

MAQUILAPOLIS

[c i t y o f f a c t o r i e s]

Our Production Process: Community Videomaking



Director Vicky Funari teaches a group of promotoras how to use video cameras.

The women in *MAQUILAPOLIS* have been involved in every stage of creating the film, from scripting to shooting to outreach. One key element of the production process was a series of video workshops during which the participating promotoras learned to make videos. Workshop participants created intimate video diaries and portraits of their communities. *MAQUILAPOLIS* merges artmaking with community development to ensure that the film's voice will be truly that of its subjects.

The producers of *MAQUILAPOLIS* invited Mexican factory workers to tell the story of globalization in their own voices, through their own eyes, and with their own cameras. The factory workers who appear in the film tell stories of labor violations, exposure to toxic chemicals at work, urban chaos and environmental devastation. But one thing they all have in common is a sense of agency: they are *promotoras*, workers who sought out training in human rights, women's rights and community activism from Tijuana grassroots organizations.



Promotora Lupita Castañeda videotapes a diary scene near the US/México border.



Promotora Lourdes Luján discusses her video diary with other promotoras and co-producer Darcy McKinnon

A documentary film by Vicky Funari and Sergio De La Torre in collaboration with the women of Grupo Factor X, the Chilpancingo Collective for Environmental Justice and Women's Rights Advocates.

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