



# Animus

A short  
film



Written & Directed by

**Jake Armbruster**

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**Film Specs:**

Running time: 23 min

Language: English

Genre: Film Noir, Drama

Camera: Canon 5D Mark III

Format: HDV, Color

Aspect Ratio: 16x9, 23.97 fps



**Log line:** Sometimes retaliation is the only way to ease the Animus.



**Short Synopsis:** A man has everything taken from him, left questioning his faith and integrity, retaliation seems to be the only way to ease the Animus. Animus is a story about the power of hatred over the mind of a godly man, Rolando (Josue Aguirre) after being pushed too far by ruthless Cartel Lieutenant Fernando Fargas (Omar Saavedra).



### About the Production:

'Animus' was conceived by Jake Armbruster while he was in college at Cal State University Northridge in late 2012. Jake's fascination with inherently 'good' characters, being driven to their breaking point was the main inspiration for the film. Animus' script was inspired by post classical 70's revenge films like 'The Outlaw Josey Wales,' 'Point Blank,' and more modern films like Park Chan-Wook's Revenge Trilogy. Jake decided early on that he wanted to make a film about an inherently 'good' man who is turns to murder. The script took on a life of it's own when he decided to explore taboo themes dealing with faith and religion. The final half of the film turns into a harrowing final sequence of murder and vengeance.

After finishing the script Jake approached his friend, actor Josue Aguirre to play the title role. Jake knew that with Josue's devout christian faith he would be able to relate to the characters struggle and would embody the character of 'Rolly.'. During this time Jake had randomly met actor, Omar Saavedra at a bar. They both

made a quick connection with their love for films and found themselves having long conversations about characters and performances, Jake knew he found the man to play the evil cartel Lieutenant Fernando Fargas. With these two roles in place he moved forward with production and plans to raise funds to shoot the film. They created a Kickstarter campaign which raised a mere 3,000 dollars, but an amount that Jake thought he could work with. In order to make the



Director Jake Armbruster with DP Alex Anderson on set of Animus



Crew day #2 filming Animus June 29, 2013.

budget work, the production team took what locations they knew they could get for free or minimal pay and made changes to the script accordingly. Jake with his wife and Production Designer Rachael, used their own home and turned different rooms into sets for the film. This allowed them to condense days and not have to up-root the production to move to multiple locations, saving them thousands in the process.

Principle photography for 'Animus' began in June of 2013. The 'budget' was expended in the first three days of shooting forcing Jake to take on a 'shoot when you can' approach. The film completed Production almost a year later in 2014. Having no budget for Post-Production, the film took another year to be completed finishing in the spring of 2015. As Jake put it in his twitter post, "Editing 'Animus' has been an enlightening experience.





**Josue Aguirre**

*Rolondo*

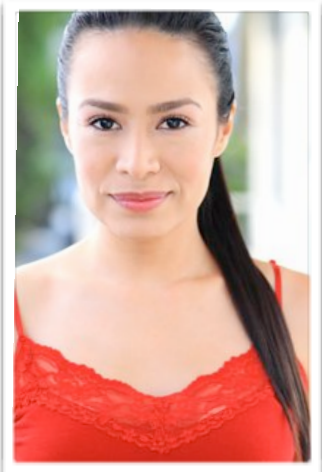
Josue Aguirre was born on June 22, 1987 in San Fernando California to a Spanish Christian Singer Tony Aguirre and Pre-School Teacher Alcira Aguirre. Josue is the middle child of five. As a young child he always aspired to entertain and was often the mediator in his family. In high school Josue took an acting class his senior year, as an elective, to attain enough credits to graduate. Quickly it became evident that Josue had natural ability and passion for acting. After a lead role in a high school class play, he was convinced he wanted to pursue acting. At eighteen Josue began booking work as a co-star and Guest star on the show "Dexter" and the movie, "The Day the Earth stood still." Josue's current projects include a lead roles in horror feature length film "Gringos" (2015) and "Animus" (2015) a short film . He is currently being represented by his agent Garry Purdy at Momentum Talent agency. Josue's talent and youthful quality makes him a bright star to watch.



**Omar Saavedra Galan**

*Fargas*

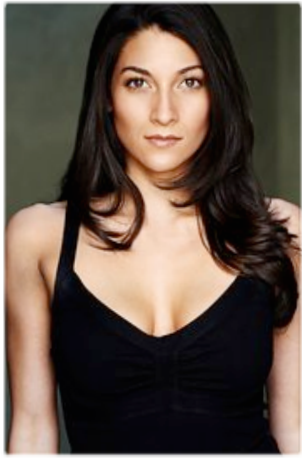
Born in a small town in Mexico, he fell in love with American Cinema from a very young age. He was exposed to a large amount of movies from different decades by his family and would enjoy re-enacting scenes as a young kid. Even starting to write and direct his own material with a cheap camera. As he 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.



**Christina Mendoza Lopez**

*Maria*

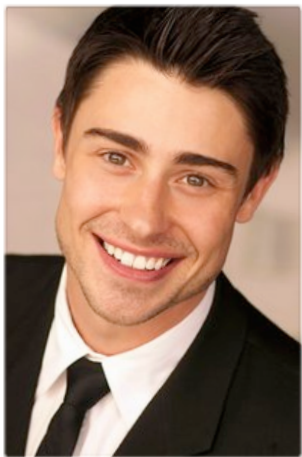
Cristina Mendoza Lopez is a Latina new age actress with the craft to make you cry and laugh. Her Spanish accent is excellent... Lopez has a recurring role as "Anabelle" on the hit web-series, "The Unwritten Rules", a comedic series with over 25,000+ YouTube subscribers. The project is in pre-production stage of season three. She is also in production for the independent feature films, "Incarnatus", "LA: Where the Bullets like to Fly", and "Crown Beneath Her Feet", where she has significant supporting roles in each. She has special training in firearms, stage combat, and dancing, which include salsa, merengue, and bachata. A true Latina actress on her way to the next level.

**Andrea Savo***Lisa*

A mix of Latina, Mediterranean, and Middle Eastern heritage, Andrea Savo has been performing since she could walk. Andrea's first film was opposite Bookeem Woodbine in "Spin" which she followed with the studio picture "Zoom" with Tim Allen and Courteney Cox. Since then her roles have grown as both an actor and dancer. She has performed in Super Bowl half time shows, commercials, and music videos and played the sexy Latina, Marisa, in the action comedy "Kill Speed" with Tom Arnold, Andrew Keegan, and Nick Carter. Since graduating from UCLA, Andrea has booked numerous roles on TV including guest spots on ABC's Brothers & Sisters, Grey's Anatomy, and recurring roles on Comedy Central's Mind of Mencia and CBS'

**Victor Boneva***Pablo*

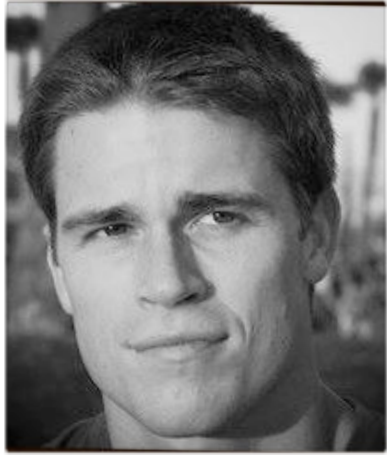
Victor Boneva is an actor, known for The Pusher (2013), The Third Eye (2004) and Vatos Locos (2011).

**Paris Dylan***Felix*

Paris Dylan is an actor and producer, known for Next to You (2013), Father Pete's Corner (2015) and Dear Loved Ones (2015).



## Director/Crew Bios:



**Jake Armbruster**  
*Writer/Director*

Born in California and raised in Los Angeles, Jake found himself spending most of his time watching movies and reading comic books. An action movie buff and Tarantino enthusiast as a kid, he found himself re-watching movies and trying to dissect exactly how they were made. At a young age Jake was already an avid storyteller, writing comic books and short stories. He later found himself at Cal-State University Northridge where he studied Television and Film Production. After graduating he furthered his knowledge by taking film theory courses, 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 his short-feature "Animus" can open up new avenues for him to shop his future work. Jake's goal is to make film's that leave a lasting impression on the history of cinema.



**Alex Anderson**  
*Cinematographer/DP*

Hollywood based DP, Photographer, and Editor; studied Cinema & Television Arts at Cal State Northridge in Los Angeles. Passionate about visual storytelling and digital mediums of today.

## **Credits**

Written/Directed by

**Jake Armbruster**

### **Cast**

<b>Josue Aguirre</b>	Rolondo 'Rolly'
<b>Omar Saavedra</b>	Fernando Fargas
<b>Paris Dylan</b>	Norman Felix
<b>Cristina Mendoza Lopez</b>	Maria Scorpio
<b>Victor Boneva</b>	Pablo
<b>Andrea Savo</b>	Lisa
<b>Ray Emodi</b>	Officer Wright
<b>William Guirola</b>	Julio
<b>Jake Armbruster</b>	Scorpio

Produced by

**Josue Aguirre     Jake Armbruster**

**Matt Kalmus     Rachael Tautfest**

Music

**Jake Armbruster**

**Jupi/ter**

Director of Photography

**Alex Anderson     Jake Armbruster**

Film Editing

**Jake Armbruster**

Production Design

**Rachael Tautfest**



## Makeup

**Jaime Feldman**      special makeup effects artist

**Cynthia Kamenos**      key makeup artist

## Sound

**Keith G. Little**      sound mixer

**Paul Seradarian**      sound editor / sound re-recording mixer

**Scott Tipton**      boom operator / sound mixer

## Visual Effects

**Kofa Boyah**      compositor

**Wes C. Caefer**      visual effects artist

## Stunts

**Andrew J. Neis**      stunt double: Paris Dylan

**Lee Squire**      stunt driver

## Camera and Electrical Department

**Colten Currey**      gaffer

**Doug Sampson**      key grip

## Set Photography

**Bidkar Ramos**