



# SYNCHRONIZED

Directed & Produced by Corinne Manabat Cueva

2020, 6 minutes, United States, English

Original Shooting Format, Aspect Ratio, and Film Sound: iPhone, 16:9

Screening Formats Available: in 5.1 Sound, Binaural, and Stereo Sound options

Contact: Corinne Manabat Cueva

Trailer: <https://vimeo.com/498400767>

Film's Website: [corinnemakesmedia.com](http://corinnemakesmedia.com)

Email: [corinne.manabat@gmail.com](mailto:corinne.manabat@gmail.com)

Telephone: 917-882-4673

Available for public screenings

# SYNCHRONIZED

## SYNOPSSES

### **One-sentence synopsis:**

Inspired by Godfrey Reggio's 1982 film, *Koyaanisqatsi*, this film was produced during the COVID-19 pandemic and features voices from BIPOC LGBTQ+ Oakland residents along with beautiful takes of Oakland's changing urban landscape.

### **One-paragraph synopsis:**

Inspired by Godfrey Reggio's 1982 film, *Koyaanisqatsi*, *SYNCHRONIZED* is an experimental documentary short that embraces 5 queer women of color as they collectively reflect about their experiences living and thriving in Oakland. This will uncover their perspectives of what it means living in the Town, a city that's ever-changing – from memories, dreams, concepts of home, and resiliency.

Like a mixtape, *SYNCHRONIZED* amalgamates their voices, natural landscape sounds, and unconventional Oakland imagery to encapsulate a unique representation that acknowledges how the personal and environment coexist together. *SYNCHRONIZED* is Corinne Manabat Cueva's latest experimental documentary short completed in 2020 during the COVID pandemic.

### **Long synopsis:**

*SYNCHRONIZED* is an experimental documentary short that embraces 5 women of color as they collectively reflect about their experiences living and thriving in Oakland. This will uncover their perspectives of what it means living in the Town, a city that's ever-changing – from memories, dreams, home, and resiliency.

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## **DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT**

*SYNCHRONIZED* is an experimental documentary short that came into fruition as part of being in the Re-Take Oakland program at Re-Present Media, an organization that strives to humanize media representations of underrepresented communities. For this film, my process was important and intentional to creatively challenge myself to produce a visually innovative piece and to highlight my unique aesthetic into the ether of the documentary world. This piece explores the conceptual idea of how people's lived experiences are interconnected with what's

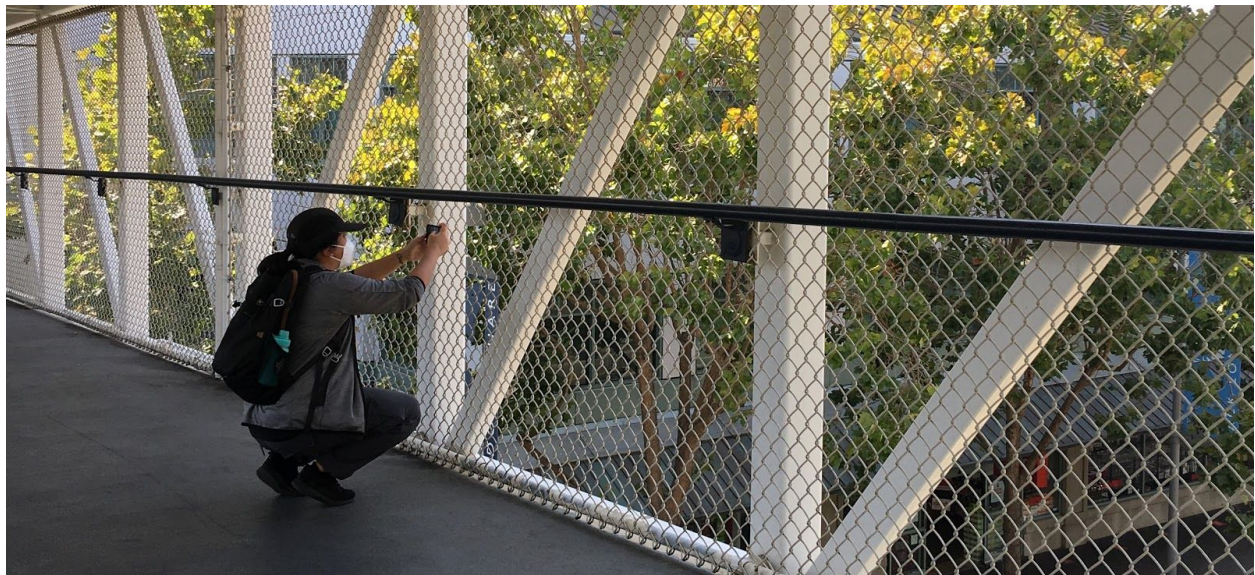
around them. My approaches were to film only using an iPhone 11 Pro and to create an experimental film that highlights women of color voices without talking heads and verite footage, in hopes to dismantle the idea that storytelling can only be expressed and absorbed in a particular way. Completing this film during the pandemic has been a huge challenge, but I have embraced these struggles to celebrate the women of color that I've had the honor to connect with in this film.

## **BIOGRAPHY OF DIRECTOR AND PRODUCER**

Corinne Manabat Cueva is a Filipina American independent filmmaker dedicated to using media as a vehicle for social change and empowerment for those on the periphery of mainstream media. Corinne completed *Synchronized* as part of the Re-Take Oakland Fellowship, a two-year public education and filmmaker mentoring program with Re-present Media. Her previous works include *Why We Rise*, winner of the CAAMFest 2014 Loni Ding Award for Social Issue Documentary and featured on the PBS Online Film Festival, and *Excuse My Gangsta Ways*.

Corinne has more than a decade of experience as a media educator mentoring aspiring filmmakers at Reel Stories, Tribeca Film Institute, Third World Newsreel, Maysles Documentary Center, Global Action Project and The City College of New York. She is co-founder of C&C Buhay with animator Cesar Cueva and has contributed to two books: *Empire of Funk: Hip Hop and Representation in Filipina/O America* (2013) and *Filipinos in New York City* (2015). She received her B.A. in Communication Media and Media Management from SUNY New Paltz and her graduate certificate in Documentary Studies from The New School.

## **STILLS & CAPTIONS**



Director, Corinne Manabat Cueva, filming safely during the pandemic in 2020 for her film, *SYNCHRONIZED*.





A film still of Lake Merritt from SYNCHRONIZED, directed by Corinne Manabat Cueva.



A film still of an Oakland apartment building from SYNCHRONIZED, an experimental documentary short directed by Corinne Manabat Cueva.



A film still of water rippling from Corinne Manabat Cueva's latest experimental documentary short, SYNCHRONIZED.

## PRODUCTION CREDITS

Director/Producer/Cinematographer/Editor.....	Corinne Manabat Cueva
Associate Producer.....	Lucy Saephan
Participants.....	Carmen Wong
	Hénia Belalia
	Lucy Saephan
	Maria Clara Merçon
	Marina Amaral-Enciso
Music Composer.....	Roger Habon
Visual Effects.....	Yasmin Mistry
Sound Design & Mix.....	Shaun Farley
Color Correction.....	Jocelyn Tabancay Duffy
Credits.....	Cesar Cueva
Special Thanks.....	Re-Present Media
	Jennifer Crystal Chien
	Brian Redondo
	Lauren Scully
	Chihiro Wimbush
	Kenneth Eng