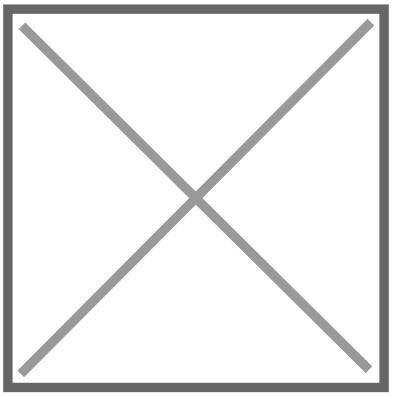


Inside â??Jaripeoâ?•: A Sundance Red Carpet Q&A with Producer Sarah Strunin

Description

default watermark

This Q&A was conducted with *Jaripeo*, who took the red carpet at the Yarrow Theatre in Park City on January 25, 2026, ahead of the filmâ??s Sundance Film Festival premiere.

Edited for clarity and length; repetitions and filler have been removed and indicated with ellipses.

A group of four individuals posing together on the red carpet at the Sundance Film Festival, with a ba
Sarah Strunin (Producer), NoÃ© Margarito Zaragoza (Subject), EfraÃn Mojica, (Co-Director/Subject), Rebecca Zweig (Co-Director). Photo Credit: Saria Harris.

Q: What drew you to a story that complicates masculinity, lineage, and queer longing?

Sarah:
For me, the jaripeo was this incredible microcosm of so much of that. I felt like there was such a rich story here to be told. But it really was EfraÃn. When we were like, *â??Do you want to make a documentary? Youâ??re the only person who can make this documentary about your home.â?•*

When EfraÃn met Becca and me, they said, *â??The only way I want to tell this story is if it is told through the lens of the queer community and queer stories that I think donâ??t get enough attention.â?•*

Early on, we werenâ??t sure that was going to be 100% of what the film was about, and it became clear that it was what the film needed to be about.

I think itâ??s also a theme that crosses borders. We have the same type of machismo and macho rodeos that happen here. Whatâ??s beautiful about this film is that thereâ??s a lot of nuance in it. Weâ??re trying to show a spectrum of what it means to be queer and what it means to be macho, and that queer identity is not just one thing.

Weâ??re trying to break down peopleâ??s preconceived notions that there are no gay people who go to these rodeos, when actually, thereâ??s a very thriving gay community there.

Three people posing together at a film festival red carpet event, with a backdrop featuring various sp
Rebecca Zweig (Co-Director), NoÃ© Margarito Zaragoza (Subject), and EfraÃn Mojica (Co-Director/Subject). Photo Credit: Saria Harris.

Q: Did you go into it thinking it would be a hybrid documentary, or did that develop over time?

Sarah:
It kind of developed over time. That was partly natural because of the artistic leanings that EfraÃn and Rebecca have, specifically EfraÃn.

Early on, EfraÃn had this idea. Itâ??s a scene in the film with two men meeting in a cornfield. Itâ??s this shared memory that a lot of queer men have because itâ??s a hidden experience.

I remember sitting at the table when we were prepping for the first shoot, and everyone was describing it and saying, *that sounds really awesome, letâ??s just do it, letâ??s try it.*

default watermark

When we were making the sizzle, it was clear that this was a central part of the film and what made it stand out. So we leaned into having more of those scenes throughout the film that could evoke this shared memory space.

Three individuals posing together on the red carpet at a film festival, with a backdrop featuring festiva
Rebecca Zweig (Co-Director), NoÃ© Margarito Zaragoza (Subject), and EfraÃn Mojica (Co-Director/Subject). Photo Credit: Saria Harris.

Q: Was that also an ethical decisionâ??especially around protection and trust?

Sarah:
That played into it for sure. Thatâ??s not an experience most people are going to let you into. Building trust with our characters was a process that took a lot of time.

It wasnâ??t the kind of thing where people were just going to openly let us in. That experience is not something anyone is going to fully let you into in a documentary.

It allowed for a creative space to perform that experience without filming that directly.

A group of people posing together on a red carpet at the Sundance Film Festival, surrounded by eve
Cast and Creative Team of Jaripeo. Photo Credit: Saria Harris.

Q: You mentioned earlier that the funding took years. How long was the filming process?

Sarah:
It was four years. Some people do it for a lot longer.

Because it was a hybrid documentary, we filmed a lot less than a lot of documentaries. Iâ??ve worked on documentaries with hundreds of hours of footage, and this was not that. The directors really knew how they wanted to tell the story and what the scenes would be. They wanted this to be portraits, a visual poem.

We filmed three rodeo seasons. Initially, it was supposed to be from one season to the next, following people in a linear way. But it took longer to build trust, and the structure evolved. It didnâ??t need to have a linear arc. This was the backdrop.

The first two years we had zero funding. The second two years we started getting funding. We couldnâ??t have finished it in four years without that funding. Thatâ??s independent film.

For more information about *Jaripeo*, including screenings and updates, visit the Sundance Film Festival website.

Jaripeo
Category

default watermark

1. Events
2. BIPOC Voices
3. LGBTQ+

Tags

1. EfraÃn Mojica
2. film interview
3. hybrid documentary
4. independent film
5. Jaripeo
6. LGBTQ+ cinema
7. machismo
8. masculinity studies
9. Mexican culture
10. queer documentary
11. queer filmmakers
12. queer masculinity
13. queer storytelling
14. Rebecca Zweig
15. red carpet Q&A
16. rodeo culture
17. Sarah Strunin
18. Sundance Film Festival 2026
19. Sundance NEXT
20. Sundance Red Carpet

Date
2026/10/31
Date Created
2026/01/28

Author
keola06

default watermark