

Directors Statement

Born and raised in New York City, Anne Fernandez is a Dominican filmmaker and multimedia artist. At the heart of her work lie three enduring truths:

1. Anne Fernandez is a storyteller— above all else and across every medium.
2. Storytelling is a form of healing for both artist and viewer.
3. The more personal the story, the more deeply it resonates.

Anne started her film education at the High School of Art and Design in NYC and later received her Bachelors of Fine Arts in Film with a Minor in Spanish from Syracuse University. Her work has screened at various venues across the nation, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Museum of Modern Art, WMHT from PBS, the Houston Latino Film Festival, the Bushwick Film Festival, etc.

She is an alumna of the Made in New York Post-Production Training Program, where she mastered industry-standard post-production software like AVID, Adobe Premiere Pro/Photoshop/After Effects, DaVinci Resolve, and more.

She has edited content and worked with companies like Amazon, Tribeca Film Institute, Astoria Film Festival, and the New York Latino Film Festival, just to name a few.

Her latest film, Sion Papi, won “Best Animation” at the 21 Islands International Film Fest, “Best Documentary” at the Bowery Film Festival, and “Best Youth Doc” at the Astoria Film Festival. As a young up-and-coming artist, Anne aspires to one day write her own TV show to showcase authentic storytelling about the Dominican community.

STOP MOTION ANIMATION & ART EXHIBITION

SION PAPI Anne Fernandez



VISITING HOURS:

MONDAY-TUESDAY.....	CLOSED
WEDNESDAY-FRIDAY.....	12PM-4PM
SATURDAY.....	10AM-4PM
SUNDAY.....	CLOSED

MAY 9TH 2025 - JUNE 21, 2025
DYCKMAN FARMHOUSE MUSEUM

NYC Cultural Affairs



New York City Council

Making the Film

For my senior thesis film, Sion Papi, I chose to tell a nonfiction story through animation about my life and the passing of my dad. As a mixed media film, I'm using real footage shot in the Dominican Republic, old childhood photos, recent family photos, textured materials, construction paper, and at times green screening to combine two mediums.

This is only the second animated short film I've made, but the first stop-motion paper cut-out animation style film I've done. By doing this project, I have learned so many animation techniques and tricks from professors and friends, and I believe I'm getting better after every mistake that is made.

The story is told through a voice-over narrated by me, constantly changing between English and Spanish throughout. Due to it being told in two languages, it was important for me to include English and Spanish subtitles throughout so neither community felt left out. Due to my parents not speaking English, I always had to verbally translate my films for them while they watched the film. I always felt like the language barrier would impact their initial experience with the film and leave them feeling left out of the full experience.

In making this film, I made a promise to myself that from this film onwards to always include Spanish subtitles so that the community that I make stories for can also enjoy the work, as well as include English subtitles to cater to those hard of hearing and the Deaf community, so they are not excluded either.

Synopsis/Back Story

My parents immigrated from the Dominican Republic to New York and always told me stories of their younger days in D.R. However, after I turned five, I never got the chance to go back to visit D.R.

After my dad passed, my family and I decided to take my dad's ashes to the Dominican Republic to be buried next to his parents' grave, thus prompting me to visit my homeland after 16 years. Once I arrived and saw the beautiful country where my parents are from, I began to ask myself who my dad was while living in the Dominican Republic, and if he was happier there. My whole life, my dad never went back to D.R, so I only knew the version of him after he immigrated to the United States. However, I wondered these questions much too late since I now can not ask my dad these questions. I now must rely on family and friends who knew him to be able to tell me what he was like while growing up in D.R.

In my film, Sion Papi, I dig deep into my own life and tell a deeply personal story dealing with the passing of my dad, and the journey to find out who my dad was before I came into the picture. This story is very dear to my heart as it allows me to ask myself more questions and perhaps come to a realization.

This story is imperative to tell because of its freshness, since it is something that I recently experienced and am still processing. This film serves as a way for me to come to terms with my dad's death and find some healing. Sion Papi also serves as a vehicle for self-reflection for viewers to reflect on their journey with grief.