**CONTACTS**

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**\* FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE \***

**Groundbreaking Film Crews-up with Diverse Cast & Crew**

***“LOLA”*** *exposes how overweight people are treated by*

*both the medical industry and society*

(MAY 2020) LOS ANGELES, CA – Together with Museworks, Ana Lydia Productions announces its next film: LOLA. Aiming for a Summer 2020 shoot, LOLA is the poster child for a new wave of character-driven cause-focused films. Featuring a stellar cast and diverse crew, LOLA is a story about an issue not often seen in diversity discussions – sizeism.

By tackling an often taboo subject of sizeism, award-winning Writer, Director and Producer Ana Lydia Monaco aims to bust open the doors on bias against people of size in health care. She developed LOLA after her own health scares that led to two life-threatening medical surgeries.

“Being overweight is usually seen as the root to all medical ills,” stated Ana Lydia. “My surgeries could have been prevented if the doctors had paid attention to my concerns instead of blaming my weight for the problems I was having… which were ultimately the reason I was gaining weight.”

In her mission to tackle diversity in all aspect of filmmaking, Ana Lydia has also made it her mission to seek out a team representative of the world. To date, the crew, is inclusive of LatinX, Black, Asian and Queer creatives, along with a cast that is just as diverse.

Both cast and crew have signed-on to work on LOLA “to not only work on something creative and life-changing,” stated award-winning Cinematographer, Ali Presley Paras, “but also to band together and show the LatinX presence in Hollywood.”

Shooting in various locations in Ana Lydia’s San Fernando Valley hometown, Executive Producer Maria Sundeen adds, “There are so few opportunities to work on films with a social message rooted in reality. LOLA is exactly that film.”

LOLA is crowdfunding $10K for production funds, with shoot dates planned for late July 2020 and a Fall 2020 release. More information can be found here: <https://www.facebook.com/donate/2526182124289216/?fundraiser_source=external_url>. #lolasjourney

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**About the Director**

Ana Lydia Monaco is a San Fernando Valley born Mexican American award-winning Writer/Director. She recently sold broadcast rights and attained a distribution deal for her narrative short MEETING BROWN and documentary short, CONVERSATIONS IN COLOR...ISMS. Ana Lydia has made her mark in the feature film industry, working most recently as Script Coordinator on Disney's MULAN. She's now working in Feature Film Creative Development and Distribution and Sales at MSR Media International.

Ana Lydia is currently developing various personal projects, including the highly anticipated film LOLA, TRAFFIC SCHOOL, WHATEVER IT TAKES, and THE ACADEMY. She is also working with Neile Adams McQueen (Steve McQueen's first spouse) as story editor for Neile's biography. Having resided and educated in both Guadalajara, Mexico, and California, Ana Lydia holds several degrees. Armed with a Marketing Degree from the Fashion Institute of Design & Merchandising (FIDM), she was catapulted into a PR/Marketing career, where she produced, wrote, and directed over 100 pieces of branded content, PSA's and Commercials for Fortune 500 companies. A second Film Studies and Design Matters minor degree from Art Center College of Design, where she graduated with honors and various industry recognitions, kicked-off her filmmaking journey. Her scripts have placed in the top 25 at the WIF/Go 90 episodic lab, Finalist at the Oaxaca Film Fest, andearned her 1st place in the Short Film Writing Awards, to name a few. Married and a furbaby mom, Ana Lydia is bilingual, bicultural, and immersed in the Los Angeles art community. <https://www.imdb.com/name/nm3561020/>

**About the Producer**

Born in Long Beach, California, Maria Collette Sundeen is writer, director and producer with experience in documentary, television, short, and corporate productions. She has been a producer for programs airing on UCTV, the Sci-Fi Channel, CNN, and USA Network, as part of the founding production team for the launch of CNET-TV. She has worked with a variety of independent production companies - including Frame of Mind Films, Habitat Media, and Katahdin Productions – in development, outreach and production for award-winning documentary films. She spent three years as a board director for KRCB, a Northern California-based PBS station, and nearly a decade producing videos around the country for Farm Credit, showcasing agribusiness from forestry to cattle, dairy, fruit orchards, and vineyards. Maria has a BA degree in Journalism from Humboldt State University, and MA degrees in International Policy & French Studies from the Monterey Institute of International Studies, where she focused on the arts as political and social statements. Her scripts have won or placed in a spectrum of contests, and she is currently plotting a TV series as well as a 3-part epic novel of historical fiction. Maria is Mexican-American, as well as French, German, Spanish, and Native American (Yaqui).

<https://www.imdb.com/name/nm3773339/>

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