

graybayne

FILM/MEDIA

graybayne film/media presents

Las Chicas



WRITTEN, DIRECTED and PRODUCED BY
Elizabeth Bayne

-Featuring-

ELIZABETH BAYNE

MIA CHAMASMANY

ERIN JOHNSON

Director of Photography

EDWARD CUSHENBERRY

Assistant Camera

AMADU HARUNA

Sound Mixer

ISSACHAR DIENG

ONE-LINER

A short film on dating, race, gender, and how we decide who's worth seeing.

SHORT SYNOPSIS

Elizabeth has a date. Her roommate friends, Mia and Erin, excitedly get her ready by doing her makeup and helping her pick out what to wear. But when Elizabeth's date is a no show, she'll need their help with more than clothes and makeup. *Las Chicas* is a film about who we date, why we date, and what we deserve.

LONG SYNOPSIS

Las Chicas is about three roommates who share weed, music, beer, makeup and an unexpected exchange on the racial politics of dating in a single evening. A humorous experimental short film about the romantically challenged African American protagonist, "Elizabeth," as she prepares for a date with the help of her roommate friends, "Mia" and "Erin." They do her makeup and help her pick out clothes for the evening. But when Elizabeth's date is running unusually late and still hasn't called, Mia and Erin can't understand why she insists on waiting. They question her seeming desperation and willingness to date someone so inconsiderate. Her friends' deep seated belief systems are challenged as they struggle to accept what Elizabeth believes is the source of her dating frustrations - her dark skin.

PRODUCTION NOTES

This semi-autobiographical short film, written and directed by Elizabeth Bayne, tackles the issue of colorism in the Los Angeles dating scene with wit and heart. Mia Chamasmay ("Mia") and Erin Johnson ("Erin") are newcomers to acting, both playing characters loosely based on themselves and their real-life friendship with Elizabeth Bayne. Ms Bayne on the other hand has been performing since pre-school, but took a long hiatus to pursue her academic studies before resuming her acting training in 2014. The three friends all graduated from the Art Center College of Design in Pasadena, CA.

CASTING:

I chose real life friends over actors to create naturalistic performances and generate truthful dialogue over a very sensitive subject. Together we created a safe space for open dialogue. Mia and Erin have distinct personalities, and I knew they would come across on screen. I wanted to capture a particular type of young woman, bohemian, confident, classy and feminine in a way that doesn't play to gender stereotypes. We each are distinctly different complexions, but still outside the mainstream. Mia is biracial, of Persian and White European descent. Erin is light skinned African American of Creole descent, but without the Anglo-features. Elizabeth is a dark skinned African American of Caribbean, African and Native American descent.

PRODUCTION DESIGN:

Mia is a graphic designer and comes from a family of artists. I loved the way her space was curated because it reflects our community of designers and artists, where vintage and found items create an aesthetic of comfort, nostalgia and warmth. Her apartment is inspiring on so many levels, and as a spacious loft with an abundance of natural light it was an ideal location for filming. We didn't move a thing, every piece of furniture, art and decoration is part of Mia's actual apartment.

COSTUME DESIGN:

We pulled items from our personal wardrobes to capture our design and taste sensibilities; classic vintage and contemporary tomboy. While Erin is the sexy one of the bunch, even her casual attire consists of an oversized t-shirt hanging from one shoulder and a long stretch skirt. Tiny statement jewelry was worn with both the sporty attire and later with the classy dresses. We don't dress in combinations found in magazines or the latest Instagram fashion profiles. Our looks are distinctly our own and I wanted to capture that.

ABOUT THE CAST

ELIZABETH BAYNE (ELIZABETH)

Elizabeth is an award-winning filmmaker and full-time video producer living in Los Angeles. She has been acting since she was four, with numerous credits ranging from community theatre and student film in Washington, D.C., and independent short films produced in Los Angeles.

MIA CHAMASMANY (MIA)

Mia is a graphic designer and DJ living in Los Angeles. Her aesthetics come from a strong foundation in fine art and photography before attending the Art Center College of Design to study graphic design. She is currently developing a self-published zine and returning to mixed media collage work. This is her first acting credit.

ERIN JOHNSON (ERIN)

Erin a graphic designer living in Los Angeles. Prior to studying design and illustration at the Art Center College of Design and Art Institute of San Fransisco, she trained in dance and cheerleading in high school. This is her first acting credit.

ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS

ELIZABETH BAYNE - WRITER/DIRECTOR

Elizabeth received her Bachelors of Science from the University of Pittsburgh, a Masters of Public Health from Yale University, and a Master of Fine Art in film from the Art Center College of Design in Pasadena, CA. Now a full-time video producer at the University of Southern California, she has written, directed and produced four short films, one documentary and over 200 online documentary videos for non-profit organizations and academic institutions. She is currently developing a documentary on motherhood in Black America and a feature film about the underground railroad.

graybayne.com

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EDWARD CUSHENBERRY - CINEMATOGRAPHER

Edward is a professionally trained freelance art photographer with several noted series of works and books. Edward graduated with a Bachelor of Arts from the Art Center College of Design. His

work has been featured in *Dazed and Confused*, *Vice*, and *The Fader*. His recent project is *This is Not Black Culture*, an exploration of black subcultures in Los Angeles. His creative voice can be described as a collection of photographs and hand drawn illustrations merging real life with romanticism.

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ISSACHAR DIENG - SOUND MIXER

Issachar is a radio journalist and reproductive justice advocate based in South Los Angeles. Formerly from New York, Issachar received her Bachelors of Science from the New School in New York City where her studies explored the intersections of race, gender, class, and health. As a first generation Senegalese-American, Issachar is happy to now call Los Angeles home.

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END CREDITS

CAST

(in order of appearance)

Elizabeth

Elizabeth Bayne

Mia

Mia Chamasmany

Erin

Erin Johnson

CREW

Producer

Elizabeth Bayne

Director of Photographer

Edward Cushenberry

Assistant Camera

Amadu Haruna

Sound Mixer

Issachar Dieng

Set Photographer

Michelle Escobar

Art Director / Location Manager

Mia Chamasmany

POST PRODUCTION

Editor

Elizabeth Bayne

MUSIC

“Yannis”

by jonas the plugexpert

(<http://plugexpert.bandcamp.com/>)

Creative Commons License

“This Love of Ours”

by A Taste of Honey

License Pending

“He’s the Greatest Dancer”

by Sister Sledge

License Pending

SPECIAL THANKS

T.J. Tamayo, Langdon Ferguson, Maria Biber-Ferro, Miles Bayne, Brie Ortega, Imhotep
Durham, Natalija Nogulich, Victoria Hochberg, Wayne Dvorak

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