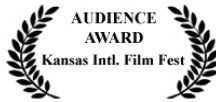


MOJADOS THROUGH THE NIGHT

**Written, Produced & Directed by:
Tommy Davis**



**65 min. – Digital Video
Stereo**

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MOJADOS THROUGH THE NIGHT

One Liner:

In *Mojados*, director Tommy Davis tags along with four men from a small village in Mexico as they leave their families and embark on a 120 mile trek across the deserts of Texas attempting to evade the U.S. Border Patrol, overcome dehydration, hypothermia and come face to face with death.

Short Synopsis:

Mojados: Through the Night is an eye-opening documentary filmed over the course of ten days that follows four men into the desperate world of illegal immigration. Alongside Bear, Tiger, Handsome, and Old Man, director Tommy Davis takes a 120 mile cross-desert journey that has been traveled innumerable times by nameless immigrants who – like these four young migrants from Michoacan, Mexico – all had the simple, American dream for a better future. Davis brings to life the often unheard hopes and stories of these migrants as their dehydrated days evading the U.S. Border Patrol turn into sub-zero nights filled with barbed wire, brutal storms and the ever-present confrontation with death that is reality for the tens of thousands of illegal immigrants who make a similar journey into the United States every year.

MOJADOS THROUGH THE NIGHT

Selected Screenings

South by Southwest Film Festival

AUDIENCE AWARD

Austin, Texas

March 2004

Arizona International Film Festival

BEST DOCUMENTARY

Tucson, Arizona

April 2004

San Antonio Underground Film Festival

GRAND PRIZE

San Antonio, TX

June 2004

Kansas International Film Festival

AUDIENCE AWARD

Kansas City, Kansas

September 2004

Woodstock Film Festival

Woodstock, New York

October 2004

Mill Valley Film Festival

Mill Valley, CA

October 2004

Santa Fe Film Festival

BEST DOCUMENTARY

Santa Fe, NM

December 2004

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

Asheville, NC

January 2005

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ABOUT THE PRODUCTION

Armed with a handheld camera and an eighty-five pound backpack full of batteries and film, Filmmaker Tommy Davis has created *Mojados: Through the Night*.

Mojados follows four men from Michoacan, Mexico through the deserts of the United States. This film is, in every sense, a true first hand account of the plight of immigrants who risk death every day to enter the United States. Davis researched, produced, filmed and edited *Mojados* – his first full length film – on his own.

Davis grew up in the border town of McAllen, TX – living in a region dramatically affected by the social and economic reverberations of the tens-of-thousands of immigrants that cross the border every year. Shocked at the increasing death rate amongst migrants as a result of the implementation of Operation Gatekeeper – a federal crackdown on illegal immigration from Mexico – Davis decided that the people who are too often classified simply as numbers needed their story told.

Mojados puts a face on a people who are too often nameless caricatures created by a system intent on keeping them from the American Dream. Davis' work provides insight into the migrants' dreams of a better life, the children they left behind, and the future they believe awaits them. In sum, *Mojados* captures the humanity that is often forgotten in the black and white political struggle that illegal immigration has become.

Davis' decision to tell the story from the migrants' point of view did not come easy, however.

The story behind *Mojados* is that of a person struggling to determine the most adequate way to dramatically represent the struggles of migrants entering the United States. Davis decided that any work of fiction he created could not accurately depict the struggles migrants face in their search for work – a first hand account in the form of a documentary was the only choice.

Davis, a 24 year-old non-Spanish speaking American funded the entire project through odd jobs and good luck. After working several jobs he earned enough money to begin the film, he took several trips to the Mexican hinterlands and struggled to find the migrants who would trust the gringo from "El Norte" holding a camera and promising he could keep up with them on such a perilous journey.

Ultimately, Davis moved to the Mexican state of Michoacan to convince the residents that he was serious. After several months of false-starts and rejection, Davis met the men he would film after blindly asking the proprietor of a small convenience store if he knew of any people preparing to make the journey north. A resourceful little boy overheard the conversation, ran from the store and brought back Tigre, a 22-year-old who shuttles between the US and Mexico every year to be with his family; Viejo, a 26-year-old skilled carpenter leery of the camera; Guapo, who at 20 years was the most insightful and open of the group; and Oso, a farmer in his 50's who's been crossing annually for 20 years. Seeing the size of Davis' equipment bag and camera the men were hesitant to allow him to accompany them. Only after Oso devised a test -- a day-long sojourn up and down a mountain with Davis taking all the necessary equipment to film -- and Davis dutifully completed the obstacles, did they all consent to his presence.

Because Davis ate the same moldy tortillas, climbed the same fences, and drank the same mud as the four migrants, he earned the title "El Gringo Mojado" and the trust of the group. The men realized that Davis' work was a chance to give the world an insight into their own lives and the lives of their brethren. The result is a stunning, honest portrait of an often traveled but rarely seen journey.

MOJADOS THROUGH THE NIGHT

BIOS

TOMMY DAVIS (writer, producer, director) was born in McAllen Texas, in 1978. Davis is currently at work on a documentary exploring a 1953 scientific breakthrough told not only by the scientist involved, but also by the bartenders, ex-lovers, friends and professors involved. Davis is also at work on a feature film based on *Mojados: Through the Night* entitled: *Asi Es Como Paso*. *Mojados* is his first documentary.

Filmography

2000 Leave The Kid Behind (short film)
2002 15 Miles to Mexico (short film)
2002 Look Pa, I Smoke Crack (short film)
2003 100% Natural (short film)
2004 Mojados: Through the Night (documentary)

THE CAST

GUAPO (Handsome) – Guapo, 20, is married and has a little girl. As a teenager he trained to become a carpenter. He dreams of opening a store and exporting his hand crafted furniture to the United States.

OSO (The Bear) – Oso, 50's, is married and two children. He uses the money he earns in the United States to buy farmland in Michoacan.

TIGRE (The Tiger) – Tigre, 22, travels annually to the United States to pick tomatoes. He returns each Christmas with money and gifts for his family. He dreams of one day moving with his wife to the U.S. to work during the day and attend college at night.

VIEJO (Old Man) – Viejo, 26, has a wife and two boys. He is married to Guapo's sister. He has always put off this journey due to an injured leg, but he and Guapo have made a pact to go the distance together. He also hopes to find work as a carpenter.

MOJADOS THROUGH THE NIGHT

Written, Produced and Directed by
TOMMY DAVIS

With
GUAPO
OSO
TIGRE
VIEJO

&

MARIO AGUNDEZ
JAMES CHISM
DAVE EVANS
GEORGE MANZANGO
RYAN MASSEY
GEORGE MORIN

Executive Producer
Nicole Boxer

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SIN PANACHE

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S. WILSON
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PEDRO ZEPEDA

DAVIS FAMILY

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BORSTAR
CASA DEL MIGRANTE
HUMANE BORDERS
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THE PEOPLE OF PUREPERO, MICHOACAN
THE PEOPLE OF AGUA PRIETA, SONORA
THE PEOPLE OF CASABLANCA, ZACATECAS

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