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Script Final Draft

HOST: How often do you see your extended family?--aunts and uncles, cousins, second cousins, grandparents. Has it been a week? Months? Years, maybe? Well, in Brazil, most extended families get together almost every week to relax and catch up. So imagine making the decision to move to a different country, where you might not be able to see any of those people for as long as 14 years. This is the problem Brazilians young and old face when they decide to pack up and leave to seek opportunity in the United States. Katie Field and Max Pattsner look at the modern emigrant experience, family ties stretched to their limits, and the unique ways Brazilians in New Orleans try to make things work.

Ambience: [bell/church ambience sounds]

HOST: We are standing in front of [name of church], a large Catholic church on Canal St. just north of [street]. Inside, evening mass is beginning, one of [three] masses each sunday that take place entirely in Portuguese. Jose Duarte, an older member of the congregation is an immigrant from Brazil, like almost everybody attending

JOSÉ- José Duarte, eu moro há oito anos aqui, e minha esposa mora aqui há cinco anos. Eu sou de Governador Valadares, Minas Gerais. (0:17-0:25)

[translation: My name is Jose Duarte, I've lived here for eight years, and my wife has lived here for five years. I'm from Governador Valadares, in the state of Minas Gerais]

HOST- Jose has two children, both grown, and he says that they live in Brazil, but come to New Orleans to visit each year. But he has some family he doesn't get to see at all

JOSÉ- Não é fácil, não é bom para a gente porque eu tenho minha mãe, 85 anos, está lá, eu tenho 14 anos nos EU, 14 anos que não vejo minha mãe (1:52)

[translation: It isn't easy, or good for us, because I have my mom, she is 85 years old, she is in Brazil. I have spent 14 years in the US, fourteen years that I haven't seen my mom]

HOST- José isn't alone. Many Brazilians in the US have no idea when they'll see their families next. We spoke with Davi, an undocumented immigrant, also from Brazil, who came to the US to do Mixed Martial-Arts.

Ambience- Davi small talk (in the background)

HOST- For Davi, family is a defining characteristic of being Brazilian, and he jokes that the American attitude towards family confuses him

Davi- Eu achei diferente assim questão de cultura, porque o brasileiro ele é mais que estão assim... família. (6:13)

[translation: For me, it's just a question of culture, you know, because the Brazilian is just like that... all about family]

HOST- Davi says here, people worry more about their individual jobs than about their families. He likes living in New Orleans, he says in Brazil the word family really does mean more.

Davi- os homens daqui preocupam mais em questão de trabalho, e as vezes até, deixam um pouco o família para lá, e as vezes assim, no Brasil, o lado de trabalho vai para a família. Uma das coisas que eu percebi, quando tem uma que é família de verdade é uma família de verdade. (7:26)

[translation: In Brazil, your work is all for your family. One of the things I noticed, when someone is family, I mean, they're really family]

HOST- Otavio Bartalotti, a Brazilian professor of Economics at Tulane University, agrees. The emphasis in the US, he says, is on the nuclear family.

Otavio- no Brasil é sempre todo mundo juntos, primos e a família toda, e todo mundo está muito próximo e se ajuda, reclame, briga, mas sempre é muito próximo, e nos EU a cultura é mais separada, famílias nucleares, tem os pais com os filhos e quando os filhos crescem vão embora 8:00-8:18

[translation: In Brazil everyone is always together, cousins, the whole family, and everyone is very close and helps each other, complains, fights, but they are all very close. And in the United States, the culture is much more separate, nuclear families, they have the parents with their children and when the children grow up, they go their own way.]

HOST- One way Brazilians cope with this different culture in America is to find communities of Brazilians in the US. These groups serve as a second family, a sort of stand-in for the family that is now a continent away. For Otavio, this family comes from other professors who had roots abroad. For Davi --[Recording of MMA or Capoeira]-- It's the capoeira gym, and for José --[Bells ringing]-- it's the church.

José- Temos aqui, penso que quinhentos pessoas brasileiras. A igreja tem quarento cinquenta pessoas, mas tem outras pessoas que vão a outras igrejas. (1:05)

[translation: Here I think we have five-hundred Brazilians. The church has forty or fifty people, but there are other Brazilians who go to different churches]

HOST- The dynamic changes for Brazilians born in the US and particularly those born into wealth. 22 year old Lya Tiller is first generation Brazilian-American and spends her summers at her family's home in Niteroi, in the state of Rio de Janeiro.

Lya- I have lots of friends there and family, so I'd consider myself Brazilian if only for that fact. Just because it's something I've really experienced and it's part of the person I am. (3:50)

HOST- Lya's Brazilian heritage is central to her identity, but she admits that her privileged race and class are key factors. She does not long for the chance to go back to Brazil, like Davi and Jose, but rather sees it as a typical summer vacation.

Lya-My dad's french and my mom's Brazilian and growing up I got to experience both of those because I'd go back a lot even without my parents. Instead of sending me to summer camp it was cheaper for them to just ship me off to my families there. It was a blessing for sure. [5:10-5:29](#)

HOST-But despite her charmed life in the US, it is family that constantly pulls Lya back to Brazil.

LYA--so you have all these cousins all this extended family, your grandparents. So you know, everyone is always together on Sundays, on Sundays you always go to your grandparents' house and have churrasco. So I miss that. Here, I'm an only child, I have my two parents. So I can't...it's different. I can't even compare it because I feel like I don't even have the same thing an American person would with their two parents or family in America. [6:27-6:55](#)

HOST- Otavio worries that his children will undergo a similar type of Americanization.

Otavio-- Eu tenho muito medo disso de criar um branch novo da família e aí sabe que nunca vão conhecer meus primos, não vão conhecer os primos deles. Então essa é que é difícil, realmente vou criar minha família de uma forma que não fui criado. [12:04-12:26](#)

[11:33-11:51](#) Os EU é nossa casa, e aqui as oportunidades são melhores, a condição de criar os filhos aqui é melhor para futuro deles, e a gente tem interesse manter nossa família aqui

[translation: I am very afraid of this, to create a new branch of the family and I know that they will never get to know my cousins, or their cousins. So this is what is difficult, to raise a family in a different way than how I was raised.

But the US is our home, and here the opportunities are better, the conditions to raise children here are better for their futures, and we are interested in maintaining our family here.]

HOST-- Some things are very clear. When we asked him if he would teach his children Portuguese, Otavio responded:

Otavio-- no nosso caso é fundamental porque meus pais e os pais da minha esposa não falam inglês e nós gostaríamos que os filhos ter a capacidade comunicar com os avós. [13:11-13:21](#)

[translation: In our case it's key because my parents and my wife's parents don't speak English, and we would like our kids to be able to communicate with their grandparents]

HOST--Lya fantasizes about raising her kids in Brazil so that they will grow up less "American", but she is less skeptical than Otavio about the ability to maintain a Brazilian identity for children born abroad.

LYA--I mean you just do it without forcing yourself, I just genuinely enjoy Brazilian music so that's something I keep up with. I go to Brazil a lot so that helps, when I get there I see things I like, be it music or movies or soap operas, fashion, books. It's just something....well reality tv. They just started doing reality tv so I'm watching a lot of reality tv. [11:02-11:28](#)

MAX--what's your favorite reality tv

L-- My favorite soap opera of all time is Laços de Família with Deborah Secco, my favorite actress and I highly recommend it. Manoel Carlos is the best soap opera writer. [laughs a lot].

HOST--Lya hopes that her future family will live in Brazil at least for a little while, and she jokes that she wants to marry a Brazilian man. Someday. If she feels like it.

HOST-- But whereas Lya's dreams of her future Brazilian family are mostly fantasy, Davi actively struggles to find an American girlfriend across culture and language

barriers. He sees finding romance here to be the first step in forming a Brazilian family in New Orleans.

DAVI--[Os Brasileiros] começa namorar com a pensa no casamento, quem constitua a família. E com a pensa no futuro e no futuro junto (6:31)  
[translation: Brazilians start to date with a mind for marriage, who would make a family. And with a mind toward a future together]

HOST-- Davi speaks for many of his fellow immigrants here in New Orleans when he says that ultimately, his search for a family of his own is the same to him as his search for a future, no matter what country he's in.

Conclusion--