

# FRONTERA



## **Directed by**

Jake Thomas Armbruster

## **Screenplay by**

Omar Saavedra & Jake  
Thomas Armbruster

**Contact:** Jake Armbruster  
(661) 803-8100

**Email:** [jake@jtafilms.com](mailto:jake@jtafilms.com)

**Film Specs:**

Running time: 88 min

Language: English

Genre: Crime Drama

Camera: Canon 5D Mark III

Format: HDV, Color

Aspect Ratio: 200

Fps: 23.976

**Log line:**

The American family.  
Veterans,  
public servants,  
criminals.

**Short Synopsis:**

After their father [a public figure and arms dealer for the cartel] passes away, two brothers are forced to reunite. One struggles with keeping his father's secret while running in a political campaign; the other is forced into his fathers old business.



## Directors Statement

What started out as a twenty page short film project with a five thousand dollar budget, 'Frontera,' is now a full feature film.

'Frontera' has gone through many names and iterations. I knew that the twenty page short film was too long and dialogue driven to be considered a viable short film, so I knew if we just put in more time we could make it a feature. Self funded by myself and my lead actor Omar Saavedra we decided to expand on the script and complete the story no matter how much time and investment it would take.

The passion we had toward telling this story propelled us through the road blocks. With the modest budget, we had to cut corners everywhere. Most days consisted of me, my actors and my sound guy. We would schedule a shoot whenever

we had a little money, a solid script and actor availability. Somehow we completed it.

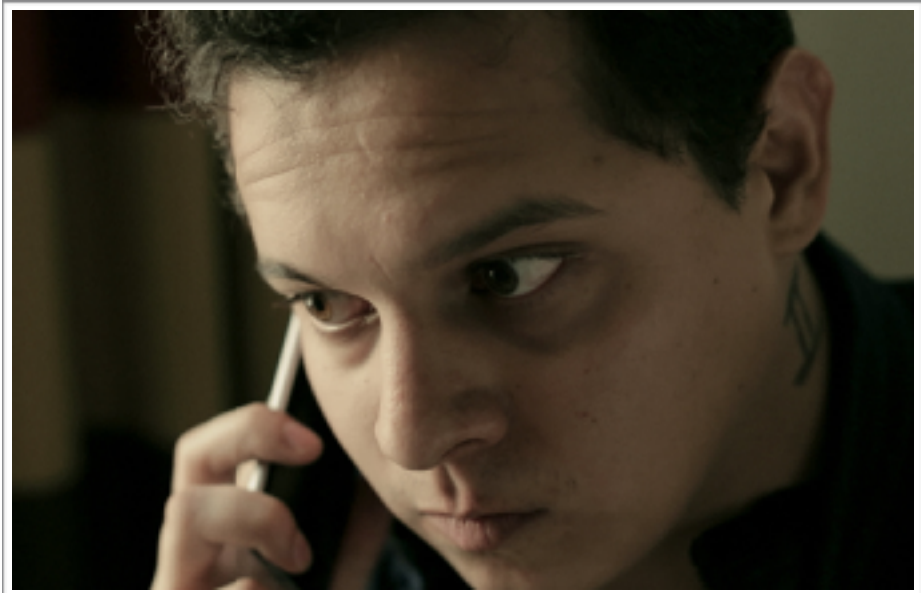
Loosely based on an actual family Gun shop in South Texas, 'Frontera,' is about a family whose Vietnam hero father is secretly dealing ammunition to the cartel. The film explores the effect the sins of the father have on the lives of their children.

I grew up in a family where I felt I was the black sheep. My brother got the good grades and



showed good potential, while I got in trouble skipped class and couldn't hold my attention on school at all. My parents looked at me like I was just the other child.

I connected my experiences to Sonny's conflicts in the film. His struggle to find his place in the family, his poor decisions in trying to bond with his father.



Inspired by my love for the Godfather films and Scorsese movies, I wanted to capture the theme's of American culture. We believe what we see on television and media , never looking behind the curtain unless it's plastered in our faces on the news. Corruption is everywhere and I wanted to show how easily people with power and money can get away with it.

Inherently our two lead characters want to lead normal lives, but they are constantly shadowed by their fathers criminality.

It is here they must decide if they will be defined by their fathers sins or pave the way for the next generation.





**Omar Saavedra**

*Sonny Dupont*

**Omar Saavedra** was born in a small town in Mexico, he fell in love with American Cinema from a very young age. He was exposed to a large amount of movies from different decades by his family and would enjoy re-enacting scenes as a young kid.

As he went into his teenage years, he was exposed to and inspired by actors such as Al Pacino, Marlon Brando, James Dean, among others and he made the decision to pursue acting as a profession. He first finished his high school degree and attended some college courses.

He then applied to "The Lee Strasberg Theatre & Film Institute" where he was accepted and moved to Los Angeles to develop his craft as a method actor. Other interests and hobbies include: playing guitar, singing and horseback riding.



**Justin Berti**

*Bradley Dupont Jr.*

**Justin Berti** was born in Avon, Connecticut. Subsequently he has called many places home. These include Houston, Laguna Beach and New York City. However, for the last 12 years it was Tokyo that was his home. In the "Land of the Rising Sun" he acted, danced, and modeled in almost every facet of the entertainment industry.

In Japan, he played semi-pro baseball and danced for Japan's most famous musical director, Amon Miyamoto.

He has recently moved back to L.A. one year ago where he has performed on stage, starring in Tats: The Experience and The Full Monty. He has also landed roles in film and television. Notably, the role of Elliot in the Showtime First Series Submission.



**John Henry Richardson**

*Frank Daniels*

**John Henry Richardson** has won Best Acting Awards from the L.A. Weekly Theatre Critics, Drama Logue, Los Angeles Showcase and the Glendale Centre Theatre.. He has been honored with awards for his critically-acclaimed film DILLINGER IN PARADISE.

He has also been a leading acting coach in Los Angeles for over 30 years. He created the first video workshop for actors, The Actors Gymnasium in 1976. He was Senior Instructor of the Acting For Film Department of the New York Film Academy at Universal Studios, wherein he created the syllabi, lesson plan and curriculum for the Master of Fine Arts program.

He most recently wrote, produced, directed and starred in the pastiche film Where is She Now?





**Zoe Sydney**  
*Sara*

**Zoe Sidney** is an LA based actress that was born and raised in Berlin, Germany.

She started her career early on with German television and theatre work. In order to learn and understand the craft of acting she studied at the Lee Strasberg Theatre and Film institute in Los Angeles.

The inspiration for acting came from a passion for expression, the possibility of making people feel different, even if just for the duration of a film. The hope that someone will have a different idea or view through the power of a performance is what drives Zoe to get better at her craft every day.



**Oliver Seitz**  
*Joseph Cole*

**Oliver Seitz** is an LA based German actor and model.

After appearing on stage all over Germany, including Arthur Miller's *The Crucible* and *Arsenic And Old Lace* by Joseph Kesselring, he made his way to Los Angeles, where he resides now to further his career in film.

Stateside he has appeared in many advertisements for Brands such as Lexus, Pacsun, Brooks Brothers and participates in many indie projects across the board.

He also is an enthusiastic filmmaker, classically trained guitarist and has a Bachelor of Science in psychology.



**Victor Boneva**  
*Skinny*

**Victor Boneva** was drawn to film at a young age. Born in Guatemala his family moved to Los Angeles when he was 2 years old. Growing up just outside Hollywood Victor was drawn to movies. He spent most of his time watching films, realizing that cinema was the place he wanted to make his mark.

Victor started his studies under mentors like Ruben Moreno, learning the basics of acting and how to keep pushing his boundaries without fear. He joined the Diane and Lori Hall Acting Studio in order to further develop his acting technique. He learned about discipline, preparation and, most importantly, "the work." Scott Bromley and Patrick Holland guided him through instrumental exercises aimed at helping him get to know himself and to be fully grounded in the craft of acting.



**Luis Refugio Ruiz**

*Paisa*

**Luis Ruiz** family comes from a very small town in Mexico. His parents grew up very impoverished, and later they moved to Dallas Texas when Luis was a kid. His parents circumstances shaped the person he would become striving to inspire the less fortunate. His understanding and compassion for the human struggle is what drives him to succeed everyday.

Inspired by the acting in blockbuster movie 'Titanic' he decided to move to LA and pursue acting. It made him feel capable of anything and discover that at the core we are all the same and can connect once we remove all the layers society has imposed on us. If he can give someone hope in life's pursuit, and inspire a kid somewhere, than he'll be content. He'll know that his life was worth every heart ache and that he made the most of his days.



**Libette Garcia**

*Elsa Dupont*

**Libette Garcia** is a bilingual actress that has co-starred in ABC's 'Off the Map', has held principal roles in numerous national commercials, independent films and theater productions.

Acting professionally for 10 years, Libette previously studied acting at NYU and HB Studios, and holds a BA in Theater from the University of Hawaii. She credits foreign and independent film directors such as Jim Jarmusch, John Cassavettes, and Pedro Almodovar as her early inspirations to becoming an actor and writer.

As a playwright, she contributed a monologue to Josefina Lopez's play "Drunk Girl" which has toured college campuses.

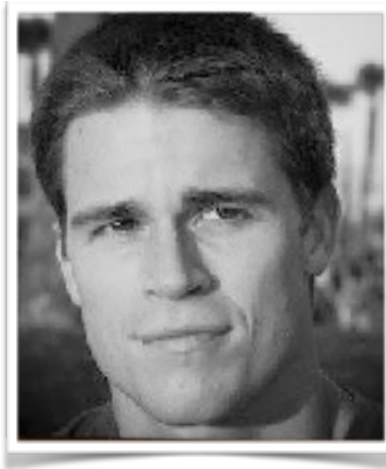


**Tom Struckhoff**

*Emilio Alvarez*

**Tom Struckhoff** was born and raised in Columbia, MO. He is best known for his lead supporting role as Dr. Steven Craig in the upcoming horror movie, "Medusa."

After college, Tom moved to Los Angeles to begin a career in the business world, but always wanted to pursue acting as a lifelong dream. Finally, in 2013, he had the opportunity and resources to "go for it" in March of 2013. Almost immediately, he landed a featured role in two SAG web series "My Roommate The..." and a lead role in "The Adventures of Fuzzy and Malloy" (still in production). A few commercials and some voiceover work kept the actor moving forward in his career. In September of 2013, he was cast as the lead supporting character in the feature film, "Medusa"

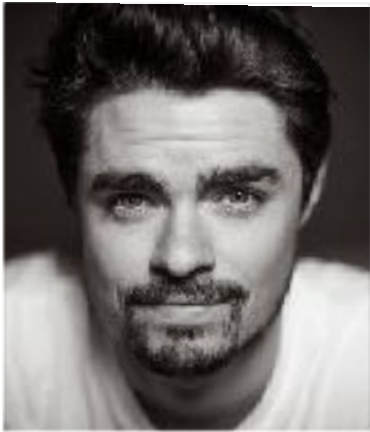


**Jake Thomas Armbruster**  
*Writer/Director/Editor*

**Jake Thomas Armbruster** was born and raised in Los Angeles spending most of his childhood watching movies and reading comic books. He was an action movie buff as a kid, his idol was Arnold Schwarzenegger.

Jake was already an avid storyteller at a young age, writing comic books and short stories, one that was published by his elementary school. He later found himself at Cal-State University Northridge where he studied Television and Film Production. After graduating he furthered his knowledge by studying foreign and classical cinema, while working as a freelance videographer.

His passion for writing became his obsession and he spent countless hours writing features and short stories. He hopes 'Frontera' is well received so that he can make his next film with an 'actual budget.'



**Matthew Macar**  
*Cinematographer*

**Matthew Macar** is a Los Angeles based freelance Cinematographer born and raised in Tampa, Florida. For college he moved to Orlando to study Animation and Digital Media at the University of Central Florida. Well into his last last year of that degree program, he realized through filming various projects for fun with friends that he was much more interested in traditional cinematography and the culture of that industry. Three months later, he sold everything he owned and moved to LA to pursue his career as a cinematographer.

He has shot countless commercials and short film projects all over the world. He makes an effort to pursue work in different countries if and wherever possible to expand his experience and perspective.



**Alex Anderson**  
*Co-Producer*

**Alex Anderson** is a Hollywood based freelance Cinematographer and Editor. Born and raised in Orange County Alex always had an obsession with film and television. For college he decided to follow his dreams of working in the film industry and studied Cinema & Television Arts at Cal State Northridge in Los Angeles where he met Director Jake Armbruster. The two collaborated on 'Animus' as well as several other short projects in the past, this marking their first feature film in the collaboration.

Passionate about visual storytelling and digital mediums of today, Alex is inspired to become a jack of all trades. On top of working behind the camera, Alex is also writing and producing horror films.



## Credits

Produced, Directed, and Edited by

**Jake Thomas Armbruster**

Screenplay Written By

**Jake Thomas Armbruster** and **Omar Saavedra**

Executive Producer

**Omar Saavedra**

Cast

<b>Omar Saavedra</b>	Sonny Dupont
<b>Justin Berti</b>	Bradley Dupont Jr
<b>John Henry Richardson</b>	Capt. Frank Daniels
<b>Libette Garcia</b>	Elsa Dupont
<b>Zoe Sydney</b>	Sara
<b>Oliver Seitz</b>	Joseph Cole
<b>Victor Boneva</b>	Skinny
<b>Josue Aguirre</b>	Robby
<b>Reynaldo Balmes</b>	Ray
<b>Jesse P. Bernal</b>	Danny Garcia
<b>Joel Berti</b>	Josh
<b>Paris Dylan</b>	Steve Lieberman
<b>Brittany Flickinger</b>	Jessica
<b>William Quintanilla</b>	Customer
<b>Luis Refugio Ruiz</b>	Paiza
<b>Tom Struckhoff</b>	Emilio
<b>Max Thayer</b>	Bradley Dupont Sr.

Executive Producer

**Omar Saavedra**

Original Music by

**Alex Glynn**

Director of Photography

**Matthew Macar    Alex Anderson**

Production Design

**Rachael Armbruster**

Sound

**Chris Polczinski**    sound mixer

**Scott Tipton**    boom operator / sound mixer

Visual Effects

**Wes C. Caefer**    visual effects art

Set Photography

**Bidkar Ramos**