



AMERICA'S FAMILY STUDY GUIDE

DWF LA
2022 GRAND JURY PRIZE
AUDIENCE CHOICE AWARD

Best Narrative Feature
Roxbury
International Film
Festival
2022

Official Selection
Maui Film Festival
2022

Official Selection
ADDIS International
Film Festival
2023

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CHIRLA
LIBERTY **FILM**

ABOUT THE FILM



When ICE raids the Diaz home on Thanksgiving, the family is ripped apart. Mother Marisol is arrested and detained, father Jorge is forced to seek refuge in a synagogue, and eldest son Koke is deported. Middle son Emiliano, fresh out of law school, launches a crusade in the courts to reunite the family.

The impact of family separation hits daughter Valentina (who has epilepsy) especially hard as her seizures increase without the care of her parents. Valentina channels her experience to spark a social media campaign, sharing the family story with the world. As the family members brave their way through the crisis, they each discover unexpected reserves of love, faith, and the restorative resilience of community.

Running Time

1 hour 43 minutes

Festival Run

Dances with Films - Grand Jury Prize, Audience Award

Roxbury Film Festival 2022 - Best Narrative Film Award

Maui Film Festival 2022 - Official Selection

ADDIS International Film Festival 2023 – Festival Opening Film

WHAT ARE PEOPLE SAYING ABOUT THE FILM?

"The story of this family is one most immigrants know too well. It is something we live and breathe and seeing it in a movie was heart wrenching. I encourage anyone with immigrant loved ones to watch it; if this is your experience, I recommend it more!" - Helen Leon, Amazon Viewer

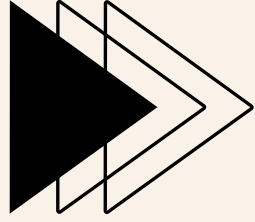
"We need more representation of everyday workers, students, and families like the one in this film - of all backgrounds, faiths, and ethnicities - to help tell the stories of the millions of people who enrich and move this country forward. This is a film for everyone!" - Aurora Colindres, The Power for Good

"America's Family" dramatizes the impact of U.S immigration policy on one family" - Deepa Fernandes, WBUR/Here and Now

"The movie is a gripping tale of a family torn apart by careless policies, told in a positive light." - Lupe Rodriguez Haas Official Rotten Tomatoes Critic



DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT



I am proud to have written and directed a film that reflects today's American family as intersectional, mixed-status, and mixed-ethnic. The Diaz Family, while fighting through separation due to unjust immigration laws, also grapples with a disability, police brutality, racism, and how to care for children and keep them safe during this time of crisis. Our film features an international cast and crew, filming in greater Los Angeles and Lancaster, the Oaxacan coast, and on the Tijuana/San Diego border. It is a labor of love made in partnership with professional artists, activists, and community members. We speak English, Spanish, Spanglish, Hebrew, and the universal language of love. This period of escalated aggression towards immigrant families and massive upheaval at the Border coincides with attention to the severe inequities of underrepresented communities



and the growing commitment to diversity both behind and in front of the camera. As the development process and options for content continue to evolve and grow, I am excited for this project spearheaded by women, people of Color and immigrants that speaks to a broad and diverse audience. We hope that our film will inspire audiences to advocate for laws that support family unity in lieu of detention and deportation. We also hope to remind audiences that the unjustly deported and those vulnerable to deportation belong to our families and communities, that they should have a say in the future of immigration and the right to remain with or return to their loved ones - as we all should.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT



Close to twenty years ago, I began developing video content featuring Know Your Rights information. Understanding that there is a wide range of literacy and educational levels among the immigrant community and realizing that we needed to find ways of reaching mass numbers quickly, my sense was that cinematic narrative storytelling could be a powerful tool for educating our community as to how to best protect themselves and their mixed status families. A decade later, I executive produced award-winning short film "America; I Too;" the story of three diverse immigrants navigating incarceration and immigration court to ward off deportation. I am thrilled that we are now have our first feature film as the final movie in the Know Your Rights trilogy. We hope that the film invites vital information and empathy for deportees and their families. CHIRLA stands committed to support and educate our community as best we can and in as many ways as we can. We believe that the "America's Family," movie paired with this resource guide will inform audiences and support mixed status families while reflecting their experience.

TAKE AWAYS

1. Students will learn about the realities of living in a mixed-immigration status family. According to the PEW Research Center, there are approximately 4.7 million U.S. households with mixed immigration status families who face the uncertainty and danger of being torn apart.¹

2. Students will learn about the daily challenges immigrants face in trying to achieve career and financial goals in the United States and conversely what deportees face when returning to countries where they may not have access to government-issued identification.

3. Students will learn from immigration attorneys what these characters could have done to help their cases or avoid detention and deportation altogether.

4. Students will discover resources, such as a glossary of immigration related legal terms and other resources for those in need of support or assistance with immigration related issues.

5. Your students will learn how to become allies and how to get involved if they are interested in this.

KEY DISCIPLINES / SUBJECT AREAS

1. Immigration and Border Studies
2. Immigration Law and Criminal Justice
3. Latinx Studies/Chicano Studies/Asian-American Studies
4. Human Rights



¹.Proposed 2024 Mass Deportation Program Would Socially and Economically Devastate American Families, Center For Migration Studies, Matthew Lisiecki and Gerard Apruzzese, October 10, 2024, <https://cmsny.org/publications/2024-mass-deportation-program-devastate-american-families-101024/>

TIPS FOR FACILITATORS

1. Some scenes in this film may be triggering for those who are directly impacted or are part of mixed status families. You may want to give a trigger warning prior to watching or let students know that there will be space to discuss how they feel after the film.
2. For alternative guided discussions after the film, see the bilingual "America's Family" Discussion Cards. These cards allow students to work one on one or in small groups to examine the metaphors used in the film as well as the ideas and emotions explored.
3. In addition to the "America's Family" Discussion Cards, please see the list of mental health support resources provided in this "America's Family" Study Guide.
4. Questions? Reach out to us at dhochman@chirla.org



AFTER YOU WATCH THE FILM



Attorney Advice for the Diaz Family.

1

Do NOT let Immigrations Customs Enforcement (ICE) into your house.

2

You do not need a G-28 form in order to visit a detainee in person.

3

Valentina has a disability. Emiliano is trying to underscore his sister's need for parental care to assist with her disability. The mother is not a danger to the community, nor does she have any criminal history. This is information that can help her case.

4

The family should have their criminal records, prints and other records for family including doctor's records readily accessible.

5

Emiliano should have filed a motion to reopen (FOIA), freedom of information act, for his brother Koke. The Judge may have let Koke go in this case as joy riding is not considered a theft offense.

6

Keep an eye out for fraudulent notaries.



HOW TO GET INVOLVED

BECOME AN ALLY

Join the fight, participate and inform your community.



Host an **America's Family** Home/School watch party!

1. Stream on Amazon Prime, Apple TV or YouTube.
2. Post photos of you and your guests on social media with the tagline: #america'sfamilywatchparty!
#CHIRLA #newdayfilms #freestyledigitalmedia
3. Post your review on the streaming platform



Go to www.chirla.org/registry/ to contact your member of Congress and urge them to support the House & Senate Registry bills (H.R. 1511 and S. 2606) that will provide a path to citizenship for immigrants who are our neighbors, friends, and family.



Donate to CHIRLA at www.chirla.org/get-involved/donate-support/give-today/ or to other community organizations.



GLOSSARY

Q Asylum Seeker x

A person who is seeking protection who is already inside the United States or at the U.S. border.

Q Bail Bond x

A method to obtain the release of a defendant awaiting trial. It can cost up to thousands of dollars and must be paid via money order.

Q I-485 Application x

Form I-485 is an application to adjust status or register permanent residence in the United States, which is often referred to as applying for a green card.

Q I-130 Family Petition x

Form I-130, Petition for Alien Relative, is the first step in the process of helping a relative emigrate to the United States.

Q Arrest Warrant x

An arrest warrant is a court order that authorizes law enforcement to arrest a person accused of a crime.

Q Deportation Order x

Deportation is the process of removing a noncitizen from the U.S. for violating immigration law. The U.S. may detain and deport noncitizens who: Participate in criminal acts, are a threat to public safety, violate their visa.

Q Notary x

A notary public, or notary, is a public official who witnesses the signing of important documents to help prevent fraud.

Q Sanctuary x

A place of refuge or safety for someone who is avoiding persecution or deportation.

Q Cancellation for Removal x

Cancellation of Removal is an immigration benefit that allows certain non-permanent and permanent residents to apply to an immigration judge to adjust their status to that of a lawful permanent resident.

Q TPS x

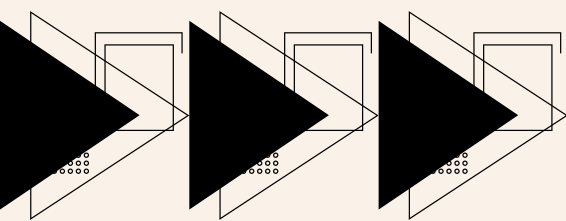
Temporary Protective Status or "TPS" is something that homeland security may designate to a foreign country due to conditions in the country that temporarily prevent the country's nationals from returning safely, or in certain circumstances, where the country is unable to handle the return of its nationals adequately.

Q ICE vs. Police Officer x

ICE works for the Department of Homeland Security and their mission is immigration enforcement. On the other hand, police officers represent local jurisdictions. Among other things, they patrol neighborhoods and look for law violations in the community they serve.

Q USCIS Website x

USCIS.gov is the official source of immigration policy, forms and information. [Deportation is the process of removing a noncitizen from the U.S. for violating immigration law. The U.S. may detain and deport noncitizens who: Participate in criminal acts, are a threat to public safety, violate their visa.](#)



RESOURCES



CHIRLA

Coalition for Humane
Immigrant Rights

Are you struggling and have no idea
where to find help?

Call us!!

***IMMIGRANT ASSISTANCE
HOTLINE***

1(888) 624-4752

1(888)-6CHIRLA

Monday – Friday 9 AM -5PM

**We provide information and referrals
on the following topics:**

- Immigrant Rights and Responsibilities
- Law
- Worker's Rights
- Law Enforcement
- Education
- Civic Engagement
- Access to Public Benefits
- Other Areas of Interest

2533 West 3rd Street, Suite 101 Los Angeles, CA 90057

Tel.(213)353-1333 Fax(213) 353-1344 www.chirla.org

CHIRLA

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS INFORMATION

RIGHTS CARD



I am giving you this card because I do not wish to speak to you or have any further contact with you. I choose to exercise my constitutional right to remain silent and refuse to answer your questions. If you arrest me, I will continue to exercise my right to remain silent and to refuse to answer your questions. I want to speak to a lawyer before answering your questions.

I would like to contact this attorney or organization:



Information your whole family should know

- Name, phone numbers, and the date of birth of everyone living in the household
- Phone numbers of your children's school, doctor, and work (if applicable)
- Make a list of allergies, medical conditions, and medications of everyone living in the household (if applicable)
- Phone number for the Consulate of your country of origin.
- Phone number of an Immigration Attorney who is already aware of your situation
- Did you find someone to care for your children?

Important documents to keep safe and easily accessible:

- Birth & Marriage certificate (if applicable)
- Valid Passport (for everyone in household)
- Immunization Card (of children)
- Social Security Card (if applicable)
- Identification Card
- A# (if applicable)
- Caregiver Affidavit of the person willing to care for your child(ren) in case of your sudden absence
- Important instructions for persons assigned as temporary guardians (if applicable)
- Title Property (if you're a home owner)

Prepare to Stay, Know Your Rights!

- You have the right to remain silent.
- You have the right to speak with a lawyer.
- If law enforcement shows up to your house, DO NOT OPEN THE DOOR. Ask them to slide the warrant under the door.
- It has to be signed by a judge and have your name or address.
- Never carry false documentation with you (It's a crime)
- If detained, only say your name and DOB.

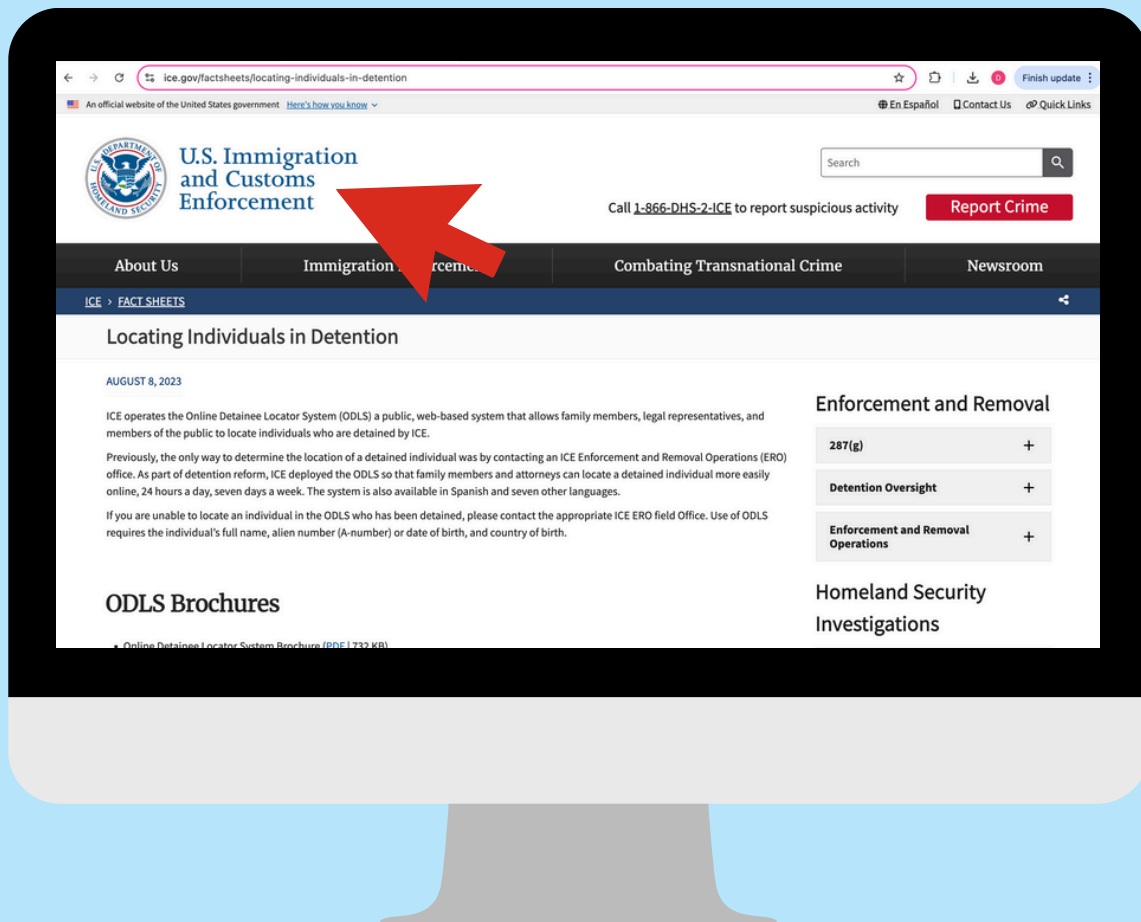
Remember, you have RIGHTS under the Constitution, regardless of your immigration status.

**For more information
call CHIRLA at 1-888-624-4752
2533 W 3rd Street Los Angeles CA 90057 www.chirl.org**

Locating a family member who has been detained by ICE



Search a detainee on the ICE locator website
(www.ICE.gov)



Remember: When visiting a relative at a Detention Center, you will need to show a valid identification, issued by a government agency.

For more information, call our Immigrant Assistant Line at
1-888-624-4752



BE RESILIENT! Improve your Mental Health



Do you have some of these Symptoms?

- ▣ Stress
- ▣ Loss of appetite
- ▣ Lack of sleep
- ▣ Cry suddenly for no reason
- ▣ Afraid or anxious about the future
- ▣ Have negative thoughts
- ▣ Do not feel like living anymore
- ▣ Feel that someone is following you

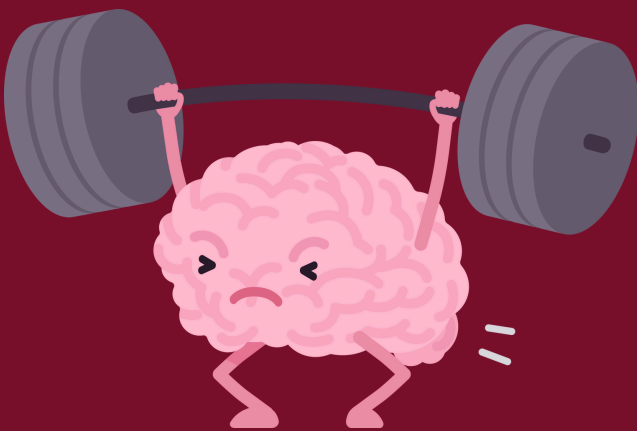
Factors/Situations that may impact your Mental health

- ▣ Separation from parents and other family members
- ▣ Have a family member detained by ICE or fear of being deported
- ▣ Difficulty communicating in English
- ▣ Exposed to some type of violence
- ▣ Housing instability
- ▣ Financial hardship
- ▣ Food insecurity



Positive Coping Skills

- ▣ Get involved and connect with your community
- ▣ Meditation and relaxation techniques
- ▣ Time for yourself
- ▣ Have physical activity Recreational reading
- ▣ Connect with Friends and Family
- ▣ Maintain a positive attitude
- ▣ Adopt a pet
- ▣ Sleep well



For more information call CHIRLA 's HOTLINE
1-888-624-4752

Thank you! From,

*America's
Family*

*Separated by Deportation
Redeemed by Love*



Socials

www.americafamilymovie.com

 @americasfamilymovie

 @americasfamilymovie



CHIRLA
LIBERTY 



MIXED OPERATIONS