

ANA LYDIA MONACO

WRITER | DIRECTOR | PRODUCER



## CONTACTS

### Maria Sundeen

PRODUCER

323-333-5439 | [mcs@museworks.tv](mailto:mcs@museworks.tv)

### Ana Lydia Monaco

PRODUCER - DIRECTOR - WRITER

310-403-5299 | [alom@analydia.com](mailto:alom@analydia.com)

**\* FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE \***

## Diverse Short Film Garner National Promotional Partner

*Mexican-American filmmaker tackles an issue not often seen in diversity discussions – sizeism*

(DEC 2020) LOS ANGELES, CA – Recognizing the importance of the often taboo subject of weight bias in the medical community, the National Women's Health Network has agreed to collaborate as a partner with the filmmakers of the short independent film, LOLA.

LOLA is a story about an issue not often seen in diversity discussions – sizeism. By tackling this underserved issue, Writer/Director Ana Lydia Monaco exposes how overweight people are treated by both the medical industry and society at large. **This groundbreaking partnership will allow viewers of the film to reach out and share their own stories of weight bias, and will offer resources and tools to assist with best practices as well as the opportunity to elevate the more egregious cases of discrimination.**

“We’re thrilled to be working with Ana Lydia Monaco, and to amplify the message of her film,” said NWHN Executive Director Cynthia A. Pearson. “The story of LOLA is right in line with our core messaging, which is to advocate and support improved women’s health care. This film will help a lot of our members and anyone who taps into our online tools.”

Shot during July 2020 in the midst of COVID-19, LOLA has gained notable traction as the little indie film that could – the 15-minute short has received exposure and accolades for shooting safely during the middle of the pandemic, and also for highlighting issues around discrimination against people of size, particularly woman of color. Media coverage includes Authority Magazine, Chicana Inc, Hollywood the Sequel, National Dutch Newspaper (NRC), and Women in Hollywood, among others.

Marking a new wave of character-driven cause-focused films which aim to tackle diversity in all aspects of filmmaking, LOLA boasts an inclusive cast and crew of LatinX, Black, Asian and Queer creatives. Together with Museworks, Ana Lydia Productions raised \$20k through a three-phased crowdfunding approach using a spectrum of outreach, including Facebook, Twitter, and Seed & Spark.

“Lola’s story could be anyone’s story,” said Monaco. “There are still unseen acts of discrimination that we need to really see, and the more we expose what’s happening, the more people see their own experiences in this film.”

**\*\* MORE \*\***

**About the National Women's Health Network**

The National Women's Health Network (NWHN) was founded in Washington, DC, in 1975 to change the conversation about women's health. With the mission to advocate for and support a just health system reflects the needs of all women, NWHN focuses on improving the health of all women by developing and promoting a critical analysis of health issues in order to affect policy and support consumer decision-making. To ensure its independence as a trusted voice on women's health, the NWHN does not accept financial support from the pharmaceutical industry, medical device manufacturers, or insurance companies, and is supported by a national membership of thousands of individuals.

<https://nwhn.org/>

**About the Director**

Ana Lydia Monaco is a San Fernando Valley born Mexican American award-winning Writer/Director. She recently sold broadcast rights and attained a distribution deal for her narrative short MEETING BROWN and documentary short, CONVERSATIONS IN COLOR...ISMS. Ana Lydia has made her mark in the feature film industry, working most recently as Script Coordinator on Disney's MULAN. She's now working in Feature Film Creative Development and Distribution and Sales at MSR Media International.

Ana Lydia is currently developing various personal projects, including the highly anticipated film LOLA, TRAFFIC SCHOOL, WHATEVER IT TAKES, and THE ACADEMY. She is also working with Neile Adams McQueen (Steve McQueen's first spouse) as story editor for Neile's biography. Having resided and educated in both Guadalajara, Mexico, and California, Ana Lydia holds several degrees. Armed with a Marketing Degree from the Fashion Institute of Design & Merchandising (FIDM), she was catapulted into a PR/Marketing career, where she produced, wrote, and directed over 100 pieces of branded content, PSA's and Commercials for Fortune 500 companies. A second Film Studies and Design Matters minor degree from Art Center College of Design, where she graduated with honors and various industry recognitions, kicked-off her filmmaking journey. Her scripts have placed in the top 25 at the WIF/Go 90 episodic lab, Finalist at the Oaxaca Film Fest, and earned her 1st place in the Short Film Writing Awards, to name a few. Married and a furbaby mom, Ana Lydia is bilingual, bicultural, and immersed in the Los Angeles art community.

<https://www.imdb.com/name/nm3561020/>

**About the Producer**

Born in Long Beach, California, MC Sundeen is writer, director and producer with experience in documentary, television, short, and corporate productions. She has been a producer for programs airing on UCTV, the Sci-Fi Channel, CNN, and USA Network, as part of the founding production team for the launch of CNET-TV. She has worked with a variety of independent production companies - including Frame of Mind Films, Habitat Media, and Katahdin Productions - in development, outreach and production for award-winning documentary films. Maria is of Mexican-American heritage, as well as French, German, Spanish, and Native American (Yaqui).

<https://www.imdb.com/name/nm3773339/>

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**Trailer Link**

<https://vimeo.com/439036539>

**Press Notes**

While LOLA is a film that exposes how overweight people are treated by both the medical industry and society at large, the most impactful message LOLA gives its viewers is that learning to love ourselves is the first step in creating the life we deserve.

**Collaboration****SHARING - Viewers can share their story:**

The NWHN website includes a "[Share Your Story](#)" page, which will allow viewers to submit their own stories of medical weight bias, and offer ways to elevate actionable concerns.

**ADVOCACY – Tips on how people can advocate for themselves**

NWHN will provide resources that offer tips, best practices, and other tools.

**RESOURCES – Links and referrals to educational, clinical, and legal organizations and resources.**

Referral organizations do complementary work and include educational materials for both clinicians and patients.

*Association for Size Diversity and Health*

<https://asdah.org/>

*National Association to Advance Fat Acceptance*

<https://naafa.org/>

*Council on Size and Weight Discrimination*

<http://cswd.org/>

**Media Links****“Behind the Name: The Story Behind “Lola's Journey”**

*Nerdy Latinas Podcast*

- [https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/behind-the-name-the-story-behind-lolas-journey/id1526082704?i=1000499719894&fbclid=IwAR0Djh5YyRXyIQFr-yKgrGcAxiGyTktt\\_y0s\\_ZOKnS6LrG2qcoh12O0Z878](https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/behind-the-name-the-story-behind-lolas-journey/id1526082704?i=1000499719894&fbclid=IwAR0Djh5YyRXyIQFr-yKgrGcAxiGyTktt_y0s_ZOKnS6LrG2qcoh12O0Z878)
- [https://twitter.com/nerdylatinas/status/1329604504707280897?s=12&fbclid=IwAR3rtywYrVpjr-8REDOOMh2fb\\_7HUnCcRP8FnsY94VFltrpsalFlxsv1-OY](https://twitter.com/nerdylatinas/status/1329604504707280897?s=12&fbclid=IwAR3rtywYrVpjr-8REDOOMh2fb_7HUnCcRP8FnsY94VFltrpsalFlxsv1-OY)

**“How to Be Brave Enough to Chase Your Dream”**

*Your Confident Self – Episode 80, 9/15/20*

- <https://player.captivate.fm/episode/7e56bd59-98d8-44fb-ac4d-fb136a98bfbf>

***Twitter Links***

**Writer/Director Ana Lydia Monaco**

@analydiamonaco

**Producer MC Sundeen**

@mcsundeen

**Lola, Lead Actress – Marlene**

@marlenecluna