

RUBY CITY

For Immediate Release



Ruby City Brings Sundance Award-Winning Documentary *TheyDream* to San Antonio for Free Public Screening

Sundance NEXT Special Jury Award Winner Comes to San Antonio for One Night Only with Writer/Director William D. Caballero in Conversation at Ruby City

WHAT: Public screening of *TheyDream*, w/ filmmaker William D. Caballero

WHERE: Chris Park (111 Camp St.) at Ruby City

WHEN: Friday, July 17, 2026 | 8-10PM

ADMISSION: FREE and open to all

SAN ANTONIO, TX, (June 18, 2026) -- Ruby City, San Antonio's contemporary art center dedicated to bold, creative expression, invites San Antonio audiences to experience one of the years' most acclaimed independent films during a special free screening of *TheyDream*, winner of the **NEXT Special Jury Award for Creative Expression at the 2026 Sundance Film Festival**.

This one-night-only event takes place Friday, July 17, from 8-10PM at Chris Park (111 Camp st.) at Ruby City. The evening will open with a pre-screening conversation with the film's writer and director, William D. Caballero offering audiences a rare opportunity to hear directly from the artist behind one of Sundance's most celebrated documentaries. Additional special guests may also be in attendance.

Admission and parking are free. Space is limited and registration is encouraged. Guests are encouraged to bring blankets or low lawn chairs, and seating is first-come first-served, with early arrival recommended. Complimentary popcorn and paletas will be served while quantities last.

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ABOUT THE FILM

Blending documentary filmmaking with animation and decades of personal family archives, *TheyDream* chronicles Caballero's relationship with his Puerto Rican family and his mother, Milly, as they navigate grief, memory, and healing through the act of artistic creation. As one film critic of *Script Magazine* shared:

“There are some documentaries that feel like informative essays and then there are documentaries that feel like someone handing you their heart and trusting you not to drop it. *TheyDream* belongs to the second category.”

— **Rahul Menon**

Written by William D. Caballero, Erin Ploss Campoamor, and Elaine Del Valle, the film chronicles over twenty years of Caballero's intimate relationship with his Puerto Rican family and ultimately, his mother Milly's journey through devastating loss.

Working with miniatures, motion capture technology and layered animation, Caballero transforms old home movies, and recorded conversations into a living memory palace, a visual and emotional form of resurrection. The animated sequences, ranging from whimsical to haunting, carry the full weight of adult grief in its most unguarded form. The result is an intimate and formally inventive film that has been praised for expanding the possibilities of documentary storytelling.

What makes *TheyDream* singular is its radical transparency. The film does not hide its craft but instead makes the act of creation visible, inviting audiences into the emotional process of rebuilding memory. “Contemporary art has the power to connect us through deeply personal stories that resonate across cultures and generations, which we are witness to in *TheyDream* and we are thrilled to bring this remarkable film and its filmmaker to San Antonio.” said Patricia Morales, Head of Public Engagement & Communications at Ruby City.

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AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

TheyDream made its world premiere at the **2026 Sundance Film Festival**, where it received the **NEXT Special Jury Award for Creative Expression**, one of the festival's most prestigious honors given to a film of singular vision that expands what cinema can be and do. Most recently, the film has also been recognized by earning the **Special Jury Mention at the Atlanta Film Festival** (May 2026), winning the **Audience Award at the Charlotte Latino Film Festival** (April 2026) and winning the **Documentary Achievement Award at the Miami Film Festival** (April 2026).

The multitude of recent recognitions for the film and its cultural conversation around documentary storytelling, identity, family and grief and its upcoming arrival in San Antonio represents a meaningful moment for local audiences to witness that conversation firsthand.

WHY RUBY CITY & WHY SAN ANTONIO

Ruby City, born from the dream of artist and philanthropist, Linda Pace, exists to make transformative, contemporary, artistic experiences accessible to everyone in San Antonio, reflecting the city's rich, layered, and deeply community-rooted culture.

TheyDream reflects the institution's commitment to showcasing artists who challenge conventions while inviting audiences into meaningful conversations about identity, family, memory and belonging. In a city as intergenerationally rich and culturally complex as San

Antonio, where family, heritage, memory and community are not abstract ideals but daily lived realities, *TheyDream* arrives not as a piece of outside entertainment, but as a reflection of something already present here. The film speaks directly to the experience of San Antonio families: the weight of caring for one another across generations, the struggle to hold onto those we have lost, and the power of storytelling as both survival and celebration.

By bringing *TheyDream* to San Antonio, Ruby City affirms its role as a gathering place where art meets everyday life and where the boundary between the gallery and kitchen table, the art center and the living room dissolves entirely.

"*TheyDream* is the kind of film that reminds us that art is not separate from life, it is how we explore, express and celebrate it. Caballero has made a film that every family who has ever lost someone, or who has ever wished they could bring back a voice they love, will feel in their bones. San Antonio is the perfect community to share this film, and we are honored to be the space that brings it home."

— Elyse A. Gonzales, Director, Ruby City

For more information about this event please contact: Head of Public Engagement & Communications, Patricia Morales at pmorales@rubycity.org or visit www.rubycity.org.

RUBY CITY IS ALWAYS FREE

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ABOUT THE FILMMAKER



William D. Caballero is an award-winning filmmaker and multidisciplinary visual storyteller known for crafting bold, genre-bending work that fuses live action, animation, and meticulously designed miniature worlds into emotionally resonant cinematic experiences. His visually inventive storytelling blends high-concept world-building with grounded human themes, often exploring identity, memory, technology, and Latino cultural identity through imaginative, formally innovative narratives. His feature documentary *TheyDream* won the Special Jury Award for Creative Expression at the 2026 Sundance Film Festival, following the Sundance premieres of his acclaimed shorts *Victor and Isolina* and *Chilly & Milly*. He is also the creator of *Gran'pa Knows Best* for HBO. A recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship and Creative Capital Award, Caballero has built a reputation for developing visually

singular projects that merge auteur sensibility with commercial imagination. His work occupies the space between art-house innovation and mainstream accessibility, pairing handcrafted spectacle with emotionally rich storytelling designed to surprise, entertain, and linger.

ABOUT RUBY CITY

[Ruby City](#) is a contemporary art center in San Antonio, TX, dedicated to providing a space for the city's thriving creative community to experience works by both local and internationally acclaimed artists. Envisioned in 2007 by the late collector, philanthropist and artist [Linda Pace](#), Ruby City presents works from the Linda Pace Foundation Collection of more than 1400 paintings, sculptures, installations and video works. The building which opened in 2019 is designed by [Adjaye Associates](#) and is part of a campus, which also includes a sculpture garden [Chris Park](#), a one-acre public green space named in memory of Pace's son, and [Studio](#), an auxiliary exhibition space which presents curated shows and [programming](#) throughout the year.

Ruby City is open Thursday through Sunday, 10am to 6pm. Admission is always free; reservations are recommended. More Information available at www.rubycity.org.

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