



IMTA ALUM MOISES ARIAS IN *FIVE FEET APART*

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Five Feet Apart opens nationwide Friday, March 15

“You should always live outside your comfort zone. I have always been a fan of doing things that are outside of my comfort zone, and challenge me as an actor or a person, whatever.”

— Moises Arias

In *Five Feet Apart*, Stella Grant is a mostly normal seventeen-year-old, attached to her laptop and her friends. But unlike most people her age, she's got cystic fibrosis and has to spend a ton of time in the hospital. Her boundary-filled, controlled life is tested when she meets Will Newman, a fellow patient who also has CF. Despite their instant connection, they must keep a safe distance between them because of their condition. Things intensify and temptation rises to throw caution to the wind and embrace their attraction.

IMTA alum Moises Arias co-stars in *Five Feet Apart* as Poe, best friend to Stella, opposite Haley Lu Richardson and Cole Sprouse as the young couple in love. Justin Baldoni directs from a script by Mikki Daughtry and Tobias Iaconis. The cast also includes Kimberly Hebert Gregory, Parminder Nagra, Claire Forlani, Emily Baldoni, Elena Satine, Gary Weeks and Sophia Bernard.

Arias appeared recently at the Sundance Film Festival for the screening of *Monos*, a film from Colombia which won the World Cinema Dramatic Special Jury Award. The story follows a group of child soldiers who must ensure that a kidnapped American woman stays alive in the Colombian mountains. Directed by Alejandro Landes, the film was also nominated as the Best Feature Film at the Berlin International Film Festival. For Arias, whose career has evolved from his days in Disney sitcoms, having a Spanish-language part in a Latin American movie means his extended family in Colombia will have the opportunity to see him perform in their native tongue. “It’ll be the first time that they understand the film instead of reading the subtitles or watching something dubbed, so I think it’s going to be special,” the actor noted. *Monos* has not yet been picked up for distribution in the U.S.

Arias has another film that recently screened at the SXSW Film Festival. *The Wall of Mexico* centers on a small American town in which the only Mexican family (also the wealthiest family in town), decides to build a wall around their ranch to stop townspeople from stealing their well water, which local superstition claims has Fountain of Youth properties. In addition to Arias, the cast includes Jackson Rathbone, Esai Morales, Alex Meneses, Marisol Sacramento and Rosanna Arquette. *The Wall of Mexico* is not yet scheduled for theatrical release.

