




# BY MY SIDE A MI LADO

A FILM BY  
**JEAN-COSME DELALOYE**

SOME MOTHERS PUT THEIR CHILDREN FIRST. SOME DON'T. TO SURVIVE IN THE TRASH OF THE CHURECA, THREE YOUNG WOMEN WILL HAVE TO DETERMINE WHETHER THEIR MOTHERS ARE THEIR BEST ALLIES OR UNEXPECTED FOES.

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## SYNOPSIS

Dominga has terminal AIDS. For the 25 year-old glue addict, breathing has become a challenge in the Chureca, a 5 mile dump located on the banks of Lake Managua in Nicaragua. As she tries to cope with her looming death, she seeks to reestablish a relationship with her son who was taken from her at birth, while looking after her ailing mother.

Her struggle is the story of many of the 1500 people living and working in the Chureca, the largest open-air landfill in Central America. Dominga embodies the deep bond felt between mothers and their children in a place plagued by disease, drugs and violence. Eleven year-old Fabiola works in the Chureca and is in danger of following Dominga's path. She is caught in a struggle between loyalty to her mother, and the appeals of a group of evangelical Christians fighting for her to join a youth center far from the dump. It's the promise of a better life that other young women like Maryuri are fighting to achieve; at nineteen, she has ongoing health problems and is at risk of losing the second child she is expecting.

BY MY SIDE follows Dominga, Fabiola and Maryuri as they look for an improbable way out of the Chureca. In their quest for a better life, the three young women will have to make heart-wrenching decisions - and determine whether their mothers are their best allies, or unexpected foes.

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## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

The day I discovered the Chureca, the Managua city dump, my life changed. It was in February 2011 and I was working on a radio documentary for Swiss Public Radio. I was a reporter struggling to find an answer to one basic question about his job: What impact do we have on the people we do stories on? I had reported on many critical events around the world, the last major one being the earthquake in Haiti. I had come back from that country full of praise from others but also full of doubts about journalism.

This was the state of mind I was in, when I started working on BY MY SIDE. I met a lot of incredible people in the Chureca, but 3 young women stood out: Dominga, Fabiola and Maryuri. I made the film because I want their voices to be heard. Dominga, a 25 year-old woman with terminal Aids, has taught me courage. Despite everything that happened to her, she does not question the events that made her sick. Maryuri, a pregnant 19 year-old woman, and 11 year-old Fabiola have this in common with Dominga. Despite the fact that they live and work in a garbage dump, they don't complain about their life. They dream about leaving the Chureca, but complaining is simply not something they do. They fight for one single right: the right to survive. And in that respect, they have a lot to teach to each and everyone of us.

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## BIOS

**Jean-Cosme Delaloye** *Director & Producer*

Jean-Cosme has covered many crises around the world, from the civil war in Burundi to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and to the earthquake in Haiti. He has co-produced RAZOR WIRE RODEO in 2006, a feature documentary about the Angola prison rodeo in Louisiana. In the last few years, Jean-Cosme has done in-depth stories in Central America for the Tribune de Genève and for Swiss Public Radio, focusing on critical social issues such as the redemption of gang members and the plight of transsexual prostitutes in Honduras. While doing a series of stories in Nicaragua in early 2011, he discovered the Chureca, the Managua city dump. BY MY SIDE is his first film as a director. He lives in Brooklyn with his wife Danielle and his children, Léon and Joséphine.

**Jackie French** *Co-producer & Editor*

Jackie has been a highly regarded producer and editor for the past 20 years, bringing her unique visual style to many independent documentaries, as well as both scripted and vérité television. Jackie's work has been seen on MTV, VH1, Oxygen, Lifetime, PBS, A&E, Nickelodeon, Style and the Discovery Channel. She recently edited Striking a Cord, a documentary about a band touring Iraq and Afghanistan AND THE IMPACT MUSIC CAN HAVE ON soldiers dealing with post-traumatic stress disorder. She is based in New York City, and owns her own post-production company, Jackie French, Inc.

**Edelmira Lopez Guerrero** *Associate Producer*

A lawyer by trade, Edelmira has always focused on social issues throughout her young career. In the last few years she has worked with children suffering from cancer. BY MY SIDE is Edelmira's first feature documentary and the film would not have been possible without her incredible people skills and ideas. The 24 year-old Nicaraguan producer lives and works in Managua.



## BIOS (continued)

### **Nicolas Garcia** *Director of photography*

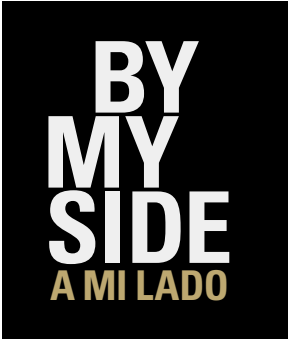
Nicolas has worked as a videographer, producer and journalist for major news networks in Latin America such as CNN en Español, Univision, Associated Press, BBC World and Reuters. He has covered major news stories, such the earthquake in Haiti and the civil war in Libya. He has brought his strong sense of story and visual style to BY MY SIDE. He is based in Managua.

### **Perromzopopo** *Music*

Perrozompopo is considered one of the most important exponents of the Nicaraguan rock scene. His work is heavily influenced by his fight for social change. His songs talk about poverty, violence and corruption among other themes. His latest album, *Canciones Populares Contestarias*, earned a Latin Grammy nomination in 2010 for "Best Alternative Album". He contributed three songs from this album to BY MY SIDE: *Pasando Mas*, *Deja Vu* and *Angel del Cielo*. The album can be downloaded for free on his website: [www.perrozompopo.com](http://www.perrozompopo.com)

### **David Spinley** *Music*

David Spinley was born in Buffalo, New York, and has been living in New York City since 1998. David, a classically trained clarinetist and saxophone player, is a key writer and arranger for several NYC and Brooklyn-based performing groups spanning all musical genres. Working both as a composer, arranger and performer in numerous punk rock, jazz, country and pop bands in New York City for more than ten years, David currently co-leads the acclaimed NYC "Instant Composing" ensemble *Squalor* and continues to compose music for film, television and dance. David has shared the stage with musical luminaries such as Wilco, Gary Lucas and Damo Suzuki, to name but a few.



## BIOS (continued)

### **Alon Yavnai** *Music*

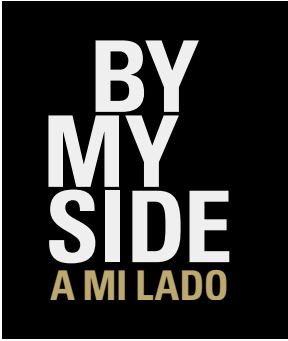
Pianist and composer Alon Yavnai was born in Israel and moved to the United States when he was 22. Since then, he has toured worldwide, recorded and performed with numerous artists such as Yo-Yo Ma, Nancy Wilson, Freddie Hubbard and Joe Lovano. He has also been part of Paquito D’Rivera’s Latin Jazz Quintet and Jazz Chamber Trio. Alon has released three albums of his own. His latest one, Shir Ahava, was recorded with the NDR Bigband and came out early 2012 on on AYM (Alon Yavnai Music). Alon contributed the title track of the album “Shir Ahava - a love poem” to BY MY SIDE. He lives in New York City and is an associate professor at Berklee College Of Music in Boston. For more information: [www.alonyavnai.com](http://www.alonyavnai.com)

### **Mariachi Los Toros** *Music*

Mariachi Los Toros began as a childhood dream of their director Carlos Parra. In September 2001, Carlos was offered to form a group for a well-known restaurant chain in Los Angeles. Since then, Mariachi Los Toros has been featured at large festivals and concerts such as KCET Holiday Celebration at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, Los Angeles County Fair and Mariachi USA Festival at the world famous Hollywood Bowl in 2002, 2004 and 2006. In 2008, Mariachi Los Toros recorded music for the film LOS CAMPEONES DE LA LUCHA LIBRE, before performing in 2010 with rock legends Faith No More. They released “Amigo Mariachi”, their first album, in 2009. They contributed the title track to BY MY SIDE. For more information: [www.mariachilostoros.com](http://www.mariachilostoros.com)

### **Roman Elsener** *Music*

Born in Switzerland, Roman has been based in New York since 1996 where he is a reporter for, inter alia, the Neue Zürcher Zeitung and The Brander, and a musician. He has made a name for himself in New York’s indie rock scene with his band The Roman Games. He contributed two tracks to BY MY SIDE. For more information: [www.myspace.com/theromangames](http://www.myspace.com/theromangames)



## BIOS (continued)

### **The Cynjos** *Music*

The Cynjos (Josue Zeledon) is Nicaragua's latest radio sensation thanks to "Vuelve", one of the two tracks he contributed to BY MY SIDE. The other one "Te extraño" will be featured on his upcoming album, which will mix bachata, reggaeton and romantic melodies. When he does not write music, the 20 year-old artist is studying medicine in Managua. For more information: <http://www.facebook.com/thecynjosstyle>

### **Ivan Stamatovski** *Web design and social media manager*

Ivan studied Product Design at the Academy of Applied arts in Belgrade as well as Marketing at the Zicklin School of Business, at Baruch College. He moved to New York in 2004 and worked in design, video production and digital marketing. Ivan created two Internet startups and currently owns an independent digital strategy and social media consultancy (Bold and Loud). He is a connoisseur of all things digital and a big enthusiast for everything social. He is also an avid motorcyclist and an archer. For more information: <http://www.mydesignum.com>

### **Daniella Zalcman** *Web design*

Daniella lives in NYC, where she works as a freelance photographer for the Wall Street Journal. Born in Washington DC, she graduated from Columbia in 2009. Other clients have included The New York Times, The New York Daily News, Sports Illustrated, Vanity Fair, New York Magazine, Saatchi & Saatchi, National Geographic, The Nation, Wired and Esquire. Daniella also designs and builds websites. For more info: <http://www.dan.iella.net>

### **Fabio Cutro** *Graphic design*

Fabio is a respected Creative director in New York City. He designs several magazine including *Tricycle* and *Photograph*. He has designed several artists monographs, published by Aperture Foundation, Princeton Architectural Press and Sanctuary Rare Books. Fabio designed the logo and poster of BY MY SIDE as well as the press kit. For more info: [www.cutrodesign.com](http://www.cutrodesign.com)

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## PARTICIPANTS

Luisa Dominga Aragon Morales  
Maryuri Argelica Hernandez Lopez  
Fabiola Magdalena Garcia Castro

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Luis Domingo Aragon Morales  
Jose Noel Ampiez Castro  
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Alba Rosa Lopez Fonseca  
Cynthia Alexandra Castro Hernandez  
Jorge Alberto Nuñez Lopez  
Juan Francisco Hernandez Lopez  
Priscilla Cisneros Diaz  
Donald Adolfo Espinales Escalante

Maria del Socorro Aragon  
Maria del Carmen Aragon  
Fatima Aragon  
Esmelda Aragon  
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Amy Aguirre Lopez  
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Luz Marina Martinez Aleman  
Rosa Aguilera



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## CREDITS

Directed and produced by Jean-Cosme Delaloye

Co-produced and edited by Jackie French

Associate producer Edelmira Isabel Lopez Guerrero

Director of photography Nicolas Garcia

Music Perrozompopo, David Spinley, Roman Elsener, Alon Yavnai, The Cynjos

Location assistant Melvin Ramon Silva

Transcriptions and translations Jean-Cosme Delaloye, Edelmira Lopez Guerrero, Elizabeth Facto

Legal counsel Karen Shatzkin and Debra Mayer, Shatzkin & Mayer, PC

## CONTACT

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**trailer:** [www.bymysidefilm.com/trailer](http://www.bymysidefilm.com/trailer) [www.amiladodocumental.com/trailer](http://www.amiladodocumental.com/trailer)

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