Community Screenings](#)



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Thank you for watching
America; I Too.

Please share it with your friends, family and community.

Pay it forward and gift ***America; I Too*** to a local library, community center or a community member today.

Use code: AI225 for 25% off!

newday.com/film/america-i-too

Questions? Contact: Danielle Hochman,
 CHIRLA Production Coordinator
dhochman@chirla.org, 213.819.2835

Please help us invest in a just society fully inclusive of all immigrants.

