



42ND
YOUNG ARTIST
ACADEMY AWARDS

MAYA DELGADO Interview

Project: *Ghostwriter*

Director: J. J. Johnson



How would you describe the plot of this project?

Ghostwriter is an Apple TV+ Emmy Award winning children's series. In the show, a ghost haunts the local bookstore and brings fictional characters from books to life. Four kids must resolve the ghost's unfinished business. This project teaches kids about working together and never giving up, which I believe is truly a powerful message.

What was your fondest memory from working on the project?

When I first arrived on set, I instantly connected with the cast. It's as if we all already knew each other. We all had similar interests and backgrounds and had so much fun working together. We still keep in touch and follow each other on social media to stay connected. We developed a strong comradery, supported each other in our scenes, and gave our performance on set every day.

Were there any cool locations or sets that were fun/different/strange?

I love to read, so I felt right at home filming in a bookstore setting. My character is also from the 1950s, so the decor and design of the library and the bookstore nicely captured the era. I felt my performance onset was even stronger when I got into wardrobe and was really able to take in my surroundings at the bookstore. It was really exciting!

Do you recall any particular memories with castmates or crew that were impactful?

When I was wrapped for the season, I was very proud to have been a part of this production, but was sad it was over because it was so much fun working with everyone on Ghostwriter. The cast and I went out that evening to celebrate and before we said goodbye, we shared a group hug. Even though we all live in different places in the U.S. and Canada, we promised to stay in touch and support each other from afar!

Did the project inspire you to see the world differently? Or did you learn anything new about the production process?

Many people can benefit from Ghostwriter in terms of life lessons. My character, “Tess”, is a strong and confident young Latina girl and a feminist that fights for equal rights. Given the era of the episodes she appeared in, the 1950’s, it helped me further understand the struggle women have had in history in their effort to make the world a more just place for all women. “Tess” stood up for not only herself but for all the girls at the bookstore to prove they are to be treated just like the boys.

What stands out to you from working on this project?

The fact that it includes classic stories and literature was really interesting to me. Sometimes many young kids are not exposed to classic stories because they are on their phones or social media. In this show, you get to see a modern way that the characters connect to many storybook stories. It builds a bridge between watching tv and loving books which is really cool.

If you were to produce a sequel or a continuation of this project, what would that be like?

It would be a continuation of the latest season with a few additional classics relating to timeless issues still with us today. Ghostwriter really hooks you in from the very beginning, so I would love to make another season with more amazing stories to tell.

What do you love most about the Entertainment Industry?

People in the industry are telling powerful and diverse stories that can help people feel understood, seen, and heard. I truly believe actors have a responsibility to tell stories for those who do not have a voice, to educate the world regarding issues that can bring about social change, and to give inspiration to future generations.

What do you wish could be better?

I wish there was more attention focused on the mental health of young actors. This is a very competitive industry and young actors have to quickly develop a strong backbone to navigate and deal with the “rollercoaster ride.” Many times, actors can be under so much unspoken stress for a variety of reasons; rejection, burnout, family sacrifices, social media, expectations, etc. It’s so important to have a great team supporting you, made up of caring and understanding agents, managers, coaches, mentors, etc.; and I am so fortunate to have a team that recognizes that above all, I’m just a regular teen! Yes, this industry requires a lot of work and dedication, but more importantly, the process has to be fun! Only then will the best character or role truly manifest.