



MAKING NOISE!

THE STORY OF A SKATEPARK

A FILM BY

CECILIA CORNEJO SOTELO

IN COLLABORATION WITH THE
NORTHFIELD SKATEBOARD COALITION

a tale of
youth fighting
for the right
to belong

MAKING NOISE

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MAKING NOISE chronicles the long struggle of the skateboarders of Northfield, Minnesota, to secure a permanent place for their sport. Shot in close collaboration with the latest generation of skateboarders, the film follows their efforts as they meet with city officials to fundraise, envision, and design a skatepark that seems to fit nowhere. A voiceover narration provided by the skateboarders and based on city records, reveals the inefficiency of a process slowed down by outdated stereotypes about skateboarding and a thinly veiled resistance to the skateboarders as “other.” The film calls into question Northfield’s open-minded and friendly reputation in light of the community’s delay to find a place for its own youths. *Making Noise* bears witness to young people’s resilience and perseverance as it exposes the victories and failures of the civic process in small town America.

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DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT



As a nonfiction filmmaker, I am interested in exploring and expanding methods of collaboration with the people who appear in my films. I engage participants from the early stages of production and provide them with the technical and conceptual instruction that they need in order to fully participate in the making of the piece.

Consequently, in order to produce *Making Noise* I enlisted the help of a core group of skateboarders and trained them to work with sound and film equipment. Those who were not involved directly in the making of the film had multiple opportunities to view the footage at different stages and to offer feedback that helped shape the film's final form and content. Many of the youths served as narrators, and members from the older generation composed and performed original music for the film.

Inspired by the works of documentary filmmakers before me, I take great care on developing production methodologies that place collaboration at the heart of the filmmaking effort. In doing so, I aim to expand on the aesthetic, rhetorical and democratizing potential of the moving image.

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CECILIA CORNEJO SOTELO

DIRECTOR / WRITER / PRODUCER

Cecilia Cornejo Sotelo is a Chilean-born filmmaker, teacher, and film curator currently based in the United States. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Communications Studies from The University of Iowa and a Master of Fine Arts in Film, Video, and New Media from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. With ties to both the American Midwest and the central coast of Chile, Cornejo Sotelo's work explores displacement, marginalization and belonging, and is rooted in the experience of living in-between cultures.

In 2012, Cornejo Sotelo embarked on the "**Living Marginal Project**," a multi-platform work of which *Making Noise* is part. Intended to function as a series of audiovisual meditations on belonging, the project explores the experiences of those who are removed from the geographic, social, and political heart of Northfield.



Cornejo Sotelo's work has shown locally and abroad at venues such as MoMA's Documentary Fortnight, L'Alternativa (Spain), Arsenale (Berlin), InVideo (Italy), Melbourne Latin American Film Festival, Puerto Vallarta International Film Festival (Mexico), Festival Internacional de Documentales de Santiago (Chile), Cine las Américas, National Museum of Women in the Arts, Athens International Film Festival, Tucson Underground Film Festival, Gene Siskel Film Center, Miami International Film Festival, and Minneapolis/St. Paul International Film Festival. She is the recipient of an Established Artist Grant from the Southeastern Minnesota Arts Council (2014), an Artist Initiative Grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board (2016), and a Jerome Foundation Film, Video, and Digital Media Grant (2017), in support of her new film, *Ways of Being Home*, currently in production.

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CREDITS

MAKING NOISE THE STORY OF A SKATEPARK

Written and Directed by Cecilia Cornejo Sotelo
In Collaboration with Northfield Skateboard Coalition

Narrators
(in order of appearance) Kathryn Casulla
Alex Peppel
Clifford Martin
Spencer Fredrickson
Eric Tolson

Additional Writing Aaron Sala

Cinematography Cecilia Cornejo Sotelo
Spencer Fredrickson
Josiah Olson
Heriberto Rosas (drone photography)

Editing Cecilia Cornejo Sotelo

Editing Advisor Hernán Rosselli

Direct Sound Cecilia Cornejo Sotelo
Spencer Frederickson
Gaby Muñoz

Original Soundtrack Charley Markson
Madelyn Markson

Theme Song Aaron Frederick

Archival Research Aaron Sala
Jillian Banner

Writing & Research Assistant Rob Hardy

Graphic Design Michael McPherson





CAST

Members of the Northfield Skateboard Coalition

Members of the Northfield Union of Youth (The Key)

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