

Dal Messico all'Italia! Animated short by Mexican on shortlist in Rome



As a child, Mexican **Alex Carrillo** watched **animated movies** and dreamed of **directing one**. Now, at the age of **22**, an **animated short film of his own** is on the **shortlist** of a movie festival in **Rome**, Italy.

His animated short film “**Express**” has been **selected** by the [Festival Di Cortometraggi Di Roma](#), after winning **third place** at **Digital Short Film Fest 2021**, an **Adobe** and **Talent Network** event.

Alex, an **Animation and Digital Art** student at [Tec de Monterrey](#), was in charge of **directing**, **illustrating**, and **animating** the **2D** short film whose **story** is **inspired** by his **own career** as an illustrator.

*“The **short film** is about **expressing** what **we want**, no matter what it is. We shouldn’t be afraid to express our **talents** and **show them**,”* says Carrillo.

This work can be added to his list of **achievements**, including having made a **coloring book** that was a **bestseller** on **Amazon**, as well as the exhibition of **two** of his **illustrations** in the digital [Walt Disney Family Museum](#).



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A short film inspired by his life

Alex shares that the **story** was **inspired** by his childhood dream of becoming an **illustrator**, **designer**, and even a **producer** of **animated movies**.

“**Express**” tells the **story** of an **18-year-old** named **Eddie Levy**, who dreams of being a **writer** for his **favorite editor’s** magazine.

*“**Eddy** is very **afraid** of **expressing himself** and **showing** the world **his work**, but when his favorite editor comes to his city, Eddie begins to **write** in a different way for the first time,” he says.*

After sending it to **festivals** where he thought it could excel, Alex received an email saying that it had been selected as a finalist in the animation category of the **Festival Di Cortometraggi Di Roma**.

This **festival** has been held in **Italy** since **2006** and will take place from September 20 to 26 in 2021.

*“One day, I woke up to the **news** that it had been **selected** for screening. The next day, they told me that it’s now on the **shortlist**,” Alex recalls.*

“The short film is about expressing what we want, no matter what it is. We shouldn’t be afraid to express our talents and show them.”

Project born from a class he shouldn’t have taken

The short film began as part of a **class** that **Alex** originally planned **not to take** but was **forced to do** so after the space for the class he wanted was filled.

*“It was a project for a **class** that **I shouldn’t have taken**, which is called **Media Production Narrative**. I asked my teacher if I could make an **animated short film**. It was very difficult, but it was something I **wanted to do**,” says Alex.*

At that time, Alex was also working on the **projects** for his **book** and the **Walt Disney Family Museum illustrations**, so he had only **2 days** to do all the **animation** for the **short film**.

*“I really liked doing it, but I only had **two days to complete it**. Because of the tight deadline, I added some things to make it look and sound better afterward.*

*“Then, **three of my friends** recorded the **characters’ voices**. They understood the feeling of the short film,” says Carrillo.*

Now, he’s waiting for his movie to be **released** on a **streaming platform** in December **2021**.

<https://www.instagram.com/p/COGS2G4BfpX/>

Winner of third place at another festival

Alex explains that this is his third short film and the second one that’s animated, but it’s the first one he has sent to **international festivals**.

*“I participated in **five festivals**. The short film was selected in **two of them**. It was almost selected for a festival in Greece, but that didn’t happen,” says Alex.*

Eventually, his **short film** won **third place** at **Digital Short Film Fest 2021**, which ran from May 13 to June 13.

This short film festival is held by **Talent Network**, a **platform** of **professionals**, together with **Adobe**, a company that designs audio, design, and photography programs, among others.



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One step closer to reaching his dream

The young man says that with the **arrival** of his **short film** in **Rome**, he now feels **closer** to his **childhood dream** of **becoming a producer of animated movies**, but now for studios such as **Pixar** and **Disney**.

Alex, who hails from **Saltillo**, Coahuila, says that when he **started** his **career** as an **illustrator**, he faced various **challenges** such as people who told him it was difficult to make a living from art.

*“That **idea stuck with me** for a **long time** but now I’m seeing **people**, not only from **Saltillo** but even people from **Rome**, who are motivated by my **story**. That’s something that **I never imagined**,” he says.*

*“I’m seeing people, not only from **Saltillo**, but even people from **Rome**, who are motivated by my story. That’s something I never imagined.”*

Alex talks about how it feels to know that he’s now an **inspiration** to others.

*“I never **imagined** that my **story would motivate** people: **seniors** who tell me they have started **drawing because of me** or moms who tell me that their **children want to study what I do**.*

*“To all the **people** who want to **dedicate** themselves to **art**, the best advice is to **start**. **Hard work beats talent** when talent doesn’t work hard. That’s the **best advice** I’ve **received**,” concludes Carrillo.*

<https://www.instagram.com/p/CH6L7ekhmtf/>

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