

An underwater photograph of a swimmer in a pink, ruffled swimsuit. The swimmer is positioned in the center of the frame, with their head and arms visible. The water is a deep blue, and there are some ripples and bubbles around the swimmer. The lighting is soft, creating a serene atmosphere. The text 'la mariposa' is overlaid on the bottom right of the image in a white, cursive font.

*la mariposa*

Electronic Press Kit



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# Log Line



Carol is a seven-year-old girl who faces the challenge of being a refugee in a new country. Not knowing the language, customs, or culture of this foreign land, she embarks on an epic journey that will forever change her perspective: a swim test.

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# Synopsis

La Mariposa is an emotionally driven dramatic short film that details the experience of being an immigrant in Canada, through the perspective of a seven year old girl.

It's July 2001, and Carol and her family have just landed in Toronto, ON as refugees. In an effort to take some much needed family time, Carol's parents; Francia and Ernesto make use of the pool vouchers they receive from the welfare program. When Carol emerges from the changing room she notices all the children are lining up to go down a water slide. Little does she know that she has to prove her swimming skills in a simple swim test.

Failing to pass the test, Carol vents her frustrations to her mother. She takes her anger out on her new surroundings silently blaming her parents on their decision to come to a new country.

Coming face to face with the opportunity to cheat her swimming exam the second time around, Carol makes the difficult choice to pursue her goal without the help of a marker. Despite the fact that no matter how hard she tries, her best is not good enough.

Her life at home is paralleled with her struggle to achieve her goal, as she witnesses her parents' verbal dispute in the kitchen. Understanding now that her nominal goal is nothing compared to her parents' struggle to provide for their family and achieve their own dreams.

Determined to fulfill her goal, Carol prepares to push herself in the next swim test. Reminded of the judgemental looks that she had received from authority figures, to her brother's innocent play fighting and her parents' silent struggle to keep their family safe and happy, Carol persists.

In a true underdog moment Carol's, long awaited triumph is echoed by her family, so much so that it becomes symbolic milestone in this families journey to build their new home.

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# Message from the director



This film is based on a true story. When I was seven years old, my family and I landed as refugees in Canada. One of my earliest memories in this new country, was not being able to pass a swimming test. I knew that I had the skills to pass this test, but for some reason I felt like this test was rigged to stop me from succeeding. Contrasted with my home life as I witnessed my doctor parents give up their careers for our safety, I noticed that we were all fighting our own battles.

This short film emulates a young girls perspective in a human right' s issue that clouds our society today.

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# Festival Screenings

- **LEO AWARD WINNER:** Outstanding Student Production in 2018
  - **OFFICIAL SELECTION:** Persistence of Vision Film Festival 2017 - **WINNER:** Best Director, Best Film & Audience Choice
  - **OFFICIAL SELECTION:** Chicago International Children's Film Festival 2017
  - **OFFICIAL SELECTION:** Toronto Latin American Film Festival 2017
  - **OFFICIAL SELECTION:** Whistler Film Festival 2017
  - **OFFICIAL SELECTION:** Canada Shorts Film Festival - **WINNER:** Excellence Award
  - **OFFICIAL SELECTION:** Vancouver Shorts Film Festival 2018
  - **OFFICIAL SELECTION:** Providence Children's Film Festival 2018,
  - **OFFICIAL SELECTION:** Reel 2 Reel International Film Festival for Youth 2018
  - **OFFICIAL SELECTION:** Big Eyes, Big Minds Children's International Film Festival in Singapore '17
  - **OFFICIAL SELECTION:** Davis Feminist Film Festival 2018
  - **OFFICIAL SELECTION:** Forum of Law and Culture Film Festival 2018 - **WINNER:** Outstanding achievement as a Female Filmmaker
  - **OFFICIAL SELECTION:** Female Eye Film Festival Finalist for 2018 – **NOMINEE:** Best Short Film
  - **OFFICIAL SELECTION:** Crested Butte Film Festival, 2018
  - **OFFICIAL SELECTION:** National Film Festival for Talented Youth, 2018
  - **OFFICIAL SELECTION:** Big Eyes, Big Minds Children's International Film Festival in St. Louis '19 – **WINNER:** Audience Choice Award
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# Crew:

**Director, Writer, Producer & Editor:** Andy Alvarez

**Cinematographer:** Farhad Ghaderi

**Production Designer:** Diana Parry

**Composer:** David Alvarez

**Sound Designer:** Andy Alvarez

**1st Assistant Director:** Zach Starko

**2nd Assistant Director:** Dide Su Bilgin

**Script Supervisor:** Bronwyn Davies

**Wardrobe Director:** Kaayla Whachell

**Make Up & Hair:** Noa Zwannenburg

**1st Assistant Camera:** Martin Calvo

**Digital Loader:** Daniil Vasiliyev

**Colourist:** Sam Gilling

**Gaffer:** Mike Johnston

**Key Grip:** Craig Range

**Sound Recordist:** Turner Stewart

# Cast:

**Carol:** Lucero Aguilar

**Francia:** Natalia Lavaggi

**Ernesto:** Marvin Aguilar

**Eric (Lifeguard) :** Julian Haig

**Pool Receptionist:** Kari Staten

**Gordo:** Romeo Lavaggi

**Leo:** Leandro Vargas Caballero

**Girl in Locker Room #1:** Sahara Forest

**Girl in Locker Room #2:** Sarah Giles

**Girl in Locker Room #3:** Diana Alvarez

# Credits

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# Technical Specs



**Original Title:** La Mariposa

**Other Titles:** The Butterfly

**Length:** 8:30 mins

**Country of Production:** Canada

**Genre:** Family Drama

**Camera:** ARRI Alexa

**Aspect:** 2 : 35 : 1

**Language:** Spanish with English subtitles

## Social Media

**Trailer:** <https://vimeo.com/216125051>

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/lamariposafilm/>

**Instagram:** @lamariposa\_film

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