



HOME IN PRINT ON SITE RESOURCES FEST CIRCUIT FORUMS SUBSCRIBE ADVERTISE CONTACT US NEWSSTANDS



- SUMMER 2009
- SXSW 2009
- SUNDANCE 2009
- THE BLOG
- WEB EXCLUSIVES
- DIRECTOR INTERVIEWS
- FESTIVAL COVERAGE
- FILMMAKER VIDEOS
- LOAD & PLAY
- THE FORUMS
- ARCHIVE '92 - '09
- SEARCH FILMMAKER

Search

Subscribe to our Weekly Newsletter!

subscribe

Click here to see the most recent.



FILMMAKER BLOG

Wednesday, July 29, 2009

A FILMMAKER'S GLAMOROUS LIFE: NATALIA ALMADA

In "A Filmmaker's Glamorous Life," online and in our latest print edition, Esther Robinson surveyed a number of filmmakers about the jobs they've taken to support themselves when they are not making films. In this blog series we'll run the unedited responses we received that were then condensed for the piece. Below: Natalia Almada.



Filmmaker: How did you support yourself during the production of your last movie/movies?

Almada: I was very lucky with *El General* because I was able to support myself with funding for the film for the most part of the production. It was only in the very beginning that I took an editing job for about six months — editing someone else's feature doc.

Filmmaker: What was good/not good about this kind of job(s)?

Almada: Good — I love editing. The director was a pleasure to work with. The pay was good. Bad – it was all consuming for six months so didn't leave me any energy or time for my film.

Filmmaker: What is the best second job you ever had?

Almada: I really love editing as I think it makes me a better filmmaker and it is creative. (I've only edited docs so that's the kind of editing I'm referring to)

Filmmaker: What made it the best?

Almada: It was creative. The other thing which seems to be a really good gig is doing the academic artist lecture tours... These seem to pay well, they're really rewarding in terms of the feedback and energy from students, they don't take up all your time, they're flexible... I just need to figure out how to do more of them. Say, if I could do about 12-15 a year it would be perfect. Teaching isn't a bad option either. I've done that a little. But it ties you down to a place which can be hard. It is also pretty tough getting a teaching job in NYC.

Filmmaker: What was the worst?

Almada: My fear is having to wait tables again as I did through school. Or make corporate videos.

SUMMER 2009

buy print contents back issues
buy digital digital sample FAQ



RECENT POSTS

- BLOGGING FROM THE SUNDANCE CREATIVE PRODUCING LAB:...
- BLOGGING FROM THE SUNDANCE CREATIVE PRODUCING LAB:...
- A FILMMAKER'S GLAMOROUS LIFE: ROSS KAUFFMAN
- HEY, HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT MUMBLECORE?
- A FILMMAKER'S GLAMOROUS LIFE: JOE SWANBERG
- THE FILMMAKER MESSAGE BOARDS RELAUNCH
- SOMETIMES YOU JUST HAVE TO ASK... THE MESSENGER GE...
- GET STUNG BY STINGRAY SAM
- JON FURIE MEMORIAL SERVICE
- BERLINALE TALENT CAMPUS WANTS YOU

ARCHIVES

- Current Posts
- January 2004
- February 2004
- March 2004
- April 2004
- May 2004
- June 2004
- July 2004
- August 2004
- September 2004
- October 2004
- November 2004
- December 2004
- January 2005
- February 2005

Filmmaker: What made it the worst?

Almada: Waiting tables would make me feel like I failed. Corporate videos break my heart. I can't stand taking something that I really love, making films, and using it to make something with no aesthetic integrity and no real value (in my opinion).

Filmmaker: What would you look for in a second job going forward and why....

Almada: I've been looking into the academic visiting artist tours as an option and also into an adjunct teaching position. I also met one of the people from non-fiction unlimited They represent documentary directors to produce commercials. This seems like it would be a really good job to make money quickly and be doing something creative. [I'd look for jobs that were] creative; not all consuming – time and energy; good pay (to be efficient with time); rewarding – to make me a better filmmaker or to share with others; flexible.

Natalia Almada's directing credits include All Water Has a Perfect Memory, an experimental short film that received international recognition; Al Otro Lado, her award winning debut feature documentary about immigration, drug trafficking and corrido music; and her most recent film, EL GENERAL is a family memoir and portrait of Mexico past and present. Almada's work has screened at The Sundance Film Festival, The Museum of Modern Art, The Guggenheim Museum, The Whitney Biennial, INPUT, and at The Flaherty Seminar, as well as at several film festivals around the world, universities, conferences and as television broadcasts including PBS, ARTE, and VPRO. She has received support for her work from numerous foundations including The Creative Capital Foundation, The Tribeca Film Institute, The Sundance Institute Documentary Film Program, PBS and others. Almada is a MacDowell Colony Fellow and a 2008 Guggenheim Fellow. She graduated with a Masters in Fine Arts in photography from the Rhode Island School of Design and shares her time between Mexico City and Brooklyn, New York.

posted by Scott Macaulay @ 7/29/2009 02:04:00 AM

[Comments \(0\)](#)

[Post a Comment](#)



- [March 2005](#)
- [April 2005](#)
- [May 2005](#)
- [June 2005](#)
- [July 2005](#)
- [August 2005](#)
- [September 2005](#)
- [October 2005](#)
- [November 2005](#)
- [December 2005](#)
- [January 2006](#)
- [February 2006](#)
- [March 2006](#)
- [April 2006](#)
- [May 2006](#)
- [June 2006](#)
- [July 2006](#)
- [August 2006](#)
- [September 2006](#)
- [October 2006](#)
- [November 2006](#)
- [December 2006](#)
- [January 2007](#)
- [February 2007](#)
- [March 2007](#)
- [April 2007](#)
- [May 2007](#)
- [June 2007](#)
- [July 2007](#)
- [August 2007](#)
- [September 2007](#)
- [October 2007](#)
- [November 2007](#)
- [December 2007](#)
- [January 2008](#)
- [February 2008](#)
- [March 2008](#)
- [April 2008](#)
- [May 2008](#)
- [June 2008](#)
- [July 2008](#)
- [August 2008](#)
- [September 2008](#)
- [October 2008](#)
- [November 2008](#)
- [December 2008](#)
- [January 2009](#)
- [February 2009](#)
- [March 2009](#)
- [April 2009](#)
- [May 2009](#)
- [June 2009](#)
- [July 2009](#)

TWITTER FEED

[follow me on Twitter](#)

[blog](#) | [back issues](#) | [buy print subscription](#) | [buy digital subscription](#) | [subscription FAQ](#) | [advertise](#) | [contact](#)

© 2009 Filmmaker Magazine