**Station Release**

**Please Note:** Photos (High Res.), production info., press, a :30 co-brandable promo and a trailer are all availablein the pressroom of New Mexico PBS at: [nmpbs.org/pressroom](http://www.newmexicopbs.org/pressroom)  as well as the program EPK. The Director/Producer StormMiguel Florez is available for interviews.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: (Date)

**A Secret Code. A Way To Self-Identify… & To Stay Safe**

(Station Logo)

**Presents**

**THE WHISTLE**

 **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

(Airdate/Time, Channel)

**And Streaming Free on the PBS Video App.**

(City, State)  ---   (Station               )  presents THE WHISTLE, the story of a secret code created by and shared among young lesbians in 1970s & 80s Albuquerque, New Mexico as a means of self-identification and finding community.

THE WHISTLE premieres on **( Day  /  Date  /  Time  )      on    (Station / Channel)  \_\_\_\_\_  and streams on the PBS Video App.**

In the 1970s & 80s, a group of lesbian high school youth in Albuquerque had a particular way of finding each other and others like themselves. They created a special whistle that was both hard to learn and easy to go unnoticed by unsuspecting bystanders. It would go on to be known by their peers, and by those who came up and out after them, as the “dyke whistle.”

The dyke whistle was a rite of passage taught to newly out dykes by their peers. It was used to find friends in a crowd, to find out if other young women were also lesbians, as a friendly nod to groups of lesbians passing by at the mall or at the State Fair. Most importantly, it was a lifeline to community for many young lesbians coming up and out during that time.

The dyke whistle was a safe way to identify oneself to fellow lesbians in public – without anyone else knowing and compromising one’s safety.

Director StormMiguel Florez is a queer Xicane trans man, who came out and identified as a dyke in 1987, during his freshman year at Del Norte High School in Albuquerque. When Florez came out at the age of 15, a group of his lesbian peers took him under their wing and taught him how to navigate the stresses and the joys of being a young dyke in Albuquerque in the mid 1980s. They took Florez to house parties, introduced him to dykes from other high schools, cruised the parking lots of gay bars that they were too young to get into, and taught him slang like “wrecked” (the process of coming out as a dyke) and “1-4-3” (code for “I love you”). And they taught him the dyke whistle.

In THE WHISTLE, Florez interviews his peers who were also out in the '80s and his elders who were out in the '70s. These interviews explore what lesbian identity formation was like for Albuquerque youth in the 1970s & 80s, how participants came out, found each other, and built community with other young dykes, and how they navigated and survived discrimination from their families of origin, public schools, and straight classmates.

The Whistle documents and reveals both humorous and heartbreaking stories, often told by participants in the same breath. The director sought out to uncover the origin of the dyke whistle and found so much more in this important slice of New Mexico LGBTQ history.

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(Insert Station Boilerplate)

**New Mexico PBS (NMPBS)**

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NEW MEXICO IN FOCUS, COLORES! and a variety of specials. NMPBS operates 5 digital KNME broadcast channels: 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.4, and 5.5.  NMPBS is co-licensed to the University of New Mexico (UNM) and Albuquerque Public Schools (APS). [www.nmpbs.org](http://www.nmpbs.org/)

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**Brief:**

**THE WHISTLE**

**Airs: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and streaming on the PBS Video App.**

A Xicane trans man returns home to Albuquerque, New Mexico, in search of the origin of a secret code he learned when he identified as a young dyke in the 1980s. THE WHISTLE tells the story of this secret code, created by and shared among young lesbians in 1970s & ‘80s Albuquerque, as a means of self-identification and finding community. The first-person film documents and reveals both humorous and heartbreaking stories, often told by participants in the same breath.

Trailer: <https://vimeo.com/whatdowewantfilms/thewhistle-trailer>

Website: <http://www.dykewhistle.com>