

A man with dark skin and short black hair is leaning against a white wall with large, light brown geometric patterns. He is wearing a bright neon yellow long-sleeved polo shirt with a black collar and black and white striped panels on the sides. He is also wearing blue denim jeans with significant rips at the knees and thighs, and dark blue sneakers with white soles. He is looking down at his hands. To his right, a black backpack is on the floor. The floor is made of large, light brown square tiles.

**MONTSERRAT**



PRESIDENTIAL PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS  
WILSON BAZURTO IN

# MONTSERRAT

A SHORT FILM BY JAMES CUNNINGHAM

PRESIDENTIAL PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS **MONTSERRAT** STARRING WILSON BAZURTO A SHORT FILM BY JAMES CUNNINGHAM  
MUSIC BY CHRISTOPHER GALOVAN PRODUCED BY VANESSA ABBOTT AND SLADE PHILLIPS EXECUTIVE PRODUCER JAMES CUNNINGHAM  
WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY JAMES CUNNINGHAM

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## MONTSERRAT

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Wilson Bazarro in *Montserrat* © Presidential Productions



## **TAGLINE**

Every journey leaves a mark.

## **LOGLINE**

A lonely immigrant tradesman living in Australia navigates isolation, memory, and identity in a quiet portrait of a man searching for belonging in a country that is not yet home.

## **SYNOPSIS**

*Montserrat* follows the quiet, introspective routines of Montserrat, an Ecuadorian immigrant working as a tradesman on the outskirts of an Australian coastal town. Days blend into one another as he moves between job sites, long walks and the solitude of a small rented room — his life defined by physical labour and emotional distance.

As the film unfolds, fragments of Montserrat's past surface through memories, voiceovers, and silent pauses that expose the emotional world he carries with him; longing for home, the pressure of supporting family abroad, and the unspoken grief of a life uprooted. Montserrat remains a quiet observer, moving through Australia and his life as though passing through a place that has not yet claimed him.

Equal parts character portrait and emotional landscape, *Montserrat* explores migration, masculinity, loneliness and the quiet resilience of those who build lives in the margins.





Wilson Bazaruto in *Montserrat* © Presidential Productions



## DIRECTOR'S NOTE

*Montserrat* began as an attempt to understand the interior world of a man seldom represented on screen; the migrant worker whose life is defined not by dramatic events, but by endurance. We wanted to craft a short film that honoured the quiet strength, frustration and longing carried by those who leave home in search of stability, opportunity or reinvention.

The film rejects spectacle and embraces stillness. Its narrative unfolds through routine, gesture, silence and memory. We see the universal story found inside a man who feels caught between worlds; one he left behind and one he has not yet fully entered.

As an Australian filmmaker working with an Ecuadorian actor, it was important that *Montserrat* remained truthful, dignified and culturally grounded. Wilson Bazaruto brought extraordinary depth to the role ~ resisting melodrama and instead revealing the powerful truths that live in the eyes, the body, and the breath.

## WRITER & DIRECTOR

James Cunningham is an award-winning Australian filmmaker, dramatist and producer. His works, including *Savage Sands* (2024) and *Beneath the Waves* (2018), frequently explore masculinity and the psychological fractures hidden beneath ordinary lives.

His films have earned accolades including 'Best Thriller' and 'Best Director' from the Chicago Cinema Awards for his short film *The Assignment* (2023). Cunningham's work is known for its minimalistic settings, psychological tension, alluring visuals and bold thematic exploration of moral ambiguity.





Wilson Bazarro in *Montserrat* © Presidential Productions



### **WILSON BAZURTO as Monserrat**

Bazurto delivers a deeply grounded performance as Montserrat, drawing upon his own lived experience as an Ecuadorian migrant living in Australia. His portrayal is marked by profound stillness, expressing emotion not through dialogue, but through presence. Wilson understood instinctively that the power of the role lies in physicality, restraint and the courage to let silence speak.

Throughout production, Wilson collaborated closely with the director to develop a character both specific and universal; a man shaped by hard work, cultural displacement, and the weight of responsibility to people far away. His performance captures the many contradictions of migrant identity — strength and vulnerability, hope and disillusionment, pride and loneliness.

Wilson's brave work elevates the film, offering a rare and intimate portrait of masculinity defined not by bravado, but by endurance, humility, physical vulnerability and emotional honesty.





Wilson Bazarro in *Montserrat* © Presidential Productions



## PRODUCTION & FILMING

*Montserrat* is filmed entirely on location in Australia's Gold Coast, using residential and suburban spaces, and natural environments to ground the film in authenticity. The production embraced a minimalist, observational style that allowed the crew to work sensitively and maintain intimacy with the film's performance.

The small, nimble crew operated with a documentary-like approach, giving Bazurto the freedom to inhabit the character naturally without interruption. This flexibility enabled Cunningham to capture unplanned moments of beauty — shifting light, ambient sound — that enrich the film's realism.

Working without elaborate setups allowed cinematography and performance to carry the emotional weight of the story. The result is a film that feels lived-in, human and emotionally honest.

Several sequences were filmed in a fly-on-the-wall style that privileges authenticity over performance. The inclusion of nudity in the film reflects and reinforces the film's commitment to portraying its protagonist without artifice. These moments allow the audience to witness *Montserrat* at his most vulnerable, grounding the film in the quiet confidence of everyday life.





Wilson Bazaruto in *Montserrat* © Presidential Productions



## CINEMATOGRAPHY

Filmed with a restrained visual language, the cinematography of *Montserrat* mirrors the internal landscape of its protagonist.

The camera observes rather than intrudes, favouring static compositions, gentle movements and natural light. Everyday environments become reflective spaces that echo Montserrat's isolation and longing. Muted colours, soft shadows, and warm highlights create an atmosphere suspended between realism and poetry. Wide-shots linger not for drama but for truth; the quiet fatigue in a man's body, the hesitance in his hands, the heaviness in his breath. The camera is almost voyeuristic in its gaze.

The visual style positions the viewer not as a spectator, but as quiet companion in Montserrat's solitary world.

## CAMERA

*Montserrat* is captured using compact, consumer-grade digital camera system, chosen deliberately to enhance the intimate, domestic visual aesthetic of the film. The lens' optical profile creates gentle fall-off and intimate framing. This approach allowed the cinematography to embrace imperfections, soft focus transitions, and organic colour shifts inherent in everyday devices, grounding the journey of Montserrat in a lived-in realism.





Wilson Bazarro in *Montserrat* © Presidential Productions



## **SOUND & SCORE**

The sound design in *Montserrat* functions as an emotional undercurrent. Ambient recordings — distant traffic, domestic waves, footsteps, the hum of household appliances — form a sonic tapestry of the protagonist's daily life.

Instead of a traditional score, the film uses sparse, atmospheric tones to underline moments of introspection.

Silence also plays a deliberate role, giving weight to Montserrat's solitude and the emotional space he occupies. The auditory world becomes a reflection of the internal: quiet, rhythmic, and filled with the faint echoes of a life lived between cultures.

## **WARDROBE**

Wardrobe plays a crucial role in shaping Montserrat's identity, particularly through the use of yellow and orange hi-vis garments commonly worn by Australian tradesmen.

These colours are more than practical — they signify belonging to a specific working-class culture built on masculine camaraderie. For Montserrat, his hi-vis uniform becomes a second skin; a marker of his place within the Australian workforce, even as he remains culturally distant.





Wilson Bazarro in *Montserrat* © Presidential Productions



## **MONTSERRAT (2026)**

Genre — Drama

Running Time — 11:00

Format — Digital, Colour

Aspect Ratio — 16:9

Contains mature themes, psychological distress, implied violence, depictions of self-destructive behaviour and nudity.

Featuring Wilson Bazarro as Montserrat.

Written and directed by James Cunningham.

Produced by Vanessa Abbott and Slade Phillips.

Original Music by Christopher Galovan and Earth Tone.

Produced by Presidential Productions.

Filmed on location — Gold Coast, Australia.

Special thanks to Garth Cecil, Linda Cunningham, Fabio Ignacio Junior, Ron Johanson OAM ACS, Dante Pragier and Dash Wilson.

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A photograph of a white double door with a recessed geometric design. The design consists of a central diamond shape formed by two overlapping rectangles, with four trapezoidal shapes at the corners. The door is set in a light-colored wall. A yellow rectangular box with a thin black border is centered over the door, containing the text "presidential productions." in a black, monospaced font. The floor in the foreground is made of light-colored square tiles.

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