

THE SUFFRAGISTS (LAS SUFRAGISTAS)



The Suffragists



A FILM BY ANA CRUZ NAVARRO

78 mins / Color / 2012 / Spanish, English Subtitles / Mexico



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FESTIVALS & AWARDS

- Puebla Film Festival of Indigenous People – Winner of the Audience Award
- Film Festival of the Crystal Screen – Winner for the Best Documentary Research
- Dortmund Film Festival of Women, Dortmund, Germany
- Exhibition of Women in Film, Huesca, Spain
- Morelia International Film Festival, Morelia, México
- Guanajuato International Film Festival, Guanajuato, México
- Acapulco International Film Festival, Acapulco, México
- International Exhibition of Women in Film and Television
- Watching Our Roots Indigenous Festival of Film and Television (FICVI), México – Honorable Mention

SYNOPSIS

The Suffragists (Las Sufragistas) tells the story of Eufrosina Cruz, an indigenous woman from the Zapotec community of Santa María Quiegolani in the state of Oaxaca, Mexico. In 2008, her right to vote and run as Municipal President of her community was denied on the grounds that indigenous customary laws prohibit women from participating in electoral processes. In Mexico, women won the right to full suffrage in 1953. Today, after a long battle, Eufrosina Cruz is a representative in Mexico's federal government, and the first indigenous woman to be a member of the Congress of Oaxaca. **The Suffragists** details her political struggle, as well as Mexican women's long fight for political power, beginning with the Revolutionary period. The film also considers challenges that women in power face, drawing on interviews with Mexican female politicians and Michelle Bachelet, Chile's first female president and the first Executive Director of UN Women.



PROTAGANISTS OF THE FILM

Eufrosina Cruz – (born January 1, 1979) Eufrosina Cruz Mendoza is an indigenous woman and political activist who fought for women’s right to vote and run for public office in Oaxaca’s indigenous municipalities. Raised in a Zapotec community, she left home at twelve to learn Spanish and further her studies in the state capital. She received her undergraduate degree in accounting. After working in professional positions for some years, she returned to her community of Santa María Quiegotani to run for municipal president. The results of the elections were annulled by the male authorities in her municipality on the grounds that under the laws of “usos y costumbres” women do not have the right or run for public office.

Michelle Bachelet – (born September 29, 1951) Chilean politician and physician, Verónica Michelle Bachelet Jeria is the first woman to have served as President of Chile (2006-2010 and 2014-present). She was also the first executive director of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), which was formed in 2010.

Amalia García -- (born October 6, 1951) Amalia Dolores García Medina is the first woman to have served as Governor of Zacatecas (2004-2010). She was the fifth woman to hold the office of governor in Mexican history.

Ivonne Ortega – (born November 27, 1972) Ivonne Aracelly Ortega Pacheco was the first elected governor of the state of Yucatan (2007-2013). Dulce María Sauri held the office as interim Governor of Yucatan from 1991-1994.

Beatriz Paredes Rangel – (born August 18, 1953) A Mexican politician, Beatriz Paredes was the first woman to serve as Governor of Tlaxcala (1987-1992), and the second woman to serve as a state governor in the history of Mexico. She was also the president of the PRI (Institutional Revolutionary Party), one of Mexico’s three major political parties. In 2006, she ran for mayor of Mexico City, but lost to Marcelo Ebrard of the PRD (Party for the Democratic Revolution).

Rosario Robles – (born February 17, 1956) Mexican politician and economist, María del Rosario Robles Berlanga was the first woman to serve as mayor of Mexico’s Federal District, Mexico City (1999-2000). She also served as the Secretary of Social Development (2012-2015) during Enrique Peña Nieto’s administration, and is currently the Secretary of Agrarian, Land and Urban Development. She was a member of the PRD (Party for the Democratic Revolution).

Dulce María Sauri Riancho – (born August 14, 1951) As interim governor from 1991-1993, Sauri Riancho was the first woman to serve as the Governor of Yucatan.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

For several years, I have been interested in women's stories and themes. When I finished my documentary "Women of the Mexican Revolution," I heard Eufrosina Cruz on the radio talking about her life and struggle to be elected the Municipal President of her community, a right that was denied for because she is a women. I was struck by her story; a woman in 2008 was fighting for the same rights that the women of the Mexican Revolution had fought for a hundred years ago. At that moment, I decided I had to meet Eufrosina and tell her story and to confront the issues of women in politics and women's right to vote.

I sought Eufrosina out and managed to speak with her on the telephone. "I want to meet you, give me an appointment." Eufrosina was already a member of the MP in Oaxaca when I went to meet her. I talked with her about my project, and we immediately developed a very good chemistry that allowed us to sign an agreement so that I could raise the funds to make the documentary. When we finally raised the funds, Eufrosina was very happy, and she shared with me that in the next few days, she would become the first indigenous woman to preside over the Congress of Oaxaca. Eufrosina had achieved her first goal.

The people who have seen the documentary are very excited. I believe that I accomplished telling Eufrosina's story and the stories of the many women who went through the long struggle to attain women's right to vote and to gain political power. I would like young people to know that the road to achieve the right to vote and for women to be elected into office was not easy and that as Eufrosina says, "no one will do it for us."

Ana Cruz Navarro

DIRECTOR BIOGRAPHY

Ana Cruz Navarro was born in Mexico City and has a Degree in Communication Sciences from Iberoamericana University. She also studied cinema at the University of Southern Californian (USC) and Universal Studios in Los Angeles. In order to specialize in documentary film direction, Ana Cruz attended the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) in London. Ana Cruz has worked for over 30 years at Mexican public radio, television and cinema national institutions and also as an independent director, producer and scriptwriter. She has won recognition and several screenwriting and producing awards for radio and television cultural series including the **National Award for Journalism**, and the **Silver Microphone Award**. From 2007 to 2012, Ana Cruz was CEO of **Arte y Cultura en Movimiento**, her own audiovisual production company, where she produced several television series and documentary films.

CREDITS

Directed by: Ana Cruz

Script: Ana Cruz

Produced by: Ana Cruz, Laura Imperiale, Nicolás Celis,

Production Companies: Arte y Cultura en Movimiento

Cinematography: Erika Licea, Olivier Velázquez

Editor: Paloma López, Ana Cruz

Sound: Adolfo Hernández, Pablo Tamez, Axel Muñoz, Santiago Esteinou

Music: Leoncio Lara Bon

Cast: Eufrosina Cruz, Michelle Bachelet, Amalia García, Ivonne Ortega, Rosario Robles, Dulce María Sauri, María de las Heras