

**THE AL DIAZ**

---

**CHASING  
THE LIGHT**

ANNUAL ILS  
PHOTO & FILM  
**COMPETITION**

**Our Sponsors**

**RED FISH**

— by Chef Adrienne —

**thinkTANK™** photo

*Be Ready "Before The Moment"*

# WELCOME TO THE 2021 AL DIAZ CHASING THE LIGHT ANNUAL ILS PHOTO & FILM COMPETITION

Letter from Al Diaz  
Miami Herald Photojournalist

Dear students,

Way back during my freshman year at ILS in 1972, I walked into a darkened classroom next door to where the ILS Photo Club continues to meet in 805. Inside the room I found a fellow student, Gustavo Pupo-Mayo, shining a photography studio lamp with its polished aluminum reflector at still objects sitting on a tabletop. As Gus moved the light side to side at a triangle, a square, and a sphere, I asked Gus, "what are you doing?" His reply, "I'm taking a photography class by mail. You should join the photography club Al!"

With that, I started my lifelong journey as a photojournalist. I bought my first film camera, joined the photo club and met some of the original club founders Mercy Palomo and her brother Luis. By junior and senior year I was working on the Royal Courier newspaper and Signum yearbook, graduating in 1976.

At ILS I learned to visualize. Football defensive coach, Carmen Grosso taught us to visualize a fumble, anticipate the ball carrier's movements for the tackle, or the big play. He would tell us to visualize the action before they even hike the ball. Our team's quarterback, Bill St Pierre, would say, "Visualizing changes reactions into reflexes and helps to do things quicker and better, like a moving picture in slow motion."

Today, visualizing helps me prepare and be ready before the moment. I'll frame an image, compose and visualize what's going to happen next before it even occurs. I visualize and place myself in a position to capture the light, the emotion, the movement, and composition all colliding in a split second for the decisive moment to tell a compelling story in a single photograph.

This year will be the first annual Al Diaz Chasing the Light at ILS Photography Contest and the Luis Palomo ILS Film Shorts. I hope that it will inspire ILS students to visualize the moment while chasing the light, at ILS, and the South Florida community.

*May the Best Shots Be Yours!*

*Al Diaz*

# **Chasing the Light at ILS begins accepting entries for its first competition on MARCH 31, 2021**

**Submissions must be received by  
APRIL 16, 2021**

Chasing the Light at ILS recognizes the best photography by the ILS students, during the 2020/2021 school year. In the spirit of photojournalism, this year's categories include News, Feature, Sports, Portrait, Picture Story. While adapting to our new reality a pandemic category has been included. Photographers will submit photographs to several categories specific to this year. While the pandemic may be represented in any category, we have focused one category on the issue specifically.

## **PHOTOGRAPHY ENTRY RULES & REGISTRATION**

### **How to enter**

- Your submission may include up to 2 categories, 1 entry per category.
- One picture story, 6 to 12 photographs allowed for a single picture story subject. (A multiple-picture story category entry counts as **one** entry.)
- Because all entries are delivered electronically, only digital entries are accepted. It is fine to digitally scan photographs originally captured on film.

### **Entry specifications**

- File type: .JPG
- Image Size: 3,000 pixels minimum on the longer side.
- Resolution: 300 dpi, minimum.
- Contest entries must have been captured during the 2020-21 school year.
- Single photographs can be entered into only one category
- An Individual photo from a picture story may be entered into any of the single categories.
- All photos require full caption info embedded in the IPTC caption field.
- There should be no watermarks on the images.
- File names / naming convention are as follows  
**LastName\_FirstName\_Grade\_CategoryName.jpg**
- File names / naming convention for Picture Story Category are as follows  
**LastName\_FirstName\_Grade\_CategoryName\_SequenceOrder1-12.jpg**

**ETHICAL STATEMENT:** For this year's photojournalism categories, We do not allow any sort of manipulation to the content of an image. This includes Instagram-type effects or filters on photos taken with phones or other devices. Only basic color correction and cropping are allowed to maintain the integrity and ethical standards of the industry.

Normal burning and dodging is acceptable, so long as not to eliminate or obscure subject matter. It is our responsibility as photojournalists to document and present images in an honest manner. As a result, the judging panel may disqualify any images that do not meet the ethical standards put forth. We also we reserve the right to request RAW files if the image is in question.

## PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST CATEGORIES

Photographers may enter any of the categories listed including the picture story. Please upload properly named files to the corresponding folder on Dropbox.

[Click on link to upload:](#)

<https://www.dropbox.com/request/opuEcQ13z77H4cVkl2o4>

### News

A single picture of an unscheduled event for which no advance planning was possible or a picture of a scheduled or organized event for which advance planning was possible.

### Feature

Usually a found situation with strong human interest; a fresh view of an everyday scene.

### Sports

A single picture showing participation in an athletic event that shows the absolute peak moment of action or a feature picture that is sports related.

### Portrait

A single picture that captures an aspect of the subject's character.

### Pandemic

A single image image that depicts a depth of coverage of Covid19.

### Picture Story

A collection of photos with a single theme that fits the description for any of the above categories. 12 image maximum.

# **THE LUIS PALOMO ILS FILM SHORTS**

**begins accepting entries for its first competition on**

**MARCH 31, 2021**

**Submissions must be received by**

**APRIL 16, 2021**

ILS dedicates this section of the competition in memory of Luis Palomo, a caring alumni who shared a passion for film and photography. Class of 1972 graduate, Luis was also a recipient of that year's Miami Herald's Silver Knight Award.

Luis was a successful director who mentored many young professionals throughout his long career in commercial advertising. A lifelong advocate of the arts, Luis was also a founding member of the City of Miami's Art & Entertainment Council instrumental in Little Havana's revitalization as a cultural arts hub. Luis passed away on January 14th, 2021 from complications caused by Covid-19.

This year's film contest features two distinct categories: narrative and news. Themes for the narrative shorts include: Moment of Nature, Life in a Pandemic and Tell me a Story. Films in this category can be executed either as fiction, documentary or experimental/artistic. The news category should take a journalistic approach focusing on either a sports, feature, news or investigative reporting story.

All entries should be no more than three minutes in length. Both categories will be judged on originality, structure, cinematography, sound design and execution. You may use royalty-free music, photos and illustrations. Credit as specified in your source. Please do not use any copyrighted materials without the written permission of its authors. This includes music, graphics, archival footage and photographs.

# FILM SHORTS ENTRY RULES & REGISTRATION

## How to enter:

- Students may enter as an individual or a group in this category, keep in mind that any prize will be split evenly among the group. No more than four students per film group.
- Three minutes maximum in each category
- If students wish to enter two entries, it must be in different categories as well as one as an individual and one as a group. One group may NOT enter two categories nor two entries in one category, nor one individual may enter two entries in one category. One individual may enter one entry per category, two categories maximum.

## Specifications:

- MP4 or MOV files or  
via link (Vimeo, Youtube) emailed to [elena.capablanca@ilsroyals.com](mailto:elena.capablanca@ilsroyals.com)  
Email Subject: **ProjectName\_Student Name/s\_Grade\_CategoryName**  
Attached the PDF Synopsis to the email
- 1080p minimum resolution
- File names / naming convention are as follows  
**ProjectName\_Student Name/s\_Grade\_CategoryName.MP4 or .MOV**
- Brief Synopsis of film uploaded as a PDF document (Same file name as project)

Judges reserve the right to disqualify a film if it does not present content in keeping with a catholic school environment and teachings.

# FILM SHORTS CATEGORY DESCRIPTIONS

Filmmakers may enter any of the categories listed below. Please upload properly named files to the corresponding folder on Dropbox.

[Click on link to upload:](#)

<https://www.dropbox.com/request/q1njua7beZIFRgdMBt6Y>

## **Narrative/Short Film**

---

*Creativity and originality will be key in this category*

### **Moment of Nature**

What does a moment of nature represent to you? Create a short film that isn't defined by conventional approaches to filmmaking.

### **Life in a Pandemic**

Convey what it has meant to you or your film's subject to live through this once a century event that has changed the way we interact.

### **Tell me a Story**

Classic approach to storytelling showing character development and engaging viewers. Can be fictional or documentary in nature.

## **News Report**

---

*A great news story informs, has good sources and is well told*

### **Sports**

An exciting story that captures the range of emotions sports can provoke.

### **News/Feature**

The assignment desk handed you a news story. Figure out your angle and bring it to life!

### **Investigative**

Dig deeper into the topic and uncover the real story behind a story.

## **PHOTOGRAPHY PRIZES INCLUDE**

*(1st, 2nd and 3rd place prizes)*

## **FILM SHORT PRIZES INCLUDE**

*(1st, 2nd and 3rd place prizes)*

**Thank you to the generosity of our sponsors in supporting our students with your kind contributions!**



**Thank you to Al Diaz for making Chasing the Light become a reality!**

**Thank you to all of our judges for your time in making this competition a success with your wealth of knowledge and support for our students.**



# PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST JUDGES

## GUSTAVO PUPO-MAYO

---

### ILS Class of 1974 and Silver Knight Award recipient



Pupo-Mayo is the founding President and CEO of MGM Networks Latin America LLC. He created and was at the helm for more than a decade of two Spanish and Portuguese language Pan-regional television networks: MGM and Casa Club TV.

Previously, Pupo-Mayo established the news division for Telemundo Group, Inc., a U.S. Spanish language television network. As the company's senior vice president of news and public affairs, he was responsible for developing all phases of news and public affairs programming for the television network and station group.

While at Telemundo, Pupo-Mayo was the founding president of TeleNoticias, a 24-hour Spanish language cable news network, which he developed and launched in 1994. The network, was acquired by CBS in 1996 and renamed CBS TeleNoticias.

Pupo-Mayo also spearheaded the creation of the largest and most successful Spanish-language daily newspaper in the U.S., El Nuevo Herald. He joined The Miami Herald in 1987 to revamp and relaunch the paper's Spanish-language sister publication and served as El Nuevo's first executive editor and general manager. Later, as director of international sales and marketing for the Miami Herald Publishing Company, owned by Knight Ridder, Inc., he was responsible for the expansion of the international edition of The Miami Herald throughout Latin America and the Caribbean.

From 1984 to 1987, Pupo-Mayo was news director of Univision's flagship station, Miami's WLTV, where he led the station from last place to first in news ratings, winning numerous Emmy awards along the way.

From 1977 to 1981, at Miami's WPBT (PBS), Pupo-Mayo was a key member of the team that pioneered business news on television and created "The Nightly Business Report," now seen on more than 400 PBS stations. In 1979 he also broke ground by producing and co anchoring for PBS the first televised criminal trial ever seen in the U.S.

Specialties: Developing and launching international cable and satellite television channels. Development and management of television news divisions.

## SANDY LEVY

---

### Award-winning Miami Advertising Photography



Fully experienced in professional photography since 1968, Levy possesses a rare combination of a keen eye, a high degree of technical proficiency as well as many years of experience working with some of the best art directors, advertising executives and companies in the world.

Graduating with a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Miami in 1968, Levy was trained in photojournalism under the direction of Wilson Hicks, the first photo editor of LIFE Magazine.

Levy also had extensive television, film and newspaper experience prior to founding Visual Impact Photography, including Chief Photographer for the Miami Beach Sun-Reporter Newspaper and a film cameraman for a local TV station.

Levy has won numerous awards over the years, including a number of the prestigious Addy Awards for excellence in advertising. Equipped to fully handle location and studio assignments in digital high resolution (as well as on film from 35mm through 8x10), Sandy has been in the same fully equipped studio location in the Bird Road Art District since 1989.

Levy also now specializes in high-end digital online virtual tours with clients such as Cunard Lines (for the Virtual Tour of the Queen Mary II), Miami-Dade College, the Miami-Dade Resources Recovery Facility, the Florida State College: Florida School of the Arts, and a number of industrial sites, medical, and professional offices.

Having wide experience in 3D still photography, Levy currently holds a United States Patent on a 3D viewing process for large display transparencies.

Active in a number of professional photographic organizations, Levy is a Life member of both the Professional Photographers of America and the American Society of Media Photographers. Levy has served for many years and continues to serve on the Board of Directors of the South Florida Chapter of The American Society of Media Photographers (ASMP). Levy is also Membership Chairman of ASMP.

## AL DIAZ

---

### Miami Herald Photojournalist - ILS Class of 1976



Al Diaz, an award-winning photojournalist for Miami Herald, captures the decisive moment on assignment while covering natural disasters, political campaigns, sports championships, temperamental celebrities, and angry mobs.

Diaz is the recipient of the 2015 Humanitarian Award by the National Press Photographers Association and the Associated Press Media Editors Showcase Photo of the Year for helping, then capturing the dramatic CPR rescue of a baby on a busy Florida highway.

Diaz is also a contributing member of the Miami Herald news team that won the Pulitzer Prize Public Service award for the newspaper's coverage of Hurricane Andrew and twice honored the McClatchy President's Award for Journalism Excellence for team coverage of Puerto Rico: The Forgotten Island in 2018 and for coverage of the aftermath of the devastating earthquake in Haiti in 2010.

Diaz is an alumnus of the ILS Royal Courier and ILS Signum yearbook. Diaz is a graduate of Miami Dade College. He joined the photography staff at the Miami Herald in 1983 upon graduating from the University of Florida with a Bachelor of Science in Journalism degree and a minor in Visual Arts.

Diaz is a Pro Team member for Think Tank Photo and 3 Legged Thing and a lead instructor for Best Buy. Diaz takes pride in always being ready before the moment. He is married to Cindy Seip with two children, Angelika, Bartek, and their dog Amanda Bubbles.

# FILM SHORTS CONTEST JUDGES

## MERCEDES PALOMO

---

### Owner and Producer at Onda Films - ILS Class of 1974



Mercedes Palomo is executive producer and founder of OndaFilms, a film and video production company.

Mercy, as she is affectionally known, began her career in Panama during the 1980's working for the top ad agencies in the country. After the banking crisis shut down Panama's advertising market, she moved back to Miami and began working as a free-lance producer for local and national production companies.

In 1990, she seized upon an opportunity to establish a foothold in Miami's burgeoning production industry and launched Pigeon Productions that rose quickly to become one of the most sought production companies working in the US Hispanic Market. The company also provided production services to international agencies and production companies.

At Pigeon, Mercy managed a roster of award-winning international directors. Additionally, the company created content for television, corporate clients and was one of the leading providers of stock images for Getty Images.

Mercy served as the President of the Florida Chapter of the AICP (Association of Independent Commercial Producers), with the distinction of being the first person of Latinx descent to hold that position.

Mercedes graduated Cum Laude in Communications from the University of Bridgeport, Connecticut. Her interests include fine art, travel, real estate as well as mentoring women in the film industry.

## MARIA BURES

### Producer/Director - ILS Class of 1976

---



Maria Bures is a producer/director with vast experience ranging from commercials to documentaries to digital content. She recently co-produced a feature-length documentary *Letters to Eloisa* on Cuban writer Jose Lezama Lima slated to air on PBS in 2022 and is currently working on a documentary short on Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor.

Maria has produced short films that have been shown at film festivals and art galleries.

Highlights of her thirty-year career include helming two award-winning social engagement initiatives at Univision, *Health Week* and *Education Week* that integrated broadcast and digital content across all of the network's platforms; *Raising Hope: The Equal Voice Story*, a one-hour documentary that follows over a two-year period the Equal Voice for America's Families campaign, a family-led movement to improve the economic well-being of working class families in America that aired on PBS; *Casas*, a thirteen-part television series on Latin American architecture and interior design for Discovery Latin America; interstitials for Discovery Health Latin America; and promotional and educational content for a variety corporate and non-profit clients.

For over twenty years, Maria worked alongside Mercedes and Luis Palomo executive producing over 500 commercial spots. Maria is a graduate of the prestigious San Francisco Art Institute where she majored in filmmaking and photography.

## ELIOTT RODRIGUEZ

---

### Journalist/News Anchor - ILS Class of 1974



Elliott Rodriguez is an Emmy Award winning journalist and respected South Florida news anchor of CBS4 News at 5, 6, 7 and 11 p.m.

He is the recipient of two Emmy Awards and four Edward R. Murrow Awards for excellence in journalism. Elliott has been named Best News Anchor by Miami New Times, and one of South Florida's Sharp Dressed Men by Ocean Drive Magazine.

One of Elliott's greatest honors is a Silver Circle Award from the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences for 25 years of outstanding South Florida broadcasting.

Elliott joined CBS4 in 1999. He previously worked as a reporter and anchor at WTVJ (Miami), WPLG (Miami) and WPVI (Philadelphia). Before his career in television, Elliott worked as a newspaper reporter for The Miami Herald and The Miami News.

Elliott's career has spanned four decades and includes coverage of major news events in the United States, Europe and Latin America. Elliott has traveled to Cuba on numerous assignments, including coverage of Fidel Castro's death in 2016. He has reported from the Vatican on the Pope's health, and from Death Row for the execution of a convicted killer. Other important stories include the invasion of Panama, the Mexico City earthquake, Hurricane Andrew, political conventions and elections in Venezuela and Nicaragua.

In 2014, Elliott served as moderator for the infamous "Fangate" debate between Florida gubernatorial candidates Rick Scott and Charlie Crist. Elliott kept his composure as the candidates disagreed on live television over the use of a portable fan on stage.

A graduate of the University of Miami, Elliott is a member of the Iron Arrow Honor Society.