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President Obama.

I AM JULIA...

Caught in the bully's lair

Protecting the fundamental rights of our children to attend school without fear of brutalization is essential to the development of a healthy society.

"I am Julia... caught in the bully's lair" is a short film that brings to light the subject of bullying, and is now being integrated into an educational workshop targeting students in Middle School, High School and College Freshmen.



"I am Julia... caught in the bully's lair" is a powerful short film written and produced by the Colombian actress Marisol Carrere and directed by David Capurso. This central subject, bullying and cyberbullying is a constant topic of discussion in



today's media worldwide. The film examines both the bullies and their prey; giving us a glimpse into their personal stories and an incident which questions school officials, and their accountability in the matter.

"My goal is to make a film based on true events that would touch a chord deep inside the spectator. I am also hopeful that our young people will be able to relate with the film's characters and trust that it will start a conversation and instill the importance of how urgently a transformation is needed in our educational system, as well as, an awakening for some parents", said Carrere. After President Obama's initiatives on March 2011, ground breaking laws began to be implemented, protecting students

inside and outside of schools. "If there's one goal of this conference, it's to dispel the myth that bullying is just a harmless rite of passage or an inevitable part of growing up. It's not," said Obama, who acknowledged that he was bullied as a child.

A poll of almost 1,000 11 to 16-year-olds, commissioned by the Anti-Bullying Alliance, reveals that 26% of youngsters say they have been verbally bullied in the last year. Of these, 79% said it had happened at school. Two thirds (66%) of those questioned said they had seen or heard this type of abuse in the last year. This issue is only intensified by the inescapable reach of the Internet, bullying has spun out of control. It allegedly triggered the suicides of an alarming number of youngsters in recent years, which rocketed the bullying epidemic into the national spotlight. An epidemic that causes 160,000 children a day to stay home from school because they are afraid of being bullied, according to the U.S. Department of Education.

According to numbers published by the *National Anti-Bullying And Cyberbullying Program for Kids and*

Teens, 1 out of 4 kids in the US has been a victim of bullying, adding to a shocking number of 13 million children annually. But Carrere, besides doing her part to alerting everybody about this issue brings a solution with *I am Julia*: "I want young people to learn how to become more tolerant, because bullying does not end when we graduated from schools, it carries on into adulthood."

I am Julia was shot on location at the Clemente Soto Véllez Cultural & Educational Center in New York's Lower East Side. Original music was provided by Russ Spiegel, the band Folding Legs (formerly Otterclan) and Jay Emmanuel Morales. The film follows the main character, Julia, a 16-year-old Colombian immigrant, recently matriculated into the inner city high school system. She finds herself as a fish out of the water. With her sister as her only friend, Julia must fend off bullies and struggle with a language problem that creates barriers. Wishing to be back in her home country, she bemoans her situation with her sister Diana during lunch hours while they eat inside the girl's restroom, hiding from the bullies.





Educational Program

The success of *I am Julia* creates an opportunity to introduce our film into the educational system and join forces in the effort to curb violence and advocate forbearance among students. This educational workshop integrates conflict/resolution techniques created by the participants to help tailored a solution specific to their concerns with bullying.

In collaboration with the program is devised to target students in middle school to college freshmen. The purpose of the educational program is to visit schools both local and nationally and present "I Am Julia". The screenings will run from 45 min to 1 hour, depending on the desired program and will include special guests, along with an interactive session involving audience participation; making them spect-actors. A facilitator will lead the open discussion. If the students are willing to participate in Role-playing, the facilitator will also lead the dramatic action, in the style of Forum Theater, which provides and innovative approach to analyzing the issues at hand. Our goal is to help build tolerance and for all to collectively come up with alternative solutions which lead to transformation and a raise in consciousnesses which will help to curtail cruel and aggressive behavior.

This forum will provide a safe and captivating avenue for both student and school official to

directly implement mediation and come up with creative solutions to protect all students.

The Fantastic Experimental Latino Theater Inc.

FELT THEATER is a non-profit (501) theater production company founded in 1994 to strengthen and develop cultural and artistic awareness of Latinos in the United States. With our thought-provoking main stage theatrical productions we reach a multi generational, diverse audience representative of the City's cultural tapestry. Our programs increase inter-cultural appreciation and harmony and show the way to a more dynamic artistic community.

FELT Theater's Co-Founder/Producer and Artistic Director is Gloria Zelaya, who is also Associate producer of *I am Julia* and works in partnership with the educational program. A leader in the New York theater community, Ms. Zelaya is also an actress with many credits in educational videos, film and theatre. She is also Founding Member/Co-Director of Around the Block/Doblar La Esquina Theater Company.





Marisol Carrere

A native of Colombia, Marisol is a bilingual actress whose credits expands over two decades and has worked on stage productions in New York, Puerto Rico and Latin America. She has also appeared on Film & TV including commercials voiceovers and print. Carrere studied in France at the University of Reims and graduated Cum Laude from Hunter College in Theater Arts, receiving an award for Excellence in Acting. She's also the recipient of an ACE and an HOLA award. The list of networks associated with her career includes CBS, Telemundo, and MTV. The short film *I am Julia... caught in the bully's lair* is Carrere's first credit as a producer-writer, whose script is based on her own childhood experience in New York and her need to tackle social issues through art.



David Capurso

David is a seasoned actors' director with a strong visual style. His 2011 SciFi short, *Against the Wall* received two Maverick Movie Award nominations, a four and a half star review, distribution as well as licensing on G4TV by NBC/Universal. He has directed numerous short films that have competed in film festivals abroad and in the US such as *Psychobabble*, *Das Boots*, *Mulholland Ceremonies*, *Plumb* and *Emily's Song*. His commercial experience ranges from clients such as Bacardi Rums, Lipton-Unilever, The Clorox Company, Tommy Hilfiger, and HBO. He has directed music videos for Universal, Sony Music, Warner and Palm Pictures, many of which reached the Top Ten of MTV International along with receiving a Billboard Nomination for Best Video.

MEDIA COVERAGE



UNIVISION

"We are sure this film will be very helpful"



"It's a project done with a lot of heart"



"We'll be waiting for the film and the educational program to be launched "



"This film is inspired by true events, effectively creating consciousness to stop bullying "



"A film that tackles the subject of bullying and is getting a lot of attention"



"The work and dedication the artists have put into this short film is a great inspiration for all "

For further information about the film please visit:
[facebook.com/iamjuliamovie](https://www.facebook.com/iamjuliamovie)

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