

A woman with dark hair, wearing a red and white striped shirt, is smiling and looking upwards. She is surrounded by a large number of small orange butterflies that appear to be flying around her head. The background is a dark, out-of-focus green, suggesting foliage. The overall mood is joyful and hopeful.

WAYS OF BEING HOME

BETWEEN NORTHFIELD
& MALTRATA

A FILM BY



CECILIA CORNEJO SOTELO

in collaboration with the Latinx
community of Northfield, Minnesota



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Ways of Being Home explores the immigrant experience in the company of the Mexican community living in Northfield, a college town in southern Minnesota.

Filmed over the course of the Trump presidency, the film attests to the resilience, ingenuity and fierce determination of displaced people as they craft a life and a home away from home.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT



I am a documentary filmmaker, artist and educator living and working in Northfield, Minnesota, the occupied ancestral land of the Wahpekute Band of the Dakota Nation.



The opposite of an extractivist approach, my work is built on trust, on reciprocal relationships established over time, and on the recognition that engaging communities as co-creators is a promising path to social transformation.

I provide technical training to film participants and employ inclusive methodologies to summon stories that are collectively told. In doing so, I align myself with filmmakers who work to transform power dynamics within documentary film so it ceases to be reserved for those with power interrogating people without it.

CREDITS



Directed by Cecilia Cornejo Sotelo
In collaboration with the Latinx
community of Northfield, Minnesota

Cinematography Cecilia Cornejo Sotelo
Fernando Saldivia Yáñez
George Zuccolotto

Direct sound Cecilia Cornejo Sotelo
Fernando Saldivia Yáñez
George Zuccolotto

Animation José Adrián García Orozco

Editing & Sound Design Cecilia Cornejo Sotelo

Sound Mix Jay Beck

Theme Song George Zuccolotto

Color Grading Alex Kaufman

Additional Photography Jay Beck

Drone Photography Heriberto Rosas

Additional Color Grading Alan Zheng

Closed Captions Alan Zheng

Research Assistant Fernando Saldivia Yáñez

Graphic Design Michael McPherson





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CAST



Northfield, Minnesota

Members of the Mexican immigrant
community

Father Dennis Dempsey

Maltrata, Veracruz

Familia Rosas

Antonia Jiménez Toxpán

María de Jesús Agapito Rivera

Guillermina Rosas Pérez



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DIRECTOR'S FILMOGRAPHY

2020 Ways of Being Home — Between Northfield & Maltrata

HD, color/sound. TRT: 72 min. Distributed by Women make Movies.

Documentary film made in collaboration with the Latinx community of Northfield, Minnesota.

2016 Making Noise — The story of a skatepark

Various formats, color/sound. TRT: 64 min.

Documentary film made in collaboration with members of the Northfield Skateboard Coalition.

2012 The song of the apprentice

Super 8, SVHS, MiniDV, color/sound. TRT: 44 min.

Essay film against fear and senseless productivity that underscores the importance of meaningful and dignified work.

2004 I wonder what you will remember of September

Super 8 and MiniDV, color/sound. TRT: 27 min.

Distributed by Women make Movies.

Personal response to the events of 9/11/2001, informed by the filmmaker's experience of the Chilean coup d'état of 9/11/73.

2003 encuentro: now that "whole" is always "in between."

Super 8, MiniDV, color/sound. TRT: 5 min.

Romance and politics intermingle in this exploration of bilingualism and ideological kinship.



BIOGRAPHY



CECILIA CORNEJO SOTELO

Director / Producer / Editor

Cecilia Cornejo Sotelo is a documentary filmmaker, artist, and educator engaging rural communities in southern Minnesota in a multilayered exploration of home and belonging. Locally rooted yet globally minded, her work examines notions of belonging and the immigrant experience while exploring the traces of historical trauma on people and places.

An inaugural recipient of the 2020 McKnight Fellowship for Community-Engaged Artists, Cecilia's work has received support from multiple organizations, including the Minnesota State Arts Board, the National Association of Latino Arts and Culture, and the Jerome Foundation. Her film work has shown at venues such as MoMA's Documentary Fortnight, the Minneapolis/St. Paul International Film Festival, Cine las Americas (Texas), L'Alternativa (Spain), InVideo (Italy), Melbourne Latin American Film Festival (Australia), Puerto Vallarta International Film Festival (Mexico) and Festival de Cine Pobre (Cuba).



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