

# PRESS KIT: *SWEET DREAMS* (2024)

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## FILM INFORMATION

**Title:** *SWEET DREAMS*

**Format:** Narrative Short Film

**Genre:** Sci-Fi / Thriller / Social Drama

**Writer & Director:** Gary Alvarez

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## LOGLINE

As the birth of her child approaches and her partner vanishes without a trace, a desperate expectant mother turns to a controversial system that harvests the dreams of unborn children—forcing her to confront the devastating cost of survival in a world where even dreams have become a commodity.

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## FESTIVAL & PREMIERE HIGHLIGHTS

*SWEET DREAMS* has screened internationally, building momentum across both genre and Latino film spaces.

### Selected Screenings Include:

- Winter Film Festival — New York City
- Mexican-American Film Festival (*World Premiere*)
- Chicano Hollywood Film Festival
- Georgia Latino International Film Festival
- California Women's Festival
- WILDsound Film Festival
- FenceSitter Film Festival
- Indie Short Fest
- IndieX Film Fest
- El Encuentro Film Festival
- American International Short Film Festival

### **Philadelphia Latino Film Festival Screening:**

Premiering the film to Pennsylvania audiences as part of a growing national festival run celebrating Latino storytelling in genre cinema.

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## **AWARDS & RECOGNITION**

- 🏆 **Best Direction** — WILDsound Film Festival
- 🏆 **Best Sci-Fi Short** — Independent Shorts Awards
- 🏆 **Independent Filmmakers Awards** — El Encuentro Film Festival

These recognitions highlight the film's blend of emotional storytelling, strong visual direction, and socially conscious speculative themes.

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## **ABOUT THE FILMMAKER**

Gary Alvarez is a Los Angeles-based Chicano writer/director whose work fuses grounded social realities with speculative storytelling. Raised in the working-class barrio of Bell, California, Gary centers stories about resistance, agency and communities pushed to the margins.

His films use genre as a cinematic tool to examine how ordinary people confront oppressive systems and imagine alternative futures. Alongside his filmmaking practice, Gary works as an educator and mentor supporting young filmmakers from underserved communities.

He holds an M.F.A. in Film Production (Directing) from Chapman University.

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## **CAST & CREW**

### **Key Cast**

- **Andrea St. Martine** — Esperanza
- **Francisco Antonio** — Kiké
- **Adam Daniel** - Roger
- **Sean Michael Conway** - Wade

### **Key Crew**

- **Writer/Director** — Gary Alvarez

- Producers — Erika Martinez & Gary Alvarez
  - Director of Photography — B. Ruben Mendoza
  - Editor — Ericka Concha
  - Production Designer — Sherry Dadci
  - Sound Designers — Kevin Khor & Karthik Mohan
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## THEMES & PRESS ANGLES

Useful talking points for moderators, interviews, and festival blurbs:

- A Latino filmmaker bringing speculative genre storytelling into conversations about social systems and power.
  - Explores how sci-fi can function as a mirror for present-day realities.
  - Character-driven storytelling that balances tension with emotional intimacy.
  - Expands representation of Chicano voices within contemporary genre cinema.
  - Blends social realism with cinematic world-building to ask: *What happens when ordinary people push back?*
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## SHORT PROGRAM BLURB (Festival Use)

Award-winning sci-fi short *SWEET DREAMS* blends social realism with speculative storytelling to explore power, survival and the human cost of systems built on exploitation. Through emotionally grounded, character-driven storytelling, the film expands contemporary conversations around Latino voices in genre cinema.

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## SOCIAL MEDIA BLURBS

### **Festival Caption:**

Award-winning sci-fi short *SWEET DREAMS* explores power, survival and resistance through a deeply human lens — expanding Latino voices in speculative storytelling.

### **Director Highlight:**

Los Angeles-based Chicano filmmaker Gary Alvarez brings emotionally grounded storytelling to sci-fi in the award-winning short *SWEET DREAMS*.

**Audience Hook:**

What happens when ordinary people push back against the systems shaping their future?  
*SWEET DREAMS* imagines the possibilities.

**PRESS CONTACT**

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