

PRESS KIT



A SOUTHERN BELLE'S JOURNEY THROUGH LOVE, EXILE AND REVOLUTION

# FIRST LADY OF THE REVOLUTION

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SPARK | MEDIA

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# FIRST LADY OF THE REVOLUTION

A SOUTHERN BELLE'S JOURNEY THROUGH LOVE, EXILE AND REVOLUTION

While visiting an aunt and uncle in the exotic countryside of Costa Rica, a young Southern belle from Alabama accepted a ride on the back of a motorcycle belonging to a local charismatic farmer -- a ride that would propel her down narrow mountain roads and into history.

**First Lady of the Revolution** is the remarkable story of Henrietta Boggs, who fell in love with a foreign land and the man destined to transform its identity. Her marriage to José 'Don Pepe' Figueres in 1941 led to a decade-long journey through activism, exile, political upheaval and, ultimately, lasting progressive reforms.

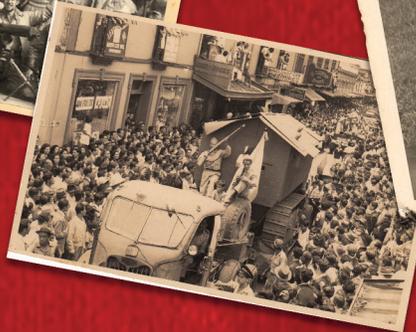
**First Lady of the Revolution** is not only a depiction of the momentous struggle to shape Costa Rica's democratic identity; it's also a portrayal of how a courageous woman escaped the confines of a traditional, sheltered existence to expand her horizons into a new world, and live a life she never imagined.

Click [here](#) to watch the trailer!

Look for updates from our social media sites:

**First Lady of the Revolution on Facebook / @SparkMedia on Twitter / @sparkmediadc on Instagram /**

**#firstladyoftherevolution / #primeradamadelarevolucion / #sparkmediadc**



# FIRST LADY OF THE REVOLUTION

## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Some biographies help us understand broad historical themes, some appeal to the universal emotions of the human experience, while others simply entertain with vivid characters and astonishing events. *First Lady of the Revolution* somehow manages to do all three. This is a rare breed of epic, recalling hemisphere-rocking events—protests, exile, revolution, war, societal change—all through the eyes of a young social reformer, who also happened to be a Southern belle.

When I first met Henrietta Boggs in December of 2009, I was quickly captivated by her eloquence, boundless energy and indomitable spirit. At 98 years young, she stays stunningly productive, presenting on a TEDx stage for thousands, crafting articles for the magazine *River Region Living*, acting as a member on several non-profit boards and as a docent at the local museum, and regularly entertaining an eclectic mix of artists and literary talents at her home. Beyond being amused by Boggs' sharp humor, I became fascinated with her life's journey and her improbable marriage to José Figueres, Costa Rica's little giant, and the dramatic events that would sweep Figueres into the Presidency and Boggs into the role of the country's *Primera Dama*, or First Lady.

Henrietta Boggs's story—what she observed and endured in Central America from early in World War II through her husband's first presidency at the start of the 1950s—is not just her own, nor is it only Costa Rica's; this is a tale of deep historical relevance reaching even beyond one hemisphere. Through Boggs' eyewitness accounts, this program will stimulate a new understanding of social reforms as they happen, exploring the broad historical and political themes that underlie them. *First Lady of the Revolution* is a singular opportunity to tell an intensely personal saga whose sheer heft and transnational scope are not mere backdrop, but the essence of the audience-mesmerizing adventure, horror, heartbreak and enchantment that defined one brave woman's experience.

— Andrea Kalin, Director, Writer and Producer, *First Lady of the Revolution*





# FIRST LADY

OF THE  
REVOLUTION

FEATURED PERFORMANCE: END TITLE SEQUENCE



## Debi Nova – Singer/Songwriter of "Guerrera"

Award-winning singer-songwriter Debi Nova signed her first recording contract when she was only 17-years old. Since then, Nova has become one of the rising stars in the music industry, working on six Grammy nominated projects, and touring with artists such as Black Eyed Peas, Sean Paul, Sergio Mendes, Ricky Martin and Franco De Vita. In 2013, Nova became the official voice of the Central American Games San Jose with the song "Top Up." In addition to her successful singing career, she also recently won Dancing with the Stars – Colombia. Debi Nova was invited to participate in the conference Young TEDx Pura Vida, sharing her story and music to encourage young people to follow their dreams. She was inspired by First Lady of the Revolution to write and perform "Guerrera" produced by Carlos Tapado Vargas.

#DebiNova / #Guerrera / #Warrior



# FIRST LADY

## OF THE REVOLUTION

### PRODUCTION TEAM

First Lady of the Revolution is a Spark Media Production, developed by a core team of U.S. and Costa Rican filmmakers complimented by production artists from New Zealand to Brazil.



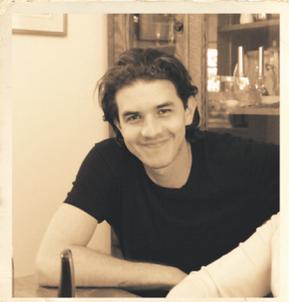
#### **Andrea Kalin – Director/Executive Producer/ Writer**

Andrea Kalin is an Emmy Award-winning filmmaker and founder of Spark Media, a production company dedicated to producing films with a social conscience. She has worked in over 25 countries, from disaster zones to remote tropical rain forests, bringing gripping human stories to the screen. Kalin's superior storytelling gifts have earned her more than 85 industry awards and accolades, including: a Prime Time Emmy, and Golden Globe and WGA nominations. Kalin specializes in telling emotional stories that depict lives of courage, perseverance and dignity set against brutal injustices and seemingly insurmountable hardships. Some of her films dramatize lives that until now have been lost to history, while others address contemporary social issues. Kalin has also produced multilingual documentaries and advocacy programs for international organizations including the IDB, ADB, PAHO, the United Nations, Unicef and UNFPA.



#### **James Mirabello – Co-Producer**

Spark Media's primary researcher, production manager James Mirabello was lead archival researcher and co-producer for *Soul of a People: Writing America's Story*, which went on to win five TIVA Peer Awards, including "Best of D.C." He also served as associate producer for *Prince Among Slaves*, production manager for *No Evidence of Disease* and *The Pact*, and production associate and archival researcher for *Partners of the Heart*, as well as the writer and producer of *The Advent of Heart Surgery*, one of the featurettes of the *Partners of the Heart* DVD release.



#### **Paulo Soto –Associate Producer/ Editor /Director of Photography**

Up-and-coming filmmaker Paulo Soto has held several positions in the media world, including director of photography for *iMae* and *Prisoners*, both directed by Esteban Ramirez. He also provided additional photography for *Pandora's Box*, directed by Pablo Ortega and Spark Media's *Red Lines*. In addition to his work on documentaries and features, Soto has shot and directed numerous music videos. Soto studied Cinematographic Arts at the University Veritas of San Jose, through a scholarship from the Cinergia Foundation.

# FIRST LADY OF THE REVOLUTION

## PRODUCTION TEAM



### Jody Steiger – Creative Consultant

Jody Steiger is a Costa Rican-based designer and theater director who has worked on over five hundred national and international productions. At the National Theater, she served on the Board of Directors from 2002 to 2008 and as Director from 2008 to 2010, during which she focused on opening the arts to a wider and more diverse audience. As a board member on AcciónArte, she continues her work to expand the arts and education. Steiger earned a PhD in Education and Social Development from the University of La Salle in Costa Rica. She is currently the Director of University Life at Latin University of Costa Rica (ULatina). In addition to her position as Director of University Life she also serves as the President of the ARDE Foundation for Art and Development.



### Diana Moss – Consulting Producer

Diana Moss heads Spark Media's Latin America Projects Division. Born in Mexico, and fully bilingual, Moss is the project manager and senior producer of documentaries, new media content, social issue awareness campaigns, and international media events in or about Latin America and the Caribbean. Her ample experience includes over 12 years of producing and creating content for several multilateral organizations including the Inter-American Development Bank, the Inter-American Investment Corporation and the Multilateral Investment Fund. She has collaborated with networks throughout the region including Televisa, Globo and CNN Espanol. Moss also received the ITVS Peer Award for her design work on the award-winning Spark Media documentary, *Prince Among Slaves*.



### David Grossbach – Editor

David Grossbach has worked in the nonfiction film world for almost 25 years. He has edited films for The History Channel, National Geographic Television, Discovery Channel and PBS. His most recent films include *Soul of a People: Writing America's Story*, funded by the NEH and broadcast on Smithsonian Channel; *The Last Ridge*, about the 10th Mountain Division in World War II; and the Paul Robeson Award-winning documentary *Prince Among Slaves*, about an enslaved African prince in early 19th-century America, which aired on PBS in 2007.



### Leo Fallas – Editor, Colorist, Director of Post-Production

Fallas graduated from the School of Science and Mass Communication at the University of Costa Rica, where he focused on Media Production. He also received specialization in Post Production at Centro de Capacitacion Cinematografica in Mexico DF. Fallas' work includes editing and post-production on several short films, including *Bajamar* (2009) and *El Hijo de la 40* (2010, second place winner in the AXN Film Festival). *Irene* (Colorist 2013), and *Norma* (Colorist 2013), which shared the Short Film award at the Film Festival in Costa Rica. His feature work includes *Password* (2000), *Mujeres en el Acto* (2002), *Del amor y otros demonios* (2009), *Luces de Esperanza* (2010 Documentary), *Puro Mula* (Fiction 2011), *Por las Plumas* (Fiction 2013), *Dos Aguas* (Fiction 2014), *Viaje* (Fiction 2015) and *Presos* (Fiction 2015). In addition to his post production work, Fallas teaches and lectures on editing and post-production. Since 2011, he has been the Academic Coordinator of A Technical Career in Editing and Post Production, Audio & Video of Costa Rica, at the Center for Technology and Visual Arts (CETAV).

# FIRST LADY OF THE REVOLUTION

## PRODUCTION TEAM



### Carlos Aguilar – Sound Design

Carlos Aguilar has a long career creating scores and sound design in Costa Rica, from where he has worked for most Latin American countries, as well as the United States and Europe. His work on Esteban Ramirez's *Presos* was selected to compete for the sound design award at the Platino Awards in 2016, and his commercial work has won several advertisement awards among The New York Festivals, FIAP and EL Ojo de Iberoamérica. Carlos' approach to sound and music stand out for the strong foundation they provide to audiovisuals. He strives to always use sound as a tool to help stories and imagery shine above sound itself. His most recent work includes *All About the Feathers* directed by Neto Villalobos and *Presos* directed by Esteban Ramirez.



### Daniel Alarcón – Sound Design

Daniel studied Audio Engineering at SAE Institute London and graduated from Middlesex University with a BS in Audio Production. He has created sonic experiences on a wide variety of projects such as: People Music Awards 2011, 5.1 surround mix of the album *Camino de Aire* (Patino Quintana) and the recording of the concert in commemoration of Andrzej Kurylewicz in the prestigious Steinway Hall. He has also worked on video games for Sony Computer Entertainment such as *Uncharted 3: Drake's Deception* and *Sly Cooper: Thieves in Time*. He has worked as Sound Designer for various cinematographic productions such as the Lebanese documentary feature *Image Matters* and the Costa Rican feature film *Munecas Rusas*. In theatre, he worked as Sound Designer and Engineer in the Soho Theatre (London) and Auditorio Nacional (Costa Rica). Recently he collaborated as the Sound Designer for the Costa Rican production of *West Side Story* and *Monstruos: El Musico*.



### Luis Portillo – Art Director and Lead Graphics Designer

Award-winning graphic artist Luis Portillo has worked on numerous Spark Media productions as art director or motion graphics designer, including *Prince Among Slaves*, *Talking Through Walls*, *Worlds of Sound: The Ballad of Folkways* and *Soul of a People: Writing America's Story*. In addition to his work with Spark, Portillo was the Motion Graphics Designer for O7Film's *In Search of Amelia Earhart* and Red Sky TV's *Jesus: The Cold Case*, and the 3D Visualizer for rooms and stage designs for the 2009 IDB Meeting in Miami, Florida.

# FIRST LADY OF THE REVOLUTION

## PRODUCTION TEAM



### Ethan Oser – Associate Producer, Assistant Editor

Ethan Oser joined Spark Media after graduating from the George Washington University, where he studied Journalism and Film Studies, and made a number of short documentaries, including the award-winning film, *Invasive*. In addition to his work on *First Lady of the Revolution*, Oser was the assistant editor and a production associate for Spark Media's feature-length documentary, *Red Lines*, and was an associate producer and researcher on Spark's educational game, *Anne & Emmett: the other*.



### Stephen Smith – Composer

Stephen Smith is a musician, composer, producer and a proud native of Washington DC and Northern Virginia. As a member of Middle Distance Runner, his original music has also been heard in *Warrior*, starring Nick Nolte and Tom Hardy, as well as a host of TV shows, including Showtime's *Weeds* and *Shameless*.



### Esteban Ramirez – Consulting Producer

Esteban Ramirez has produced numerous documentaries and short films using a diverse range of styles and formats. Among his many productions are *Prisoners*, *Rehabilitacion concluida* and *Once Rosas*, which won Best Film at the VII Costa Rican Film Festival and was selected to participate in prestigious international film festivals in Moscow, Sao Paulo, Huesca, Cuba, Peru, Uruguay, L.A, and Cartagena, among others. His first movie *Caribe* (2004) was highly acclaimed by the Costa Rican film industry and won eight International awards, and was also the first Costa Rican movie to be accepted by the Hollywood Academy to compete for Best Foreign Film. As a native Costa Rican, Ramirez's extensive production experience in the country combined with a keen understanding of the country's historical and sociopolitical context will be invaluable in developing, producing and gaining international distribution for *First Lady of the Revolution*.

# FIRST LADY OF THE REVOLUTION

## PRODUCTION TEAM



### **Katherine Chivers – Impact Producer**

Katherine joined the *First Lady of the Revolution* team after completing a graduate program in Documentary Filmmaking at The George Washington University. Previously, she served as a Production Associate and Post Production Associate on a number of projects, including the feature-length productions *The Zen of Bennett* and *Tony Bennett: Duets II*, as well as music videos and promotional content for Sony Music Entertainment. She completed a dual degree in English Literature and Violin Performance at The University of Wisconsin before beginning her career in film production in 2011.



### **Angie Méndez Angulo – Social Media Coordinator**

Angie Méndez Angulo, professional publicist in Costa Rica graduated from the Universidad Americana de Costa Rica. She currently works as a specialist in the area of digital marketing. For the *First Lady of the Revolution* Angie is helping in the design and implementation of a digital campaign



### **Eunice Báez Sánchez – Director of Public Relations & Audience Engagement**

A journalist and audiovisual producer in Costa Rica, Eunice Báez Sánchez is assisting with the public relations campaign for *First Lady of the Revolution* in Costa Rica. Previously, Eunice worked on the PR and media relations for Henrietta Bogg's TEDx Talk in San Jose, as well as the test screenings of the rough cut of the documentary in March 2016. She is a graduate of the University of Costa Rica.

# FIRST LADY OF THE REVOLUTION

## FEATURED CHARACTERS



### Henrietta Boggs

Henrietta Boggs (b. 1918), the daughter of a Presbyterian elder, left Alabama's Birmingham Southern College to visit her aunt and uncle, who had retired in Costa Rica. There she married José Figueres, whose 1948 revolution restored democracy to a nation plagued by government corruption, abolished the army, and catapulted Henrietta to the role of First Lady. From that vantage point, she successfully pushed for giving Costa Rican women the right to vote. Over time, Boggs realized that marriage and life in politics were incompatible, given her independent spirit in what were still very much machista times. After the inevitable divorce, she took her children to New York, where she worked for Costa Rica's delegation to the U.N. while pursuing her lifelong passion: writing. Her return to Alabama in 1969 came

with a second marriage and her co-founding of *River Region Living*, the city magazine that she would later sell, but for which she still writes for to this day. Her 1992 memoir of her years in Costa Rica, *Married to a Legend*, is popular among readers in both her beloved countries, and is the subject of a documentary produced by Spark Media, an award-winning film company headquartered in Washington, D.C.



### Muni Figueres

The daughter of José Figueres and Henrietta Boggs, Muni Figueres was born in Costa Rica and earned her Bachelor's degree in Comparative Literature from City College of New York, Cours de Civilisation française, La Sorbonne, Paris, and her Master's degree in Political Science from Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México. She served as Costa Rica's Ambassador to the United States from 2010 to 2014. Muni has also held numerous other posts in the Costa Rican government, including stints as the Director of Costa Rica's Investment and Trade Promotion Agency, Minister of Foreign Trade and as a Special Presidential Trade Representative to bolster support in the U.S. Congress for approval of the Caribbean Basin Initiative. In 1990, Figueres served in Washington, D.C., as the Inter-American Development Bank's Division Chief for Trade and Integration and was the organization's External Relations Advisor from 1992 to 2001.



### Víctor Ramírez

A noted Costa Rican filmmaker, consultant and political figure, Ramírez is a leading authority on José Figueres, having directed a biographical film on the president in 1981. His research for that documentary included a rare and candid interview with Figueres, shot on film.

# FIRST LADY OF THE REVOLUTION

## FEATURED CHARACTERS



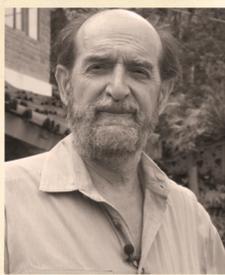
### Mavi Figueres

Henrietta's granddaughter Mavi Figueres is a successful international business consultant based in Birmingham, Alabama. She lived with Henrietta for several years when she first moved to the United States, and still visits her in Montgomery nearly every weekend.



### Muni Figueres Facio

Facio is the granddaughter of José Figueres and Henrietta Boggs, and is a successful entrepreneur and restaurant manager in Costa Rica. She earned her engineering degree at the University of Costa Rica and a Master's degree in Cancer Biology, Prevention and Control from Georgetown's Lombardi Cancer Center and the University of Washington, D.C.



### Martí Figueres

The eldest child of José Figueres and Henrietta Boggs. Named after José Martí, the famous Cuban revolutionary and poet, Martí was born in Costa Rica during his father's exile in Mexico. Martí is now successful businessman in Costa Rica.



### Miguel Salguero

Miguel Salguero was only 14 years old when he joined José Figueres' National Liberation Army. After the war, he went on to become a successful author, film director and producer.

# FIRST LADY OF THE REVOLUTION

## FEATURED CHARACTERS



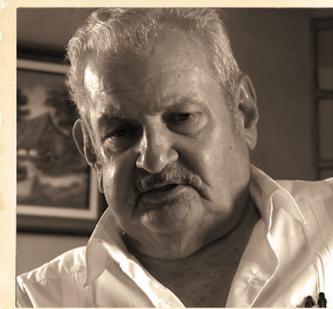
### Roberto Güell Mora

Inspired by José Figueres' revolutionary call for change, Roberto Güell Mora joined José Figueres' army and fought during the 1948 Civil War.



### Meli Figueres

The granddaughter of José Figueres and Henrietta Boggs, Meli is a successful businesswoman and performance manager in the telecommunications field in the European markets.



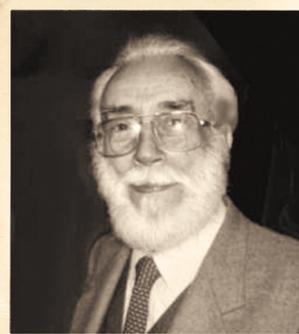
### Jorge Aguilar

Jorge Aguilar was one of the first volunteers to join José Figueres' army. Aguilar fought during the 1948 Civil War and went on to serve as the family bodyguard during the transitional period of Junta governance.



### José Martí Jimenéz Figueres

The grandson of José Figueres and Henrietta Boggs, José Martí is an entrepreneur and business leader in eco-tourism, healthcare and assisted living in Costa Rica.



### Enrique Obregón Valverde

An esteemed politician and professor in Costa Rica, Valverde served in the Legislative Assembly, was Ambassador to Spain, and ran for President in 1962 as part of the Democratic People's Action Party.

# FIRST LADY OF THE REVOLUTION

## BACKGROUND INTERVIEWS



**Laura Chinchilla Miranda**

The first woman elected as President of Costa Rica, Laura Chinchilla Miranda served from 2010 to 2014. Before her presidential administration, she served as Vice President, Minister of Public Security, and as a member of the National Assembly.



**Óscar Arias Sanchez**

President of Costa Rica from 1986 to 1990 and from 2006 to 2010, Óscar Arias was a protégé of José Figueres. In 1987, he received the Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts to bring peace and democracy to Central America during the height of the Cold War.



**Sonia Picado**

One of the leading advocates of international human rights, Sonia Picado is the former president of the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights. She also served as a judge and vice-chair at the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, and a member of the Experts Committee for the Promotion of Human Rights in Central America, the Commission of European Communities, and the International Commission for the Recovery and Development of Central America, among others. In addition to her human rights work, Picado served as Costa Rica's ambassador to the U.S. from 1994 to 1998, and as a member of the National Assembly from 1998 to 2002. She was also the first woman to be elected dean of the University of Costa Rica's law school.



**Rosemary Karspinsky Dodero**

The first woman Chair of the National Legislature, Karspinsky is a well-known Costa Rican diplomat who has served as Ambassador to Israel, Spain, Morocco and the Vatican.

# FIRST LADY OF THE REVOLUTION

## BACKGROUND INTERVIEWS



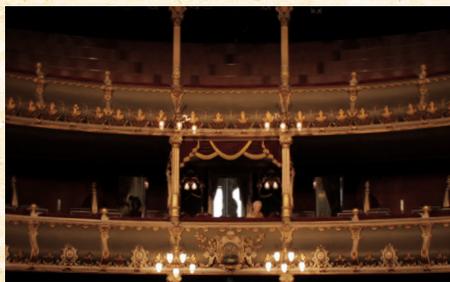
**Guido Sáenz**

One of the most esteemed figures in Costa Rican art history, Guido Saenz was instrumental in rejuvenating the arts during his two terms as Minister of Culture. He was a friend of José Figueres and is well-known for his flawless impersonation of the former President (Guido also provides the voice of Figueres in First Lady of the Revolution).



**Morris Dees**

A close friend of Henrietta, Morris Dees is a renowned civil rights attorney and founder of the Southern Poverty Law Center in Montgomery, Alabama. After launching a law practice in Montgomery in 1960, he won a series of groundbreaking civil rights cases to integrate government and public institutions. In 2006, he was named one of the 100 most influential lawyers in America by the National Law Journal.



# FIRST LADY OF THE REVOLUTION

## PARTNERS



**ALABAMA  
HUMANITIES  
FOUNDATION**

### **Alabama Humanities Foundation**

<http://www.alabamahumanities.org/>

Alabama Humanities Foundation fosters learning, understanding and appreciation of people, communities and cultures. As the state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities, AHF encourages and promotes appreciation of literature, history, law, philosophy and the arts through programs, events and grants to help others discover and share the meanings of life found through the humanities.



### **Centro Costarricense de Producción Cinematográfica**

[www.centrodecine.go.cr/](http://www.centrodecine.go.cr/)

The Film Center specializes in promoting film and video activity, as well as the preservation of audiovisual memory. The Film Center seeks to consolidate its liaison work between creators and domestic producers, in a balanced mix between the state sector and private initiative.



### **Art for Development and Education**

Fundación ARDE, Art for Development and Education, has as its basic mission to generate, develop and maintain cultural projects that enrich education and promote sustainable development within our society. Since its inception over 5 years ago, ARDE has promoted programs within the entire range of performing, musical, visual and fine arts that have furthered human development in Costa Rica.

# FIRST LADY OF THE REVOLUTION

TRAILER

WATCH THE TRAILER FOR  
THE FIRST LADY OF THE REVOLUTION!



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YJdanDExRJE>

# FIRST LADY OF THE REVOLUTION

## PRODUCTION STILLS

Visit the link below to download publicity stills:



# FIRST LADY OF THE REVOLUTION

A SOUTHERN BELLE'S JOURNEY THROUGH LOVE, EXILE AND REVOLUTION

*IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS REGARDING OUR PROJECT  
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