

# Chateau Vato

*Some people are so poor  
all they have is money.*



MUSCA PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS "CHATEAU VATO" PAUL RODRIGUEZ, ELPIDIA CARRILLO, PATRICIA DE LEON  
WRITTEN BY ROSINO SERRANO, JOSE LUIS ESQUIVEL, EDITED BY SHANE KINSLER, PRODUCED BY ISABELA ISENI, COSTUME DESIGNER LJ MILLIAN, CHOREOGRAPHY BY ARTURO SMITH  
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS JEFFREY STEIN, PRODUCERS ALEX AGRASANCHEZ, ARTURO SMITH, CHERYL RIESS, JEFF DETLEFS, MERILYN MARSHALL, CULLEN ROBERTS, AARON AGRASANCHEZ  
PRODUCED BY SHANE KINSLER, PAUL RODRIGUEZ, ROSINO SERRANO, PRODUCED BY JAYDEV HEMRAJANI, PRODUCED BY TIM SPARKS, TOM MUSCA, DIRECTED BY TOM MUSCA





TOYOTA TACOMA  
**ALVAREZ**  
**LANDSCAPING**



A close-up photograph of a red-painted wooden door. On the left side, there is a dark, ornate brass knocker featuring a central face. Above the knocker is a small circular hole. To the right of the knocker, a large, intricate floral carving is visible, consisting of several layers of petals and a central diamond-shaped pattern. The text "Musca Productions" is overlaid in white on the right side of the image.

**Musca  
Productions**











# FILM SPECS

**Title**

Chateau Vato

**Country**

United States

**Language**

English, Spanish

**Runtime**

105 minutes

**Aspect Ratio**

TBD

**Production Companies**

Musca Productions

**Genre**

Comedy/Drama

**Logline**

When an impoverished Latino family squats in a mansion, murder and mistaken identity get twisted in a rags to riches comedy of errors.

**Writer/Director**

Tom Musca

**Producer**

Tim Sparks, Tom Musca

**Co-Producer**

Shane Kinsler, Paul Rodriguez, Rosino Serrano

**Executive Producer**

Alex Agrasanchez, Jeff Detlefs, Cheryl Riess, Arturo Smith, Marilyn Marshall-Cullen

**Cinematographer**

Arturo Smith

**Cast**

Paul Rodriguez, Elpidia Carrillo, Patricia De Leon









# SYNOPSIS

Gustavo Alvarez's business takes a blow when illegal gardeners undercut his prices and steal his clients.

But what if this consummately skilled but down-on-his-luck Latino gardener, desperately trying to drum up new business, stumbles upon a glorious estate that looks like it hasn't been landscaped in months?

And what if this gardener, finding no one home but the underfed dog, decides to audition for the job and manicure the property gratis? And what if this same gardener is evicted from his own house and suddenly finds himself homeless, and decides to return to the magnificent estate only to find the elderly owner... dead... and so then decides to move-in, temporarily?

That is only the beginning of the Alvarez family's improbable journey. Before the hilarious posturing ends, and before the good life tests marital harmony, the true cause of death of the previous owner will unearth mysteries that pit our gardener's strong sense of ethics against the comfort and well-being of his family.

Poverty and hardship doesn't drive the family apart – but ironically the *fake* good life does. With pathos and humor to spare, this smart comedy will not only entertain, but also furnish an uplifting moral about the current state of economics in America.

*Chateau Vato* will be a charming commercial film that shines a light on the wish fulfillment to stumble into untold wealth overnight. The film will challenge us to think of our cultural heritage and class as a unique strength upon which we can build lives of independence in a multi-cultural world, rather than discount that heritage, or even forfeit it. Themes will explore how citizens acquire wealth emotionally and spiritually, not just economically. With the city of Miami serving as the principal locale, it is sociology embedded into a low budget / high concept broad comedy that results in a timely crossover series that will appeal to all ages and audiences.

Written and directed by Tom Musca (*Stand and Deliver*, *Tortilla Soup*), the film features fantastic roles for a cross section of comedic talents.









# DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

The first day of shooting *Chateau Vato*, I was driving to the set at 6 a.m. I passed numerous Latino gardeners and maids walking on the side of the road, a long march between the bus stop and the palatial homes where they make their living.

I thought about how we were making a movie for these people, who are always seen, but never heard. Not all, but many are here illegally, and rarely will anybody tell their story. This movie was an opportunity to explore character terrain that had been previously ignored, or worse – portrayed in a stereotypical fashion.

I wanted to depict these people not as saints or sinners, but as real human beings. A vision of a hardworking family stumbling on a fortune that they didn't earn, resulting in such incredible conflict that it would tear the family asunder. Although the film underscores Latino culture, the American dream is pregnant in the whole fantasy.

Although the predominant point of view is told through a male gardener, the film's success will largely be due to the strength of the actresses. In almost all respects, the females dominate the males in this film. I worked very hard to write women who were conflicted, had secrets and private dreams – the types of things that give characters dimension.

The relationship between the wealthy deceased homeowner and his prodigal son, Theo, is one of the more interesting things in the film. Theo rejects the material wealth of his upbringing. He rants about how the chateau is a cement graveyard for him, rather than a home.

The fact that there are gardeners who are U.S. citizens at war with gardeners who are illegal, their conflict is a whole other ethnic sandwich that is never depicted on the silver screen. Filmmakers often dramatize Latinos monolithically, as if they represent one culture, when in fact, they're a mosaic of cultures. In *Chateau Vato*, the U.S. gardeners, populated by Mexicans, Cubans, and Haitians, are furious at losing their jobs to illegals from Honduras. But the main character, Gustavo, has a much more progressive train of thought. When Gustavo's crew calls the illegals cowards, he defends them as brave men. I look for character counterpoints to create complexity.

At the same time, this is a comedy. Things are thrown and broken and there's a lot of screaming, but you laugh. It's *The Beverly Hillbillies* for the Latino community. Just enough plot, just enough life and death stakes, just enough quirky humor, and just enough mainstream narrative push to make this a must-see film.

**TOM MUSCA**









# PAUL RODRIGUEZ


Born in Mexico but raised in East Los Angeles, Paul Rodriguez broke into television with *El Show de Paul Rodriguez*, which had a four-year run. He branched out into directing with the film *A Million to Juan*, in which he co-wrote and starred. He appeared with Paul Hogan in *Crocodile Dundee in Los Angeles*, acted alongside Will Smith in *Ali*, and had an atypical role in director Clint Eastwood's *Blood Work* as an arrogant, smarmy police detective.



He also executive-produced and starred in the concert film *The Original Latin Kings of Comedy*. He has been seen everywhere on cable comedy showcases, including *Paul Rodriguez: Behind Bars*, *Crossing White Lines*, *Paul Rodriguez Live!: I Need the Couch*, and *Loco Slam*, all of which have helped him to become one of the most well-known Hispanic comics in the U.S.



# ELPIDIA CARRILLO

A photograph of Elpidia Carrillo sitting in the driver's seat of a red car. She is looking out the window with a serious expression. Her hair is pulled back, and she is wearing a dark top with a thin red strap. The background is slightly blurred, showing the interior of the car and some lights.

Elpidia Carrillo is a Mexican-American actress and director. Her career includes roles in both Latin American and U.S. film and television. She is best known in the United States for her roles in the iconic action film *Predator*, *Bread and Roses* and *Nine Lives*.

She was nominated for an Independent Spirit Award for Best Female Lead for her performance in *Salvador*. She also known for the role Tecuichpo in the Independent film *The Other Conquest*.



# PATRICIA DE LEON

Patricia De Leon's career spans both English and Spanish markets. She was signed to Mighty Aphrodite Picture's *Sweet Caroline* to play the lead, 'Caroline,' in early 2018. Patricia recently wrapped production for *One Nation Under God* and will be seen in the upcoming films *Honeymoon in Paradise* and *Centurion XII*.

Some of her recent television appearances include ABC's *Notorious*, CBS' *Scorpion* and *NCIS*, STARZ's *Magic City*, and *Grace*. Patricia became a fan-favorite on TNT's *Men Of A Certain Age*, playing Ray Romano's fantasy woman.







# JENNY ARZOLA

Born in Havana, Cuba and currently living in Miami, Florida. When she was 13 years old, Jenny began her career as a professional model. She has participated and won several beauty pageants: Miss Teen Cuban American 2005, Miss Summer USA 2007, Reina Mundial de los Carnavales 2010 (in Ecuador), and Miss Cuban American 2010. In 2001, Jenny was a finalist on one of Univision's biggest reality shows, *Nuestra Belleza Latina*.

She studies TV & Film Production and acting and she works as a professional model for a top agency. She is also known for her humorous and empowering video blogs, published on her own YouTube channel.



# TOMAS ROLDAN

Tomas Roldan was born and raised in Bogota, Colombia, moving to United States at the age of 10. He attended New World School of the Arts High School in Miami, Florida, where he majored in Drama.

Tomas currently attends Rutgers University's Mason Gross School of the Arts, where he is expected to graduate with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Acting.



His recent credits include Johann Wolfgang von Goethe's *Faust*, *The Other Shore*, and William Shakespeare's *Measure for Measure*, which was performed at Shakespeare's Globe Theater in London. *Chateau Vato* marks his first feature film role.







# TOM MUSCA

## WRITER / DIRECTOR

Tom Musca first captured attention as the producer and co-writer of *Stand and Deliver*. The popular Warner Bros. film starred Edward James Olmos, who earned Best Actor Golden Globe and Oscar nominations. The film garnered six Independent Spirit Awards, including Best Picture and Best Screenplay and was preserved as a cultural, artistic and historical treasure in the National Film Registry of the U.S. Library of Congress.

Musca is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Rutgers and went on to earn a Masters of Fine Arts degree at UCLA. His latest film, *Make Love Great Again*, is currently streaming on HBO. Recently, he was commissioned to write the screenplay for *One Mile North*, a story about a restaurant near Ground Zero and the recovery workers who frequented it.

Musca has written roles for a wide array of acting talent including John Cusack, Andy Garcia, James Gandolfini, CCH Pounder, Raquel Welch, Lou Diamond Phillips, River Phoenix, Miguel Sandoval, Elizabeth Peña, Michael Madsen, Cliff Robertson, Hector Elizondo, Phillip Seymour Hoffman, Benicio del Toro and America Ferrera, among others.

Produced screen credits include: *Tortilla Soup*, an Imagen Award winner; the popular *Gotta Kick It Up!* for the Disney Channel; Hollywood Pictures' *Money For Nothing*; *Race*, a comedic take on a L.A. City Council election on HBO; Columbia Pictures' *Little Nikita*; and *Flight of Fancy* for Showtime.

Musca has been a guest lecturer at the Sundance Institute, Slamdance, UCLA, NYU, USC, AFI, and has conducted MPAA workshops on four continents. He was named the Moseley Fellow for Creative Writing at Pomona College, and serves as the head of the MFA Screenwriting Concentration at the University of Miami.





## TIM SPARKS PRODUCER

After working across the entertainment spectrum in New York and Los Angeles, Tim Sparks brought his business acumen matched with his production and distribution experience to Miami. Partnering with Tom Musca, he brought *Chateau Vato* to life.

Tim recently wrote and directed a feature film, *Amarica*, a dramatic narrative centering on the current immigration crisis in the United States, which Musca helped produce.

Tim has an MBA and MFA with more than ten years experience and an ever-increasing appetite to bring quality indie films to light.





## SHANE KINSLER CO-PRODUCER / EDITOR

Shane Kinsler was born in Hartford, CT. After graduating from the University of Miami, he started his own company producing videos for the legendary Improv Comedy Club among other corporate and non-profit clients. After taking a job at University of Miami he enrolled in the Cinema and Interactive Media program where he wrote several short and full-length screenplays and directed several award-winning short films. *Make Love Great Again* marks his first feature screenplay.

Kinsler also received his master's degree upon finishing *A New Beat*, his third short film, which he wrote, directed, shot, and edited. Kinsler is a co-producer and editor on Tom Musca's new comedy, *Chateau Vato*.





## ISABELA ISERN PRODUCTION DESIGNER

Isabela Isern has worked as a Production Designer and Art Director in Film and Television since 2011. Isabela became interested in the Art Department during her filmmaking studies in La Sorbonne, Paris after leaving her country, Venezuela, at the age of 17.

The troubling situation in her native country persuaded her settle in Miami, where she soon collaborated with several Art Directors and producers.

Since then, in addition to short and feature-length films, she has designed sets for prestigious brands like Coca-Cola, HBO, Sony Entertainment Television, Oster, Toyota, Nestle and others. She participated in the construction of permanent and temporary sets for Nickelodeon, MTV, Viacom, Hola TV and other TV channels and shows.



Working with writer/directors is Isabela's passion and specialty. She loves the challenge of bringing the material alive in character-driven films and uses space, shape, color and objects to enrich the actor's environment and realize the vision of the director.



## JAYDEV HEMRAJANI LINE PRODUCER

Jaydev began his film career at University of Miami. He was the Line Producer for the film *Make Love Great Again* which premiered on HBO Latino and is currently streaming on HBO NOW.

Jaydev's short film *Zindagi*, which is about preventing suicide, won an award at the Miami Film Festival. It aired nationwide on PBS in the fall of 2018. He recently wrote and directed *Apple Pie*, which premiered on TV channels internationally.



Jaydev returned as a Line Producer for Tom Musca's new comedy, *Chateau Vato*. He is eager to continue telling stories with memorable characters and entertain audiences worldwide.



## AARON AGRASANCHEZ ASSOCIATE PRODUCER

Aaron Agrasanchez is a fourth-generation filmmaker based in Miami, Florida. In his early career, he directed a number of short films at the University of Miami, various commercials for businesses, and multiple television show pilots. *Make Love Great Again* marks Aaron's feature-length directorial debut.

Aaron has worked on films internationally including projects in Greece and Mexico. Aaron came on board *Chateau Vato* as an Associate Producer and an Assistant Director.



Currently, he is committed to contributing all his talent and passion to the film industry, specifically in South Florida, where he believes there is incredible potential, amazing resources and a great future for serious filmmakers.







# MARKET APPEAL

What would you do if the same day you got kicked out of your house, you stumbled on more wealth than you could ever imagine? How would it fix your problems, or create new ones? *Chateau Vato* is a charming commercial film that addresses these universal dilemmas, with humor and insight on the light and dark side of overnight wealth and wish fulfillment.

A recent *LA Weekly* article pointed out that Latinos, the largest minority in the nation, are virtually disappearing from the big screen. But with this lack of inclusiveness, comes an opportunity for *Chateau Vato*, which stars Latino actors, to appeal to an emerging and overlooked domestic market. The Latino population in the United States has reached nearly 58 million in 2016 and has been the principal driver of U.S. demographic growth, accounting for half of national population growth since 2000. They are also per capita the most frequent repeat moviegoers in the U.S.

The Latino population itself has evolved during this time, with changes in immigration, education and other characteristics. Yet the film's appeal will not be limited to one demographic; its emotional journey will cater to a wide audience both internationally and in the U.S., giving it the profitable edge of *Instructions Not Included* (\$100 million box office). For proof of this film's crossover potential, look no further than the enduring classic produced and co-written by *Chateau Vato* director Tom Musca: *Stand and Deliver*. The film centered on Hispanic high school students from working class families, yet its inspiring message struck a chord with anyone who has ever felt like an underdog.

Modern moviegoers are smart, sophisticated, and selective with what the market currently has to offer. They want entertainment with top-notch production value, as well as something that is consistently overlooked in cinema: a compelling story. *Chateau Vato* is full of belly laughs that will bring the audience back to the cinema for repeated viewings.









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