ELECTRONIC PRESS KIT

MANDO

Youth Mentors on a Mission

Festival Submission 2026
A documentary by Tomás Hidalgo

DIRECTOR	RUNTIME	LOCATION	GENRE
Tomás Hidalgo	01:02:36 (63 min)	Thousand Oaks, CA	Social justice documentary

PROGRAM GRID LOGLINE

Following frontline mentors in Southern California, MANDO examines what happens when people with lived experience step back into their communities to guide youth away from systemic cycles.

SYNOPSIS

Filmed on location in Thousand Oaks, California, *MANDO: Youth Mentors on a Mission* follows grassroots leaders who have walked the same difficult paths as the youth they serve.

Through athletic discipline at Pugilist Gym, barbershop conversations that restore dignity, and re-entry outreach inside juvenile detention centers, the film gives an honest look at human resilience and the need for dedicated safe spaces for young people.

SPECIFICATIONS

Runtime	01:02:36
Country	United States
Language	English
Production year	2026
Capture	Digital Cinema 4K
Aspect ratio	16:9 (1.78:1)
Audio	Stereo 2.0 & 5.1 Surround
Deliveries	DCP (DCI compliant), ProRes 422 HQ

KEY CREATIVE CREDITS

Director	Tomás Hidalgo
Cinematographer	Tomás Hidalgo
Editor	Tomás Hidalgo
Production company	Tomás Hidalgo Media
Subject organization	MANDO YDG

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

> *"Real stories don't need extra drama or a polished finish. MANDO began with honest listening, sitting down with individuals who turned personal struggle into an active lifeline for others. This film preserves the dignity of grassroots leadership and asks us to invest in the people doing the work on the ground."*

Tomás Hidalgo, Director & Cinematographer

FEATURED VOICES

Marcos Aviles, Felix Gamez & Rigoberto Gurola · Frontline mentors and program leads

Tim Hagel · Former Chief of Police (2010–2014), Ventura County

DannyBoy · Lead barber, Catchin' Fadez program

Thor · Athletic and youth leadership

MANDO youth and families · Southern California community

STILLS





High-resolution stills are available as a ZIP on the MANDO page of the website.

FESTIVAL AND PRESS CONTACT

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