

KAORI FLORES YONEKURA
MISS NIKKEI

CREATIVE DOCUMENTALIST
PHOTOGRPAHER
WRITER
PRODUCER

PORTFOLIO

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Kaori Flores Yonekura - Miss Nikkei

Artistic Statement and Professional Profile

I am a Venezuelan filmmaker and documentary artist of Japanese descent (Nikkei), and a graduate of the International Film and Television School of San Antonio de los Baños (EICTV, Cuba). My professional practice specializes in the aesthetic exploration of identity, forced migration, and contemporary social mutations. Throughout my career, I have taken on the roles of screenwriter, director, producer, cinematographer, and editor, achieving international recognition that includes official candidacies, nominations, and shortlists for the Goya, Ariel, Sur, Grande Otelo, Platino, and Forqué awards, alongside selections at national and international film festivals worldwide.

My current artistic practice explores memory, displacement, and the silent archives of the Nikkei diaspora in Latin America. Through my projects, I seek to expand traditional cinematic narratives into the physical, three-dimensional space of a conceptual Artist's Book. This facet of my work unfolds from a found archive of 900 historical photographs taken by my great-uncle Yoshitomi between 1933 and 1945—a journey spanning pre-war Japan, Peru, Venezuela, and WWII confinement.

By curating and recontextualizing these silenced visual testimonies, I aim to materialize the fragility of displacement, bridging Yoshitomi's historical gaze with my contemporary perspective to foster a transgenerational and transatlantic dialogue on collective identity and resilience.

Academic Background

- 1999: Specialist in Film Production. International Film and Television School of San Antonio de los Baños (EICTV), Cuba.
- 1996: Associate Degree (TSU) in Advertising. Antonio José de Sucre University Institute of Technology, Venezuela.

Recent Awards and Distinctions (2026)

- Román Chalbaud Order (3rd Class) for Distinguished Career in Filmmaking, awarded by the Libertador Municipality of Mérida State, Venezuela.
- Official Venezuelan Nominee for the Foreign Minister's Commendation of Japan.
- Best Director Nominee, Chacao Municipal Film Award, Venezuela.

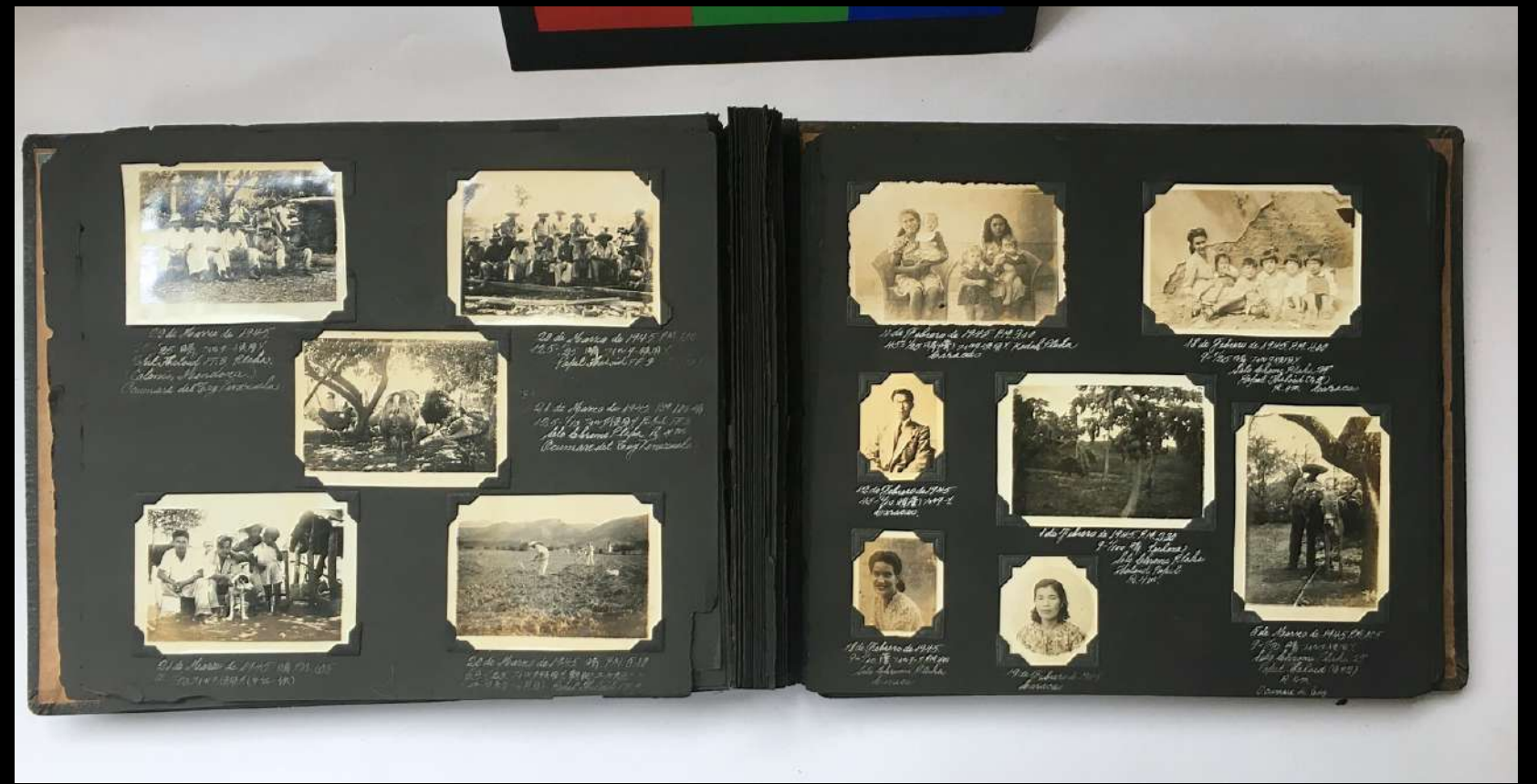
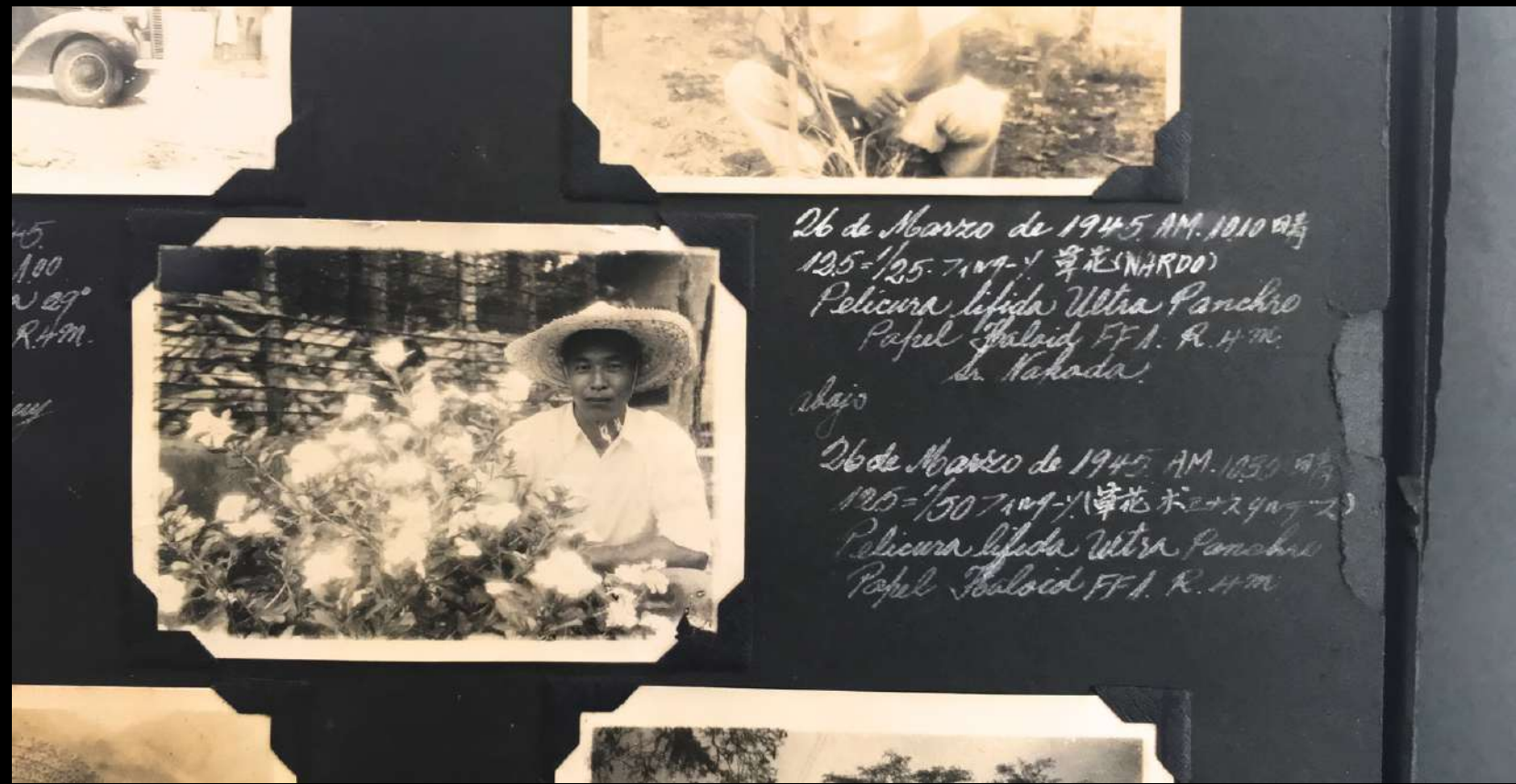


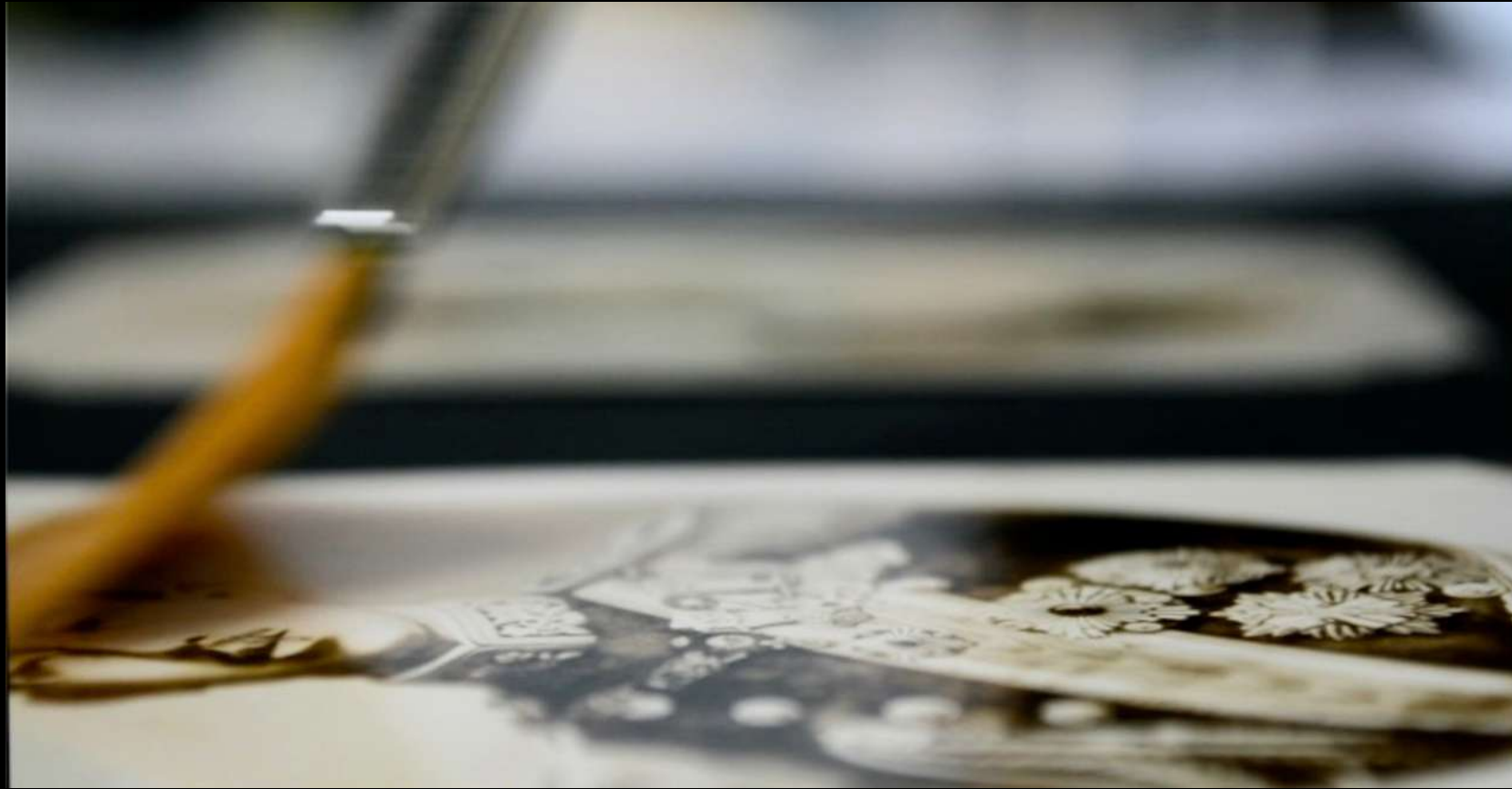
PROJECT 1: THE EXTRAORDINARY JOURNEY OF DRAGON (2025)

- **Official Website & Film Info:** www.nuevobfilm.com/filmdragon
- **Watch Trailer:** <https://vimeo.com/1071559876>



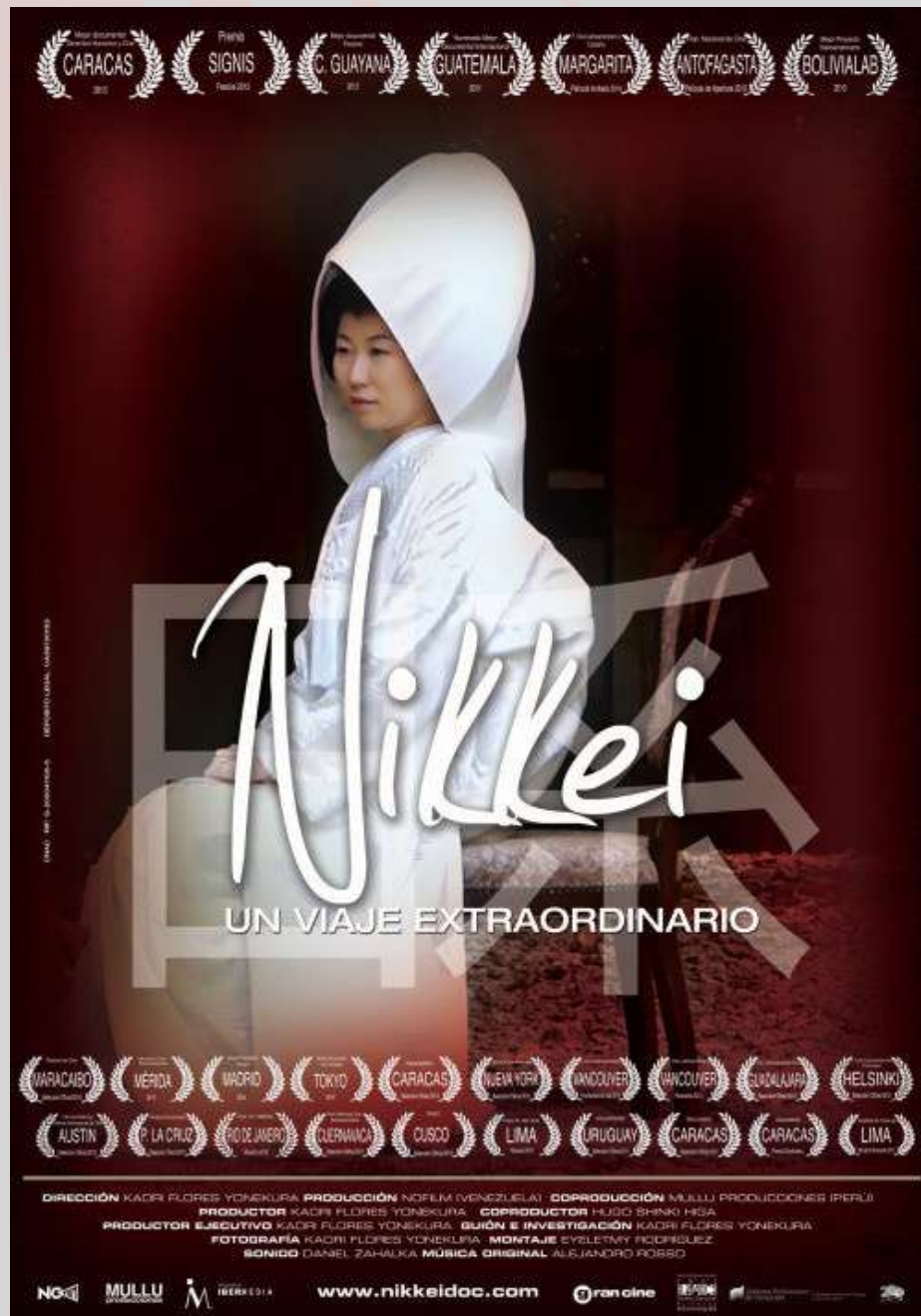
- **Kaori Flores Yonekura – Roles:**
 - Director, Screenwriter, Cultural Management, Curation Producer, Director of Photography, Film Editor, Sound Designer, Grphic Designeer, Physical cleaning and digital restoration, Colorist and Distributor.
- **Sinopsis:** A fantastical historical drama based on the photographic treasure of Yoshitomi Furuya, who documented his life from 1933 to 1945. The film follows his journey from being a young soldier in Japan to his emigration to Peru and his subsequent imprisonment as a prisoner of war in Venezuela during World War II.
- **Key Themes:** Migrant identity, resilience, and the metaphor of the Dragon—a chimera that, like all migrants, adapts and transforms according to the territories it traverses.
- **Archive & Memory Management:** Beyond filmmaking, I led the technical preservation of the project, overseeing the physical cleaning and digital restoration of original family albums and historical negatives from the 1930s. I documented more than 900 photographs, creating a structured archive with over 2,000 reference codes.
- **Cultural Management & Curation:**
 - Critical Curation: Selection and resignification of private archives to transform them into public narrative devices.
 - Heritage Safeguarding: Expert in the preservation of intangible heritage and international rights management.
 - Technical Hybridization: Mastery of the workflow from analog restoration to high-end digital exhibition.
- **Distinctions & Festival Record**
 - Unesco – Paris. Latin America and Caribbean Festival, 2026
 - Venezuelan nominee for the Goya Awards for Best Ibero–American Film, 2026.
 - Venezuelan nominee for the Ariel Awards for Best Ibero–American Film, 2026.
 - Venezuelan nominee for the Sur Awards for Best Ibero–American Film, 2026.
 - Venezuelan nominee for the Grande Otel Awards for Best Ibero–American Film, 2026.
 - Venezuelan nominee for the Platino Awards for Best Ibero–American Film and the Cinema, Education and Values Award, 2026.
 - Venezuelan nominee for the Forqué Awards for Best Latin American Film and the Cinema, Education and Values Award, 2026.
 - Winner of an Honorable Mention for International Feature Film at the Doc.Coimbra Documentary Film Festival, 2026.
 - Winner of the Distinction Award at the Noida Global Film Festival, 2026.
 - Winner of the Jury Prize Feature Film at the Caracas Film Critics Festival, 2025.
 - Best Documentary at the Chacao Municipal Film Awards, 2026.
 - Nominated for Best Director at the Chacao Municipal Film Awards, 2026.
 - Nominated for Best Editing at the Chacao Municipal Film Awards, 2026.
 - Nominated for Best Director at the Chacao Municipal Film Awards, 2026.
 - Official Selection, 38th Rencontres de Toulouse Latin American Film Festival, 2026.
 - Official Selection, 28th Punta del Este International Film Festival, 2026.
 - Official Documentary Selection, 2025.
 - Official Selection, Al Este International Film Festival, 2026.





PROJECT 2: NIKKEI (2011+ REESTRENO 2015)

- **Official Website & Film Info:** www.nuevobfilm.com/nikkei
- **Watch Film:** <https://vimeo.com/150925791>
 - **Password:** **NIKKEI_12M25**
- **Watch Trailer:** <https://vimeo.com/24535848>



- **Kaori Flores Yonekura - Roles:**
 - Director, Executive Producer, Screenwriter, Researcher, Director of Photography, Editor, and Art Director.
- **Technical Milestone & Documentation Process:** I conducted a documentation process based on my personal experience recreating my grandparents' journey. I traveled physically to the same locations where they had been in Japan, Peru, and Venezuela to capture the essence of their path. Instead of using static methods, I utilized the stop-motion animation technique to reconstruct memory and provide movement to the visual narrative.
- **Concept:** An intimate documentary exploring the construction of identity and "un-memory" through travel and visual experimentation. The work intertwines family history with the geopolitical context of World War II and the Japanese diaspora in Latin America.
- **Connection to Beausoleil:** This project is the origin of my methodology for working within a territory. The experience of visiting the original locations of a migratory history is the direct predecessor to the community immersion I propose for Beausoleil, demonstrating my ability to inhabit and document spaces of memory.
- **International Recognition:** The work has been acquired for study and preservation programs by prestigious global institutions, including: Harvard University, Yale University, Stanford University, Princeton University, University of Chicago, University of California (Berkeley/UCLA), and the University of Tokyo, among others. It has been screened at over 30 international festivals and exhibitions. Furthermore, the film was selected and utilized in official activities by the IOM (International Organization for Migration) of the United Nations, validating its value as a social and humanitarian document.
 - **Awards & Distinctions**
 - Winner: Best Human Rights Documentary (Human Rights and Film Festival, Caracas).
 - Winner: SIGNIS Award and Best Documentary (FESCIVE).
 - Winner: Best Documentary and "Nuestras Raíces" Award (María Lionza International Women's Film Festival).
 - Nominee: Best International Documentary (Ícaro Central American International Film Festival).
 - **Featured Festivals & Exhibitions**
 - Guadalajara International Film Festival (Mexico).
 - Lima Film Festival (Peru).
 - Vancouver Latin American Film Festival (Canada).
 - Cine Las Americas International Film Festival (Austin, USA).
 - Japan House London (UK).
 - Helsinki Latin American Film Festival - Cinemaissi (Finland).
 - New Venezuelan Film Festival in NY (USA).

