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## **New Mexican Residents Selected for Inaugural Stowe Story Labs New Voices New Mexico Screenwriting Training Program**

**SANTA FE, NM** – The New Mexico Film Office and Stowe Story Labs announced the ten projects chosen for the first *New Voices • New Mexico* screenwriting training program for emerging New Mexican screenwriters.

The ten projects (13 participants in total) were chosen through a competitive application process from a talented pool of 200 applicants. The training program will start this month and be conducted in three phases lasting a total of six months. Run by Stowe Story Labs Founder and Director David Rocchio and Co-Founder David Pope, *New Voices • New Mexico* is designed to support emerging screenwriters in developing foundational skills necessary for writing feature film and television scripts.

“This initiative is a direct result of our partnerships with major studios in New Mexico and our commitment to nurture homegrown talent,” New Mexico Economic Development Cabinet

Secretary Alicia J. Keyes said. "I am excited to see this diverse group of New Mexico storytellers receive training and guidance so their projects can move forward. Congratulations to those selected for this inaugural program!"

"New Mexico is brimming with creative, skilled, diverse writers and the New Mexico New Voices program is an impactful way to foster and empower them and their stories for the screen. The competition was tough and we congratulate every writer who, after a deep dive with Stowe Story Labs, will have a pitch-ready script, which is no small feat," New Mexico Film Office Director Amber Dodson said.

"Building this program has been a joy. The film office team's excitement about finding and nurturing new voices in New Mexico energized us, and we all at Stowe Story Labs have had a tremendous time designing the program and now can't wait to deliver it," Rocchio said.

Participants must be current New Mexican residents or New Mexicans studying out-of-state. Applicants had to demonstrate an ability to write a feature or television script, capacity to learn and incorporate new skills and approaches into their work, a collaborative nature, and willingness to develop a strong story idea. Participants are responsible for the program's application fee and travel costs to Taos, however, program design, application process, instruction, mentoring, meals, and lodging are provided through funding from the New Mexico Film Office.

### **The chosen individuals & writing teams are:**

**Chelese Belmont & Shannan Reeve** (Albuquerque, NM)

*The Sun Rises on Another Day* // Drama — Feature

A directionless 19 year old, crippled by boredom with everything in her life, is called upon to make an immense sacrifice for another person. In the process, she learns a truth about herself that alters her entire world.

**Thomas Gray** (Española, NM)

*Starlight Tour* // Crime Drama — Feature

Saskatoon constable and Cree native, Samuel Flint doubts his loyalty to the justice system when summoned to investigate a hypothermic death. Foul play is suspected as alarming rates of deaths occur in a complex of coexistence and authority. Flint must investigate independently—but illegally—to find the suspect.

**Liana Morales** (Albuquerque, NM)

*That One Night in J-Town* // Comedy — Feature

Two best friends in high school plot to join a group of partiers for "the best night of their lives." All they have to do is walk across the bridge into Juarez, Mexico.

**Ruben Muller** (Albuquerque, NM)

*Freedom* // Coming-of-Age, Family — Feature

Two twelve-year-old boys escape from the big Summer Boy Scout Jamboree in Cimarron, New Mexico, to hitchhike in 1965. They find that freedom is finding your own way home on your own terms with a friend by your side. Based on a true story.

**Daniel Peaslee** (Santa Fe, NM)

*Bluebird Patrol* // Supernatural Thriller — TV

A former EMT takes a mysterious federal job in a remote area to get away from years of work-related trauma and discovers her new job involves monitoring unexplainable and seemingly supernatural forces in the woods. With this revelation, she finds she has to both protect the public from the sometimes malevolent supernatural and contend with those who would exploit it for selfish means.

**Brittany Ramirez & Micaela Legarda** (Las Cruces, NM)

*Unwritten* // Magical Realism — TV

On the day of her father's funeral, a pedantic writer discovers why an empty notebook was his greatest treasure.

**Kira Sipler & Lorraine Montez** (Albuquerque, NM)

*Marked As Other* // Comedy — TV

*Marked As Other* follows two nerdy, lonely 13-year-old girls trying to answer the question "who am I and where do I belong," as they contend with the prejudices, perils, and misconceptions of society, their families, and the environment in 1980s New Mexico.

**Enrique Cruz Torres** (Albuquerque, NM)

*From The Same Plate* // Drama — Feature

Two struggling immigrants on two different life paths are brought together by a job search, finding family in one another in a country far from their own.

**Raquel Troyce** (Albuquerque, NM)

*River of Hope, End of a Dream* // Action, Drama — Feature

Struggling to break into the field of investigative journalism, a foul-mouthed fashion journalist exposes a heinous case of modern slavery and human trafficking in the United States and opens the door to unexpected danger.

**Carmen Tsabetsaye** (Albuquerque, NM)

*Mustapha* // Historical Drama — TV

In 1521, Mustapha is taken from his home in North Africa and sold as a slave to a Spanish Army Captain of the Narvaez Expedition. This is the story of his journey for survival and freedom in the unknown.

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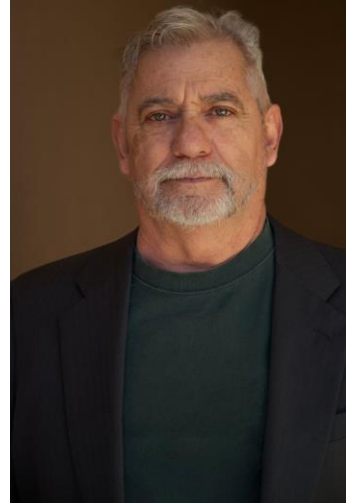
**Enrique Cruz Torres**

*From The Same Plate*



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*Freedom*

**ABOUT STOWE STORY LABS:**

Stowe Story Labs is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit based in Stowe, Vermont. Now entering its tenth year, Stowe offers labs, retreats, writing programs, and mentoring programs to top emerging screenwriters, filmmakers, and creative producers from around the world. Learn more about Stowe Story Labs and its programs [here](#).

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