

**PORTRET FILMS presents**



**DON'T TELL ANYONE (NO LE DIGAS A NADIE)**

a documentary film by Mikaela Shwer



**US TELEVISION BROADCAST: POV ON PBS Fall 2015**

**TRT: 71 minutes**



**For more information, contact:**

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**Press Stills:**

[https://www.dropbox.com/sh/bur93c5ps3j9vu8/AADSmuR\\_xYIPIL9KgTI7vfdga?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/bur93c5ps3j9vu8/AADSmuR_xYIPIL9KgTI7vfdga?dl=0)

**Trailer:** <https://vimeo.com/116258684>

Website: <http://nodigasfilm.com/>

Twitter: @NoDigasFilm

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## LOGLINE

In a community where silence is often seen as necessary for survival, immigrant activist Angy Rivera steps out of the shadows to share her parallel journey of being an undocumented immigrant and a victim of sexual assault.

## SHORT SYNOPSIS

In an environment where silence is often seen as necessary for survival, 24 year-old Angy Rivera steps out of the shadows to share her parallel journey of being undocumented and sexually abused, an ordeal all too common in her community. *Don't Tell Anyone (No Le Digas a Nadie)* follows immigrant activist Angy's personal story from poverty in rural Colombia to the front page of *The New York Times* as she becomes a beacon in a movement for national change.

## LONG SYNOPSIS

*Don't Tell Anyone (No Le Digas a Nadie)* is a feature-length documentary that follows the personal story and daily life of undocumented immigrant activist Angy Rivera. Angy arrives with her mother Maria to the United States at the age of three, fleeing violence, poverty and civil war in their native Colombia. For twenty years they live in the shadows, struggling to stay afloat financially and avoid deportation while battling a complex and inequitable immigration system. "Don't tell anyone" is a phrase whispered often and branded deeply on the consciousness of all who are undocumented. 24 years-old and facing an uncertain future, the silence is too much for Angy to bear.

She is now at a crossroads; unable to pay tuition for college and watching her opportunities dwindle as her immigration status became an all-encompassing roadblock to the future. She joins the youth-led New York State Youth Leadership Council (YLC) with whom she dons a bullhorn at pro-immigration rallies, telling all who will listen that she is "undocumented and proud."

Angy begins to answer questions from other undocumented youth, ranging from the dangers of "coming out" about their immigration status, to how to apply for a visa, to advice on dating. The questions inspire her to author the online advice column "Ask Angy" as well as a YouTube Channel, propelling Angy into the public's eye. As she makes headlines and becomes a beacon for her community, Angy navigates a new flood of anti-immigrant hate mail as well as tensions at home. Her mother Maria expresses fear and confusion. She says that Angy's decision to speak publicly about her status has increased their risk of deportation and separation from Maria's three American children.

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Despite her mother's fears, Angy remains dedicated to telling her story and pushing for national change. She bravely decides to use her online platform to draw attention to the parallel ordeals of being undocumented and sexually abused, an experience that haunts scores of undocumented women. After sharing her own experience of abuse, Angy finds out that she and her mother may qualify for U-Visas, a pathway to citizenship granted to immigrants who've experienced domestic violence and help to prosecute their perpetrator.

*Don't Tell Anyone (No Le Digas a Nadie)* shows Angy Rivera and eventually her mother, Maria, as part of a courageous movement working to change the conversation around immigration in this county. By following Angy, her family, and her community we witness firsthand the all too real consequences of being undocumented in America. With over 11 million undocumented immigrants in the U.S. today there has been renewed focus on how to properly recognize and systematize this substantial and extremely integrated group operating outside of established government agencies, many of whom have no options for a pathway to citizenship.

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## FILMMAKERS

### **Mikaela Shwer - Director/Editor**

Mikaela is an award-winning editor and filmmaker with a passion for bringing important stories to life. Her work was recognized early in her career when she won the "Emerging Editor" award with the short film *100 Mountains* for the Adobe Real Ideas Studio student program at the 2008 Cannes Film Festival. Since then, Mikaela has worked on numerous films for HBO, the Sundance Channel, and PBS, including the Peabody award-winning series *Brick City* and critically acclaimed independent films *Call Me Kuchu* and *Like the Water*. In 2012, Mikaela joined Steeplechase Films, working with award-winning filmmaker Ric Burns helping to bring vibrant documentaries to the screen. *Don't Tell Anyone (No Le Digas a Nadie)* is her first feature documentary film.

### **Katie O'Rourke - Producer**

A Minnesota transplant, Katie O'Rourke is a producer and editor who work focuses on historical and cultural issues. She joined Steeplechase Films in 2010 and has contributed to several films including *Into the Deep: America, Whaling and the World* (2010), *Death and the Civil War* (2012) and *American Ballet Theatre: A History* (2015). In 2013 she worked with HBO's *The Loving Story* director Nancy Buirski on her film *Afternoon of a Faun*, a biography of the

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celebrated but tragic life of ballerina Tanaquil LeClercq. Her credits also include the Netflix documentary *Enquiring Minds* and short film on the history of Latin American immigration to New York, made for El Museo del Barrio and the New-York Historical Society. Prior to working in documentary film, Katie was immersed in the world of new media as a producer of video content and social media strategy for Magnet Media.

#### **Alexandra Nikolchev - Producer**

Alexandra grew up in California's Bay Area. She works and lives in New York. Alexandra is an *Emmy* award winning field producer in the category of *Outstanding Continuing Coverage of a News Story in a News Magazine* for *Need to Know's* three-part PBS investigation into the U.S. Border Patrol, *Crossing the Line at the Border*. Her other documentary credits include *Moyers & Company*, *NBC*, *HBO Documentary* and *Sundance Institute Feature Film Program*. Alexandra's work focuses on telling stories of intimate transformations, revelations and surprising details that lead to larger conversations about society and humanity.

#### **Arianna LaPenne - Cinematographer**

Arianna Lapenne is a New York based Filmmaker and Cinematographer. She received a BFA in Film & TV from NYU Tisch School of the Arts, with special program work in Havana, Cuba. She shoots documentary, TV, commercial, news, and non-profit work. Arianna's coverage of Hurricane Sandy was part of the New York Times breaking news video coverage that was awarded The Edward R Murrow Award this year. Arianna's video and photography has also been awarded by AI-AP, D&AD: Best Advertising & Design in the World, Photography Master's Cup, The One Club and has screened at Brooklyn Film Festival and Union Docs. A feature documentary Arianna shot last year in Cuba, about infamous artist Andres Serrano, will be broadcast by VICE next year. Arianna's cinematography can also be seen in the upcoming SHOWTIME documentary TV series, "The Years Project", executive produced by George Clooney and Arnold Schwarzenegger.

#### **Erik Dugger - Supervising Editor**

Erik's work has explored topics ranging from innovations in stem-cell research, to the UN's landmine removal mission in Lebanon. Recent projects include "Blood, Sweat & Gears," featuring a professional American cycling team, and "Adam Blank Gets a Vasectomy," a first-person documentary dealing with issues of masculinity. Erik's films have screened at a number of film festivals and received honors including "Most Innovative Documentary" at National Geographic's Showreal Asia awards, and a finalist medal at the New York Festivals. His work has also been featured on the Discovery Channel, A&E Biography, the Sundance Channel and PBS's POV series.

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### **Sonia Gonzalez-Martinez - Supervising Editor**

Sonia has been an editor for over ten years. She learned her craft as an assistant editor for such esteemed directors as Spike Lee, Milos Forman, Alan J. Pakula, Ted Demme and Robert Redford. As an editor, Sonia's projects included independent features "Destination Unknown," "El Circulo Vicioso" and "Afrodite Superstar," feature documentaries "Antonia Pantoja: ¡Presente!" about the life and work of Puerto Rican educator Antonia Pantoja and award-winning Soul Food Junkies for PBS and Passionate Politics: The Life and Work of Charlotte Bunch. Sonia's directing credits include the short comedy "Debutante" and the documentary "Bragging Rights" that chronicles the history and players of the New York City game of stickball which aired on PBS/WNET in September 2006.

### **Ben Messelbeck - Composer**

Ben Messelbeck is a composer and musician working in Southern California. His music has been featured in major motion pictures and television shows, along with various ad campaigns and branded content. In addition to composing, Ben is an active musician, currently writing and performing with Robert Francis, Juliette Commagere, Robert Schwartzman and Love on a Real Train.

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## **CREDITS**

### **Directed by**

MIKAELA SHWER

### **Executive Produced by**

SIMON KILMURRY, CHRIS WHITE,  
SANDIE VIQUEZ PEDLOW, SALLY JO FIFER

### **Produced by**

KATIE O'ROURKE,  
ALEXANDRA NIKOLCHEV,  
MIKAELA SHWER

### **Edited by**

MIKAELA SHWER

### **Director of Photography**

ARIANNA LAPENNE

### **With Cinematography by**

AUTUMN EAKIN

### **Composer**

BENJAMIN MESSELBECK

### **Co-Editor**

CHRISTOPHER KYLE WALKER

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**Supervising Editors**

ERIK DUGGER,  
SONIA GONZALEZ-MARTINEZ

**Animator**

RICHARD O'CONNOR

**Co-production of**

THIS PROGRAM IS A PRODUCTION OF PORTRET FILMS IN ASSOCIATION WITH AMERICAN DOCUMENTARY | POV, LATINO PUBLIC BROADCASTING AND INDEPENDENT TELEVISION SERVICE (ITVS) WITH MAJOR FUNDING PROVIDED BY THE CORPORATION FOR PUBLIC BROADCASTING (CPB).

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