

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DOCUMENTARY ABOUT LGBTQ YOUTH HISTORY IN THE SOUTHWEST

(SAN FRANCISCO, CA June 2, 2021) -- The Whistle, a feature-length documentary directed by **StormMiguel Florez**, **has been released Vimeo VOD just in time for Pride Month**. The film follows Florez, a 45-year old Latinx trans man, as he returns to his birthplace, Albuquerque, New Mexico searching for the origin of a secret whistle he learned when he identified as a teenage lesbian in the 80s. The whistle was a rite of passage passed down to Florez and other young lesbians as a way to safely identify themselves to each other.

The Whistle features interviews with 13 women who were out in high school in the 1970s and 80s, as they piece together the ways they found an unlikely number of lesbian peers and built community. The film is set against the stark beauty of the New Mexico desert landscape.

In the film, participant Rebecca Champion talks about how she used the whistle as a less visible 'lipstick lesbian': "Using the whistle was a little indication to whoever I was whistling to that I'm a lesbian too."

And director StormMiguel Florez asks: "What would it have been like if I would have been born into a world where I could be exactly who I am, and be celebrated for that?"

During its festival run (Fall 2019 – Spring 2021), the Whistle screened at over 25 film festivals worldwide including the San Francisco Transgender Film Festival, Inside Out Toronto, Wicked Queer Boston, and MICGénero – Mexico City. The film won awards for Best Of Fest Feature Documentary at the South Texas Underground Film Festival (2020), and Best Documentary and Best of Fest at the Gilbert Baker Film Festival (2019).

Florez's work also includes the bio-documentary, MAJOR! (co-producer/editor) (dir. Annalise Ophelian) about trans elder and civil rights pioneer Miss Major Griffin-Gracy, as well as the upcoming feature film Vulveeta (supporting actor/editor/associate producer) (dir. Maria Breaux) about notorious 90s riot grrrl icon, Grrilda Beausoleil and the recent reunion of her San Francisco punk band, Vulveeta.

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Access: Closed Captioned (en), Spanish subtitles available, Audio Description for Blind/low vision viewers available.

EPK: https://www.stormflorez.com/uploads/1/1/6/8/116836/the_whistle_-_epk.pdf

Press Page: <https://www.stormflorez.com/press> For interviews with the filmmaker, please contact StormMiguel Florez at storm@stormflorez.com.

Official website: www.dykewhistle.com

Twitter: [@TheWhistleFilm](https://twitter.com/TheWhistleFilm) Facebook: facebook.com/thedykewhistle Instagram: [@TheWhistleFilm](https://instagram.com/TheWhistleFilm)