

PatchoguePatch

FILM: TAUGHT TO HATE

Filmmaker Sotomayor uses the power of cinema to promote racial tolerance.

By [Elise Pearlman](#) and [Christopher Collora](#) | [Email the authors](#) | July 18, 2010

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Taught to Hate Plays at LI International Film ExpoCredit [Christopher Collora](#)



Credit courtesy Helen Proimos

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The short film "Taught to Hate," based on the events surrounding Marcelo Lucero's 2008 murder, played at the [Long Island International Film Expo](#) in Bellmore on Friday.

The film is loosely based on the [Lucero case](#), and so the details do not closely follow the tragedy that unfolded in Patchogue. Rather, "Taught to Hate" represents an attempt to explore the kinds of events and influences that could lead to acts of racial prejudice on Long Island or elsewhere.

John, played by Brandon Hannon, swayed by the hate-filled views of his uncle, who claims that Hispanics take jobs away from Americans, convinces his friends to confront the day laborers.

Antonio, played by Arturo Castro, offers the Hispanic immigrant perspective. Antonio knows only a smattering of English, but is willing to work at any job so that he can buy medicine for his ailing mother. Flashbacks tell of the desperation that motivates Antonio to leave his loving family behind, and come to this country.

The intertwined stories come to a head one night on a deserted field when John and his friends confront Antonio in an enactment which mirrors the violence of the Lucero case. The language barrier, immaturity, and alcohol all play a role.

The film, which received the Indie Fest's Award of Excellence, was also nominated for best short film at the Long Island International Film Festival. "Taught to Hate" will be shown at the Manhattan Film Festival, the NY International Latino Film Festival and New York University. Towards the end of the month, "Taught to Hate" will make its way to Los Angeles for the Broadway International Film Festival.

To learn more and view the full list of screenings, visit [TaughtToHate.com](#) and [BrandonHannan.com](#).