



Introduction to Alexandra Codina. 1:37 min. Interview: Raymond Elman. Editing & Production: Amelia Prieto. Recorded via Zoom, 7/17/2020, Miami.

Alexandra Codina: Making Documentaries that Matter

By Elman + Prieto

ALEXANDRA CODINA's debut film, *Monica & David*, tells the love story of two adults with Down syndrome. The film won Tribeca Film Festival's Jury Award, was nominated for an Emmy Award, premiered on HBO, and was broadcast in 33 countries. *Monica & David* was featured in the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Newsweek*, *ABC*, *Harper's Bazaar*, *Variety*, and *Latina Magazine*. A Chicken & Egg Pictures Accelerator Lab grantee and alumna of Good Pitch, Codina's work has been supported by the Knight Foundation, The Fledgling Fund, The Perspective Fund, Sundance Knight Fellowship, South Florida Arts Consortium & Tribeca All Access. *Paper Children*, a YouTube Originals release about four siblings who fled gang violence in Honduras, is Codina's second feature documentary as director and producer. She is currently producing *Untitled: Chinese in Africa Project* with Jialing Zhang (director/producer of *One Child Nation*).

Codina worked for over four years at the Miami International Film Festival as a Programmer and Outreach Manager. She also brought Cinema Tropical — the leading alternative distributor for Latin American cinema in the U.S. — to Miami. Codina's film experience began in 2000, as an intern for Big Mouth Productions.

Codina is a graduate of Bowdoin College. She serves on the Boards of The Women's Fund Miami-Dade and Coconut Grove Cares. The daughter of Cuban refugees, Codina lives in Miami and is the mother of two young boys.

The videos below were recorded via Zoom, are organized by topic, and run between 30 seconds and 8 minutes. Click on any video. You must be connected to the Internet to view the videos.

SEIZES OPPORTUNITIES:
0:59 sec.



Where did you grow up and what is your earliest memory of art of any discipline?

SEIZES OPPORTUNITIES:
1:43 min.



Where did you go to school and what did you learn that still informs you today?

DEVELOP A VOICE: 6:02 min.



Describe the arc of your career as filmmaker.

EMPATHY: 3:57 min.



What was the inspiration for your incredible 2009 documentary "Monica & David," and how did you make it happen?

OVERCOMES CHALLENGES TO SUCCEED: 7:48 min.



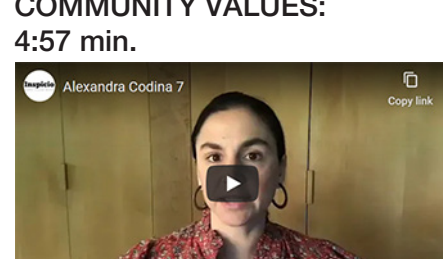
Describe the mechanics of putting "Monica & David" together. Did you write a script or outline? Did you raise money for post production? Did you edit the film yourself?

SERENDIPITY: 0:48 sec.



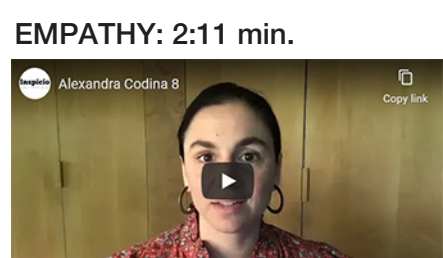
Were you aware of Frank Perry's 1962 film "David & Lisa," and did that have any impact on the title of your film?

COMMUNITY VALUES:
4:57 min.



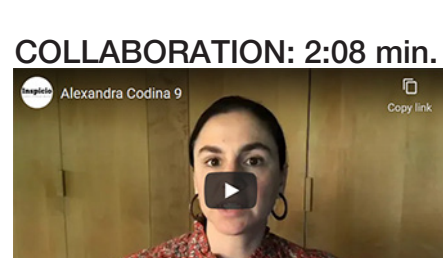
What was the inspiration for your recent documentary "Paper Children," and describe the development process for that film.

EMPATHY: 2:11 min.



Do you have any desire to make non-documentary films?

COLLABORATION: 2:08 min.



Talk about the Miami film community.

OVERCOMES CHALLENGES TO SUCCEED: 2:26 min.



What's on your drawing board?