

# LA COCINA DE LAS PATRONAS

## LAS PATRONAS' KITCHEN

**L**as Patronas' Kitchen tells the story of a group of farm women who 23 years ago realized that people were "free riding" on top of the train that crosses their community, La Patrona, Veracruz, Mexico. They did not know who the travelers were or why they were travelling in this way.

One day Doña Leo sent her daughters to buy milk and bread. On their way back home the train was passing by and one of the guys riding it shouted: "Mother, feed me, I am hungry." The daughters gave them what they had. They returned home fearing their mother would be mad. Instead Doña Leo told them: "When people are hungry, you have to give". Since then, the women of La Patrona have been cooking for migrants travelling on the train.

Little by little their kitchen has become a political space. Las Patronas have learned how to talk about Mexico's problems, poverty in the countryside, human rights, society's indifference towards migrants and about their own rights as women.

## FILM FESTIVALS AND AWARDS

**2017 Festival San Rafael en corto** | Gran Canaria, Spain.

**2017 International Film Festival of Human Rights "Tenemos que ver"** | Montevideo, Uruguay.

**2017 Ethnographic Film Festival from Ecuador** | Quito, Ecuador.

**2017 Docs Mx** | Mexico City, Mexico.

**2017 Zanate Documentary Film Festival** | Colima, Mexico.

**2018 Awarded Best documentary in Festival "Acampadoc"** | Panama, Panama.

**2018 Zanate Peru, "Muestra de cine documental Mexicano"** | Lima, Peru.





## LA COCINA DE LAS PATRONAS | LAS PATRONAS' KITCHEN

| Mexico | 2016 | 63' | HD | spanish (English subtitles)

**SHORT SYNOPSIS:** Las Patronas' Kitchen tells the story of a group of peasant women in Mexico, who more than twenty years ago realized that migrant people from Central America were "free riding" on the top of the cargo trains that cross their community. Ever since they have been feeding them, and this has transformed their lives.

<b>DIRECTOR</b>	Javier García
<b>PRODUCER</b>	Iliana Martínez   Ana Paula Uruñuela
<b>PRODUCTION ADVISERS</b>	Carolina Platt   Fernando Valencia
<b>SCREENWRITER</b>	Afra Mejía Lara
<b>EDITOR</b>	Carlos Cárdenas Aguilar
<b>PHOTOGRAPHER</b>	Javier García   Mónica González   Iván Castaneira   Ariel Ojeda   José Guevara
<b>STILL PHOTOGRAPHER</b>	Akire Huauhtli   Nancy Gutiérrez Luna
<b>SOUND DESIGNER</b>	Carlos De La Madrid
<b>COLOR GRADING</b>	Santiago Pedroche
<b>MUSIC</b>	Grupo Zarahuato   Dir. Mariano Herrera   Yasbil Mendoza   Jorge Morenos   Adrián Carrasco
<b>DESIGNER</b>	Alejandra Saavedra López
<b>EDITOR'S ASSISTANT</b>	Perla López Pérez
<b>POST-PRODUCTION COORDINATOR</b>	Carlos Cárdenas Aguilar
<b>SOUND MIX</b>	Mario Martínez Cobos   Carlos De La Madrid



**JAVIER GARCÍA**

DIRECTOR



**NORMA ROMERO VÁSQUEZ**

LEADER OF LA PATRONA

**MEXICO CITY, 1968. HE STUDIED MUSIC AND SOCIAL ANTHROPOLOGY,** however in recent years his main activity has been as a photojournalist and producer. He has worked for press agencies such as AP, AFP, Imagenlatina and other journals. In 2004, he was finalist in the IV edition of the UNICEF award for children's rights in Panama. In 2005, he was selected for the photojournalism festival in Gijón, Spain. In 2006 he won an honorary mention for his photographic work "Works and days" (Los trabajos y los días) in Colombia.

In 2009, he produced and photographed the short documentary film "La Patrona", which was screened in several Film Festivals such as Cannes Film Festival, Clermont Ferrand and CinéRail in France. He produced and designed the sound for the transmedia documentary "Geography of Pain" (Geografía del Dolor) in 2014, project that depicts the heartbreaking stories of families looking for their missing relatives in Mexico. In 2017 he won the audience award in the Cine Las Américas Film Festival in Austin for the music video "Quemayama", by the artist Patricio Hidalgo and the Afrojarocho.

He considers photography as a social commitment, more important than ever.

**FILMOGRAPHY:**

Patrona's Kitchen (La Cocina de Las Patronas) 2016, Director.  
 Geography of Pain (Geografía del dolor) 2014. Sound and producer.  
 Cold in the soul (Frío en el alma) 2013. Sound and producer.

**MUSIC VIDEOS:**

Quemayama 2016, Director.  
 The cooks (Las Cocineras) 2016, Director.  
 The Cane 2015, Director.

**LA PATRONA, VERACRUZ, MEXICO, 1970.** She has worked in the fields since she was a little girl, harvesting coffee and sugar cane. In 1985, along with her sisters, started a process that changed their lives. Her mother Leonila Vázquez, organized her daughters Bernarda, Rosa, Clementina, María Antonia and Norma, to start feeding migrants which were freeriding the cargo train, trying to get to the United States.

After 10 years of work, a group of nearly twenty women in the community have been part of this activity. In 2005 Norma started to formalize their work and started calling themselves "Las Patronas". In 2007 they built a small shelter and a dining room for migrant people, named "Migrant's Hope" (La esperanza del Migrante).

In 2013 the "Méndez Arceo Foundation" awarded them with a Human Rights Price, delivered by the activist and poet Javier Sicilia. In the same year Mexico's National Commission of Human Rights also recognized them with the National Price for Human Rights for their work.

Norma has been invited to talk about their work and migrant's human rights in the main universities in Mexico, with NGO's, government discussion forums, among others. She has given lectures in several international venues in countries like Costa Rica, Spain, England, Italy, Puerto Rico and Colombia. Currently she coordinates the dining room and, due to the changing needs of migrant people, they have started construction on a new shelter.



## CONTACT

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