A conversation with some of the Filmmakers whose movies made it into the 2022 Sundance Film Festival, their journey in getting their movies made that led them to this moment in time. Get inspired to never give up on telling your stories.
K.D. Dávila

K.D. Dávila is a Mexican-American filmmaker and writer from Los Angeles. She is the writer of the upcoming Amazon feature EMERGENCY, which will premiere at the 2022 Sundance Film Festival. The film is based on the short of the same name, which won Best Narrative Short at SXSW 2018 and the Special Jury Award at the 2018 Sundance Film Festival. KD has written for several television shows, most recently MOTHERLAND: FORT SALEM, and is now developing a new series for CBS Studios. Her directorial debut PLEASE HOLD is currently on the shortlist for the 2022 Academy Award for Best Live Action Short Film.
April Maxey

April is a queer mixed Chicana filmmaker from San Antonio, Texas, based in Los Angeles by way of New York. She is an alumna of the AFI Directing Workshop for Women & the Berlinale Talents Short Film Station. Her short work has collectively screened at over 60 festivals across 14 countries and won 8 awards internationally, including the Shorts Jury Prize at the Milwaukee Film Festival, the 100Autori Award for Best Screenplay at the Sicilia Queer Film Fest in Italy, and Best International Narrative Short at Kashish Mumbai Queer Film Festival.

Her work has screened at Academy & BAFTA qualifying festivals including Palm Springs Shortfest, Outfest & Flickerfest. Her drama pilot version of Work was a top 5 finalist in the New Orleans Screenplay Competition. April's work often centers intimacy and connection within the queer experience, and her directing is informed by her background in cinematography, editing and acting.
Constanza and Doménica Castro

Constanza and Doménica Castro are sister filmmakers from Mexico City and founders of 271 Films, a creative production company based in Los Angeles. Collectively, their work has garnered over 2 billion views and they’ve produced numerous award-winning films and commercial content that have been featured on platforms such as MTV, The New Yorker Screening Room, Nylon, Vice, BET Networks, Adweek as well as prestigious film festivals including AFI Fest, Tribeca, Palm Springs, and Austin Film Festival.

Under the banner of 271 Films, they teamed up with Lena Waithe’s Hillman Grad Productions to Executive Produce the Indeed Rising Voices initiative, which invests in and mentors the next generation of BIPOC directors. The ten films were developed, produced and delivered in under three months, all premiering at the 2021 Tribeca Film Festival and now streaming on Amazon Prime.

The sisters were named the 2021 Nevada Women Filmmakers of the Year.
AUBREY PLAZA

Aubrey Plaza will next be seen starring in Guy Ritchie’s OPERATION FORTUNE: RUSE DE GUERRE opposite Jason Statham, Hugh Grant and Josh Hartnett which will be released by STX on March 18th, 2022. Additionally, she stars in and produced EMILY THE CRIMINAL, which will premiere at the 2022 Sundance Film Festival. On television, Plaza will star in and produce the upcoming Hulu drama series, OLGA DIES DREAMING which is based on the novel by Xochitl Gonzalez.

Most recently, Plaza starred opposite Michael Caine in BEST SELLERS which premiered at the 2021 Berlin Film Festival and she received critical acclaim for her performances in BLACK BEAR, INGRID GOES WEST and HAPPIEST SEASON. Aubrey won the 2021 Imagen Award for “Best Actress” for BLACK BEAR and the 2018 Independent Spirit Award for “Best First Feature” for producing INGRID GOES WEST. Plaza is well known for her roles in Noah Hawley’s FX series LEGION and the Emmy-nominated comedy, PARKS & RECREATION.
Gabriela Ortega

Gabriela Ortega is an award-winning writer/director and actor born and raised in the Dominican Republic. She is a graduate of the University of Southern California, a 2021-2022 Sundance Institute "Art of Practice" fellow and is currently based in Los Angeles. Gabriela was selected as one of the ten writer/directors of the 2021 Rising Voices fellowship created in partnership by Lena Waithe’s Hillman Grad productions and Indeed. The companies produced Gabriela's short film HUELLA which will be screening at the 2022 Sundance film festival and is being turned into a feature film. The feature version of Huella also won development funds in the inaugural NewNarratives grant cycle created by WarnerMedia OneFifty and NewFilmmakers LA. She is a Sundance Lab, Nalip Latino Media Market, HBO Tomorrow’s filmmakers today and and IAMA under30 lab alum. She was also awarded Best Director of a live-action short at the 2021 LALIFF for her short film In Case I’m Next.

She was also named one of three directors-in-residence at Indeed for their new 2022 Development Lab. As a screenwriter, she's been hired by Sony Pictures International to write a Spanish language script and was a staff writer for the second season Netflix's sketch show "Go Off with Jess and Julissa". Most recently, she's been hired to write on the anticipated Bioshock 4 game produced by 2K. She is also developing a half-hour dramedy series with Wilmer Valderrama’s WV Entertainment. She is also developing a Dominican narrative feature, Piratas. The film won development funds in the Dominican Republic with the annual FONPROCINE contest and was part of the 2021 Latino Media Market.

Gabriela’s work lives within the intersection of fiction and poetry. She writes flawed people with larger-than-life ambitions, driven women with sour senses of humor and families living between opposing cultures. She aims to draw cultural bridges that lead to the Caribbean and tell stories that represent the people she grew up with, authentically. She is proud to say that Papi, the first short film she made (on her phone in the Dominican Republic) about her overlanding travels with her father, has been acquired by and is set to premiere on HBO in 2022 after a successful festival run.