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The New Mexico Film Office Announces a New Documentary to Begin Filming in New Mexico

SANTA FE, N.M. –The New Mexico Film Office announces the documentary, *The Unseen Pandemic* (working title), produced by the non-profit organization La Liga is now filming in New Mexico through August 2021.

“As we all know COVID-19 disrupted and impacted lives across the globe. We are grateful for this female team of New Mexico filmmakers who are setting out to tell the stories of the people in communities across the state who experienced an unprecedented year of challenges and resilience in the documentary *The Unseen Pandemic*,” said Amber Dodson, Director, New Mexico Film Office.

The Unseen Pandemic is a documentary about underserved and underrepresented communities throughout New Mexico and across the country who have struggled significantly in the wake of the pandemic. It will address challenges of accessibility, stigma, and mental health inequity and is also a call to healing and beacon of hope. Although the state and the nation have faced seemingly insurmountable obstacles, this documentary will highlight concrete examples of communities coming together, standing up for their rights and needs, getting access to help, and embarking upon personal and multi-generational healing.

The Unseen Pandemic team includes Leandra Romero, director, and producer, Jilann Spitzmiller, director, writer, and producer, Alessandra Dobrin Khalsa, producer, and Cyndi Conn, producer. The production is employing 4 New Mexico crew members.

“The core of this all-female New Mexico-based film crew first came together in December 2020 to create *Tonic for the Times*, a virtual benefit concert to thank New Mexico’s frontline workers who dedicated their time tirelessly during the pandemic, also raising funds for the communities hit especially hard,” said *The Unseen Pandemic* Director Leandra Romero. “We are thrilled to reunite to tell the story of resilience and strength of the communities who have had to overcome so many obstacles even before the COVID-19 pandemic hit.”

For more information on the production, contact:

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All film and television productions in New Mexico are required to adhere to the state's operative emergency public health order, associated public health restrictions and COVID Safe Practices.

The New Mexico Film Office has released Back2One, a catchall set of principles, general recommendations, and resources for film and television productions operating during COVID-19. Back2One recommendations and other COVID Safe Practices can be found at **nmfilm.com**

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