







Watch the new trailer for American Soil, Chamorro Soul as

Guam-Doc-thumbail-canoë-5

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#ChamorroFilm

I've spent the last six months writing, fundraising, casting, hiring, shooting, editing, and promoting "American Soil, Chamorro Soul." It's been one of the biggest learning experiences of my life because, as you may know, this is [my first documentary film](#).

Thank you to the following sponsors for making this possible: [Docomo Pacific](#) (Associate Producer), [The Plaza Shopping Center](#), [The Guam Guide](#), [Farm to Table Guam](#), [Pacific Star Resort](#), [Dusit Thani Guam](#), and [Coast360](#).

I'm prepared to share with you all the mistakes I've made as a novice filmmaker (future post, I promise). Still, I'm incredibly proud of this film not only for the stunning cinematography by [Brandon Li](#) and [Justin Baldovino](#), but because the story is so real and compelling.



It was never my goal to make a scripted doc with Ken Burns black and white photos that float across the screen. We shot everything — and I mean everything — outside. That's been a particular challenge on Guam (hello, roosters! hello, heat!), but why would you watch a documentary about a tropical island shot in a studio? I wanted to capture, not only the essence of the people, but the environment too.

I've also learned that six years on an island has a stronger influence than I realized. I knew that my position as an outsider would give this film a different POV than the locally produced films, but what I didn't realize is how local I've become. Thank you, [Brandon Li](#), for pointing that out! Guamanians have a unique language that I have not only started to understand, but also adopt (hello, eyebrows!). That's not to say I've "gone native," to use a crude term, but I am definitely changed by this place.

On that note, I also realized that I don't have much of a cultural identity. Of course, I am mainland

