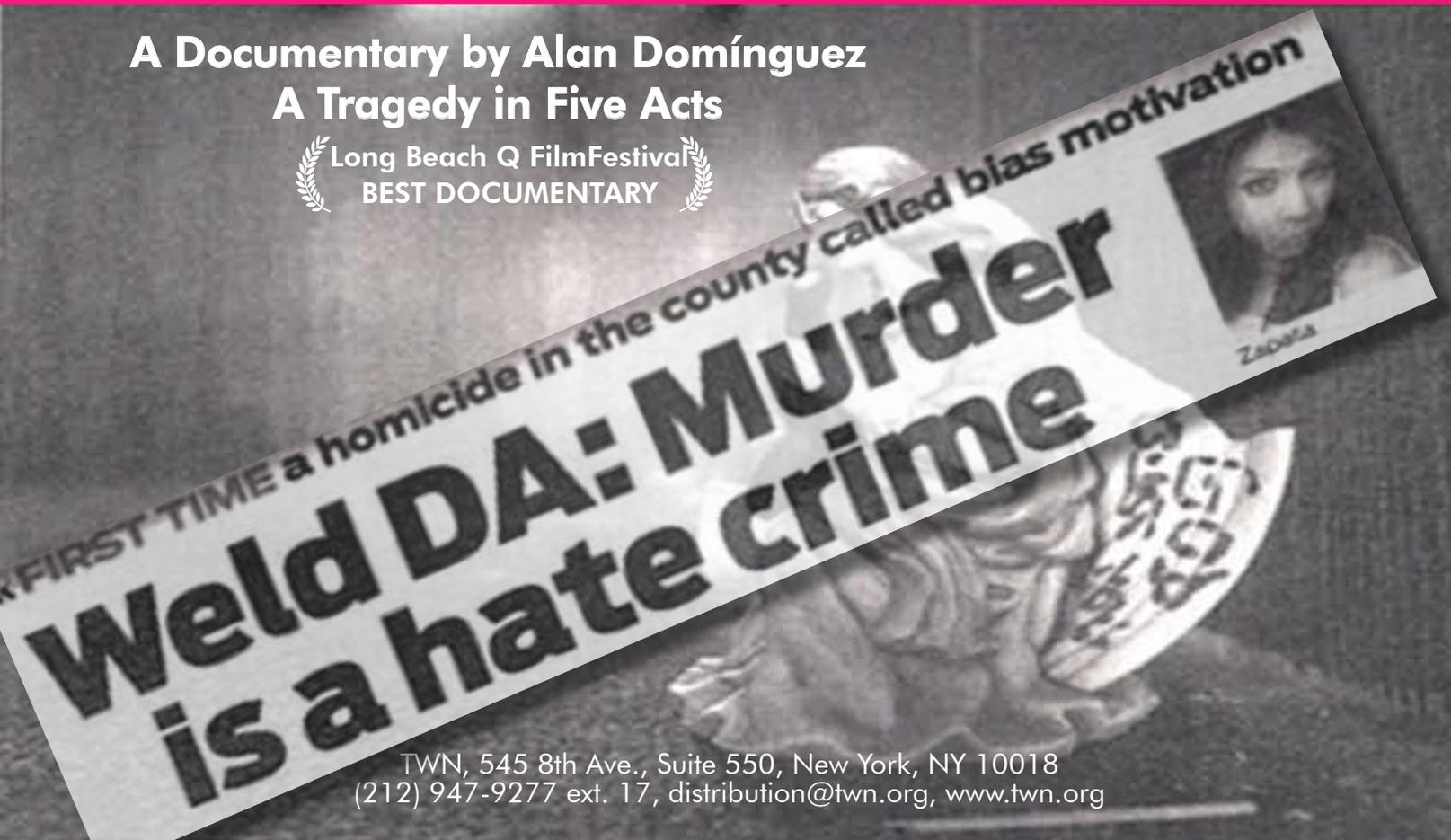




# PHOTOS OF ANGIE

A Documentary by Alan Domínguez  
A Tragedy in Five Acts

Long Beach Q Film Festival  
BEST DOCUMENTARY



TWN, 545 8th Ave., Suite 550, New York, NY 10018  
(212) 947-9277 ext. 17, [distribution@twn.org](mailto:distribution@twn.org), [www.twn.org](http://www.twn.org)

# PHOTOS OF ANGIE

*Preview Format: DVD*

*Exhibition Format: DVD, Digibeta PAL, DVCAM*

*Stereo, 2 channels*

*Shooting Format: MiniDV*

*Aspect ratio: 16x9*

*55 minutes*

*English*

*Also Available with Spanish subtitles*

PHOTOS OF ANGIE tells the story of Mexican-American transgender teenager Angie Zapata, who was murdered in rural Greeley, Colorado in 2008. Angie's murder trial was the first successful prosecution of a hate crime against a transgender person in the United States.

## Short Synopsis

A haunting documentary, PHOTOS OF ANGIE, winner of the Best Documentary Award at the Long Beach Q Film Festival, tells the story of Mexican-American Angie Zapata, a transgender teen who was murdered in a hate crime in rural Greeley, Colorado in 2008. Angie's case was the first time the murder of a transgender person was successfully prosecuted under hate crime laws in the United States. This film contains footage of the murder trial and exclusive interviews with Angie's family. Divided into five chapters, PHOTOS OF ANGIE shows how Angie's simple life ended at the hands of a mysterious man whose true nature was finally revealed during the trial.

## Long Synopsis

In 2008, 18 year-old, Mexican-American Angie Zapata was found dead in her small apartment in Greeley, Colorado. The media quickly reported that she was a typical teenager – she loved using her cell phone, babysitting her nephews and nieces, and listening to music. What was not reported was that Angie was born as Justin. That same year, there were 44 reported murders of transgender persons worldwide and the United States Congress was beginning to debate whether or not to include sexual orientation and gender identity in the federal hate crime law. Angie's case was the first time the murder of a transgender person was successfully prosecuted under hate crime laws in the United States.

A haunting documentary, PHOTOS OF ANGIE, winner of the Best Documentary Award at the Long Beach Q Film Festival, tells the story of Angie Zapata and her loving family. This film contains footage of the murder trial, and interviews with anti-violence activists and Angie's family. Divided into five chapters, PHOTOS OF ANGIE shows how Angie's simple life ended at the hands of a mysterious man whose true nature was finally revealed during the trial.

**PHOTOS OF ANGIE**

TWN, 545 8th Ave., Suite 550, New York, NY 10018  
(212) 947-9277 ext. 17, [distribution@twn.org](mailto:distribution@twn.org), [www.twn.org](http://www.twn.org)

## BIO

Alan Domínguez (Producer/Director/Editor)

Award-winning filmmaker Alan Domínguez's films have screened at numerous film festivals in the United States and Latin America, including the Los Angeles Latino Film Festival, the Santa Fe Film Festival, the San Antonio Underground Film Festival and The New Latin American Film Festival in Havana. His first feature film, *The Holes in the Door* (2007), won Best Documentary USA at the Xican-Indie Film Festival, and was screened at the CineSol Film Festival, the Baja California Film Festival, Voces Contra el Silencio, and the Morelia International Film Festival. Domínguez has a B.A. in Spanish and History from the University of Denver, an M.A. in Latin American Studies from the University of New Mexico, and received his film training from the New York Film Academy.

## FILMMAKER'S STATEMENT

Great stories never begin with the beginning, they start at the end or somewhere in the middle. Tragically, I only came to know Angie Zapata after her death. Angie was born as Justin Zapata, and the man accused of her murder says that he did so in a fit of rage after discovering that Angie was biologically a male.

Angie was from a small town in northeastern Colorado and from a cultural background that did not allow for Angie to be the person she felt deep inside. In researching this film, many aspects of this story struck me – Angie's struggle to discover who she was and her courage to do right by herself, and how common anti-transgender violence is.

Angie's family took me on a very personal journey through their lives and it led me to realize that only through compassion and understanding, all of us have to work together to write the end of the story – to create a world governed by freedom to be who we are, without fear.

--Alan Domínguez

## REVIEWS

"What makes PHOTOS OF ANGIE unique is that this story doesn't end with just another court case, but boldly goes where others leave off, exploring the transphobia of the killer himself and the culture that surrounds and supports it. PHOTOS OF ANGIE tells the complete story of what motivates this violence, providing more accurate and compelling insight that may one day help bring these crimes to a stop."

--Translations: *The Seattle Transgender Film Festival*

"A powerful documentary... PHOTOS OF ANGIE explores the passage of hate crimes legislation in the United States while telling Angie's story of self-discovery."

--GLAAD Blog

"Alan Dominguez's incredibly touching film relates the joyous outcome of the first court case to successfully apply Colorado's hate crime law to a transgender issue: Angie's killer was found guilty on all counts and put behind bars for life. It's since become a landmark case, a model for others to follow. The film is a remarkable tribute to Angie."

--Metro Weekly, Washington D.C.

**PHOTOS OF ANGIE**

TWN, 545 8th Ave., Suite 550, New York, NY 10018  
(212) 947-9277 ext. 17, [distribution@twon.org](mailto:distribution@twon.org), [www.twon.org](http://www.twon.org)

# Loco Lane Filmworks, LLC

Loco Lane Filmworks, LLC has shown short films in festivals throughout the United States and Latin America, including the Los Angeles Latino Film Festival, the Santa Fe Film Festival, the San Antonio Underground Film Festival and The New Latin America Cinema Festival in Havana. Their most recent project *The Holes in the Door* (2007), an hour long documentary about a Denver police shooting and the subsequent cover-up, won Best Documentary USA at the XicanIndie Film Festival and was screened at the Cine Sol Film Festival, the Baja California Film Festival, Cine Festival en San Antonio, Voces Contra el Silencio and the prestigious Morelia International Film Festival in Mexico.

## Just Media

Just Media, is a nonprofit organization that produces documentary films, and also supports a variety of innovative media projects through creative collaboration, fiscal sponsorship, and strategic funding. Just Media helps give voice to those who are disenfranchised and underrepresented in the culture by bringing their powerful stories to diverse audiences.

Just Media's most recent film, *The Last Campaign of Governor Booth Gardner* was nominated for an Academy Award in the Documentary Short category in 2010. In 2008, *They Killed Sister Dorothy*, won both the Grand Jury Prize and the Audience Award at the South by Southwest Film Festival in Austin. Their first film, *Iron Ladies of Liberia*, premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival in 2007.



**Long Beach Q Film Festival**  
**BEST DOCUMENTARY**

Screenings

XicanIndie Film Festival, World Premiere, 2011

Translations: the Seattle Transgender Film Festival, 2011

Breckenridge Festival of Film, 2011

Denver's Cinema Q Film Festival, 2011

NewFest: the New York LGBT Film Festival, 2011

Estes Park Film Festival, 2011

San Francisco Latino Film Festival, 2011

Atlanta's Out on Film, 2011

Festival Internacional de Cine en Puebla, 2011

ImageOut Film Festival, 2011

Tampa Bay Gay and Lesbian Film Festival, 2011

Reel Affirmations Film Festival, 2011

Boulder PFLAG, 2011

Reeling: The Chicago Lesbian and Gay Film Festival, 2011

The Indianapolis LGBT Film Festival, 2011

Trans Film Series, Toronto, 2011

Out in the Desert Film Festival, 2012

Human Rights Film Festival, University of San Francisco, 2012

Melbourne Queer Film Festival, 2012

Torino GLBT Film Festival, 2012

Produced, Directed and Edited by  
Alan Domínguez

Produced by  
David Domínguez  
Jennifer Warren

Original Music composed  
and performed by  
Mackenzie Gault

Additional Music by  
Richard Serianni

Graphics by  
Jason Casillas

Additional Songs by  
Ozomatli  
And  
The Flobots

From  
Loco Lane Filmworks

in association with  
Just Media

Interviews  
Maria Zapata, Angie's Mom  
Monica Zapata, Angie's Sister  
Gonzalo Zapata, Angie's Brother  
Ashley Zapata, Angie's Sister  
Stephanie Villalobos, Angie's Sister  
Melanie Asmar, Westwood Magazine  
Reporter  
Adam Bass, GLAAD media strategist  
Pat Steadman, Colorado State Representative  
Ken Buck, District Attorney, Weld County,  
CO  
Kelly Costello, Colorado Anti-Violence  
Project  
Dr. Kelley Winters, transgender activist  
and advocate  
Angela Palermo, transgender activist  
Autumn Sandeen, transgender activist  
and reporter  
Fred Sainz, Gill Foundation media  
strategist  
Sharon Dunn, Greeley Tribune reporter

Angie's Voice  
Alexis (Lexy) Sanchez

Studio Crew  
Luigi Rios

Javier Jiménez  
Juan Escobedo  
Peter Hyunh  
Ashlan Aragon  
Jessica Martinez  
Victor Ayala  
Grace Jiménez  
Tory Garcia  
Alondra Méndez  
Nick Lormand

Camera  
Alan Domínguez

Sound  
David Domínguez

Assistant Directors

Ayana Domínguez  
Maya Domínguez

Additional graphics

José Domínguez

Photo processing

Staci Minter  
Still photos  
Jennifer Warren

Score recorded and mixed by  
Ron Jolly  
Assistant engineer

Alex Olguín

Archive footage  
CNN ImageSource  
TruTV  
KMGH - Denver  
Jennifer Caltrider  
ProgressNow of Colorado  
Weld County D.A.'s Office  
Robert Hofmann

Univisión - Denver

News clippings  
Greeley Tribune

Special Thanks  
Jennifer Finch  
José and Linda Domínguez  
Dan Pabon  
Carrie Hofmann

Beth Kenny  
Jennifer Cano-Smith  
Kevin Maza-Amador  
Jesús Treviño  
David Riker  
GLAAD  
Westword Magazine  
Melanie Asmar  
Colorado Anti-Violence Project  
Ethan St. Pierre  
Mike Lavers  
Reinaldo Dávila  
Amy Blackman  
Brandi Nieto  
Ann Theis  
Denver Open Media  
Weld County D.A.'s Office  
y a mis amigos, que son pocos...

Production Funding  
Brad Armstrong  
The Bamboo Fund  
Kevin Fattor  
Clara Paynter

Fiscal Sponsorship

Just Media  
Henry Ansbacher

Very Special Thanks

Marta Torres de Domínguez  
Ashley Eder  
and my Inner Child

Songs

"Gay Vatos in Love"  
Written and performed by Ozomatli

"Good Soldier"  
Written and performed by The Flobots

Score recorded, mixed and mastered  
at  
CEC Middle College of Denver

Photographed with Panasonic cameras

Edited with Final Cut Pro

Photographed in and around  
Greeley and Denver, Colorado

In loving memory of  
Alfredo Domínguez, beloved tío and  
mentor.

# Alan Dominguez on *Photos of Angie*, Ken Buck and getting found

By Julie Maas

published: Fri., Jul. 15 2011 @ 11:00AM

The name Angie Zapata is known across the country for her brutal murder in Greeley in 2008, when she was killed for being biologically born a man. It was the first hate-crime case in the country involving a transgender person, and her murderer was found guilty. While her family wanted to get back to the "normal" small-town life they were trying to live, Alan Dominguez had other plans -- the director wanted to tell Angie's story and educate the public -- but what the Colorado native didn't realize was that he also was going to educate himself.

This weekend, the [3rd Annual Cinema Q Film Festival](#) takes over the Denver Film Center/Colfax, with Dominguez's *Photos of Angie* playing the opening last night. Dominguez took time to sit down with *Westword* and share what he learned, his future plans and getting the side of the killer.



Courtesy of Alan Dominguez  
*Photos of Angie* subject, Angie Zapata

**Westword:** *Why did you choose Angie Zapata's case for the subject of your film?*

**Alan Dominguez:** This case had a number of ironies for me, which is what I love in a good film. The fact that Angie was from a traditionally male-centered culture, working class, living in a smaller city and, at the same time, trying to find herself in those environs. It really intrigued me. People who find themselves going against society's current have always fascinated me. Also, the conservative fabric of Greeley got my attention, and how this type of prosecution had been attempted before in much larger cities, but to no avail.

*Had you met Angie or the family before making the film?*

I had no contact with them previously and really only casually followed the trial and case. It was [Melanie Asmar's Westword coverage](#) of the case that really got my interest going in a comprehensive direction.

*Did you get any resistance from the Zapata family at any point during the making of the film?*

Not at all. In the beginning, they were not easy to get in touch. I first tried to make contact with them about six weeks after the trial, but it was a slow process. It hadn't even been a year since Angie's death. They were not only in mourning, but they really wanted their lives to return to some sort of normalcy. There were a lot of people who acted as go-betweens for them, to protect their privacy, and they ended up being part of the film.

*The go-betweens ended up in the film as well?*

Yes. The go-betweens were Adam Bass of GLAAD and Kelly Costello of the Colorado Anti Violence Program. Their interviews were very important to completely contextualize the trial and the behind the scenes work that was happening.

*How did the community react to your making a film about Angie?*

I was really moved by how willing everyone was to participate in any way they could. I interviewed Ken Buck during his Senate campaign and I was especially impressed by his willingness to go on the record at a time when it was not politically convenient for him to do so. Mr. Buck and I may differ politically, but we left the interview with a palpable mutual respect for what we were trying to do.

*What did you want to accomplish in making this film?*

I'm really trying to create a larger sense of gender awareness by taking a thoughtful look at Angie's life and its context. There is a point in the film where the focus shifts from Angie to her killer. Through recorded phone calls, he makes some horrific statements. I believe that those thoughts are commonly held beliefs. So the larger effort is to not only inform the audience about Angie but also to challenge them and make them take an honest look in the mirror, myself included.

*Do you think you were successful?*

I hope I'm successful with challenging people's perceptions. Mine weren't necessarily challenged, but I did have to explicitly answer some questions for myself that I had never really thought about before.

*What sort of influence do you think this film will have on the GLBTQ community?*

I really hope that the film can become a tool for awareness and education. The film is direct and has an edge to it which I hope will push the audience to be self-reflexive. I hope that the GLBTQ community will be able to identify with Angie and find the courage to continue to be themselves. I just hope that anyone who sees this film will take a look in the mirror with honesty and integrity.

*Have you ever focused on queer topics before?*

No, but the common thread for me is trying to give a voice to those that have a hard time finding one. Angie was from a small town (Fort Lupton), of a marginalized ethnicity, of modest socio-economic means, and was trying to find herself in an un-welcoming context. A friend told me that it's not so much that I found Angie's story, but Angie found me.

*Have you been getting the feedback that you were hoping for?*

Yes! It's been very gratifying to have shown in five festivals since launching in April, with NewFest in New York coming up in late July. I haven't signed with a distributor yet, but I expect to finish up two contracts in the next month or so. I'm very excited that Angie's story will live beyond the festival circuit. Folks also comment on how the killer gets more face time than they might have expected. I'm glad that they say this. Not because I'm trying to paint him in a sympathetic light, but because looking at him and his attitudes are definitely part of what I'm trying to do.

## *Why?*

Getting the side of the killer at least partially included was important for a couple of reasons: The first is that, whether we want to admit it or not, his prejudices are more the norm and not the exception in our society. At least that is my belief. The second is that it would be too easy to make a film about Angie and have the audience only feel sorry for her. As a filmmaker, the most important thing is to make your audience think and not to just inform them. Showing Allen Andrade as more of a person rather than just a villain demonstrates that anyone could be of a similar mind-set and thus capable of unspeakable violence in the absence of some self-reflection about the lives of others.



April 22, 2009

# Murder and Hate Verdict in Transgender Case

By DAN FROSCH

GREELEY, Colo. — A jury took just two hours Wednesday to find a Colorado man guilty of first-degree murder in the killing of an 18-year-old transgender woman, and determined that the act was a hate crime.

The defendant, Allen Andrade, 32, was convicted of murdering Angie Zapata in her Greeley apartment last summer and was sentenced to life in prison without parole, the mandatory penalty in Colorado for first-degree murder.

Mr. Andrade beat Ms. Zapata to death with his fists and a fire extinguisher, prosecutors said, once he realized that Ms. Zapata, whom he had met on the Internet not long before, had been born male.

The case drew national attention not only because of the killing's grisly nature but also because it is believed to be among the first in which a hate crimes law was applied in a murder trial where the victim was transgender.

At the sentencing hearing shortly after the verdict, Ms. Zapata's mother, Maria, spoke through tears.

"The one thing he can never take away," Maria Zapata said of Mr. Andrade, "is the love and memories that me and my children will have of my baby, my beautiful, beautiful baby."

Christina Cruz, Mr. Andrade's sister, also spoke. Ms. Cruz, though apologizing, said that her brother was human and that his family loved him no matter the outcome.

Throughout the weeklong trial, prosecutors argued that because of a hatred for gay and transgender people, Mr. Andrade had plotted to kill Ms. Zapata after coming to realize that she was born male. They said he had waited in her apartment and ambushed her in a fit of rage when she returned home.

The case "is about an unreasonable and deep-seated anger that he unleashed on Angie Zapata because she was a transgender woman," the chief deputy district attorney, Robb Miller, said in closing arguments Wednesday.

Mr. Andrade's public defenders never denied that he was the killer but said there had been nothing premeditated in what he did. They contended that he had been fooled by Ms. Zapata, formerly named Justin Zapata, and simply snapped when he found that she had been born male.

"Justin Zapata lived like a female, looked like a female, sounded like a female," said one defense lawyer, Annette Kundelius. "That's what Mr. Andrade believed. And when he found it wasn't Angie, it was actually Justin, he lost control."

Conviction of a hate crime in Colorado carries a sentence of up to three years on top of the punishment for the underlying offense. Since first-degree murder means life without parole, the hate-crime conviction in this case has no immediate practical effect.

But at a news conference after the trial, Ms. Zapata's family, along with the Weld County district attorney, Kenneth R. Buck, emphasized that it was nonetheless important.

"Only a monster can look at a beautiful 18-year-old and beat her to death," said Ms. Zapata's brother, Gonzalo. "The message was sent loud and clear that crimes targeting L.G.B.T. people will not be tolerated in Colorado."