

# IMTA ALUM MOISÉS ARIAS IN *MONOS*

**IMTA Press Release**  
**September 12, 2019**



*Monos* is in theatres Friday, September 13

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*“It’ll be the first time that they [Arias’ extended family in Columbia] understand the film instead of reading the subtitles or watching something dubbed, so I think it’s going to be special.”*

— Moisés Arias

High in the Columbian mountains of South America, a group of child and teenage soldiers train and wait for instructions while ensuring that their American hostage, the Doctora, stays alive.



The young group of rebels — bearing names like Rambo, Smurf, Bigfoot, Wolf and Boom-Boom — perform military training exercises by day and revert to youthful self-indulgence by night. After an ambush drives the squadron into the jungle, both the mission and the intricate bonds formed within the group begin to disintegrate.

*Monos* debuted at this year’s Sundance Film Festival, winning the World Cinema Dramatic Special Jury Award. Since then, it has won multiple awards at film festivals throughout the world, culminating with its selection as the Colombian entry for the Best International Feature Film at the 92nd Academy Awards.

Starring in *Monos* is IMTA alum Moisés Arias. Born in NYC to Colombian parents who fled their homeland due to violence, Arias’ personal history is intricately tied to the conflict that has burdened the country for decades. Upon reading the screenplay for *Monos*, he agreed to spend four months in Colombia for a demanding cinematic undertaking. “It was described to me that it would be a very difficult experience, because we’d be up in the mountains of Chingaza near Bogota, about 14,000 feet in the air, for about a month or two, and then move into the jungles of Medellín for about four weeks.”

“[It was] the coldest I’ve ever been, and the warmest I’ve even been,” explained Arias about the overall production. “We weren’t eating properly, we weren’t sleeping properly, we were trained as if we were guerilla kids, and that’s why the film came out the way it did.” Arias referred to the authenticity obtained as “documentative,” alluding to the near-documentary origination of the film. “Everything that’s in the film is us being thrown into the situations, rather than the situations being created around us.”



As Patagrande, the de facto leader of the pack, Arias plays a fundamental role in how the operation is executed. “Just with his name we know he is a heavy-footed individual, even being the small person that I am,” he noted. “When there’s an opportunity to take a commanding position, he does, and the movie, as it unfolds, shows what power does to a person.”

Arias will next appear in *Staten Island*, comedian Pete Davidson’s semi-autobiographical comedy that is scheduled for release in June of 2020. Written and directed by Judd Apatow, the cast also includes Marisa Tomei, Steve Buscemi, Pamela Adlon and Maude Apatow.