

**THIRD EYE PRODUCTIONS**

Presents

# Immaculate Perception

A film by Mario Pinzon

Running time: 17 minutes

**For more information:**

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**[www.3eyeproductions.com](http://www.3eyeproductions.com)**

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## Immaculate Perception

### **Production Information**

*Immaculate Perception*, an urban dramatic short film by Mario Pinzon, is the story of 16-year-old Maria (LAURA LOZANO) who is suddenly pregnant, but claims and insists she is still a virgin. She confides in her older cousin, Lisa (KRISTINA CIUTI) and attempts to keep the pregnancy a secret. Maria soon realizes that she must eventually break the news to her boyfriend, Jose (RAUL CASTILLO) and to her very traditional family. Despite the disapproval and disbelief surrounding her, Maria does not falter in her conviction that the unexplainable is actually true and those closest to her must decide to either believe her or not. *Immaculate Perception* addresses the themes of poverty, teen pregnancy, traditional values and faith in the Latino community and does so intensely, spiritually and visually.

Third Eye Productions presents a Mario Pinzon Film, *Immaculate Perception*. Starring Laura Lozano and Raul Castillo. Co-starring Patricia Aleman, Plinio Villablanca, Kristina Ciuti, Lazaro Santos and Laurel Astri Pecchia. Production designer, Corrielle Marie, director of photography, Jarrod Kloiber, music by Vora Vor, edited by Mario Pinzon, written and produced by Vora Vor, directed by Mario Pinzon.

### **ABOUT THE PRODUCTION**

*Immaculate Perception* is an ambitious work of love, inspiration and faith. Due to the particular nature of its inception, the film underwent a rapid and rigorous production schedule on an extremely tight budget. There were barely 4 weeks between the initial concept and the last shoot day. New York-based producer-director team, Vora Vor and Mario Pinzon, encountered numerous and disheartening obstacles along the way as well as incredible and unexpected "miracles". Filmmaker Mario Pinzon comments, "There seemed to be forces at work to discourage or hinder our filmmaking goals and then there were incredible people that would unexpectedly come through for us."

## Screenplay

Producer, Vora Vora and director, Mario Pinzon of Third Eye Productions, set out to write a script with the purpose of entering a screenplay contest sponsored by HBO and The NY International Latino Film Festival. The festival wanted a story with a Latino theme, written by a Latino filmmaker and the winner would receive \$15,000 in production money to make the film. In order to meet the deadline, the filmmakers submitted a finished screenplay within 5 days and immediately began casting for the film. Producer Vora Vor said, "We believed the script was a unique and powerful story — one that would resonate among audiences, especially in the Latino community". Mr. Pinzon and Ms. Vor were determined to make the film whether they won or not.

## Casting

The filmmakers were very particular about the casting of the film. This was critical to the production, as this would affect the rest of the film. Mr. Pinzon said, "We spent two weeks casting and auditioning and one very intense week in rehearsals. We auditioned over 100 actors and actresses in order to create an authentic family for Maria." The cast for this film is an extraordinary and varied group of actors and actresses, ranging in age from 3 months to senior.

## Film Shoot

Production on *Immaculate Perception* consisted of 7 intensive days of filming in numerous interiors and exteriors throughout Queens, New York. The locations are diverse and colorful — a graffitied schoolyard, a hallowed stained glass church, an inner-city apartment, a grocery store, a medical clinic, and the infamous Willets Point Boulevard auto cemetery near Shea Stadium. The film also showcases a beautiful white dove and a vintage 1972 Volkswagen. The imagery of the film ranges from grungy, urban, grit to the outright mystical and terrifying. It was shot with an Arriflex 16 SR2.5 Super 16mm camera on Kodak Vision film stock.

## Post-Production

*Immaculate Perception* was processed by Technicolor and the negative was transferred to DigiBeta at The Image Group in New York. The film was edited at Third Eye Productions, including sound design, music tracking and the final mix. Ms. Vor, who is also the composer for the film, comments, "The music consists of lush charangos, dulcimers, panpipe flutes and string orchestra". There are 2 versions of the film: (1) English and (2) English with Spanish subtitles.

## Festivals and Awards

*Immaculate Perception* recently won Best Short Drama at the Kent Film Festival in Kent, Connecticut and received several awards at Premios Colombia 2005, a ceremony honoring Colombian immigrants and Colombian-Americans living in New York. Mario Pinzon was awarded Best Director, Laura Lozano won Best Actress and Vora Vor was given an honorary award for her artistic contribution to *Immaculate Perception*. Third Eye Productions plans to continue to enter *Immaculate Perception* into major local, national and international film festivals and to show the film in theatres throughout the nation that screen independent films.

## Distribution

A British independent film distributor has shown great interest in distributing *Immaculate Perception* and working on future projects with Mr. Pinzon and Ms. Vor. Until they acquire distribution, the filmmakers intend to promote the film through festivals, screenings, and on the web.

## Praise

RCN Radio International, a Colombian radio station recently interviewed director Mario Pinzon on RCN's show, "Colombia Today". News director Eduardo Aponte Rodríguez and reporter Carlos Gómez spoke at length with Mr. Pinzon about *Immaculate Perception*. Mr.

Gómez spoke regarding *Immaculate Perception* and Joshua Marston's, *Maria Full Of Grace* — another Latino-themed film. "It's an interesting coincidence that both of these films make use of religious iconography by referencing the Virgin Mary", commented Mr. Gómez. Indeed, both films have lead characters named Maria and address issues relating to Latino immigrants in New York. RCN Radio has invited Mr. Pinzon back to the show and asked that he bring along his lead actress, LAURA LOZANO.

## ABOUT THE CHARACTERS

MARIA — 16-year-old protagonist, in high school, lives with parents.

JOSE — Maria's boyfriend, 21-year-old high school dropout, works in an auto repair shop.

ANITA — Maria's mother, devout, loving homemaker.

JOAQUIN — Maria's father, stern, traditional, working class.

LISA — Maria's older cousin, kind, sad, infertile, a hard-working seamstress.

GABO — Maria's stepbrother, charming, beautiful, unemployed.

ADELA — Maria's niece, creative, full of life.

ZAQUEO — Lisa's husband, sweet, considerate, an esteemed minister.

JUAN MIGUEL — Lisa and Zaqueo's baby.

## CAST

Maria	LAURA LOZANO
José	RAUL CASTILLO
Anita	PATRICIA ALEMAN
Joaquin	PLINIO VILLABLANCA
Lisa	KRISTINA CIUTI
Gabo	LAZARO SANTOS
Adela	LAUREL ASTRI PECCHIA
Young Maria	NICOLE PENALOZA
Young Joaquin	GERMAN ROMERO
Juan Miguel	VALENTINA BELLO
Rico	RAVI K. AKENATH
Doctor	DR. GIL ALLEN
Nurse	NATALIE DUCKETT
Receptionist	ALAGRACIA NOVA
Grandmother	MARLEN COLMENARES
Woman at Party	TATIANA BELLO
Girls at Party	VANESA GONZALEZ CAROLINA MARQUEZ LENA PINZON

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## CREW

Producer	VORA VOR
Directed by	MARIO PINZON
Written by	VORA VOR
Director of Photography	JARROD KLOIBER
Editing	MARIO PINZON
Music	VORA VOR
Assistant Camera	CLAIRE UNABIA
Production Designer	CORRIELLE MARIE
Makeup/ Hair	JOHANNA GAVILANES
Choreography	KIRA TOBAR
Photos Stills	MAURIZE PINZON
Sound Design/Sound Mix	VORA VOR
Dove Handlers	ALICYN LEIGH NICOLE FREEMAN
Production Assistants	SIMON ASHERIAN JUDE DIALLO SANDRA LEE BELKIS CARDONA-RIVERA TINA YEH
Camera Equipment	DU-ALL CAMERA
Lighting Equipment	SHADOW STUDIOS
Lab Services	TECHNICOLOR
Tele Cine	THE IMAGE GROUP
Post-Production Facility	THIRD EYE PRODUCTIONS
Graphic Design	ALVAREZDESIGNSTUDIO.COM

## CONTRIBUTORS

TONY GEBALLE  
FRANK GOMEZ  
DOUG WYATT

## SPECIAL THANKS

ALICYN LEIGH	ADELA PENALOZA
DR. GIL ALLEN	MICHAEL PINZON
HENRY ALVAREZ	MIGUEL Y HOMERA PINZON
EMILIO BELLA	ANA ROMERO
GLADIS BULDING	MARK RUSSELL
EDDY MARTINEZ	GOBAR N. SHIROYA
REISA PAEZ	PATRICK SYMES

## ADDITIONAL THANKS

ALLEN HOLISTIC CENTER  
ANGIE'S GENERAL STORE  
BCA AUTO REPAIR  
THE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF ST. JOHN

Shot on location in the borough of Queens, New York  
Produced in association with Complex Corporation

Created on EASTMAN KODAK FILM  
Filmed with ARRIFLEX Cameras and Lenses

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## ABOUT THIRD EYE PRODUCTIONS

Third Eye Productions is an independent film production company. Our mission is to create visually intense, spiritually engaging, profitable films. Hollywood and Indiewood consistently fail to engage the intelligence and spirit of modern viewers. Film markets are flooded with countless insipid remakes, reissues, and sequels due to creative bankruptcy.

Third Eye Productions makes films that are broad and substantial, ranging from the horrific to the mystical, from the tragic to the inspirational. We insist that viewers are intelligent, active, and desire stimulation on many dramatic planes — an audience base that boldly establishes a growing, loyally hooked and profitable market.

## ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS

### MARIO PINZON Director/Producer/Writer

Mario Pinzon began his career as a fine artist, exhibiting his drawings, paintings and three-dimensional pieces at local galleries. He started to incorporate video images into his works and made the logical transition into film with his first two shorts titled, *The Disillusionment of The Nest* and *Solitude*. He enrolled at Millennium Film Workshop, and shortly after, decided to shoot the critically acclaimed short, *Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms*. He recently completed his latest film titled, *Immaculate Perception*. He is currently developing *The City*, a cable TV pilot and a feature film titled, *Julian*.

### VORA VOR Producer/Writer/Composer

Musician, composer, writer and producer – Vora Vor is a true renaissance woman. A notorious recording artist and producer of dark heavy music, she is well known internationally and has produced numerous music projects, including four CD's for the New York City-based band, *Braindance*, with a pair of Gold and several charting credits with other artists. She wrote the music for and produced the short film, *Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms*. Most recently she produced *Immaculate Perception* and wrote the music for it as well. She will be teaming up with Mario again as producer and composer on *Julian* and *The City*.

## CONTACT

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### Email

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**Vora Vor:** [vora@3eyeproductions.com](mailto:vora@3eyeproductions.com)

## FILMOGRAPHY

### JULIAN (2006)

Status: Development

Length: Feature

Genre: Drama/Supernatural Thriller

Format: 35mm

Synopsis: *Julian* is the story of a troubled young Latino man from Queens whose life has reached a dead end. Caught in a world of drugs and petty crime, he has no future. Neither his girlfriend, his family nor his best friend are able to help him. As things fall apart around him, he encounters a mysterious, dangerous and demonic underworld. Great evil is unraveled as Julian makes his way through layers of darkness in the most dangerous journey of his life — a voyage that will challenge him to finally overcome his troubles. But how far must he go to get there? And will he make it out?

### THE CITY (2006)

Status: Development

Length: 22 min.

Genre: Comedy/Satire

Format: 16mm

Synopsis: The complete opposite of *Seinfeld*, *The City* is a black comedy mini-series "about everything" and intended to broadcast on cable TV. A relentless and satirical look at life in New York City, *The City* pulls no punches as it addresses the suffering, sadness, and outrageousness of modern city life in all its corrupt and absurd glory.

### IMMACULATE PERCEPTION (2005)

Status: Completed

Length: 17 min.

Genre: Drama

Format: Super 16mm

Synopsis: A dreamy Latina teen named Maria is suddenly pregnant but claims and insists she is still a virgin. She must confront her boyfriend, Jose and her traditional family with this news. Those closest to her, as well as the audience, must decide to either believe her or not.

### ALCOHOL, TOBACCO AND FIREARMS (2002)

Status: Completed

Length: 15 min.

Genre: Drama

Format: Super 8

Synopsis: Two New Yorkers, fed up with the daily grind of the city, decide to escape the fast-paced city life and make plans to head down south. But en route to paradise they encounter a southerner with plans of his own.

### SOLITUDE (1999)

Status: Completed

Length: 10 min.

Genre: Experimental

Format: Pixelvision

Synopsis: A poetic short about lost love and longing.

## AWARDS & REVIEWS

### *Immaculate Perception*

**Awards:**

BEST SHORT DRAMA  
Kent Film Festival

BEST DIRECTOR — Mario Pinzon  
Premios Colombia

BEST ACTRESS — Laura Lozano  
Premios Colombia

HONORARY AWARD — Vora Vor  
Premios Colombia

**Reviews:**

"POETIC... DREAMLIKE" — Amy Wolf  
IndyMedia, USA

### *Alcohol, Tobacco And Firearms*

**Awards:**

FINALIST  
United States Super 8 Film + Digital Video Festival  
Minneapolis/St. Paul International Film Festival  
Arlene's Grocery Picture Show

HONORABLE MENTION  
WriteMovies.com International Short Film Competition

**Reviews:**

"EXCELLENT... FANTASTIC" — Stina Chyn  
Film Threat, Los Angeles, USA

"HIGH ENERGY... VISUALLY STRONG" — Ruby Baresch  
Caprice Magazine, New York, USA

"ENERGETIC... MOVING" — Richard Hooker III  
Movies On A Shoestring, USA

"LOVED YOUR FILM" — Nubia Flores  
Slamdance, Los Angeles, USA

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## INTERNET

### *Alcohol, Tobacco And Firearms*

Internet Movie Database (IMDB) Listing:

<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0387817>

MOVIE (15 min):

[http://www.3eyeproductions.com/reel\\_atf.php](http://www.3eyeproductions.com/reel_atf.php)

### *Immaculate Perception*

Internet Movie Database (IMDB) Listing:

<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0464064>

TRAILER:

[http://www.3eyeproductions.com/ip\\_trailer.php](http://www.3eyeproductions.com/ip_trailer.php)

MOVIE (17 min):

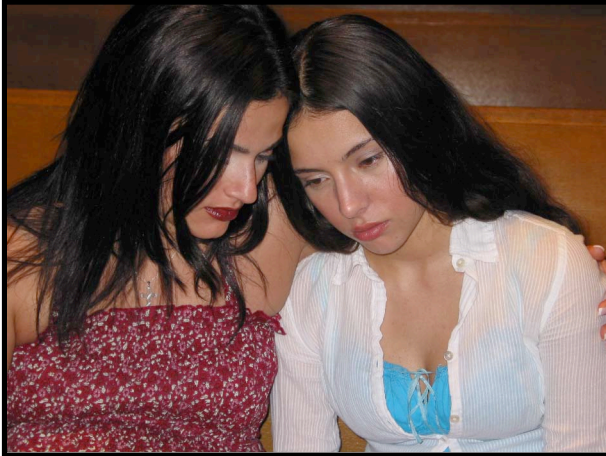
[http://www.3eyeproductions.com/reel\\_ip.php](http://www.3eyeproductions.com/reel_ip.php)

## REVIEW

IndyMedia Review  
June 1, 2005

# Whodunit?

By Amy Wolf



Unlike her Biblical namesake, 16-year-old Maria - a Latina immigrant to Queens - is certifiably not a virgin. *Immaculate Perception* is a short poetic film that explores the all-too-common, but profound, conundrum facing young women who find themselves pregnant.

Director Mario Pinzon edits dreamlike cadences with a powerful grasp of color, texture and the semiotics of innocence. The viewer joins Maria in the liminal ground between the miraculous ecstasy

of an expectant mother and the horror of the shame and exile brought upon her by her unwed status. Maria's inability or unwillingness to deal with love and sex as a sin manifests through her total denial of having had sex. This is a difficult point to grasp in the film's plot, especially as she tries to convince her handsome boyfriend, Jose, that she has had an immaculate conception. "Then who?" he asks her. "No one, I don't know," she answers, and it's left at that.

The filmmaker defines Maria's innocence cinematographically, silhouetting her long hair and Catholic schoolgirl's uniform against rough graffitied concrete. She shares this uniform with her younger sister, but shares her full lips and beauty with her voluptuous and pregnant cousin.

The images of white doves and white lilies are easy, unchallenging metaphors, but Pinzon uses them in a noble effort to tell the story emotionally and nonverbally rather than clinically.

## REVIEW

### ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, & FIREARMS



Excellent, fantastic!

by Stina Chyn, Film Threat

(2003-07-19)

2002, Un-rated, 15 Minutes, Third Eye Productions



Georg Simmel was an early 20th century German sociologist who criticized the mechanized lifestyle of living in a metropolis. He argued that the inhabitants of big cities are conditioned to operate according to clocks, bells and whistles, and rigid itineraries so that they become dehumanized. They're always in such a rush to reach their destination that they don't stop to say "hello" or "I'm sorry." If Hong Kong filmmaker Wang Kar-Wai were to address Simmel's ideas, he would probably make something like Mario Pinzon's short "Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms."

The film puts three different characters together in a philosophical tug-of-war set in New York City. The film devotes a segment to each of the main characters. The viewer meets Mars (Jason Chalk) first. He loves the city because of the anonymity it provides. Because no one knows your name or particularly care about what you do, you can do whatever you like. Mars thrives off of the energy that radiates from the city. A self-proclaimed "Guardian" of the city, he alone decides who can leave.

Dion (Sebastian Elliot) and Zeff (Ravi K. Anthony) are not nearly as enthusiastic about NYC. The two meet in a bar and begin to commiserate with each other. Dion wants to leave because the city is too fast-paced for intellectual reflection. Zeff doesn't see why NYC is so great, especially since he isn't allowed to smoke a cigarette while buying cigarettes. Dion and Zeff plot to break away from the metropolis, but one thing stands in the way between them and freedom.

Reminiscent of Wong's "Chungking Express," Pinzon's film incorporates an episodic but interconnected narrative that benefits from voice-overs, a hand-held camera, slow motion, and Vora Vor's Asian-influenced, meditative music score to convey the film's theme. "Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms" is only fifteen minutes long, but in this amount of time, Pinzon has created something that would surely make Simmel very proud.

## REVIEW

### ALCOHOL, TOBACCO AND FIREARMS

by Ruby Baresch, Caprice Magazine



The high energy, and the grittiness, of New York City provide ironic counterpoint to the story of three young men in Mario Pinzon's short film, "Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms".

Mars arrives on a bus and revels in the anonymity possible in the city; in time we will learn why he wants this. Dion is angry that his girlfriend has left him and Zeff wants out of the vicious circle of city life. A bar, a deli, the street become intense loci of common urban interactions.

As the cinematography records the ambient city, it underscores the complexity and ironies of the story. A theatre poster, the W. 4th Street subway station, the street scene from a taxi, complement the subtle interplay of past and present, especially as experienced by Dion. The contrast of what is said with what is seen is just one satisfying element in this visually strong, well-developed, well-acted movie.

###