

Hogar



FEATURING **MARIA MORALES AND EMMANUEL MORALES**
PRODUCED BY **EMILY COHEN IBÁÑEZ AND KRISTINA MOTWANI** ANIMATION BY **PAMELA CHAVEZ AND DUSTIN GARCIA**
DIRECTED BY **EMILY COHEN IBÁÑEZ** EDITED BY **KRISTINA MOTWANI**
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS **PAULA SMITH ARRIGONI AND NICO OPPER** PRODUCER FOR HAMILTON FAMILIES **CORY WINTER**
MUSIC BY **YAMIL REZC** SOUND MIX BY **DAN OLMSTED**
WITH SUPPORT FROM **HAMILTON FAMILIES, GOOGLE, BAVC**

Synopsis

Maria and her 6 year old son, Emmanuel, recount their memories of being unhoused in San Francisco before being helped by Hamilton Families and what home means to them. In this bilingual animated children's film, we hear Maria's story, and the efforts she takes to support her son.

Bios

[Emily Cohen Ibañez](#) (Producer, Director, Cinematographer) is a Colombian-American filmmaker who earned her doctorate in Anthropology (2011) with a certificate in Culture and Media at New York University. Her film work pairs lyricism with social activism, advocating for labor, environmental, and health justice. Her debut feature documentary *BODIES AT WAR/MINA* (2015) premiered at El Festival de Cine de Bogotá where it was nominated for a UNICEF award. The Guardian published her most recent short, *FRUITS OF LABOUR*. Other shorts have premiered at Santa Fe Independent Film Festival, Society for Visual Anthropology, and the Roxie Theatre in San Francisco. She is currently working on her feature film, *FRUITS OF LABOR*, with a planned release in 2021. The National Science Foundation, Fulbright, the Wenner-Gren Foundation, BAVC MediaMaker Fellowship, Just Films Ford Foundation, California Humanities, Nia Tero, Firelight Media, and SFFILM's FilmHouse residency program amongst others have supported her work.

[Kristina Motwani](#) (Producer, Director, Video Editor, Story Consultant) is a filmmaker living and working in San Francisco. She is a 2019 DOC NYC 40 under 40 honoree, a 2017 BAVC MediaMaker Fellow and a 2018 SFFilm FilmHouse Resident. Her work has screened at the Sundance Film Festival, Tribeca, SF Film festival and more, and has been seen on PBS, Netflix and the World Channel. She has been nominated for a regional Emmy award and received awards from the SF Press Club, the Telly Awards, and the Society for Professional Journalism. She is a judge for the news and doc Emmy Awards and is currently teaching editing at UC Berkeley Graduate School of Journalism. She's a member of the Brown Girls Doc Mafia.





Director's Statement

When BAVC put out the call to National MediaMaker alumni to send a proposal for short films with and about unhoused families in San Francisco, I applied. I wrote a treatment that incorporated a theatrical and collaborative approach with those in front of the camera, a way of working I established in *Fruits of Labor*, which premiered at SXSW. Then COVID-19 hit, and everything changed. One thing stayed constant, I wanted to bring Kristina Motwani on board as my key collaborator; I had worked with Kristina on my first feature documentary, and we have a partnership that delivers excellent results.

When we were tasked to begin the project, it was in the early days of COVID-19. We did not know what would be safe in terms of production nor did we know how long the pandemic would last. We simultaneously came up with the idea of doing an animated short. I thought of Pamela Chavez immediately; I had been introduced to her work by Aurora Guerrero. Pamela's short film *Caracol Cruzando* captured the look, feel, and audience I was going for and upon showing Kristina, she enthusiastically agreed.

For the music, I regularly collaborate with the brilliant music composer, Yamil Rezc. For *HOGAR*, I sent him links to old Jamaican rock steady tracks for reference and he came back with several options; what became the final score incorporates Latin lounge music sound with rock steady. The music could not be more perfect. Our sound designer and mixer, as always, created a fantastic sound design that adds another layer to the storytelling and engagement for children, our desired audience. I spend a lot of time with my 7-year-old niece, Emma, and have watched hours of children films and programming with her. It is a thrill watching animation with Emma, seeing what cracks her up and helps her reflect on the world.

Upon meeting Maria and her 6-year-old son Emmanuel; the sweetness of their relationship and conversation with each other was instantly apparent. I am both a filmmaker and an anthropologist and have long loved the writings of Gregory Bateson (heck, my dog is named after him). Bateson was an influential anthropologist who wrote a phenomenal book of essays called *Steps Towards an Ecology of Mind*. An essay that has always stuck with me is his first Metalogue, a conversation between himself and his young daughter called, *Why Do Things Get in a Muddle?* In the conversation they discuss words and what they mean and through circular dialogue come to a deeper understanding of language and words.

In *HOGAR*, Emmanuel asks Maria a question: "What is a Home?" Maria answers with tender honesty about their experiences with homelessness and her experience with sexual assault. He dreamily pontificates on sea animals and discusses how he enjoys playing with worms. By the end of the film, one thing is certain, their mutual love for each other and deeper sense of what a home is. Any adult who takes care of children, whether you are a parent or an auntie, the pandemic has brought into acute focus a dilemma—how do we talk about difficult and unpredictable things with children that will help them achieve a deeper understanding of the world around them? I believe Maria and Emmanuel has shown, the collective us out there, a way forward.

About BAVC

BAVC is a community hub and resource for media makers in the Bay Area and across the country, serving over 7,500 freelancers, filmmakers, job-seekers, activists, and artists every year. BAVC provides access to media making technology, storytelling workshops, a diverse and engaged community of makers and producers, services and resources. BAVC advocates for those whose stories aren't being told, and provides the resources for anyone to create and share, and amplify their stories and those of their communities. BAVC's diverse, innovative programs lead the field in media training for youth and educators, technology and multimedia focused workforce development, visually-driven new media storytelling and audio-visual preservation. Visit bavc.org.

About Hamilton Families

Hamilton Families is San Francisco's leading service provider to families experiencing homelessness, with carefully designed programs to prevent homelessness, provide shelter and stability, return families to permanent housing and support the well-being of children experiencing homelessness. To help end family homelessness, visit hamiltonfamilies.org.



hamiltonfamilies.org/hogar