



Bx3M a film by Judith Escalona



THE STORY

“It’s an epic on a city block”

–Judith Escalona, director & writer



SOUTH BRONX –

Maria, Mona and Michael are getting ready for their senior year at James Monroe High School in the Bronx. Graduation is a no-brainer for Maria who is at the top of her class. Mona, her best friend, wants to go to Cooper Union and that spells trouble for the aspiring photographer. Michael, Maria’s boyfriend, is flunking out. No matter, Michael is on a mission yet unknown to him—call it destiny or revenge.

Bx3M traces the lives of three teenage friends growing up in a poor, working-class neighborhood. Maria loves Michael more than anything in the world but that love is blind. Her father knows it, Maria will have to see for herself then come to a very hard decision. Mona feels trapped in a lover's triangle, wavering between Seneca, a Monroe track star, and Sam, a Cooper Union student. Her crisis is a well-kept secret until her mother finds out Sam is a girl. Michael's mother was gunned down by drug-pushers when he was three years old and his father never did anything about it. That stings even now, 14 years later. Michael refuses to be like him. When his best friend Pus-head is killed by Duke, the local the local drug dealer, Michael goes after him.

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Michael's story, too, draws on the conventions used to represent ghetto life but with unique and unpredictable moments.

"It's an epic on a city block," says Judith Escalona, the director and writer of *Bx3M*. She grew up in the Bronx and knows these characters intimately as friends, neighbors, and the subjects of gossip. Genuine experiences inform the lives of Maria, Mona, and Michael, the fictional characters Escalona has created. Portraying the lives of inner city girls sets this urban drama apart from most films of the genre. These portraits of Latina adolescents are memorably different, yet their struggle is universal. Michael's story, too, draws on the conventions used to represent ghetto life but with unique and unpredictable moments.

DIRECTOR/WRITER



Judith Escalona grew up in the Bronx, where Bx3M takes place, and returned home to make this feature. She previously wrote and directed *The Krutch*, a surreal narrative about a Puerto Rican psychoanalyst with an identity problem. She is currently working on a new screenplay for her next film.

A segment producer for CUNY-TV, Escalona is also the Founder and Executive Director of Puerto Rico and the American Dream (www.PRdream.com), the 17-year-old, award-winning website on the history, culture and art of Puerto Rico and the Puerto Rican diaspora. PRdream's office is located in Spanish Harlem, where the organization has launched several new media initiatives, among them the technology-based art gallery MediaNoche (www.medianoche.us).

Escalona received three Communicator Awards 2012 for her work at CUNY-TV. She won First Prize in the Best Video category of the Ippies Awards 2011. New York State Senator Bill Perkins recognized her in 2010 for her work in the arts. In 2002 Judith Escalona received an Appreciation Award from the Centro de Estudios Puertorriqueño at Hunter College and was designated a Distinguished Latina by *El Diario/La Prensa* in 2000. She teaches film at The City College of New York.

CAST

MARIA

Jazmín Caratini is a theatre, television and film actor from Puerto Rico. She made her New York City stage debut in Don Gil de las Calzas Verdes. Jazmin appeared in the Puerto Rican stage productions of Asdrájur, Horror Tale, The Ortiz Sisters and The Promise. She was the lead in the feature films Expiration Date and In Between, and in many made-for-television movies. Jazmin studied drama at the University of Puerto Rico, where she performed in several productions directed by Dean Zayas.

MICHAEL

Mario Eusebio was born in Puerto Rico and moved to New York in 2001 to pursue acting. He trained under Richard Scanlon where he secured professional representation & went on to be in Law & Order, as well as multiple appearances in All My Children. He was part of ABC's Diversity Showcase at the Duke theater on 42nd street in 2005. He also starred in the title role of Jacques, directed by Cristina Cingone. Jacques was winner of Best Film at the 7th Home Film Festival in NYC. Currently, Mario devotes himself to telling uplifting stories of grace, love and hope at Times Square Church, including Sent by God and The Cross & the Switchblade.

CAST

MONA

Monica Delgado is an actor, dancer, choreographer, and voice over artist. She was a member of The Harlem Repertory Theatre for four seasons, performing as Susan Mahoney in Finian's Rainbow, Charlene in Dreamgirls, and Kit-Kat Girl Frenchie in Cabaret. Other stage credits include: Isabel in A Bronx Christmas Carol , Llamada/Rally Cry, Jennifer in Yo Soy Latina, Florinda in Into the Woods and Moth in A Midsummer Night's Dream. Film/TV credits: Irish Blues, Waterfront (CBS pilot), Louise, 107 Street, Love Speaks, Hold the Door.

Jennevee Mireya was born and raised in the South Bronx. She began acting in local community theaters at the age of 13. Jennevee traveled as a cast member in the national tour of the Off-Broadway hit Platanos & Collard Greens. She also performed in the show's NYC run. Jennevee has acted with the Michael Chekhov Theater Company and The Odella Williams Show. She has also worked as a print model and singer, performing at the Knitting Factory, Nublu, Drom, and Littlefield.



IMAGEAST FILMS

Bx3M

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