

A large, diverse crowd of people is gathered for a festival. In the foreground, several large caricatures of Puerto Rican figures are visible. One man wears a red beret and a blue shirt. Another man wears a straw hat and a brown patterned shirt. A third man has a mustache and wears a dark shirt. A fourth man has a beard and glasses. The crowd is dense, with many people taking photos with their phones. A Puerto Rican flag is visible in the background.

¡OJALÁ!

PUERTO RICO REBUILDS

A small green lizard icon is positioned to the right of the text "PUERTO RICO REBUILDS".

YOUR GUIDE TO
THE PUERTO RICAN SPIRIT



This Guidebook could not have been made without the generous spirit of Beverly and Kenneth Little Hawk who deeply believe in the central message of the **ONE HEART-ONE SPIRIT PROJECT: Help create a kinder world by taking better care of each other and taking better care of the Earth.**

Authors: Efrain Blasini Mari and John Pritchard

A free download of this guide is available at createkinderworld.org.

For printed booklets contact:
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Visit ojalamovie.com for more info.

Film Production Credits

Writer/Producer/Director: John Pritchard
Associate Producers: Efrain Blasini Mari and
Melissa Rosario
Music: Eddie Rosa & RRM
Photography: Doel Vázquez
Special Thanks: Dr. Carmen J. Cividanes-Lago,
Executive Director, ACUP

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NOTE: SEE ALL VIDEO CLIPS AT ojalamovie.com/video





1 INTRODUCTION

¡OJALÁ!
PUERTO RICO REBUILDS



¡OJALÁ! - PUERTO RICO REBUILDS

YOUR GUIDE TO THE PUERTO RICAN SPIRIT

On July 4, 2018, award-winning filmmaker, John Pritchard, began filming in Puerto Rico to help the world better understand the spirit of the Puerto Rican people.

The movie had its Premiere at The Clemente: Flamboyant Theatre in NYC on November 16th at the 2018 International Puerto Rican Heritage Film Festival.

Welcome to ***YOUR GUIDE TO THE PUERTO RICAN SPIRIT***. This Guidebook will introduce you to the spirit of the Puerto Rican people based on video clips from the ***¡OJALÁ!*** movie.

The goal of this Guidebook is to help you better understand Puerto Rico and the resilient spirit of the Puerto Rican people.

In the following pages, you will learn about the wishes, hopes and dreams of the Puerto Rican people after hurricane Maria. Overcoming many challenges, they have come together and are rebuilding their lives to not simply survive, but thrive. The Puerto Rican spirit is very optimistic which is why the film is called “***¡OJALÁ!***” Ojalá is a word used to express wishing and hopefulness (I wish or I hope).



THANK YOU KINDLY FOR READING THIS GUIDE

Thank you for your interest in reading this Guide to the Puerto Rican Spirit. We hope it inspires you to be an even better person than you already are.
—John Pritchard
Founder/Director,
THE ONE HEART-ONE SPIRIT PROJECT

OUR MISSION:

As a producer of educational films, the mission of the **ONE HEART-ONE SPIRIT PROJECT** is to **help create a kinder world**.

We promote harmony between all people to establish a more humane planet. We encourage everyone to be kind to everything that lives. We support human rights and the environmental protection of water, land, air and wildlife. In addition to educational films, we produce supplemental materials and programming like this Guidebook.



ONE HEART-ONE SPIRIT
is a project of
EMPOWERMENT WORKS,
a 501(c)3 nonprofit
organization.
EW EIN: 31-1796801

Now is the time to respect ALL people and come together in harmony. We are actively spreading the **ONE HEART-ONE SPIRIT** message to college students and the general public all over the world. We hope you enjoy this Guide to the Puerto Rican Spirit!

WE INVITE YOU TO MAKE A CONTRIBUTION

We are a 501(c)3 non-profit project and welcome your tax-deductible donation to [PayPal.Me/OneHeartOneSpirit](https://www.paypal.com/donate/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.oneheartonespirit.org) or via check, made out to **ONE HEART-ONE SPIRIT**. Please mail to One Heart-One Spirit, 150 Candlewood Drive, Williamstown, MA 01267.



**EMPOWERMENT
WORKS.ORG**

EMPOWERING
LOCAL SOLUTIONS
FOR A THRIVING
WORLD



ONE HEART - ONE SPIRIT



¡OJALÁ!

PUERTO RICO REBUILDS



WATCH VIDEO CLIPS FROM THE MOVIE

¡OJALÁ! is a bilingual documentary film about the wishes, hopes and dreams of the Puerto Rican people after hurricane Maria.

VISIT: OJALAMOVIE.COM

Sparked by the destruction throughout the island, we learn how the Puerto Rican people are strong and resilient. Overcoming many challenges, they have come together and are rebuilding their lives to not simply survive, but thrive.

¡OJALÁ! is not about politics, it is about the Puerto Rican spirit.

WATCH VIDEO #1: Visit ojalamovie.com/video



“The film illustrates the transformation of struggle to resiliency and the evolution of despair to hope. Puerto Rico’s rich culture binds its inhabitants by promoting a rekindling of dreams that strengthen the desire to rebuild. Cultural reunification heals, protects, and fortifies the minds, hearts, and souls of our people. Puerto Rico rises after Hurricane María in order to present itself, once again, as an island of international competitiveness and global attraction.”

—Dr. Carmen J. Cividanes-Lago, Executive Director, ACUP





2 A HUMANITARIAN DISASTER



A HUMANITARIAN DISASTER

After ten (10) months, there had been a mass migration of hundreds of thousands of people to the U.S. mainland and thousands still had no reliable electricity.

The recovery has been very slow and painful with both the Puerto Rican government and the federal U.S. government failing to deliver adequate aid.

On the other side of such an immense humanitarian disaster are the amazing stories of so many people coming together to help as a community.

María caused a humanitarian emergency and is one of the worst natural disasters recorded in U.S. history by taking the lives of more people than Katrina. A Harvard study estimated 4,645 died, but the official Puerto Rican estimate puts the figure at 2,975. The storm created the second largest blackout in world history with millions of people struggling to access fresh food and clean water for weeks, even months.

WATCH VIDEO #2: Visit ojalamovie.com/video



The movie is divided into 4 parts: 1) Humanitarian Disaster, 2) The Recovery, 3) The Future, and 4) The Spirit of Puerto Rico.



NEARLY 3,000 DEATHS

The initial death toll relayed from the Government of Puerto Rico came into question by media outlets, politicians, and investigative journalists. Scores of people who survived the hurricane's initial onslaught later died from complications in its aftermath. Catastrophic damage to infrastructure and communication hampered efforts to accurately document the total loss of life.

As of August 28, 2018, almost a year after the hurricane, the Milken Institute School of Public Health at George Washington University published their results. They estimated 2,658–3,290 additional people died in the six months after the hurricane over the normal rate of fatalities, after accounting for emigration from the island. As a result, the official death toll was updated from the initial 64 to an estimated 2,975 by the Governor of Puerto Rico.

The U.S. government hurricane response was widely criticized as inadequate and slow. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) did not immediately waive the Jones Act for Puerto Rico, which prevented the commonwealth from receiving aid and supplies from other countries besides the United States. The Jones Act was waived for a period of ten days starting on September 28 following a formal request by Puerto Rico Governor Rosselló.





there were no lights, there was no water.

MILLIONS WERE LEFT WITHOUT POWER

Hurricane Maria crippled the power grid, communication systems, and transportation infrastructure throughout Puerto Rico, hindering communication and delaying emergency response activities. It devastated the already fragile and outdated infrastructure in Puerto Rico and greatly complicated response efforts.

The power grid was effectively destroyed by the hurricane, leaving millions without electricity. Governor Rosselló estimated that María caused at least \$90 billion in damage. As of September 26, 2017, 95% of the island was without power, less than half the population had tap water, and 95% of the island had no cell phone service. On October 6, a little more than two weeks after the hurricane, 89% still had no power, 44% had no water service, and 58% had no cell service. One month after the hurricane, 88% of the island was without power (about 3 million people), 29% lacked tap water (about 1 million people), and 40% of the island had no cell service. Three months after the hurricane, 45% of Puerto Ricans still had no power (over 1.5 million people), 14% had no tap water, but 90% of cell service was restored with 86% of cell towers functioning. In April 2018, after 7 months, there were still thousands without power.

This was the longest and largest blackout in U.S. history and the second largest blackout in the world.

Two weeks after the hurricane, international relief organization, Oxfam, chose to intervene for the first time on American soil since Hurricane Katrina in 2005.





3 THE RECOVERY



THE RECOVERY

The essence of the Puerto Rican people is to not only survive, but thrive... just like the plants, trees, and flowers are again flourishing under the Puerto Rican sun, growing back after the devastation created by the hurricane.

“Due to all the deforestation, you could see for miles... at the same time you could see the devastation, you could see the green growing back. What we would say in English, Puerto Rico wasn’t surviving, it was now beginning to thrive in a different way.” —Friar José Santiago, Director of Liberal Arts, Universidad Central De Bayamón.

WATCH VIDEO #3: Visit ojalamovie.com/video



Part 2, The Recovery, is all about the Puerto Rican people coming together to rebuild the island.



IT WAS THE PEOPLE

WE CAN DO IT.
AND WE DID.

After 10 months of recovery, things were beginning to improve a little bit at a time. Many people made new friendships as a result of lending a hand to one another after the hurricane.

Puerto Rico has evolved in a good way since Hurricane María. The people have shown a great deal of goodness and kindness.

“It was incredible the way that people were able to lift their spirits right after the devastation that we all saw and witnessed... there was a lack of basic necessities and services that we had for so long. I think that looking at everybody on the streets was an inspiration... seeing everybody doing their own mission, and the volunteers, with all the goodness of everybody lending a hand to each other... not only the Puerto Ricans on the island, but also the Puerto Ricans in the diaspora was very special. It also gave us Puerto Ricans here on the island a sense of, ‘We can do it.’ And we did. It was actually the citizens. It was actually the communities. It was actually the people who were faring the least that were the ones who stepped up. It was not the government. It was the people.”

—Cecille Blondet, Executive Director, Espacios Abiertos





COMMUNITIES CAME TOGETHER

The Puerto Rican people found out that they are better together and more resilient when helping each other rebuild their lives.

“Before the hurricane, we didn’t know how to work together as a community, as a team, and it was amazing to get to know our neighbors. Now we are like family... we discovered that together we have more strength.”

—Waleska Crespo, President, Universidad del Caribe

WATCH VIDEO #4: Visit ojalamovie.com/video



It was actually the citizens and the communities who stepped up to help Puerto Rico recover.





4 THE FUTURE



PEDRO ADORNO
ARTIST/THEATRE & FILM DIRECTOR

Diversity is what brings strength to this country.

THE FUTURE

Pedro Adorno believes the future of Puerto Rico and its spirit is in its culture and its art.

As the director of his theatre company, Agua, Sol y Sereno, Pedro designs giant full head puppets called “Cabezudos” using paper maché techniques. These “Cabezudos” are part of a century’s old tradition of “bigheads” that kicks off the San Sebastian Fiesta: the largest festival in the Caribbean every third weekend in January. It’s like the island having its own Mardi Gras celebration.

“What moves us as Puerto Ricans is the diversity that exists within the cultural unity of being Caribbean... that the cultural organizations, the people who make movies, the people who make theatre, are joining forces to dream a better possibility. This is where our people’s spirit really is.” —Pedro Adorno, Artist/Theatre & Film Director

WATCH VIDEO #5: Visit ojalamovie.com/video



Part 3 is all about the future of Puerto Rico in 5 to 10 years.



A VERY UNIQUE IDENTITY!

THE PEOPLE OF PUERTO RICO HAVE A UNIQUE IDENTITY AND CULTURE

The relationship between the United States and Puerto Rico makes national identity complicated. Puerto Ricans maintain United States citizenship while aligning with a uniquely Puerto Rican heritage.

U.S. citizenship has had multiple meanings for Puerto Ricans. For some, it is a welcome link to the United States, regardless of the political status of the territory. For others, it has been nothing more than an imposed identity by an imperial power. Still others regard it as a useful asset that provides access to certain rights, as well as tangible benefits and opportunities. And there are those that cherish it as a constituent element of their self-image and identity.

The culture of Puerto Rico is the result of a number of international and indigenous influences, both past and present. Modern cultural manifestations showcase the island's rich history and help to create an identity, which is a melting pot of cultures - Taíno (Aboriginal/First Nation/Indigenous), European (Spanish, Canary Island, Corsican and Irish), African (West African), Anglo American (U.S.A.), Latin American/Caribbean, Asian, Hawaiian, and other influences.





IVONNE BELÉN
FILM DIRECTOR

I have hope

THERE IS **HOPE** FOR THE FUTURE

Ivonne's most famous film is about the life and work of the late Puerto Rican poet, Julia de Burgos. She based her film on the letters that Burgos sent to her sister, Consuelo, between the years of 1940 and 1953. She titled the film *Julia, todo en mi...* (*Julia, all in me...*). Among the actors who participated in the movie are Oscar winner, Benicio del Toro, Nydia Caro, Jacobo Morales, and singer, Danny Rivera.

"I have hope..."

We have a superior strength, stronger than the hurricane.

The first thing María did was that it shut down the communications system. The communication system collapsed and I didn't know how I would communicate with my mother. That's where it started. But we had the moral and mental strength to raise the country.

Here we used the slogan "Puerto Rico rises." Puerto Rico was always on its feet and it is on its feet because it is a country of great strength.

Precisely because of all those historical accidents that we have experienced. And precisely for having been a colony. Precisely because we are a people that we do not let ourselves be defeated."

—Ivonne Belén, Film Director



WE MUST GO TO WORK!

Sensei Victor Suarez is a world champion 4th degree black belt who has two schools of Martial Arts in Puerto Rico: one in Carolina and the other in Caguas. He has also developed the “Ninja Kids Program” for children diagnosed with Aspergers syndrome and Autism.

“The only way in which Puerto Rico will succeed is that its people, like us, like the others who suffered here, go to work. There is no other way to do it. You have to work hard. Do you want something better for yourself? You don’t have to wait for someone else to come by and give it to you. That is, you have to do it. Then, when people see you doing it and say, ‘Hey, that guy is probably crazy, why is he doing that?’ Well, because that’s what I have to do. Because if you don’t do it, I’ll do it, and if I do it, it will cause you to do it, like a domino effect. And that way we will go on bit by bit, bit by bit, bit by bit. But nobody is going to come fix it. No president is coming. No superhero is coming. No deity will come to fix this. It has to be us. It has to be me giving a hand to you, and you giving a hand to the others, and everyone together making a chain of strength.”

—Sensei Victor Suarez

A close-up photograph of Sensei Victor Suarez, a man with dark curly hair and glasses, wearing a black martial arts gi. He is speaking with an expressive, slightly open-mouthed look. In the background, a framed piece of Japanese calligraphy is visible on the wall.

SENSEI VICTOR SUAREZ
WORLD CHAMPION MARTIAL ARTIST

It has to be me giving a hand to you,
and you giving a hand to the others,



A portrait of Dr. Marta Hernández, a woman with long blonde hair, looking directly at the camera.

DR. MARTA HERNÁNDEZ
DIRECTOR, LEADERSHIP SCHOOL
AT RAFAEL HERNÁNDEZ COLÓN
FOUNDATION

No matter the circumstances, we have a fighting spirit

DEVELOP AND EMPOWER LEADERS

Dr. Marta Hernández is the Director of the Leadership School at the Rafael Hernández Colón Foundation in Ponce, Puerto Rico. She teaches a highly successful leadership training program that was originally designed for public officials. She is currently providing leadership courses to college students throughout the island.

“My real goal in directing the leadership school is to develop leaders for service to Puerto Rico. We, as Puerto Ricans, have a potential that we should be developing when we are in elementary school, high school, at the university, and even as senior executives. And the way to empower everyone is through leadership. A leadership that begins with the human psyche, with the self. How can I work with self-esteem? It is that potential that we have to be able to face more situations with an ethical leadership, with the values required to be high-level leaders of excellence, and to serve Puerto Rico. We have the potential, as Puerto Ricans, to develop and empower ourselves through leadership.”

—Dr. Marta Hernández





5 THE SPIRIT OF PUERTO RICO



THE SPIRIT OF PUERTO RICO

The people of Puerto Rico truly reached out and helped one another after Hurricane María. Their resilient spirit and hopefulness for a better future are an inspiration to the entire world.

What is the spirit of Puerto Rico? Strength. Hope. Joy. After the hurricane, the Puerto Rican people rolled up their sleeves and stepped up to the challenge of putting their island back together. They have great hopes for creating a better Puerto Rico. This is what **¡OJALÁ! - Puerto Rico Rebuilds** is all about!

WATCH VIDEO #6: Visit ojalamovie.com/video



Photo journalist, Doel Vázquez, captures the spirit of Puerto Rico every day. He has been working in San Juan for most of his life and has taken thousands of photographs.









6 THE MOVIE: ¡OJALÁ!

ojalamovie.com



THE MOVIE: ¡OJALÁ!

¡OJALÁ! is a Spanish word which is used to express wishing and hopefulness (I wish or I hope). Some definitions also say it translates into “God willing,” stemming from its Arabic roots “Of Allah” or “Allah’s will.”

Note: ¡OJALÁ! is commonly used with the phrase, “Si Dios Quiere,” which together translates into “May it be God’s will.”

¡OJALÁ! - Puerto Rico Rebuilds is a bilingual documentary film about the wishes, hopes and dreams of the Puerto Rican people after hurricane Maria. Overcoming many challenges, they have come together and are rebuilding their lives to not simply survive, but thrive. **¡OJALÁ!** is not about politics, it is about the Puerto Rican spirit.

WATCH VIDEO #7: Visit ojalamovie.com/video



This 2 minute excerpt sums up the essence of the movie.



¡OJALÁ! IS ABOUT HOPE

THE HOPE IS
THAT PUERTO
RICO WILL
REBUILD AND
BE BETTER
THAN BEFORE

The Puerto Rican people know how to have fun and celebrate life! Below is Pedro Adorno walking on stilts during the San Sebastian Fiesta in Old San Juan.

On July 4th of 2018, award-winning documentary filmmaker, John Pritchard, began filming in San Juan, Puerto Rico, to help tell the story of what happened to the 3.5 million American citizens after Hurricane María struck on September 20th of 2017.

María caused a humanitarian emergency and is one of the worst natural disasters recorded in U.S. history by taking the lives of more people than Katrina. The storm created the second largest blackout in world history, with millions of people struggling to access fresh food and clean water for weeks, even months. After ten (10) months, there had been a mass migration of hundreds of thousands of people to the U.S. mainland and thousands still had no reliable electricity. But despite that gloomy reality, Pritchard was inspired to learn how strong and optimistic the Puerto Rican spirit really is... and decided to call the film, **¡OJALÁ!**

Visit ojalamovie.com to learn more about the movie.





¡OJALÁ!

PUERTO RICO REBUILDS





7 DIRECTOR'S BIO JOHN PRITCHARD

DIRECTOR'S BIO: JOHN PRITCHARD



John founded **Pritchard Digital Arts** (online video/web production) in 2001 and **Eternal Ways** (multimedia publishing house) in 2010. In 2016, he founded his non-profit, educational film company, **The One Heart - One Spirit Project**.



PRITCHARD DIGITAL ARTS



ETERNAL WAYS



ONE HEART-ONE SPIRIT PROJECT

John Pritchard is an award-winning director who focuses on films that celebrate the cultural and spiritual nature of extraordinary and overlooked populations. His professional goals are to promote respect for ALL people and to help create a kinder world. His first feature film, **ONE HEART - ONE SPIRIT**, won **BEST INDIGENOUS DOCUMENTARY** at the 2017 Melbourne Documentary Film Festival. The film celebrates the oldest surviving culture on the planet: the 40,000 year old Aboriginal people of the Yolngu Nation. As a multimedia producer, John has won numerous awards for cutting edge digital productions about John Lennon, the Inuit Eskimos, and Native American storytelling. In 2012, he launched the online jazz training program, **Freddy's Guide to Creative Improvisation**, featuring 300 video clips of Berklee College of Music professor and Grammy Award winner, Fred Lipsius of Blood, Sweat and Tears. In 1993, John won the \$100,000 McGraw-Hill New Media award for his interactive design work with college professors at NYU and Hunter College. In 1991, John created the world's first national TV ad produced entirely on a computer for the YWCA "Join Us" campaign. In 1987, with Apple as his primary client in NYC, he launched one of the world's first digital agencies, Applied Imagination. From 1984-86, he was Asst. Director for the Upward Bound Program working with Native American Mohawk high school students. In 1983, John graduated from St. Lawrence University with a BFA in filmmaking.

WATCH VIDEO #8: Visit ojalamovie.com/video



John has produced 2 feature films and 5 educational films. Learn all about his life and career at getmorecreative.com

