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## 2009 ECA Honoree: Eduardo Mayen

### *Oh Baby I Love You*

Mayen was born in El Salvador and raised there during the Civil War that wracked the country in the 1980s. After graduating from art school in 1998, Mayen was working as a P.A. for a TV commercial company when a director brought Rodrigo Prieto, ASC, then a young cinematographer from Mexico, to El Salvador to shoot an airline commercial. Prieto and his artful camerawork inspired Mayen to become a cinematographer. After graduation from UNLV in 2003, he interned with Prieto on *21 Grams* and operated the Kodak Look Manager System for Prieto on *Alexander*, directed by Oliver Stone. Mayen also counts Robbie Greenberg, ASC and Larry Parker, from Mole Richardson as mentors. He is currently working as a camera assistant. This is his second consecutive year of recognition in the ICG Emerging Cinematographers Awards. Last year, his work on *Singularity* was honored.

*Oh Baby I Love You*, which was directed by Mary Angelica Molina, is about a woman with a tic: in bed, at the crucial mo-

ment, she says "I love you!" It turns out that this is the least of her intimacy issues.

"The film is a romantic comedy, but it's also like a modern fairy tale," says Mayen. "I thought a slightly magical and poetic look was appropriate. I followed Mary's request to 'make them look beautiful,' but I knew she would allow me to be a bit more dramatic with the lighting at certain points in the story. To get the softest possible light, we built softboxes from Kino Flos, show card and Duvatyne. We let the light wrap around the faces, maintaining some contrast at the same time. We used a RED One camera with a 1/4 diffusion filter to take away the digital edge.

"It was important to have a good camera crew to help me make the vision come alive," says Mayen. "I'm grateful to my operator, Michael Alba, and my focus pullers, Karl Waechter and Jon Jung. I was also very lucky that we had an amazing production designer, Cindy Chao, who did a great job."



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