

# Making Mexico proud! PrepaTec graduate Carlos Cortés wins Oscar



Mexican sound engineer and **PrepaTec** graduate [Carlos Cortés](#) has won the award for **Best Sound** at the [2021 Oscars](#) for his sound mixing work on the movie [Sound of Metal](#).

Carlos was a member of the winning sound team, which also included **Mexican sound engineers Michelle Couttolenc and Jaime Baksht**.

*"I'm **really happy to receive this recognition for the work and effort** we put in every day in our jobs,"* said Cortés in a previous interview with CONECTA.

The three sound engineers were the **only Mexicans nominated** for the 93rd [Academy Awards](#).



width="900" loading="lazy">

**Check out Carlo's story here:**

<https://tec.mx/en/news/state-mexico/art-culture/carlos-cortes-mexican-oscar-nominee-playing-sounds>

What's more, the movie was edited in Mexico, at Mexican filmmaker Carlos Reygadas' [Splendor Omnia](#) studios in the **Tepoztlán** forest.

The movie competed in six categories at the awards. As well as Best Sound, it was also nominated for **Best Picture**, Best Actor (Riz Ahmed), Best Supporting Actor (Paul Raci), Best Film Editing, and Best Original Screenplay.

***Sound of Metal*** shared the nomination for Best Sound with the movies *Soul*, *News of the World*, *Mank*, and *Greyhound*.

<https://twitter.com/TheAcademy/status/1386487484675133446/photo/1>



width="900" loading="lazy">

Cortés has also received the distinction of an Ariel Award, which is given by the Mexican Academy of Cinematographic Arts and Sciences.

In 2017, he received a **Silver Ariel** for his sound mixing work on the documentary *Tempestad* from director Tatiana Huezo.

### **A winning team**

His Mexican colleagues on the team that mixed ***Sound of Metal*** have also received several Ariel awards over the course of their careers due to their experience on feature films such as **Pan's Labyrinth** and **I'm No Longer Here**.

These three Mexicans had already worked together on a couple of movies before this, one of which was **Our Time**, from filmmaker Carlos Reygadas.

*"I'd already collaborated with Jaime and Michelle. They're great sound engineers to work with (...) we made a really good team, so it was suggested that the three of us should work on mixing **Sound of Metal**.*

*"Collaborating with them is incredible because **we've found a rhythm for working together,**" said Carlos.*

<https://twitter.com/AcademiaCineMx/status/1386487163898978305/photo/1>

**Philip Bladh and Carolina Santana** also worked with the Mexicans in the production's sound team, led by Frenchman Nico Becker.

The 93rd **Academy Awards** were held on April 25 with a different feel, being broadcast from three separate locations and employing the health protocols required due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **Passionate about sound**

Since childhood, Carlos has felt a strong **attraction to sound**. When he was a kid, he'd take out his dad's sound equipment to **record sound elements**.

He learned to play guitar and formed his own band, with whom he enjoyed **recording and experimenting** with sound.



width="900" loading="lazy">

After **graduating from PrepaTec's State of Mexico campus**, Carlos moved to Ohio in the US, where he studied to become a sound engineer, as there weren't many options for doing so in Mexico.

Currently, **he works for the Splendor Omnia post-production studios**. He has also forayed into designing **sound installations for theater** and concerts in Mexico and abroad.

*"I enjoy doing what I love: working with sound,"* said the **Oscar winner**.

#### **READ ALSO:**

<https://tec.mx/en/news/state-mexico/art-culture/carlos-cortes-mexican-oscar-nominee-playing-sounds>