

*Diana Elizabeth Torres*

www.dianaelizabethtorres.com

Rising star Diana brings life and luminosity to the role of Juana in **East Side Sushi** —winner of 12 awards, including Best Screenplay at Napa Valley Film Festival, and a slew of Best Feature Film accolades. With a 100% rating on Rotten Tomatoes, this indie film favorite has been featured in Los Angeles Times' Most Overlooked Films of 2015 and SF Weekly's 10 Best Movies of 2015!

**Read what the critics are saying about Diana's work in *East Side Sushi*:**

*"It's a well-worn narrative path that gets a new lease of life thanks to the performances of Diana Torres and Yutaka Takeuchi. Equal parts social commentary and guilty food porn secret, this against-the-odds tale of determination and courage gobbled up awards like they were salmon futomaki on the festival circuit. There's only one thing you'll be having for dinner once the credits roll."*

- **Remezcla – Dec. 2015**

*"Torres — who could pass for Salma Hayek's younger sister — plays Juana with such quiet determination...when Juana finally confronts her boss ...it's a moment of catharsis that is both powerful and earned — not only for her character, but for an entire population."*

- **Washington Post – Nov. 2015**

*"It's a tale told hundreds of times in movies, in other words, but what makes "Sushi" a low-key delight is the engaging performance of Diana Elizabeth Torres, who plays the heroine...it's the combination of warmth and steely resolve in Torres' performance that wins the viewer's heart."*

- **Seattle Times – Nov. 2015**

*"Actress Torres, who hails from Sinaloa, Mexico, plays Juana with genuine emotion and a sincere determination."*

- **International Examiner – Nov. 2015**

*"Torres resembles a young Salma Hayek, and the talented actress shines in the role as the ambitious chef."*

- **Victoria Advocate – Oct. 2015**

*"Centered around a very appealing performance by newcomer Diana Elizabeth Torres, this low-budget crowd-pleaser (coming off a much-lauled run on the regional fest circuit) should satisfy a few appetites ...the most eloquent moments in Torres' irresistible performance are the smaller, quieter ones— played with the sort of plain-spoken dignity and decency that make you long for her to find her place at the table."*

- **Variety - Sept. 2015**

*"Torres, as the determined Juana, gives a passionate and crowd-pleasing performance."*

- **Next Projection – Sept. 2015**

*"Diana Elizabeth Torres' gives us a stand-out performance as Juana."*

- **TV and Film Review – Sept. 2015**

*"A lot of the credit goes to Torres, who doesn't play the determined Juana in a militant fashion but as a passionate person who — like so many people — just wants an opportunity to use the skills they have. She's believable both as the strong employee facing off with a stubborn boss and as a caring and sensitive mother."*

- **Fresno Bee – Sept. 2015**

*“Torres should also be recognized for her brilliant performance... She has to wear a lot of hats in this movie; like any good person in her position, she balances all the roles well. As the centerpiece of East Side Sushi, Torres holds her end down well, like good chefs on the line do when orders start coming in and pulling them every which way at once.”*

- **DC Filmdom – Sept. 2015**

*“The technical credits are all good and so are the performances, especially that of Diana Elizabeth Torres as Juana.”*

- **ITP World – Sept. 2015**

*“Lucero's film is a genuine charmer. Part of that can be attributed to the character of Juana, played with conviction and compassion by Diana Elizabeth Torres.”*

- **San Jose Mercury News – Sept. 2015**

*“Though the story is straightforward, Torres' fierce performance gives it passion and energy.”*

- **Eye For Film UK – Sept. 2015**

*“It's a conventional story arc, but Torres is game enough”*

- **The Hollywood Reporter – Nov. 2014**

**...And what critics are saying about the film *East Side Sushi*:**

*“A crowd-pleaser about a Latina sushi chef toiling tirelessly to beat the odds doesn't gloss over the stereotyping, expectations and glass ceiling that minorities find themselves up against.”*

- **Los Angeles Times – Dec. 2015**

*“Anthony Lucero's warm, locally sourced comedy about an Oakland native who wants to be a sushi chef deals with issues that certain upper-crust San Franciscans are obsessed with — like what it means to be authentic. In this case, a Latina like Juana (Diane Elizabeth Torres) making sushi doesn't qualify...The picture also functions as a charming, understated romance between Juana and her restaurant's head sushi chef Aka (Yutaka Takeuchi), while relentlessly teasing the viewer's salivary glands.”*

- **SF Weekly – Dec. 2015**

*“East Side Sushi” is far removed from its foodie film counterparts. But perhaps for that reason, the film is relevant as it speaks to a wider audience, anyone who has been told for any reason, “This is not the place for you.”*

- **Northwest Asian Weekly - Nov. 2015**

*“...Even as the film is critical of the limits of tradition, East Side Sushi also expresses an admirable reverence for traditional methods and customs which gives the film a more measured and sophisticated perspective on the issue of tradition than a less nuanced film might...As both a food film and a story about a woman forging her own path against traditional attitudes and expectations, East Side Sushi is hearty and gratifying.”*

- **Berkeleyside – Sept. 2015**

*“This lovely debut film contains all the ingredients of a culture-clash drama, which Lucero handles with a light touch.”*

- **The Village Voice – Sept. 2015**

*“...The time feels improbably right for “East Side Sushi,” a gently winning foodie fable (that) folds its cross-cultural insights into a pleasing underdog narrative as deftly as its heroine presses together rice and nori.”*

- **Variety – Sept. 2015**

*“...The film itself is a triumph. Like a seasoned veteran, Lucero mixes his ingredients well. There is no need for spoiler alerts, as he avoids heavy handed Spielberg Dickensian coincidences that attempt to wrap up all loose ends. Realism trumps both cynicism and unbelievability.”*

- **The Huffington Post – Sept. 2015**

*“Lucero has crafted a beautiful film that has universal themes about family, career and hope. “East Side Sushi” has become the darling of the film festival...a warm and smart story where cultures come together, a story of people with a shared passion and the woman who’s looking to improve her place in life. It’s a universal theme brought to life by first-rate acting and a direction that lets the audience savor every morsel of this offering.”*

- **Fresno Bee – Sept. 2015**

*“Stories like the one “East Side Sushi” tells are the reason why people love indie films...refreshingly non-Hollywood and non-cliché, the characters are personable and realistic, and the writing and direction of Oakland native Anthony Lucero (making his directorial debut) never hits a false note.”*

- **Oakulture – Sept. 2015**

*“This film has heart and soul, and has such positive and inspiring meaning to it.”*

- **TV and Film Review – Sept. 2015**

*“This lovely debut film contains all the ingredients of a culture-clash drama, which Lucero handles with a light touch.”*

- **LA Weekly – Sept. 2015**

*“East Side Sushi” is an engaging film that fits neatly into that category of foodie films and dreams.”*

- **SF Gate – Sept. 2015**

*“At its strongest when depicting day to day life, East Side Sushi is a simple story with a strong human focus and a lot of heart.”*

- **Eye For Film UK – Sept. 4, 2015**