

A FILM BY AWARD-WINNING DIRECTOR JOHN PRITCHARD

¡OJALÁ!

PUERTO RICO REBUILDS





¡OJALÁ!

PUERTO RICO REBUILDS

[Documentary]

Running Time:

53 minutes

Directed By:

John Pritchard

Written By:

John Pritchard

Produced By:

ONE HEART - ONE SPIRIT

Associate Producers:

Efraín Blasini Mari

Melissa Rosario

Edited by:

John Pritchard

Photography by:

Doel Vázquez

Music by:

Eddie Rosa

Special Thanks to:

Dr. Carmen Jo Cividanes-Lago

¡OJALÁ!

PUERTO RICO REBUILDS

ONE HEART - ONE SPIRIT PRESENTS "¡OJALÁ!"
A FILM BY AWARD-WINNING DIRECTOR JOHN PRITCHARD
MUSIC BY EDDIE ROSA & RRM PHOTOGRAPHY BY DOEL VÁZQUEZ
ASSOCIATE PRODUCERS EFRÁIN BLASINI MARI AND MELISSA ROSARIO
SPECIAL THANKS TO CARMEN J. CIVIDANES-LAGO

WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY JOHN PRITCHARD

OJALAMOVIE.COM



¡OJALÁ! had its Premiere in NYC at the International Puerto Rican Heritage Film Festival on Nov. 16, 2018.

Visit OjalaMovie.com

Contact: john@ojalamovie.com



LOGLINE

[34 WORDS]

¡OJALÁ! is 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.

SYNOPSIS

[102 WORDS]

¡OJALÁ! is about the wishes, hopes and dreams of the Puerto Rican people after hurricane Maria. Sparked by the destruction throughout the island, we learn about the strong and resilient nature of the Puerto Rican people. 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. The film unfolds through a simple four part structure with authentic Puerto Rican music:

- 1) HUMANITARIAN DISASTER** - Category Five Hurricane
- 2) THE RECOVERY** - Coming Together To Rebuild
- 3) THE FUTURE** - Hopes For Puerto Rico
- 4) THE SPIRIT OF PUERTO RICO.**

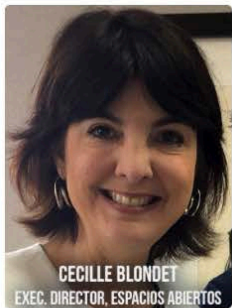
OUR STORY

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!* which is used to express wishing and hopefulness (I wish or I hope).

¡OJALÁ! - Puerto Rico Rebuilds depicts the Puerto Rican people creating a better world for themselves, their children, their neighbors, and most especially, their community.

Visit OjalaMovie.com Contact: john@ojalamovie.com

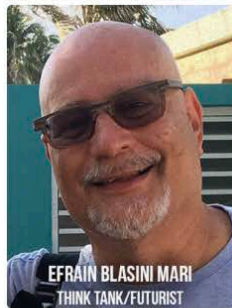




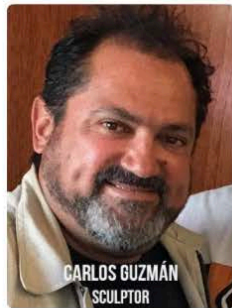
CECILLE BLONDET
EXEC. DIRECTOR, ESPACIOS ABIERTOS



PEDRO ADORNO
ARTIST/THEATRE & FILM DIRECTOR



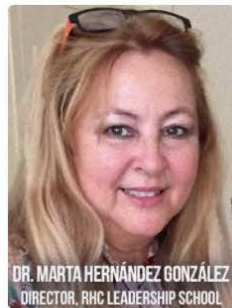
EFRAIN BLASINI MARI
THINK TANK/FUTURIST



CARLOS GUZMÁN
SCULPTOR



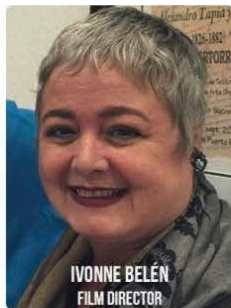
EDDIE ROSA
SINGER/BANDLEADER



DR. MARTA HERNÁNDEZ GONZÁLEZ
DIRECTOR, RHC LEADERSHIP SCHOOL



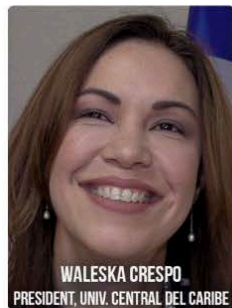
FR. JOSÉ SANTIAGO ROMÁN
DIRECTOR, COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS, UCB



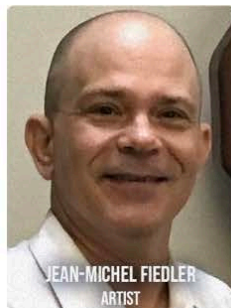
IVONNE BELÉN
FILM DIRECTOR



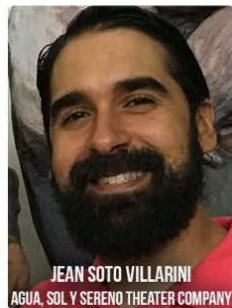
FRANCISCO "PACO" MONTANER
SEA CAPTAIN



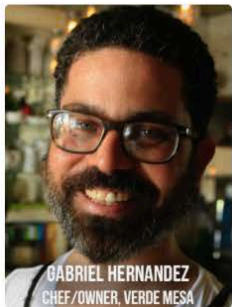
WALESKA CRESPO
PRESIDENT, UNIV. CENTRAL DEL CARIBE



JEAN-MICHEL FIEDLER
ARTIST



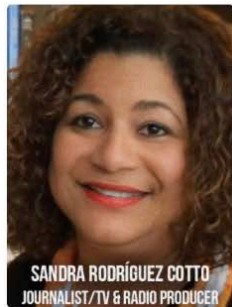
JEAN SOTO VILLARINI
AGUA, SOL Y SERENO THEATER COMPANY



GABRIEL HERNANDEZ
CHEF/OWNER, VERDE MESA



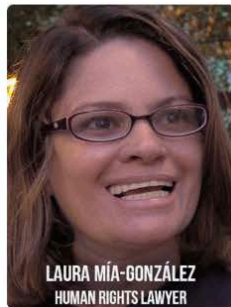
SENSEI VICTOR SUAREZ
WORLD CHAMPION MARTIAL ARTIST



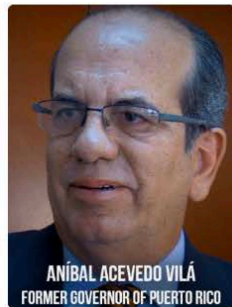
SANDRA RODRÍGUEZ COTTO
JOURNALIST/TV & RADIO PRODUCER



MANUEL FERNÓS
PRESIDENT, INTER AMERICAN UNIV.



LAURA MÍA-GONZÁLEZ
HUMAN RIGHTS LAWYER



ANÍBAL ACEVEDO VILÁ
FORMER GOVERNOR OF PUERTO RICO

Interviewees

Cecille Blondet

Pedro Adorno

Efraín Blasini Mari

Carlos Guzmán

Eddie Rosa

Dr. Marta Hernández

Friar José Santiago

Ivonne Belén

Paco Montaner

Waleska Crespo

Jean-Michel Fiedler

Jean Soto Villarini

Gabriel Hernandez

Sensei Victor Suarez

Sandra Rodríguez

Manuel Fernós

Laura Mía González

Aníbal Acevedo Vilá

DIRECTOR, John Pritchard

John Pritchard 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. **¡OJALÁ!** Is his second feature film.

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. Australia's premier film magazine, FilmInk, gave it high praise:

"This film provides a truly moving experience, showing the beauty in seemingly little things. To put it dramatically, One Heart-One Spirit offers a solution for the quickening demise of the entire human race – show respect for each other and our world."

Contact: **john@ojalamovie.com**



ASSOCIATE PRODUCER, Efrain Blasini Mari

Efraín Blasini Mari is a business consultant who helps organizations develop strategic and profitable results. He is an agent of transformation (Think Tank/ Futurist) who takes into account growing trends in ideas and helps clients apply them to different solutions in order to become more successful. In Puerto Rico, he worked with Voto Inteligente to contribute to the democratic process and help citizens make more informed voting decisions. On the mainland, he worked with the NJ State Government for nearly thirty years in the Dept. of Personnel, the Civil Service Commission, and Dept. of Labor.



ASSOCIATE PRODUCER, Melissa Rosario

Melissa Rosario is currently the CEO for 22 Digital Marketing and also Marketing/Art Director for Puerto-Rican painter, Elizam Escobar. She leads digital marketing campaigns into new international markets while working from her native island of Puerto Rico. In past years, she worked as the community director with Bill McDonough + Partners designing a sustainable hotel development in Luquillo, Puerto Rico while also running her self-owned tourism company that guided visitors to iconic places on the island.





WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING...

I'm a Desert Storm Vet. I was in Puerto Rico during Maria and lived through hell for 6 months without electricity, but as a Vet with 25 years of Service, I adapted. If there's something that I learned during this period was that we as a People must be prepared and try our best to help our families and neighbors because we CANNOT depend on the Government. Great Documentary. —Robert Maza, Desert Storm Veteran

The cinematography was excellent. The extreme devastation from the hurricane was clearly palpable. Demonstration of our people's response to meeting immediate needs for survival – neighbor-to-neighbor, community-to-community – was a thing of beauty – thank you for your sincere concern and interest in bringing this story to light.

—Carmen Vivian Rivera, Coordinator at ¡Despierta Boricua! Recovering History Project

Great film! Thanks for not making it a bleeding heart film (that we need the USA), but a film with puñeta (a punch) – we have hundreds of years of torture and slavery and our drums still summon our resolve to move forward into a new light. —Angel Franco, NY Times Pulitzer Prize-winning Photographer

Excellent, very well documented, I am a Puerto Rican living in the USA since 1976. I have missed the warmth and loving people of Puerto Rico. I really loved the pictures at the end and it showed how well educated we are. Viva Puerto Rico!

—Ivette Babuca de Jesus, Tucson, Arizona

This was brilliant. I watched it twice! Such a huge project, and so beautifully done. My heart went out to everyone in the film. So ashamed of my government for not responding with intelligence and compassion. So impressed by the community support that emerged across the island. Congratulations on covering it all with such a forward-looking message of hope. —Mary Potter, World Languages Teacher, Dana Hall School









“¡OJALÁ! 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,
Association of Private Colleges and Universities of Puerto Rico (ACUP)

Visit OjalaMovie.com

Contact: john@ojalamovie.com