

IMTA ALUMS IN SUNDANCE FILM FESTIVAL

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Moises Arias, Mateo Arias and Brianna Hildebrand
Starring in World Premiere Films

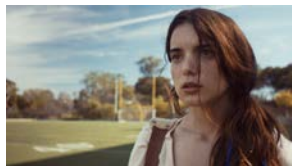
The Sundance Film Festival is among the most prestigious festivals in the world. The Festival, which runs this year January 21-31, brings the most original storytellers together with the most adventurous audiences for its annual program of dramatic and documentary films, shorts, New Frontier films, installations, performances, panel discussions, and dynamic music events. Since 1985, hundreds of films launched at the Festival have gained critical recognition, received commercial distribution, and reached worldwide audiences eager for fresh perspectives and new voices. Year after year, the Festival pursues new ways to introduce more people to the most original and authentic storytelling.

Many IMTA alumni have appeared in films that had their world premiere at Sundance. This year, three IMTA alums—brothers Moises and Mateo Arias (LA05) and Brianna Hildebrand (LA14)—are starring in films making their premiere as part of the Festival’s Next Series, which are “Pure, bold works distinguished by an innovative, forward-thinking approach to story-telling. Digital tech paired with unfettered creativity promises they will shape a ‘greater’ next wave in American cinema.”

Moises Arias stars as Junior in *The Land*, a tale of four teenage buddies—Cisco, Boobie, Junior, and Patty Cake—who skateboard the streets of Cleveland, Ohio, dreaming of getting discovered by a sponsor and skating their way out of poverty. That is, until the boys discover a bag full of pills in the back of a stolen car. Cisco’s entrepreneurial instincts take over, and in a flash their lives get better. But no one counted on having to come face to face with the cold, calculating, and notorious drug queen pin, “Momma,” who runs the toughest gang in town. More than a crime drama, *The Land* is a beautifully rendered story about friendship, values, and what it means for disaffected youth to come of age on the streets of Cleveland. Jorge Lendeborg Jr., Rafi Gavron, Ezri Walker, Erykah Badu and Michael K. Williams also star in *The Land*, which begins screenings at the Festival beginning January 26th.



Mateo Arias stars as Cliff and Brianna Hildebrand stars as Sasha in *First Girl I Loved*. Anne (Dylan Gelula) is a 17-year-old headstrong, cool nerd who lives with her single mom. While covering a softball game for the high school yearbook committee, she becomes infatuated with Sasha, the pretty star of the team. The two girls charmingly hit it off and quickly become close. But when Anne excitedly shares her newfound attraction to Sasha with her best friend, Cliff, he reveals his feelings for Anne and lashes out at her in unanticipated ways. Told with authenticity, humor, and creative use of social media, *First Girl I Loved* is a delightful, contemporary perspective on the first jitters of new romance and the age-old heartbreak of love. *First Girl I Loved*, which began screenings January 24th, also stars Jennifer Prediger, Tim Heidecker and Pamela Adlon.



Moises Arias will next be seen in the role of Gestas in the re-make of the epic *Ben-Hur* that is scheduled for an August release. Mateo Arias recently filmed *Good Kids*, a comedy slated for a Fall 2016 release. And Hildebrand is starring alongside Ryan Reynolds as Ellie Phimister/Negasonic Teenage Warhead in the highly anticipated *Deadpool* that opens February 12th.