


Heal yourself, heal the future.

The poster features a central collage of diverse individuals. At the top is a young woman with long dark hair, her hand over her heart. Below her are a woman with dark hair, a woman with short grey hair, a young boy, a young girl, and an older woman with glasses. The background is a stylized cityscape with a mountain range in the distance, all rendered in a warm, golden-brown color palette. The title 'MOTHER of COLOR' is prominently displayed in a bold, serif font across the middle of the cityscape.

**MOTHER of COLOR**

A feature film by Dawn Jones Redstone





*“Keenly shot, confidently directed, boldly written, and the central performance by Ana del Rocío is a room-shaker...a frankly ingenious and visually compelling approach to an immigrant story.”*

*- Movie Curiosities review*

## AN EERIE SOCIAL DRAMA

**Run Time:** 87 minutes

**Written and Directed By:** Dawn Jones Redstone

**Produced By:** Tara Johnson-Medinger, p.g.a., Ashley Song, p.g.a., Dawn Jones Redstone, p.g.a.

**Starring:** Ana del Rocío, Patricia Alvitez, Kasey Tinoco, Julian Hernandez, with special appearances by Luz Elena Mendoza, and former Portland City Commissioner Jo Ann Hardesty

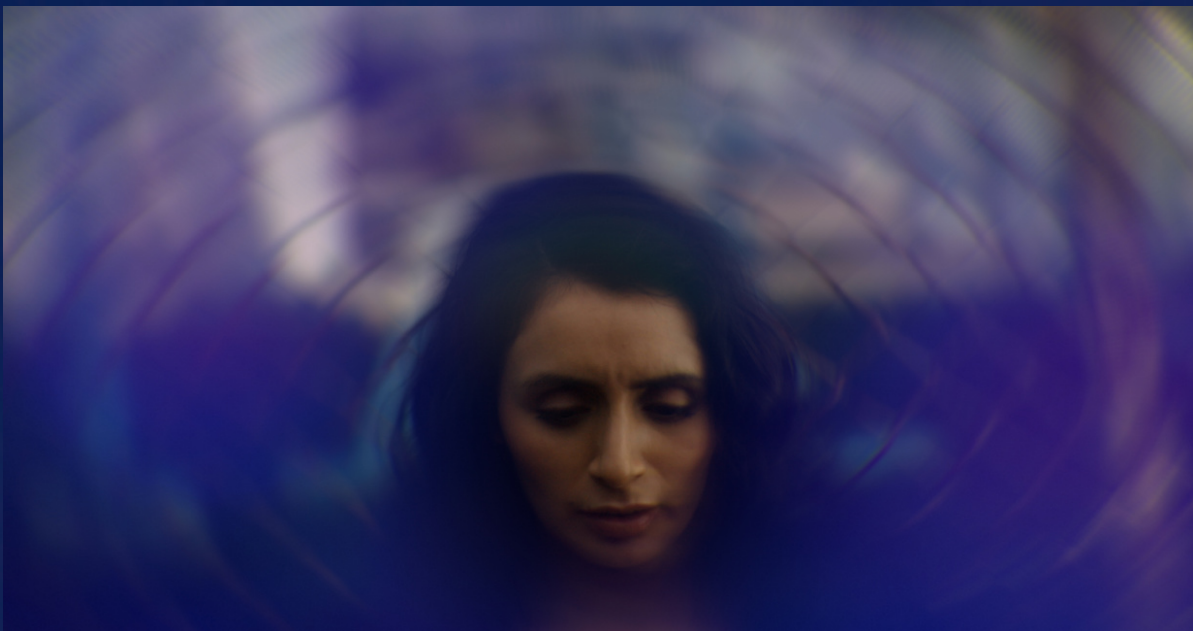
## LOGLINE

A single mother of two, begins receiving messages from her ancestors as she sets out to make it to a life-changing job interview.



## SYNOPSIS

In a tumultuous world, Noelia is a whip-smart community organizer and single mother of two, constantly has to make hard choices between her kids and her career. When she's offered the chance to interview for a position that could change everything, she begins receiving mysterious messages from her ancestors. Noelia senses that something bigger is at play as she works through a series of obstacles to get to the interview and follow her dreams.







# Dawn Jones Redstone

Writer/Director

Dawn Jones Redstone is an award-winning queer, Mexican American writer/director whose short films have screened around the globe including the acclaimed *Sista in the Brotherhood* distributed by Collective Eye. Her work often features women of color (cast and crew) and explores themes of resistance, feminism and the internal machinations that help us transform into the people we want to become.

She believes in using her hiring decisions to help create an inclusive filmmaking community that reflects and brings needed perspective to the world we live in. In 2017, she was selected to shadow Debra Granik on the set of *Leave No Trace*. She has been named a Woman of Vision by the Daily Journal of Commerce, was a Lynn Shelton grant nominee, and is the recipient of OMPA's Inspiration and Service Award for her work helping to bring equity to the state film incentives.

Grant awards include Regional Arts and Culture Council, Portland Art Museum, Seeding Justice, Oregon Futures Lab, Story Changes Culture, Prosper Portland and more. *Mother of Color* is her feature film debut. She resides with her wife and daughter in Portland, Oregon.

[www.dawnjonesredstone.com](http://www.dawnjonesredstone.com)

IG: @dawnjonesredstone

TW: @dawnamo





## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

The film was inspired by its star, Ana del Rocío, and was initially a straightforward indie drama about a woman's attempt to get to a job interview while struggling with childcare. She's smart, ambitious and woke to a fault, but somehow still perpetuating the systems that are rigged against her as a single mother of color. But as the pandemic set in and protests unfolded in the wake of George Floyd's murder (particularly in Portland, where I live), I wanted to tell a story that connected this mother's journey with the modern reckoning of our colonial past.

From immigrant children in cages and police brutality to the more subtle forms of racism, people of color are asked to endure the destructive world order of white supremacy our country was built on. Our ancestors have survived to bring us to this moment, but not without passing on the wounds of their suffering. Talk of trauma has surged during the pandemic, but I want to go beyond "resiliency" to talk about what comes next. The film ultimately asks us all to consider how we can acknowledge our wounds and heal in order to see the world more clearly and become the people we need to be in order to usher in a better future.



# KEY CAST BIOS



## **Ana del Rocío as Noelia**

Ana del Rocío is a former community organizer and nonprofit executive director who helped increase the representation of Black, Indigenous, and other people of color in public office. Ana spent ten years in the public sector as a teacher, policy and research director, and chief of staff to Oregon's first Latina state representative. Ana also enjoys managing her small team of organizers-in-training: Tupac and Inti. Mother of Color is her feature film debut. Ana is also an Associate Producer on the film.



## **Patricia Alvitez as Elena**

Patricia Alvitez was born in Peru where she studied Ballet at La Escuela Nacional de Ballet en el Peru and acting at La Asociacion de Artistas Aficionados and El Club de Teatro de Lima. When she moved to the States in the late 80s, she joined The Peninsula Ballet Theatre in the San Francisco Bay Area as a company member. Here in Portland she started dancing Ballroom in 2008 and has competed Pro-Am in Portland, Seattle and Los Angeles. She also works as a freelance artist specializing in animal portraits.



## **Luz Elena Mendoza as Che**

Y La Bamba has been many things, but at the heart of it is singer-songwriter Luz Elena Mendoza's inquisitive sense of self. Their fifth record, Mujeres, carries on the Portland-based band's affinity for spiritual contemplation, but goes a step further in telling a story with a full emotional spectrum. Coming off Ojos Del Sol, one of NPR's Top 50 Albums of 2016, Mujeres exhibits the scope of Mendoza's artistic voice like never before. "Music is an extension of everything I have inside. It's how I emote," Mendoza says.



## **Commissioner Jo Ann Hardesty - The Commissioner**

Commissioner Jo Ann Hardesty is the first and only Black woman elected to the Portland City Council in our city's 176 year history. She grew up in Baltimore as the daughter of a longshoreman and one of ten children. Not long after serving in the Navy, Jo Ann moved to Oregon as her permanent home, where she has remained for the last 30+ years. Prior to being elected as a Portland City Commissioner, she served in the Oregon House of Representatives and as a leader of numerous advocacy groups, including the Portland NAACP.



# KEY TEAM BIOS



## **Tara Johnson-Medinger - Producer, p.g.a.**

Tara is a film director, producer, parent and champion of gender equality in the entertainment industry. A member of the Producers Guild of America, and over 25 years in the television and film industries, her producing credits include: THE WINDING STREAM, CITY BABY, ROCK N ROLL MAMAS and several short films. Her feature film directorial debut, MY SUMMER AS A GOTH was released in 2020 and she is currently in development with her latest feature, US - YOU = ME. An advocate for women in film, Johnson-Medinger honors groundbreaking female and non-binary filmmakers as Executive Director of the international Power of Women in Film Festival (POW Film Fest), while developing the next generation of media makers through POWGirls. [www.littlemissanomaly.com](http://www.littlemissanomaly.com) IG: @littlemissanomaly



## **Ashley Song - Producer, p.g.a**

As an artist and filmmaker, Ashley Song (she/her) is committed to re-imagining traditional narratives and including underrepresented voices. She is an award-winning half-Korean writer and producer who co-founded Desert Island Studios to increase affordability and accessibility to film resources. Recent producing credits include: See Me (premiered at 2021 Portland International Film Festival); Borrufa (premiered at 2020 Portland International Film Festival); L'Ortolan (Best Experimental Short at the European Short Film Festival and Most Original Concept at Portland Shorts Fest); and Private Chat (as part of Portland Playhouse's 2020 "Wonderland" series). Song is also a working actor and has starred in numerous films and stage productions



## **Sean Conley - Director of Photography**

Sean Conley is an award-winning Director of Photography based in Portland, Oregon. At the age of 17, Sean picked up his Dad's 35 mm film camera and fell in love with photography and the ability to capture a moment in time. This informed his transition into cinematography where he shot skate videos with friends and eventually short films, music videos, commercials and narrative & documentary features. He's worked with Netflix, A24, Nike, Fender, and Adidas and his work has screened in Europe, Korea and the United States. Sean loves collaborating with directors to tell visually meaningful stories and is committed to being an ally for underrepresented voices in the industry.



# WEBSITE, TRAILER, AND SOCIALS

(Click or copy links)

**Website:** [www.motherofcolorfilm.com](http://www.motherofcolorfilm.com)

**Trailer:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dIR1FBm9i6E>

**Imdb:** <https://www.imdb.com/title/tt14342896/>

**Film Instagram:** <https://www.instagram.com/motherofcolorfilm>

**Director Instagram:** <https://www.instagram.com/dawnjonesredstone>

**Film Twitter:** <https://twitter.com/motherofcolor>

**Director Twitter:** <https://twitter.com/dawnamo>

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/motherofcolorfilm/>

## LINK TO IMAGES

[Hi Res Still, Title Images and Dawn directing on set](#)





## PRESS

(Click or copy links)

July 12, 2023

[In Mother of Color, an Aspiring Politician Is Played by a Real-Life Candidate](#)  
-MovieMaker Magazine

July 28, 2023

[Mother of Color director returns to her roots at San Antonio Film Festival](#) - San Antonio Report

February 5, 2023

[Reconciling what you deserve with the way the world actually operates in “Mother of Color”](#)  
- Winter Film Awards International Film Festival

October 21, 2022

[The highly anticipated local film is about a single mother who dreams of running for office](#) - Willamette Week

October 28, 2022

[Dawn Jones Redstone Interview: Reflecting on a Film Career Centered on Transformational Journeys](#) - Redefine Magazine

November 2, 2022

[Don't Call Mother of Color Magical Realism](#) - Portland Mercury

November 2, 2022

[A woman balancing community activism and raising children](#) - Oregon Artswatch

August 29, 2022

[Star Ana del Rocío in New York Times article about quitting her job, mention of film](#)

May 11, 2022

[Lights, Camera, Revolution, Dawn Jones Redstone](#) - cover of Willamette Week

June 30, 2021

[A Filmmaking Leap of Faith](#) - Cover of Opportunity Magazine





Photo: Christine Dong

## Q and A with Dawn Jones Redstone

**You've been making shorts for the past six years, what was it like to make the leap into a feature film?**

Shorts are a great way to gain experience, but I knew that if I wanted to grow into telling bigger stories, I would have to level up. People say you're supposed to make your first feature with two people talking in a room; this is not that! So many people and locations, visual effects, a protest scene. We were ambitious. And then we were also doing it with COVID.

But I think because this story has urgency and speaks to this moment in time, my community showed up to support me in so many ways. My producers, Tara and Ashley, said that I would just start walking, and they would be there laying down the tracks ahead of me. It was incredible.

**You have a long history of advocating for diversity and inclusion. Tell us about it.**

With all of my films going back to 2016, I have sought to have casts and crews that consisted mostly of women/nonbinary folks of color. With the feature, this was not an easy task, and it often meant the team had to go out of our way to find folks as well as provide mentorship or additional support for crew members. Really, it just meant, giving people a chance.

We also had three director shadows, an experience that was important to me to offer after I had the chance to shadow Debra Granik on the set of *Leave No Trace* when it filmed in Portland.

You can learn more about who we hired and how at the bottom of our team page [here](#). (click or visit Team page at [motherofcolorfilm.com](http://motherofcolorfilm.com))

# END CREDITS

**Written/Directed By** Dawn Jones Redstone

**Produced By** Tara Johnson-Medinger, p.g.a.  
Ashley Song, p.g.a.  
Dawn Jones Redstone, p.g.a.

**Starring** Ana del Rocío  
Patricia Alvitez  
Kasey Tinoco  
Julian Hernandez  
Jo Ann Hardesty  
Luz Elena Mendoza

## **Cast in order of appearance**

Charlie	Michael Mendelson
Janet	Shilpa Sunthakar
Cynthia	Stacey Dunbar
Mrs. Williams	Eve Jones
Emilia	GerRee Hinshaw
Lead Protester	Andrea Vernae
Woman in Park	Julie Elizabeth Knell
Receptionist	Adriana Gantzer
Isabel	Blanca Forzan
Jeff	Jonathan Miles
Co-Worker	Thyra Hartshorn
Driver 1	Mahesh Madhav
Receptionist 1	Ruth Jenkins
Store Clerk	Tim Vergano
Man in line	Rollyn Stafford
Woman in line	Amy Nieto
Receptionist 2	Adriana Gantzer

## **Childcare 1 Background Actors**

Aspen Guerra, Obi Hughes, Luna Padilla-Spradling,  
Erin Hernandez

## **Karla's Kids Background Actors**

Carmen Barcelo, Annoah Davis, Joshua Guerra, Rumi  
Hunte Pool Max Hunte Pool, Abigail Merlos, Carlos  
Merlos, David Merlos, Jeffrey Merlos

## **-Cast Continued-**

### **Bus Stop Background Actors**

Jarratt Taylor, Crystal Galicia, Alexander Yareth  
Reyes, Leonardo-Gael Reyes, Eric Stachon

### **Women's Class Background Actors**

Faviana Che, Neify Lavadores, Gustavo Bentanzos

### **Office Background Actors**

Mikyla Bordner, Bailey Milner, Bobby Nove

### **School Background Actors**

Anastasia Espinoza, Carrie Anne Honeycutt,  
Cleo Westby

### **Street Background Actors**

Ada Gene Folz, Linus Folz, Carie Weisenbach-Folz

### **Store Background Actors**

Mikyla Bordner, Robert Martinez, Zoe Dobbins,  
John Zwaschka

### **Park Background Actors**

Ashley Bos, Lewis Bos, Alice Bos, Sascha Blocker

### **Protester Background Actors**

Renee Allums, Jami Baker, Lucila Cejas, Lisa Chiem,  
Morgan French, Mare Good, Gabe Gutierrez, Ivan  
Gutierrez, Elysa Gutierrez, Abi Gutierrez,  
Claudia Hernandez, Isis, Ilias-Gutierrez, Diona  
Jackson, Tamera Lyn, Ciara Lynsey, Berke Moore,  
Dominique Murphy, Stephan Nance, Akela Phillips-  
Freytag, Courday Rose, Jeff Selby, Abie Valenzuela,  
Tim Vergano

### **Commissioner's Office Background Actors**

Aurelie Attard Espinosa, Caetano Attard Espinosa,  
Jeff Walker, Stephan Nance, Oliver Alexander



# END CREDITS continued

## Crew

Director of Photography Sean Conley  
Production Designer Vaughn Kimmons  
Wardrobe Stylist Diona Jackson  
Casting Director Barbie Wu  
Editor James Jones  
Music Composer Jake Hull  
Additional Dialogue Ana del Rocío  
First Assistant Directors Kanani Koster  
Second Assistant Directors Kamryn Fall  
1st AC Candace Fields  
1st AC Gabe Twigg  
1st AC Liz Moughon  
2nd AC Julie Nhem  
2nd AC Makayla Caldwell  
2nd AC Jeanette Li  
2nd AC Casey Grosso  
DIT/Camera PA Tamera Lyn  
B Camera Thisara Pinto  
Sound Mixer & Operator Rachel Saldivar  
Gaffer Robert Martinez  
Key Grip Camrin Sanchez  
Company Grip Haley McCoy  
Swing Naike Swai  
Tow-Bar Grip/Driver Sean Devine

Art Director Diana Suarez  
Set Dresser Mattie Ngo  
Hair and Makeup Angela Foster  
Wardrobe Assistant Lydia Wade-Sully  
Script Supervisor Lyn Loo  
Production Coordinator Pearson Kunz

Medic/COVID Compliance A. Davis  
Production Secretary Leah Benson  
Communications Kenya Juarez  
Production PA Mikyla Bordner  
Production PA Marcie Caddell  
Production PA Bailey Milner  
Production PA Coral Worley  
Production PA Lou Haney  
Production PA Lilyann Banuelos  
Childcare Provider Danielle Green

## -Crew Continued-

Colorist Jasmine Vazquez  
Butterfly in Mouth VFX Leif Peterson  
Re-Recording Mixer Corey Crawford  
Foley Artist Jenstar Hacker  
Sound Design James Jones  
Additional Sound Betty Alcaraz  
Additional Sound Kai Tillman

Flying Butterfly VFX

Executive Producer Roland Gauthier  
Producer Mark Axton  
Animation Director Alex Tysowsky  
Compositing Lead Terell Seitz  
Lighting/Textures Ken Kurras  
Animator Ian Farmer

## "Ceniza"

Written & performed by Luz Elena Mendoza  
By arrangement with Terrorbird Media

Mt. Hood Timelapse generously provided by  
Andrew Studer Photography

The film received developmental support from  
Artists Repertory Theatre's new works program:  
Table/Room/Stage

Thank you to US Works in Progress

Mother of Color was made possible through  
support from Ronnie Lacroute, Carmen Perez,  
Regional Arts and Culture Council, NW Film  
Center/ Portland Art Museum, Oregon Future  
Labs, City of Portland/Prosper Portland, Oregon  
Film and 304 Kickstarter Backers including Story  
Changes Culture Media, Sandy Bacharach, Rene  
Chiara, Katie Coulson, Shilpa Sunthakar and Ben  
Adams, Siobhan Gray and Danny Thomas.