

Berlinale
75 Internationale
Filmfestspiele
Berlin
Forum



COLOSAL

A DOCUMENTARY BY NAYIBE TAVARES ABEL

MY FAMILY'S SECRETS SHAPED MY COUNTRY'S HISTORY


A TAVAB PRODUCTION IN ASSOCIATION WITH CINEMA COSTANERA & MEDIA JIBARA
PRODUCED BY LEI GONZÁLEZ PRODUCTION DESIGN MILENA VOLONTERI
CINEMATOGRAPHY KAT DÍAZ EDITED BY NATHALIA LAFUENTE SOUND DESIGN MIGUEL NEW
POSTER ANA VALERIA CASTILLOS WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY NAYIBE TAVARES ABEL

**CINEMA
COSTANERA** MEDIA JIBARA

A hand with a ring on the ring finger points to a collage of photographs and documents on a wooden table. The collage includes a portrait of a woman, a newspaper clipping with the headline "FED De At East", a photograph of a group of people, and a cartoon of a man with glasses. The background is a green cutting mat.

All families keep secrets.
My family's secrets are intertwined with
the fight against authoritarianism in my
country, the Dominican Republic.

SYNOPSIS

A person with curly hair, wearing a white ribbed sweater and a blue baseball cap, is seen from behind, looking out at the ocean. The sun is setting behind mountains in the distance, creating a soft, hazy glow. The person has a white bag slung over their shoulder.

Colossal is a story about pain but also about hope. Political violence leads to intergenerational trauma. With our film, we want to show a path to break that cycle.

Although representative democracy is far from perfect as a political system, for now, it is our best tool against authoritarianism and the violation of human rights.

For as ancient as democracy may be, it is still a work-in-progress worldwide and we want to bring to light how important it is to preserve it.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT



Presidente de la Comisión Permanente de la República, me place a examinarle copia del artículo 48 de la Ley No. 55 del 11 de noviembre de 1970, con la finalidad de emitir su opinión al

Comisión Permanente de Justicia el día 4 de octubre, que nos reuniremos para discutir el citado proyecto.

Héctor R. Zapellán Conde
Presidente Comisión Permanente de Justicia del Senado de la República



TRAILER

<https://vimeo.com/1050100388>

Promotional Materials Here

El 6 de mayo de 1955
El Sr. Gobernador
Comandante en Jefe
de las Fuerzas Armadas
de la República
de Chile
Presente
Señor Gobernador:
En virtud de lo dispuesto
en el artículo 48 de la Ley
N.º 55 del 11 de noviembre
de 1970, tengo el honor de
presentarle copia del
proyecto de Ley que se
encuentra en trámite en
esta Comisión Permanente
de Justicia, para que
pueda emitir su opinión
al respecto.





Political history and activism

Democracy and grassroots movements

Family legacy and personal sacrifice

The intersection of the personal and the political

KEY THEMES





CREW

Director/Screenwriter: Nayibe Tavares-Abel

Producer: Lei González

Cinematographer: Kat Díaz

Production Design: Milena Volonteri

Direct Sound: Marie Jimenez

Sound Design: Miguel New

Editor/Screenwriter: Nathalia Lafuente

CAST

Nayibe Tavares-Abel

Froilán Tavares Vidal

Amín Abel

Faisal Abel

Froilán Tavares Jr

José Froilán Tavares-Abel

Mamiella

CAST & CREW




Title: Colosal
Country: Dominican Republic
Run time: 76 minutes
Director: Nayibe Tavares-Abel
Production
Companies: Cinema Costanera
Media Jíbara
Tavab
Producer: Lei González
Budget: RD\$23,985,380.34
USD\$399,756.30
Format: Digital
FPS: 24 fps
Sound Stereo
Media Support: Mixed (Digital, Video, 16mm)
Genre: Documentary

TECH ASPECTS



Nayibe Tavares-Abel, Dominican of Palestinian and Lebanese origin, is a documentary filmmaker, research consultant and propmaster. She has worked on productions for Netflix, Nickelodeon, Lionsgate and Paramount. Nayibe was the researcher and co-writer of the documentary "En Movimiento" (2023) which explores the history of transportation and challenges of mobility in the DR. Carmencita (2020), her hybrid short film that integrates 16mm silent film, stop motion animation, and documentary, premiered at the Trinidad and Tobago Film Festival in 2020 and received an honorary mention.

DIRECTOR



Afro-Caribbean creative producer and writer, attracted to intimate, courageous, and evocative storytelling about identity, sexuality, and human rights.

Producer of "Fronterizas," finalist in the Sundance Short Film Competition (2014); "I Said I Would Never Talk About Politics" preselected for the Goya Awards (2016) as the best animated short film, and "Sirena" winner of Best Narrative in NFFTY (2024).

Alumna of Eurodoc, EFM Doc Toolbox Program and CNC DEENTAL, who invited her as PRODUCERS UNDER THE SPOTLIGHT from the ACP States at Cannes in 2024. Active Member of CAFTPRO & BI-POC EURODOC.

PRODUCER



PRODUCTION COMPANIES



Cinema Costanera is an up-and-coming production company based in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic and Detroit, Michigan (USA). We specialize in films with a focus on genealogy and archives. Our first feature film, *Colosal*, was selected to have its World Premiere at Berlinale Forum 2025. Among our projects in development are: *Yubarta*, a stopmotion documentary film about forced migration in Palestine and Haiti, directed by Nayibe Tavares Abel; and *Asylum Lake*, a film essay about the ruins of an alternative psychiatry facility in Michigan, directed by Isabelle Tavares.



MEDIA JIBARA

We are a production house based in the Dominican Republic, dedicated to creating powerful and personal narratives with global resonance. Our primary goal is to produce films that capture the unique stories and cultural heritage of the Caribbean and Latin American regions, resonating with audiences worldwide. We focus on amplifying the stories of women filmmakers, emerging directors, and the BIPOC and LGBTQ+ communities. We strive to inspire meaningful conversations and foster positive social change through cinema.

<https://www.mediajibara.com/>



Ideas Lab DGCINE (Dominican Rep, 2017)

Development Lab DGCINE (Dominican Rep, 2017)

Caribbean Coproduction Market - Global Film Fest of Santo Domingo (Dominican Rep, 2019)

Puerto FICCI Documentary Pitch Lab (Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, 2019)

Moulin D'Andé Residency (Normandy, France 2020)

EICTV-UNESCO Distribution Workshop (Cuba, 2021)

Coproduction Market Dok Leipzig (Leipzig 2022)

Archive Workshop - Eurodoc Caribbean (Martinique, 2022)

Deental CNC Production Training - DGCINE (Dominican Republic, 2023)

EFM Toolbox Berlinale - invited by Unesco (Germany, 2023)

Post Production Lab - Labex Tierra de Fuego (Argentina, 2023)

Chileconecta (Chile, 2023)

Bolivialab/Finalizalan (Bolivia, 2024)

TRAJECTORY



FAQ

What is Colosal about?

Colosal is a feature documentary in first person, exploring the Dominican Republic's political history over the last five decades through the lens of a family deeply involved in public political life. The film examines pivotal moments like the 2020 elections and the role of movements such as 'Guardianes de la Democracia,' intertwining personal and national histories.

What themes does Colosal explore?

The film examines themes of democracy, civic activism, political legacy, and the intersection of personal and national histories. It also sheds light on the complexities of power and the impact of political life on individuals and families. These themes are especially relevant in today's world as they reflect the global challenges of democracy, the role of grassroots movements, and the impact of political decisions on individual lives and communities. Generational trauma and relay are also themes that Colosal dives into.

What inspired the creation of Colosal?

The project was inspired by the desire to connect personal family experiences with the broader political narrative of the Dominican Republic. By showcasing this intersection, Colosal aims to offer a unique perspective on how political events shape and are shaped by those who live them.

What makes Colosal unique compared to other political documentaries?

Colosal combines deeply personal storytelling with a historical perspective. The film provides an insider's view of democracy, activism, and power, making it both intimate and universally relevant.

What kind of audience is Colosal intended for?

Colosal is intended for a broad audience, including those interested in political history, civic movements, and human stories. Its universal themes of resilience and activism resonate with viewers beyond the Dominican Republic.

Colosal is a profound tapestry that weaves together the shifting political landscape of the Dominican Republic over the past five decades with an intimacy that is both arresting and raw. Under Nayibe's vision, the film courageously ventures into the heart of her family's political legacy, unraveling deeply personal stories that mirror the nation's.

This project was born as a personal journey, a quest to understand not only a family story but also the events that have shaped the Dominican Republic over the past decades.

From the outset, we understood that telling a story so intimate yet so laden with political and social implications would be a challenge. Colosal does not aim to be an absolute truth or a judgment of the past but rather a subjective exploration of how historical events can profoundly influence personal lives and family dynamics.

We want to emphasize that our intention has never been to defame, divide, or impose a single perspective on these events. On the contrary, we seek to foster conversation, reflection, and a broader dialogue about our historical memory and the nuances of our identity as a nation. We recognize that certain aspects of the documentary may be uncomfortable or painful for some members of the family or for those who experienced these moments differently. To all of them, we extend our respect and our willingness to engage in dialogue.

Colosal is, above all, an act of love for the truth, in all its complexities and contradictions. We hope that, in watching this work, you can connect with the honesty and vulnerability we have poured into every moment of this story.

LEI GONZÁLEZ - PRODUCER



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Colosal is produced by
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&
Media Jíbara, Dominican Republic