

OPENING THE DOOR CHANGED HIS LIFE FOREVER



*La  
Tajada*

**HUGO** STIGLITZ AND **EMMANUEL** MERCATU

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY DONALD WHITTIER

CARILU NAVARRO | FERNANDO GAVIRIA | JESSICA MARCH | ANTONIO VARGAS | PRODUCED BY JUAN MANUEL, SOL ACOSTA  
POST PRODUCTION SOUND MIKE WARGO | MUSIC BY RAFAEL CORTÉS, ROBERT HUNT | EDITED BY ALEJANDRO HIGUERA, RODRIGO  
ZAZOYA | DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY ALEJANDRO ARGÜELLES | BANZAI! ENTERTAINMENT INC. 2023 | WWW.THEBANZAI.COM

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# Synopsis

The Slice is the story of a retired pizza maker, Don Miguel, with a spotty past. When a young street gang member runs to his restaurant for refuge during a gun battle, Don Miguel has to decide whether to unlock the door to help the youngster. The result of that decision follows the Pizzero to the tragic end.

*La Tajada es la historia de un pizzero jubilado, Don Miguel, con un pasado irregular. Cuando un joven pandillero corre a su restaurante en busca de refugio durante un tiroteo, Don Miguel tiene que decidir si abre la puerta para ayudar al joven. El resultado de esa decisión sigue al Pizzero hasta el trágico final.*

<https://thebanzai.com>

<https://thebanzai.com/tajada.html>



# Data Sheet

**Title:** La Tajada

**Director:** Donald Whittier

**Country (Production):** México - Estadounidense

**Year (Production):** 2022

**Duration:** 87 min

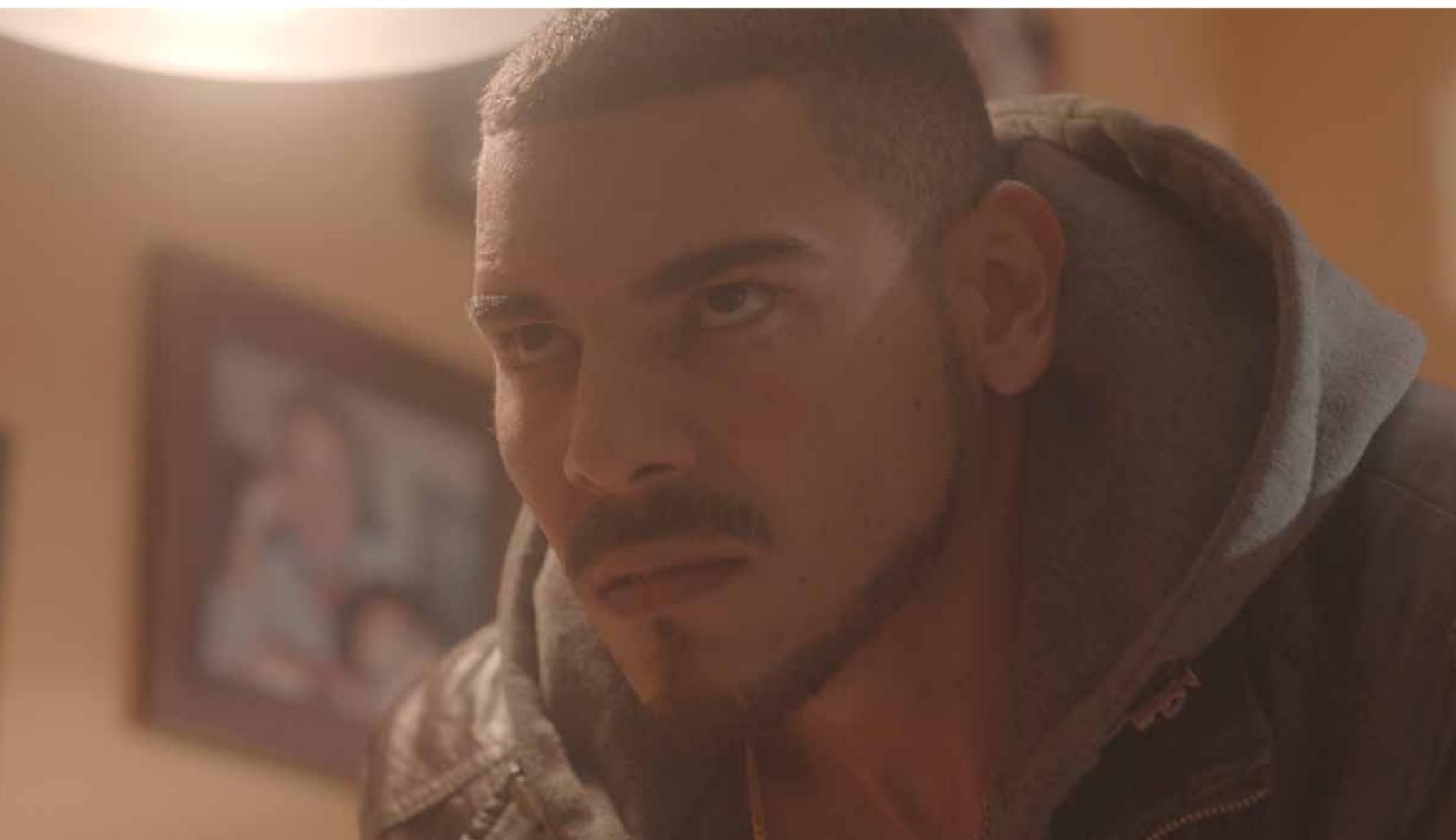
**Genre:** Drama

**Language:** Spanish (with English subtitles)

**Production Company:** Banzai Entertainment Inc.

**Original Resolution:** RedRaptor 8k

**Aspect Ratio:** 16:9



# Cast/Crew

## Cast

Hugo Stiglitz • Don Miguel  
Emmanuel Mercatu • Raúl  
Fernando Gaviria • Sanchez  
Carilu Navarro • Angélica  
Antonio Vargas • Profesor Gabriel  
Aldair Chavarin • Roberto  
Mayra Valenzuela • Rosa  
Cristian Casoli • Poncho  
J. Eduardo Zazueta • Secuaz 1  
Obed Rosas • Secuaz 2  
El Morro • Secuaz 3  
Jessica March • Jessica  
Miranda Ruz • Claudia  
Enrique Imazio • Enrique  
Pepe Camarillo • Policia Acosta  
Cucho Montaña • Policia Gomez  
Amdelelí Yaber • Luisa  
Sofía Montaña • Amanda

## Crew

Script and directed by • Donald Whittier  
1st AD • Juan Manuel del Río  
Production Coordinator/Cast • Sol  
Acosta  
Production Assistant • Mitzy Fernanda  
Director of Photography • Alejandro  
Argüelles  
Production Design • Luis Carlos  
Villalobos  
1st assistant Camera • José Clavé  
2st assistant Camera • Yaolt Valverde  
Art • Antonio Vargas  
Sound • Rafael Cortés  
Gaffer • Alonso Alatorre  
AP • Romeo Carballo  
Make Up FX • Rossy Gutierrez  
Editor • Alejandro Higuera  
Colorist • Manuel Carchola



# Director

Donald's approach to filmmaking is first to know the story and work through the many elements of a story this happens in different ways for him: eg, it can be through traditional industry standard of formal script break wn, to just having the story outlined and defining the story and scenes with the creative team as the projects move forward. He builds a team who can bring the story to fruition within the resources that are available to turn his vision into a feature film. Though Donald envisions each of his projects and the energy of each potential film, his filmmaking is NOT auteur in nature. He believes in an intensely creative and collaborative process allowing and wanting input from all people involved. He works with smaller crews by nature of this process and budget, so as not to be hindered by "asking permission" vs asking for forgiveness after the fact or spending time looking for the resources to tell the story. He is also deeply committed to making the process enjoyable and to feel that all involved, regardless of the end result, feel that being part of his projects has enhanced their lives. In his younger years he was a world-class Tae Kwon Do fighter; the methodical and at times painful preparation building up to "leaving it all on the mat" approach, regardless of the outcome, continues to define his daily routine, so nicely put in the title of one his favorite movies "You Can't take it with you!". He is happiest running at a frenetic pace and he believes that storms of activity are the mother of creative and unexpected solutions and that the greatest indignity to the human spirit is boredom. His films and pilots have screened in multiple film festivals over the years and earned him a handful of awards.

Producer, Writer, Director  
(with \* executive producer credit creator)

- 2001 Dog Nights
- 2002 Fight Circle
- 2002 Bulk Head
- 2002 Teddy
- 2006 Spunky Z
- 2008 Field of Stone\*
- 2009 Jackman
- 2021 No Hay Barrio para las Mujeres Multiple Festival Awards
- 2021 Sofa (series)\* Multiple festival awards
- 2022 Z Tours (series)\*
- 2022 La Tajada (Hugo Stiglitz)
- Heart Sung 2023 (post production)



# Contact

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## Executive Producer

Donald Whittier

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## Theatrical Sales Rep

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