



THE LAST RAFTER

WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY
**CARLOS RAFAEL BETANCOURT
& OSCAR ERNESTO ORTEGA**

HÉCTOR MEDINA
NÉSTOR JIMÉNEZ
CRISTINA GARCÍA
CHAZ MENA

EL CENTRAL PRODUCCIONES PRESENTA A HÉCTOR MEDINA - NÉSTOR JIMÉNEZ - CHAZ MENA - CRISTINA GARCÍA - GABRIEL ANDREU - FRANCISCO PORRAS - ARIEL TEXIDÓ - VIKINA LÓPEZ - TERESA MARÍA ROJAS - CARMEN PELÁEZ - RENÉ LAVAN - SARAHÍ DÍAZ - ALBERTO PUJOLS - LESTER MARTÍNEZ - JOSÉ LUIS PÉREZ - GABRIEL BONILLA - SANDRA PORTAL-ANDREU - JENNIFER RODRÍGUEZ - GRETTEL PÉREZ - MATTHEW DEGENNARO - EMMANUEL JR. PACIN
PRODUCCIÓN EJECUTIVA OSCAR ERNESTO ORTEGA - ELINA BARREDO - CARLOS RAFAEL BETANCOURT PRODUCCIÓN ALINA RODRÍGUEZ - ANDREA LÓPEZ DISEÑO SONIDO PAOLA MAGRANS
MÚSICA HAROLD LÓPEZ-NUSSA - RUY ADRIÁN LÓPEZ-NUSSA EDICIÓN CARLOS RAFAEL BETANCOURT DIRECCIÓN DE FOTOGRAFÍA OSCAR ERNESTO ORTEGA
GUIÓN Y DIRECCIÓN CARLOS RAFAEL BETANCOURT - OSCAR ERNESTO ORTEGA "EL ÚLTIMO BALSERO" © 2019 EL CENTRAL

A CUBAN FILM IN THE UNITED STATES

THE LAST RAFTER

An independent film that gives viewers a personalized look at an unlikely immigration story through the eyes of a Cuban undocumented immigrant.

TITLE IN SPANISH: **EL ÚLTIMO BALSERO**

GENRE: **DRAMEDY**

RUNTIME: **82 MINUTES**

FILM LANGUAGE: **SPANISH, ENGLISH**

COUNTRY: **UNITED STATES**

LOGLINE:

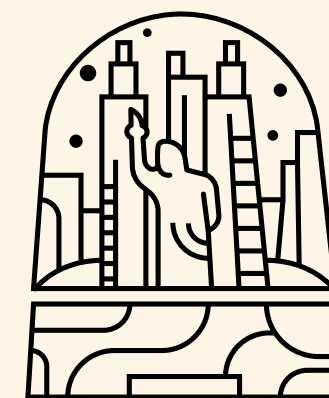
America's first Cuban undocumented immigrant searches Miami for his missing father, while unraveling a past of intolerance and hate that haunts him.

TAG WORDS:

Cuba, Miami, LatinX, LGBTQIA, Homophobia, Family, Immigration.

TRAILER: @<https://vimeo.com/328888888>

INSTAGRAM: @ELULTIMOBALSERO



EL ÚLTIMO BALSERO

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“Mining rich detail from their own experiences finding a footing in the US, filmmakers Carlos Rafael Betancourt and Oscar Ernesto Ortega have crafted a powerful film that is at once personal and strikingly timely.”

Miami Film Festival 2020

“The Last Rafter is a very beautiful film, one that you won’t forget, once in a lifetime kind of filmmaking. Why? Because it is the last rafter. You’ll see what I mean.”

Edward James Olmos 2020



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SYNOPSIS:

After risking his life crossing the Florida Straits on a raft, a young Cuban searches Miami for his missing father.

When a political shift makes him America's first Cuban undocumented immigrant, he must battle the new and bigger fear of deportation, while unraveling a past of intolerance and hate that haunts him.



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DIRECTORS STATEMENT:

This story synthesizes many of our personal experiences as Cuban immigrants, being a fish out of water in a new and very polarized landscape. We want to go beyond the veil of the shining lights of the American Dream, where some have made fortunes exploiting those who continue to suffer and must hide even when they seem to be in a safer place.

This is a coming of age story, breaking a cycle of toxic masculinity regularly shown on-screen through the stereotypical Macho with guns and drugs, but we want to focus on how those tropes are carried beyond the stereotypes.

We want to celebrate our diversity not as what divides us but as what makes us stronger. This story is a quest to re-contextualize subjects like masculinity, identity and freedom through an emotional journey in search for closure of wounds from the past while learning and embracing what the future brings.



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DIRECTORS BIOGRAPHY:

Carlos Rafael Betancourt and Oscar Ernesto Ortega developed a common voice as they created EL CENTRAL, one of the first production companies in Cuba, with award winning titles like "La Isla de Corcho", winner of the Ibero-American contest CINERGIA, NYCIFF and IFQ Festival in the US.

While Oscar relocated with EL CENTRAL in Miami, Carlos moved to Los Angeles to pursue graduate studies in film, becoming the first Cuban Directing Fellow at the American Film Institute. Carlos' AFI Thesis Film, "Running Shadow" played at NALIP, Skins Fest, Red Nation Film Festival, Catalina Film Festival, Worldfest Houston, LA Diversity Film Festival, Arizona International Film Festival, among others.

Carlos and Oscar joined forces one more time to write and direct their first feature film, "The Last Rafter", a very personal story that mines from their immigrant experience. The film premiered at Miami Film Festival and has been selected at Dallas International Film Festival and LALIFF.



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HECTOR MEDINA

Starring in landmark Cuban films such as “Boleto al Paraíso” (“Ticket to Paradise,”) Hector becomes internationally recognized as a rising talent for his roles in “The King of Havana” by acclaimed Spanish director Agustí Villaronga, and in the award-winning Magnolia Pictures, “VIVA” directed by Paddy Breathnch.

Currently, he lives in Miami where he recently enjoyed acclaim starring in Telemundo's Sangre de mi Tierra (“Blood of my Country”). He was featured as a guest star in Netflix's “Four Seasons in Havana”. A juror at the Miami International Film Festival (HBO's Contest), he was later invited as guest actor to the 2018 Sundance Lab. Hector is the lead actor and the heart of “The Last Rafter”.



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Edward James Olmos Opening Night words at LALIFF

https://m.imdb.com/title/tt11778498/?ref=fn_al_tt_0

Press Links:

<https://www.hollywoodreporter.com/news/la-latino-international-film-festival-hold-virtual-edition-1290492>

<https://www.latimes.com/entertainment-arts/movies/story/2020-04-14/virtual-latino-international-film-festival>

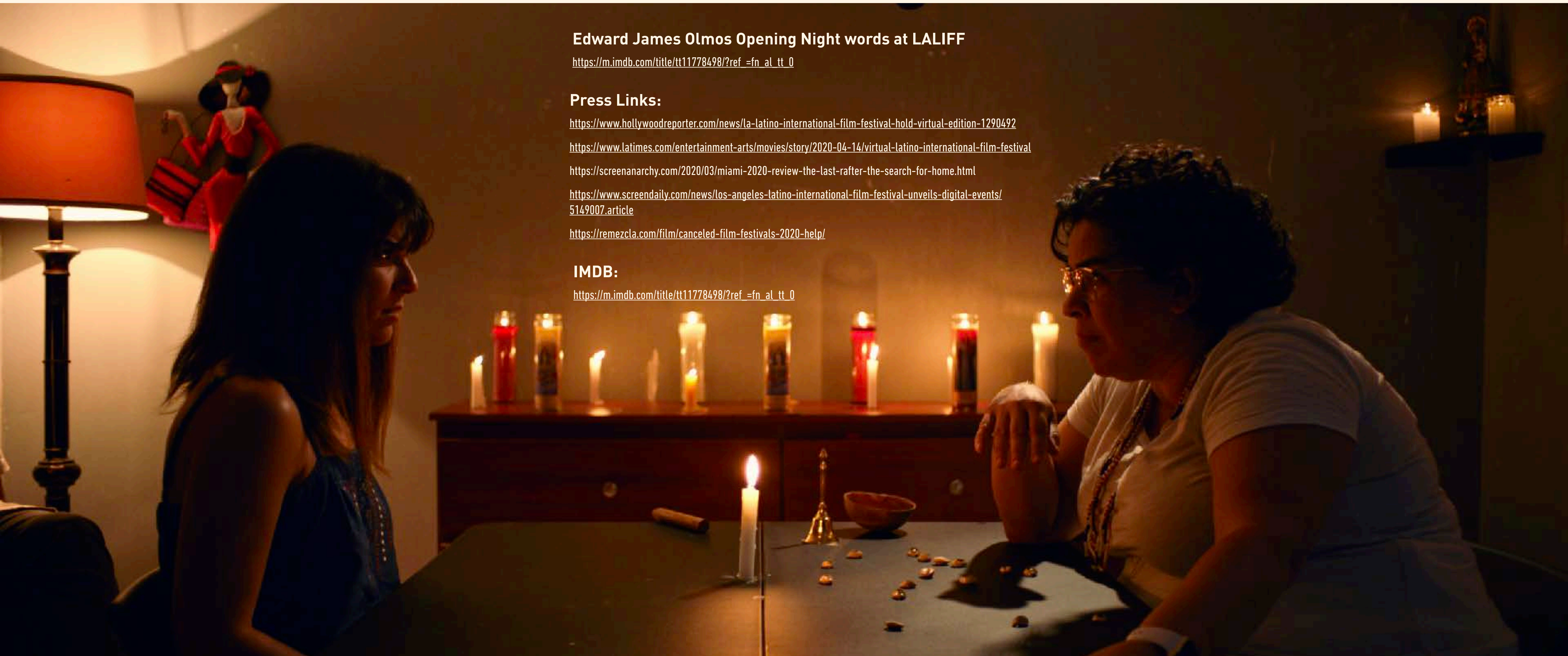
<https://screenanarchy.com/2020/03/miami-2020-review-the-last-rafter-the-search-for-home.html>

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